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13 VIVACITY

JOB HOGS VOTERS' MINDS

Employment top priority in Bihar, MP, Telangana, Chhattisgarh: ADR survey

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a worrying sign for the BJP, despite its thrust on making nationalism as its main poll plank, unemployment has emerged as the key issue for voters in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

A survey conducted by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) shows that more than half of the respondents list employment as their top priority and they ranked the NDA Government's performance in this area at an abysmal 2.15 on a scale of 5.

The ADR survey shows 58.84 per cent voters pitching for jobs/employment for youth in Chhattisgarh; 50 per cent voters wanting jobs in Bihar; 70 per cent in Telangana and 61.91 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. For them, employment is the major issue and they expect political parties to do something concrete.

As per reports, the Modi Government has failed to deliver on the employment front. In January, the Modi Government had withheld the release of the National Sample Survey Office Periodic Labour Force Survey that pegged joblessness at a 45-year high of 6.1 per cent during 2017-2018.

In March, it was reported that a survey by the Labour Bureau on the number of jobs created under the Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency (MUDRA) would not be made public for another two



VOTERS PRIORITIES AHEAD OF POLLS

- The ADR survey shows 58.84 per cent voters pitching for jobs/employment for youth in Chhattisgarh; 50 per cent voters wanting jobs in Bihar; 70 per cent in Telangana and 61.91 per cent in Madhya Pradesh
- As per reports, the Modi Government has failed to deliver on the employment front. In January, the Modi Government had withheld the release of the National Sample Survey Office Periodic Labour Force Survey that pegged joblessness at a 45-year high of 6.1 per cent during 2017-2018
- According to the survey, employment, better law and order, and better roads are major concerns of urban voters



months, until after the elections. The Modi Government had earlier also withheld the 6th annual employment-unem-

ployment survey by the Labour Bureau, which showed India's unemployment rate in 2016-17 was the highest in four years at

3.9 per cent. The Chhattisgarh Survey Report stated that voters' priorities were neglected by the

Government. According to the report, employment, public transport and better roads were top priorities for voters and the Government performed "below average" on all three. The survey shows better job opportunities (58.84 per cent), better public transport (38.41 per cent) and better roads (37.78 per cent) are the top three voters' priorities in the State.

The survey shows that the Government performance on these three voters' priorities was below average. In rural areas, the concerns were employment, availability of water and electricity for agriculture and the Government performed below average.

According to the survey, employment, better law and order, and better roads are major concerns of urban voters. "The Government's performance on urban voter priorities of better employment opportunities (2.22), better law and order/policing (2.20) and better roads (2.12) was rated below average. In addition, the Government has performed poorly in providing public transport (2.18) and drinking water (2.52)," the report said.

The survey report stated that the previous BJP Government in Chhattisgarh, led by Raman Singh, performed "poorly and underwhelmingly" on almost all Governance parameters, including employment, public transport, agricultural infrastructure and law and order.

Continued on Page 4

Rahul spurned alliance invite, alleges Kejriwal

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

Scotching speculation about the possible alliance between the AAP and the Congress, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said Congress president Rahul Gandhi refused to forge an alliance with his party for the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event out of the national Capital, Kejriwal said the Congress chief had refused his request to "join hands with the AAP" during a one-to-one meeting recently.

However, the official communication from the Congress High Command in this regard is yet to be made public.

Rahul had earlier said at a public meeting that there would be no truck with the AAP in Delhi. Moreover, the issue of alliance with the AAP had virtually wedged differences in the Delhi Congress with one group led by former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit vehemently opposing any tie-up and another front led by former Union Minister Ajay Maken advocating for the Cong-AAP embrace.

Asked about Sheila's remarks that Arvind never approached her for an alliance, the AAP chief said, "We have met Rahul. Sheila is not that important leader."

Kejriwal's comments on Sheila "not an important leader" sparked a row with the Congress leaders hitting out at



the AAP chief saying the Delhi Chief Minister may not have the respect and honour Sheila has earned in the public life.

Dikshit's former cabinet colleague and party spokesperson Ramakant Goswami hit out at the AAP for opposing policies and principles of the Congress despite "pleading" with it for an alliance.

The three-time former Delhi Chief Minister who was appointed president of Delhi unit of Congress has so far effectively repulsed attempts for an alliance of her party with the AAP, although she said Rahul would take a final call.

Kejriwal has been urging the Congress to forge an alliance in Delhi to prevent the BJP repeating its stellar performance in the Capital.

Recently, in a meeting with Rahul, senior Congress leaders including Sheila, three working presidents Devender Yadav, Rajesh Lilothia, Haroon Yusuf,

former Delhi Congress presidents JP Agarwal and Tajdar Babar opposed an alliance with the AAP.

A senior party insider of the Congress said the decision was taken considering its long term repercussions in Delhi and adjoining States. "The main question is how the party will face the AAP in Assembly elections after coming together in parliamentary election. Even if alliance happened, the Congress was not getting much politically, rather it could lose its base drastically," he said.

The Congress could win any Lok Sabha seat in the 2014 elections in Delhi. The talk of alliance was fuelled by the fact that the sum of votes polled for the Congress and the AAP was more than that of the BJP.

Kejriwal had even roped in NCP supremo Sharad Pawar TMC chief Mamata Banerjee to persuade the Congress chief to stitch an alliance with the AAP.

CAPSULE

POSITIVE PROGRESS, SAYS CHINA ON BANNING AZHAR

Beijing: China on Monday claimed that "positive progress" has been made on designating Pakistan-based JeM chief Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist" by the UN and accused the US of scuttling its efforts by taking the matter directly to the Security Council, setting a "bad example".

CONG GIVING TERROR TAG TO HINDUS: MODI, SHAH

Wardha: In a two-pronged attack on the Congress over the "Hindu terror tag", Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah on Monday accused the Opposition party of trying to defame the community.

MARKETS

SENSEX	36,871.87 (+198.96)
NIFTY	11,669.15 (+45.25)
GOLD	31,687.00 (-47.00)
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Swarm of Pak F-16s beats hasty retreat as IAF scrambles jets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid heightened tension between India and Pakistan post Pulwama terror attack on February 14, the IAF on Monday scrambled its jets in Punjab after radars saw an unusually large Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) along with a flight of at least four F-16 of Pakistan Air Force coming close to the international border in Punjab. The swift action forced the Pakistani jets to retreat deeper into their territory.

Giving details of the incident, sources here said the UAV and the F-16s flying on the Pakistani side started com-

ing close to the border around 3am when the Indian radars picked up the movement. Not willing to take any chances in the current scenario, two SU-30s and two Mirage jets were scrambled by the IAF to ward off any threat. Faced with such swift response, the Pakistani jets opted to back off and a possible confrontation was avoided, they added.

Earlier on February 27, four Pakistani F-16s had intruded into the Indian airspace in Rajouri in an effort to target military installations. The IAF had then scrambled its Mirage and MIG-21s to chase away the Pakistani jets.

Continued on Page 4



FB offloads Cong, BJP-RSS propagandist pages

Cong loses 687 pages, a/cs; IT firm working for BJP too faces heat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media giant Facebook on Monday said it has removed a number of pages and accounts linked to individuals associated with an IT cell of the Congress and an Indian IT firm that propagated pro-BJP and pro-RSS contents.

Besides, Facebook has also removed 103 pages, groups and accounts on its platform and Instagram for engaging in similar behaviour as part of a network that originated in Pakistan.

While the Facebook removed 687 pages and accounts linked to the Congress as it cracked down on fake accounts and spam, the social media giant also discovered spam activities carried out by Silver Touch, an Indian IT firm which runs the pro-BJP and RSS page "The India Eye".

It removed 15 pages, groups and accounts linked to the firm. These accounts, it said, were part of a coordinated networks and were removed not based on content or fake news but for "inauthentic behaviour" and for pushing spam.



"They posted about local news and political events, including topics like the Indian Government, the upcoming elections, the BJP and alleged misconduct of political opponents including the INC," said Facebook head of Cybersecurity Policy Nathaniel Gleicher.

The Facebook in a statement said these account owners used a combination of authentic and fake accounts to share their content like local news and political events, including topics like the Indian Government, the upcoming elections, the BJP and alleged misconduct of political opponents including the Congress.

Gleicher said Facebook has removed 687 Facebook pages and accounts — the majority of which had already been detected and suspended by its auto-

word from the party over the action against the pro-BJP pages by Facebook.

"When an enquiry was carried out, it was found that those individuals were linked to Congress IT cell. The Congress is desperate therefore resorting to these types of dubious means to claim support but people are sure of what they have seen of the Narendra Modi Government," Prasad said.

With ensuing general elections, the Centre had warned social media platforms of strong action if any attempt was made to influence the country's electoral process through undesirable means.

Facebook, which has been facing flak globally for instances of user data breach, has been ramping up efforts to ensure that its platforms (that includes WhatsApp and Instagram) aren't misused to spread misinformation, especially ahead of polls in India.

It has recently started providing details of political ads on its platform in a bid to enhance transparency. It is also strengthening its team of fact checkers and deploying technology tools to flag fake news.

NDA's Thushar Vellappally to take on Rahul in Wayanad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president Amit Shah on Monday announced that Thushar Vellappally of the Bharat Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS), a BJP ally in Kerala, will be the NDA's candidate against Congress chief Rahul Gandhi in Wayanad.

Thushar was the candidate for the party in Thrissur, but the NDA decided to pit him against Rahul to give the Congress chief a tough fight.

"I proudly announce Shri Thushar Vellappally, president of BDJS, as NDA candidate from Wayanad. A vibrant and dynamic youth leader, he represents our commitment to development and social justice. With him, the NDA will emerge as Kerala's political alternative," Shah tweeted.

Thushar is the son of Vellappally Natesan, general secretary of the influential Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam, which works for the welfare of Ezhava community, a backward caste with sizeable population in the State.

Army destroys 3 Pak posts after BSF man, girl die

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Indian Army on Monday destroyed at least three posts of the Pakistan Army and inflicted critical injuries to large number of Pakistani soldiers along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch sector shortly after a BSF officer and a minor girl succumbed to injuries in "unprovoked" ceasefire violation by the Pakistan Army in Poonch sector.

Meanwhile, in another successful operation, the joint teams of security forces early on Monday eliminated four terrorists in Lassipora area of Pulwama district. In the Pakistan shelling, 13 civilians and four BSF person-

nel sustained splinter injuries. Despite heavy shelling, local police teams safely evacuated injured residents from forward areas of Mankote.

Eyewitness reports claimed civilian areas which were 7-8 km from LoC were targeted by the Pakistan Army using heavy calibre of weapons.

Martyred BSF officer was identified as Inspector T Alex Lalminlu, while minor girl was identified as five-year-old Sobia Shafiq, daughter of Mohd Shafiq.

Ground reports said, "Pakistan Army targeted civilian areas in Shahpur, Qasba, Guntariyan, Keerni, Mankote and Poonch since early morning."

Continued on Page 4

Star Sapna to woo Delhiites to back BJP

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Popular Haryanvi singer-dancer Sapna Chaudhary has been listed as a star campaigner for the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections in constituencies with sizable population of jats and Poorvanchalis, such as South and North-East Delhi parliamentary seats.

However, ending all speculation over her possible candidature for Lok Sabha elections, Delhi BJP leaders confirmed that Sapna will not join the party. "Sapna will campaign for us, she is a regional superstar and can easily get connected with Jats and Purvanchalis," said a BJP leader.

Sapna had met Delhi BJP chief and North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari on Sunday evening, according to a party source.

Besides polls, weather too turns up heat on voters

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Voters in large parts of the country will have to face scorching heat as the polling season progresses. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that average maximum temperatures from April to June are likely to be warmer by half a degree Celsius in several places in central and northwest India. Temperatures are expected to be near normal in the rest of the country, the IMD added.

The US-based forecaster AccuWeather too predicted that the heatwave was expected to intensify starting first week of April.

According to private forecaster Skymet, presently most parts of Maharashtra, Gujarat, west Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and NCR are observing heatwave conditions with maximum temper-



atures exceeding 40 degrees C. The highest (44.5 C) was recorded in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone city on March 30. "The April to June season average maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than normal by 0.5 degree Celsius over most of the meteorological subdivisions from

central India and some subdivisions from northwest India. Near normal maximum temperatures are likely in the remaining subdivisions," the IMD said.

The seasonal average minimum and mean temperatures over west Rajasthan are likely to be above normal by more

than 1 degree C. Above normal heatwave conditions are likely in the core heatwave (HW) zone during the season (April to June).

In fact, since the last two to three days, heatwave has covered majority parts of the country, except eastern and north-eastern States. These areas are

presently under the influence of weather systems and have been observing rain and thunder-shower activities, keeping the temperatures under check.

According to IMD, a heatwave is declared when the temperature touches 40 degrees Celsius in the plains and continues for two to three days or is above 4.5 to 6.5 degrees Celsius above normal.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) report found that 2018 was sixth warmest year since 1901 and the average temperature over India was "significantly above normal". The country's average season mean temperatures were also "above the average" with the winter season (January-February, +0.59 degree Celsius) being the fifth warmest since 1901 and the pre-monsoon season (March-May) the seventh warmest, the MoES report said.

Continued on Page 4

108 Ambulance contract extended by one month

GVK EMRI RUNS AMBULANCE SERVICE

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Government has extended the contract of the GVK EMRI Company to operate the fleet of the 108 emergency ambulance service by one more month. This decision was taken by the health department after the new company which has been handed over the contract to operate the fleet of 108 service and was to start its services from April 1, informed the government that it is not prepared yet to take charge of the operations.



It is pertinent to mention here that the ten year contract of GVK- EMRI Company to operate the fleet of ambulances

ended in March, 2018. Since then the state government has given two extensions of six months each to the company to operate the fleet of ambulances. The extended term of the GVK- EMRI Company ended on midnight of March 7, 2019 but since the new company 'Community Action and

written that it is not in the position to operate the service, the health department has given an extension of one month again to GVK EMRI. Started in the year 2008, the 108 ambulance service provides emergency care in all parts of the state. The service also caters the important task

Motivation Programme' (CAMP) which had quoted cheapest rate in the tender process was not ready to operate the service, the contract of GVK EMRI was again extended till end of March. Now with CAMP again submitting in

of transporting pregnant women for safe deliveries in the hospital under Khushiyan Ki Savari. The 108 ambulance service has a fleet 139 ambulances and it has a boat ambulance too which is operated in Tehri lake.

'Strict action needed to curb crime against children'

Murder not the only condemnable act allegedly carried out in the school: SCPCR chief

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The recent gruesome case in which a 12-year boy of class VII was allegedly beaten to death by senior students after being accused of stealing a packet of biscuits, has elicited focus on various anomalies continuing in schools. This is not only a single case in the Children Home Academy situated in Ranipokhri but there have been other questionable incidents in the past too. As per the information from sources, a student of Children Home Academy named Mohan Mehta had lost his life in a trekking trip in the year 2017. The authorities of the school run by missionaries allegedly also attempted to carry out religious conversion of the students. If sources are to be believed, there was also an alleged rape case and a suicide case in the same school in the past. When State Commission for Protection of

Child Rights (SCPCR) chairperson Usha Negi visited the school campus a few days ago she found out that students in the academy were cooking food rather than studying. Also the basic condition of the hostels and food given to students was not found to be up to the mark.

When asked about it Usha Negi said, "The recent death is not the only alarming issue related to this school. We will be holding a Press conference regarding the matter on April 4."

Adding further in this she said, "It is very important that officials responsible take their work seriously. No Objection Certificate (NOC) has some value but it doesn't mean that the officials should become complacent and never visit the school campus. It is very important to check all such campuses regularly so that no institute dare to do such a thing."

Expressing the need to work in the ground level she said, "It is very important that every individual take his/her responsibility very seriously. The SCPCR only works to monitor and give guidelines but even then we work and reach every spot. Action on our request to install CCTV cameras in every such institution has been pending for a long time. Effective work on the ground will help in reducing crime against the children," she added.

IMA to start 'Health First' initiative

Wants Govt to spend at least 5 per cent of country's GDP on health sector

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), the biggest organisation of the doctors has demanded that the government should give more emphasis to health sector. Addressing media persons here on Monday, the president of the Uttarakhand chapter of IMA, Dr B S Judge said that the health sector in India has never been given a priority it deserves which leads to grossly inadequate services at all levels. He said that the fact that the government allocates a

mere 1.1 percent of GDP for health sector underlines the apathy of successive governments towards this most important determinant of social and economic progress of the nation.

The general secretary of the IMA, Dr D D Chaudhury said IMA, which has three

with common man being as focal point.

Dr Chaudhury said that IMA wants that the government should increase spendings in health care sector. He said that priority should be given to primary and preventive health and the government should spend at least 5



lakh direct and 5 lakh indirect members across the country would launch 'Health First' initiative in the country. He said that the aim of the initiative is to provide a holistic approach to health care sector

percent of country's GDP on health sector. The IMA secretary said that universal health coverage irrespective of socio-economic group or geographical location should be provided.

Police claim to have solved Doiwala murder, rape cases

Three accused arrested, search on for three absconding

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With the arrest of three people, Dehradun police on Monday claimed to have cracked the murder case of Sardar Malkit Singh and the rape of a girl at Singh's home at Madhowala in Doiwala area. Singh was a farmer who was found dead with his throat slit on March 26. The police have arrested three accused including Shubham Singh Chauhan, Ujjwal Sharma and Arjun Chaudhary while three other accused are said to be absconding.

used to visit Singh's home frequently told Shubham that Singh recently sold some of his property and had about Rs 80 lakh. As Shubham had made some bad investments in the past because of which he was in dire need of money, he went to Singh's house with Pappu and was impressed by his lifestyle. He then made a plan to rob Singh."

reached Singh's home. They parked their vehicles in a nearby government school and entered Singh's home. It was then that they found a girl sleeping in the balcony of the home. Threatening her with a knife and a pistol, they raped her and stole Rs 15,000 cash along with some gold and silver jewellery." Explaining the main rea-



Senior superintendent of police Nivedita Kukreti informed the media that Shubham (23) heard from someone that Malkit Singh recently sold some of his property and as a result, must be having considerable amount of cash in his house. The SSP said, "A man named Pappu who

It is learnt that on the eve of Holi, Shubham met his friend Aman and told him about his plan. Aman then called Ujjwal, Arjun, Lakshya and Mukul to a restaurant in Bhanjyawala.

son behind the murder, the SSP said, "Singh already knew Shubham, because he used to visit his house with Pappu. To make sure they leave no trail behind Shubham slit his throat and then Ujjwal finished the task."

Giving further details, SSP Kukreti said, "On the night of March 25 at about 10 pm, the men riding on two-wheelers

The police are still searching for Aman, Lakshya and Mukul.

Run held to raise child rights awareness



PNS ■ NAINITAL

The All Saints' College organised a run for children's rights with the support of World's Children's Prize here on Monday. About 95 students from All Saints' College, Saint Mary Convent College and Mohan Lal Sah Bal Vidhya Mandir

participated in the run. The run began from the Mallital Band Stand and passing through Thandi Sadak and lower Mall Road, concluded at the Band Stand.

Earlier, the All Saints' College principal Kiran Jeremiah and Surjit Patel who was the vice principal of this school during the 1960s joint-

ly flagged off the run. Speaking on the occasion, Jeremiah said that the aim of the run is to raise public awareness on the rights of children, the rights to live, safety, development and participation. She also thanked the Nainital police administration for helping in the successful management of the run.

NAPSR submits memo on education & safety of students

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The National Association for Parents and Student Rights (NAPSR) submitted a memorandum to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) to take a serious note of the education and security of students.

President of the association Arif Khan stated that MHRD had issued guidelines to the department concerned regarding the average weight of the student's bag on August 5, 2018. Similarly others directions were given by CBSE for the security of the students and introduction of NCERT books in every school except for ICSE. However, none of the guidelines have been followed with seriousness by any of the departments concerned so far.

He further said, "We request the officials in-charge to ensure that all the guidelines are followed with proper seriousness. Further, the parents or the students should not be exploited in the name of education. Strict action should be taken against institutes not following the guidelines," he added.

World Autism Awareness Day today; April to be World Autism month

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Everyone has one or other intellectual shortcoming-everyone cannot fly jets or perform acrobatics or solve algorithms but they are not tagged as 'different' by society. But, a person with delayed responses, unable to write or read properly or having repetitive behaviour, carries a stigma with him of 'being abnormal'. Autism is not a handicap, just a mental condition which demands special care. To bring the autistic patients in mainstream, United Nations declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day. This month is also observed as the World Autism month.



Most often, the society and sometimes parents themselves fear to get their child labeled as 'different' or 'strange' and so avoid sending them to school for children with special needs. To reduce this stigma which still persists across the country, efforts are being made by government at national and state level. There is no centre for autistic patients in Haridwar but in Roorkee, a centre has been made to deal with multiple disorders, autism being one of them.

Speaking to The Pioneer, the chief medical officer of the

district hospital, Dr Prem Lal said, "Our district's early intervention centre at Roorkee deals with patients with over 30 disorders including autism, Thalesmia and others. The blood transfusions for many patients are being done and we have recently started to record their whole history to know genetic links. Their special requirements are checked on Rickett scale by psychological consultants. We prepare them for future life identifying their needs."

Gitesh Madhok, aged 14 years, is the son of Anjali Madhok, a secondary school principal is an autistic child. Anjali tells, "We had recognised

his problem when he was two and half year old. He could not scribble. Many friends said that may be with age he will develop the habit of learning but with time we realised he needed special educator, a speech therapist."

Autism is characterised by developmental, communicational and social problems, often leading to discrimination among peer groups. Those afflicted by it need special parental care and medical intervention. Their brains are wired differently so special educators are needed to teach them. Unfortunately the special educators are not taking pains as is desired, feel

hardly of any use. Government does not have funds for giving necessary care to such people, local social organisations are still giving better facilities and schooling. Even medical insurance companies do not include mental illness in medical claim policies."

Patients have to be exposed to different things in order to develop, said Deepesh Chandra Prasad and Pinki Prasad, founder of city based Abhiprerna foundation. The school has children with cerebral palsy, Autism, Down Syndrome and other mental disorders with patients aged between four and 24 years. Each child has a special instinct and corresponding behaviour which needs to be identified," share Deepesh and Pinki Prasad.

An autistic patient is not going to find out himself, if he likes to play a musical instrument or dance to the tunes played on keypad but an educator must realise it. Kunal Dhawan, a final year graduate student at SMJN PG college said, "I have been playing on keypad for the past many years for Abhiprerna school and found the behaviour of autistic people mellow down as when they go hyper, music has an immediate effect on their tantrums."

No: ITBP/SHQ(DDN)/Prov.e. procurement/Fresh Veg, Fruit /2019- Office of the Dy. Inspector General Sector Head Quarter (Dehradun), Indo Tibetan Border Police Force, MHA/ Govt. of India. P.O. Seemadwar, District: Dehradun (Ukd)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER Dated:

On behalf of the President of India, D(G)(Dehradun), ITB Police, invites e-procurement tender under two bid item (Technical and Commercial Bids) for the supply of Fresh Veg/Fresh Fruit/ Tender ID No-19_ITBP_455232_1

Fresh Veg/ Paneer	
Earnest Money Aprx.	5,98,600.00
Tender Cost Aprx.	2,39,44,000.00

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

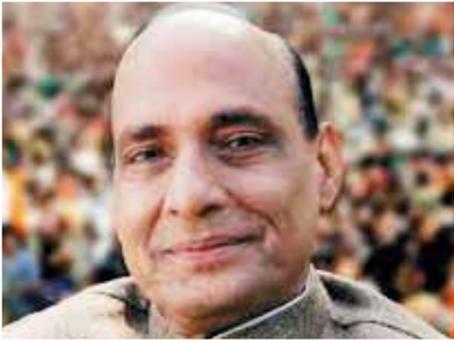
Date of publishing of tender	15.03.19	1600 hrs
Document download start date	15.03.19	1630hrs
Document download end date	15.03.19	1700 hrs
Online Bid submission start date	04.04.19	1500 hrs
Online Bid submission end date	05.04.19	1600 hrs
Date of Online Technical Bid Opening	15.03.19	1600 hrs

Note:-
 i. All details regarding the subject tender are available on our website www.itbp.gov.in & www.Eprocure.gov.in/cppp/. Any change/modification on the Tender Enquiry will be intimated throughout website only. Bidders are therefore requested to visit our websites regularly to keep themselves updated. ii. Manual bids will not be accepted. iii. For submission of E-bids, bidders are required to get themselves registered with www.procure.gov.in websites along with Class-III Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2003. vi. Any queries relating to the process of online bid submission or queries relating to CPP Portal in general may be directed to the 24x7 CPP Portal Helpdesk on Toll Free No.18002337315. v. In case of any difficulty being faxed while completing the above procedures the following officers can be contacted at the given telephone number and e-mail ID:-

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Rajnath addresses public rallies in Uttarakhand



Lambasts Congress, seeks votes for BJP on developmental issues, national security

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The public had placed its trust in the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2014 parliamentary elections and following that the Central government headed

Squad checks Union Minister's chopper

Dehradun: A flying squad on election duty checked the helicopter in which the Union Home minister reached Gopeshwar in Chamoli district on Monday. The team was acting on the instruction of the Election Commission of India

to ensure that vehicles used in campaigning do not carry any material which may be used in a manner that violates the election model code of conduct. The team which checked the helicopter found nothing incriminating in the chopper.

by the party also discharged its duties. India is one of the fastest developing countries in the world.

The nation would overtake other developed nations to achieve a place among the top three economies of the world within a decade, said the Union

Home minister Rajnath Singh while addressing a public gathering in Kotdwar on Monday. Singh addressed public rallies in various locations in the state while campaigning for BJP candidates.

Addressing the public, he also lambasted the Congress,

AT KOTDWAR IN PAURI, THE UNION MINISTER SAID THAT THE PUBLIC WILL GIVE A BEFITTING REPLY TO THE CONGRESS NATIONAL PRESIDENT WHO IS CALLING THE PRIME MINISTER A THIEF

stating that counting the bodies of terrorists is not the work of the army or government but a task for vultures. Further, Singh said that the proposed NYAY scheme of the Congress is a falsehood, while adding that the number of poor had drastically decreased during the tenure of the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

At Kotdwar in Pauri, the union minister said that the

public will give a befitting reply to the Congress national president who is calling the prime minister a thief. In addition to homes provided to more than one crore people, the pace of roads being constructed in India is also among the fastest in the world.

Addressing a public gathering at Gopeshwar in Chamoli district, the Union Home minister said that not a single union minister had been tainted by corruption in the past five years.

The position of India and the respect accorded to it in the international sphere has also been enhanced in these five years, he said. Referring to Pakistan, he said that India would not fire the first bullet but if attacked, it would respond in a befitting manner. He also said that the Atal

Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana being run by the State Government to provide universal health cover to all people in the State is benefitting the people greatly, specially the economically weaker sections. He further said that the construction of all-weather road and Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project would greatly benefit Uttarakhand and its people.

In Pithoragarh, Singh said that when the opposition was heading the government, it had failed to act effectively against terrorism.

Now when the armed forces attacked terrorists, killing them and destroying their set up in Pakistan, the Congress and entire opposition is asking for evidence. Speaking about the achievements of the Central

Government under Narendra Modi as the prime minister, Singh said that India is rising among the world economies and by 2028 would reach a position among the top three economies of the world.

Comparing the works done during 55 years of successive Congress governments with the works done under five years of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, he credited the prime minister for the major developments achieved in the past five years.

He also commended the state government for its performance, stating that chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat had done in two years of his term so far what other chief ministers had been unable to achieve.

Priyanka Gandhi to campaign for Cong candidates on April 7



Programme not finalised yet, but Priyanka likely to hold road shows in Dehradun & Nainital

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

To boost the prospects of the Congress candidates in Uttarakhand, the national general secretary and in-charge Congress in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka Gandhi is expected to hit the campaign trail on April 7.

Though the programme of Priyanka is not confirmed yet,

it is learnt that she can hold road shows in Dehradun and Nainital.

The Vice President of the state Congress, Surya Kant Dhasmana said Congress president Rahul Gandhi would hold rallies at three places in Uttarakhand on April 6.

"After the mega success of Congress president's rally in Dehradun on March 16, demand to hold his rallies came from different parts of the state. Rahul Gandhiji would address first rally on April 6 in Srinagar at 12 noon then we would address a public meeting in Almora at 2 pm while at 4 pm he would in Haridwar. The programme of the Priyankaji is not final yet but she would be in

All five constituencies of U'khand on focus of Congress leadership

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

All Lok Sabha constituencies of Uttarakhand are included in the list of 150 seats in the country which the Congress leadership has prepared for special attention.

The list includes those seats where the Congress party is in direct contest with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

It is learnt that the Congress President, Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi would hold road shows and rallies in these constituencies to boost the prospects of congress candidates.

It is believed that the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson, Sonia Gandhi could also campaign in these areas.

The strategists of Congress believe that with special focus on these constituencies, the twin purpose of restricting the tally of BJP and boosting the

The strategists of Congress believe that with special focus on these constituencies, the twin purpose of restricting the tally of BJP and boosting the electoral fortunes of Congress can be achieved

electoral fortunes of Congress can be achieved.

In Uttarakhand which has the tradition of contest which is mainly between the BJP and Congress, all five Lok Sabha seats are on the focus of the Congress leaders.

It is worth mentioning here that the Congress party had swept all five seats in Uttarakhand in the Lok Sabha elections of 2009. Things however were reversed in the year 2014 when riding high on a

Uttarakhand on April 7," he said. Like in other parts of the country the demand of Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi is very high among the Congress party candidates in Uttarakhand

also. It is learnt that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary Harish Rawat is working hard to bring Priyanka for campaigning in

strong Modi wave the BJP candidates won from all the seats here.

The co-in charge of Uttarakhand Congress, Rajesh Dharmani told The Pioneer that all the five seats of the state are on the special focus of Congress leadership. He said that apart from rallies of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, the state unit of Congress has requested the party to send UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi to Uttarakhand.

Bisht: BJP projecting NaMo in every constituency is democracy's murder

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Senior Congress leader and former minister Hira Singh Bisht has said that it is very unfortunate that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is projecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in every parliamentary constituency instead of its candidates.

Addressing media persons at Rajiv Bhawan, the state party office of the Congress party here on Monday, Bisht said that BJP is making such an environment wherein it appears as if Modi is party's candidate from all the parliamentary seats.

Terming this as murder of democracy, he said that since the members of the parliaments (MP) are the public representatives and projecting Modi is insult of democracy.

Taking a dig at the 'Main Bhi Chowkidar' campaign of BJP, he said that many corrupt



persons too have become part of the campaign and are terming them as Chowkidars. Bisht said that the Narendra Modi has not fulfilled any promise it made to the people in the Lok Sabha elections of 2014.

He listed giving employment to 2 crore people every year as one such promise of Narendra Modi.

Terming the statement of PM Modi in which he said that

the time of Raja and Maharajas is thing of past as the acceptance of the fact that Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah the BJP candidate from Tehri is losing the battle. The senior leader of the Congress also attacked the BJP for murdering democracy for seeking votes in the name of the nationalism.

The Mahanagar president Lal Chand Sharma, Deep Vohra and Mahesh Joshi were also present on the occasion.

U'khand all set for Mayawati's rallies

BSP chief to address 2 rallies on April 6

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

As the date of polling in Uttarakhand for the Lok Sabha elections approaches near, election campaigns in state have picked up speed. With star campaigners of the Bharatiya Janata Party already starting campaign and those of Congress lined up to start shortly, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is also gearing up for its chief Mayawati's rallies in Roorkee and Rudrapur. The BSP in alliance with Samajwadi Party (SP) is contesting on four Lok Sabha seats in Uttarakhand.

BSP Mahanagar chief and candidate from Tehri Lok Sabha constituency, Satyapal told The Pioneer on Monday that BSP chief Mayawati is scheduled to address public rallies in Roorkee and Rudrapur on April 6. He said, "Locals no longer have faith in BJP and Congress. Though they still view our party as an outsider, they also know that Garhwal and Kumaon regions were more prosperous when the BSP government was in office during the time of undivided Uttar Pradesh. In fact during her tenure as chief minister of UP, Behenji made four new districts and 14 blocks in what we presently call Uttarakhand."

Regarding the rallies he said, "Our rallies will not be filled with people who have



BSP Mahanagar chief and candidate from Tehri Lok Sabha constituency, Satyapal told The Pioneer on Monday that BSP chief Mayawati is scheduled to address public rallies in Roorkee and Rudrapur on April 6

been bribed to be there, just to show numbers. Our rally will have people who are fed up with these so called national parties, their leaders and their hollow promises. We are expecting crowds of about 1.5 lakh."

About the main issue BSP

chief is likely to speak on during the rallies, he said, "I cannot be sure about what issues she is going to raise. However, our party has always been vocal about the betterment of minorities and also about the equality of followers of various religions. Look at the education sector- the state lost the only NIT we had to Rajasthan. In places like Tehri constituency, one should ask the MP Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, what she has done in the past five years and you'll know about state's current situation. In Uttarakhand, unemployment, inflation and migration are the key problems and they will surely be discussed."

It is pertinent to mention that in 2007 state assembly elections BSP won eight seats, in 2012 three and in 2017 none. Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar have traditionally been areas from where the BSP has received support of the voters.

Congress acting like jhooth gang: Bhasin

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Ignoring the incompetence of its own top leaders, the Congress is resorting to spread lies about Bharatiya Janata Party leaders. Levelling this allegation, the BJP State media in-charge Devendra Bhasin said that a jhooth gang has become active in the Congress to spread lies regarding BJP candidates.

He said that recently a Congress spokesman had alleged that the Tehri MP Mala

Rajya Laxmi Shah had done nothing during her term so far. He said, "In fact, she asked 33 questions and participated in 33 debates in the Lok Sabha on issues related to Tehri constituency and Uttarakhand. Her attendance in the Lok Sabha was 90 to 100 per cent in different sessions. Compared to this, the UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi asked zero questions and participated only in six debates. Her attendance was about 60 per cent. The Congress leaders are ignoring

the lack of work by their own leaders and spreading lies about our leaders. There is a long list of works which the Tehri MP has facilitated during her tenure. On the other hand, the Congress candidate, Pritam Singh, during his tenure as cabinet minister in the Congress government had hardly done any work outside the Chakrata region he represents in the Assembly.

Also during his tenure as a cabinet minister, the food grains scam was orchestrated

and the condition of law and order had deteriorated in the state, while he used to claim that the then chief minister did not pay heed to him." He also questioned whether Rajya Sabha member from Uttarakhand, Raj Babbar had raised a single issue related to the State. The people of the state have hardly seen him, he added.

Bhasin also said that talk of the BJP's Garhwal MP, BC Khanduri joining the Congress party at its party president

Rahul Gandhi's planned rally is another lie being spread by the opposition.

Regarding star campaigners, he said that former chief minister Vijay Bahuguna will be addressing public rallies at Nainbagh, Chaka and Badkot on April 2 while Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar MP and former CM Bhagat Singh Koshyari will be addressing public rallies at Tharali, Kapkot and Chamba before addressing the media in Dehradun on April 3.

HC quashes order staying reservation in SC/ST promotion

Nainital: The high court of Uttarakhand has quashed the government order of September 2012 that had stayed reservation in promotion under SC-ST quota in the state.

The court has stated that it wants, the government can bring in a law under article 16 (A) of the constitution.

The division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice NS Dhanik also stated that the government order regarding reservation in

promotion under SC-ST quota whether issued by the Uttarakhand government or received from the Uttar Pradesh government, would be applicable. Rudrapur resident Gyan Chandra had filed a petition in the high court stating that on September 5, 2012, the state government had issued a government order discontinuing reservation in promotion under the quota for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.



Congress candidate from Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar constituency, Harish Rawat rides pillion during a road show while campaigning in Lalkuan assembly constituency on Monday. Pioneer photo

Sky to remain mostly clear

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Meteorological centre has forecast mainly clear to partly cloudy sky for the State on Tuesday. Dry weather is likely to prevail in Uttarakhand while the maximum and minimum temperature in Dehradun are likely to be about 33 degree Celsius and 15 degree Celsius respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at various places in the state on Monday were 32.1 degree Celsius and 15.1 degree Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 32.3 degree Celsius and 13 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 21.5 degree Celsius and 11 degree Celsius in Mukteswar, 22.8 degree Celsius and 12 degree Celsius in New Tehri respectively.



Be polyglot but never forget mother tongue: V-P

- Vice President of India gives 5 'Guru Mantras' to students on Utkal Divas
- Advises them to join civil defence to learn life skills, volunteerism
- Sai Int'l School decadal celebrations held

SUMEET SHARMA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Mother tongue is like eyesight and other languages are just spectacles. If you don't have the eyesight, you cannot improve even if you wear glasses. Learn as many languages as you can but never forget your mother tongue, said Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu at the decadal celebrations of the Sai International School here on Monday.

Starting his speech wishing the people of Odisha on the Utkal Divas in Odia, Naidu urged to promote their mother tongue, which was one of the five 'Guru Mantras' he gave the students.

He also told the students to call their mother 'Maa' instead

of 'Mummy' as Maa comes from within and Mummy comes from lips.

The mantras given by Naidu to students for a successful life were respecting parents, never forgetting the native place, promoting and propagating the mother tongue, remembering motherland irrespective of caste, creed and religion and, lastly, remembering the 'Guru', which can't be replaced with the Google.

"While imparting knowledge and keeping abreast with the latest methods of pedagogy, schools must acquaint the students about the importance of our ancient civilisation, culture, traditions, heritage and history without losing our ethical moorings was necessary to regain India's position as



Vishwa Guru," he said.

Naidu also stressed upon the need to inculcate a sense of volunteerism among young students. He also advised the students to join organisations like NCC, NSS and Scouts and Guides to learn life skills and volunteerism which would help them to know about the local issues and finding innovative solutions of the issues for the

community and rural development.

He said that even after Independence, importance has not been given to our culture, history and rewrite the Indian history books as per actual happenings of the country. Time has come that the Central and the State Governments as well as all stakeholders, who decide the school curriculum, should

discard rote method of learning and promote innovative and creative thinking.

He said that students must be encouraged to develop an inquisitive and questioning mind ever eager to learn new things and come out with bright ideas.

Laying importance on the health aspect, the Vice president has cautioned the students against the ill effects of junk food and for opting right kind of lifestyle and said that "Fast food or instant food is constant disease."

Naidu said sports provide a promising career opportunity to youths as it not only trains your mind and body but also inculcates the spirit of teamwork and leadership.

Along with studies, students must also pursue and excel in sports.

Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal and school chairman Dr Bijaya Kumar Sahoo also spoke. Four exceptional achievers of the 2018-19 academic session were awarded by the guests.

First Delhi-J'suguda flight: NROs join in celebration



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The non-resident Odias (NRO) living in the UAE, who spearheaded the international movement to ensure direct air connectivity to the newly established Veer Surendra Sai Airport in Jharsuguda, flew in a first-ever Delhi-Jharsuguda direct flight, which touched down at Jharsuguda

on Sunday.

Manas Panda and Priyadarshini Panigrahi, both based at Dubai, flew down from Dubai to board the flight and be a part of the momentous occasion.

They were invited to light the inaugural lamp at the Terminal 2 building of Delhi airport. They also had the honor of flagging off the aircraft on the tarmac for the historic flight along with Captain

Yadav and other dignitaries.

The team carried special gifts for all the passengers all the way from Dubai. Passengers on board the flight appreciated the efforts of NROs in mobilising support for starting of these flights.

According to Manas Panda, the direct links will ensure greater economic development of the region and help promote trade and tourism, its handicrafts and textiles. Also it

will promote industrial growth in the region.

Panigrahi said the starting of direct flights will greatly benefit educational institutions like IIM Sambalpur, VSSUT Burla and VIMSAR Burla and help earn better placements. Such connectivity will also be a boon for Overseas Odias originating from western part of Odisha and shall cut down travel time to their home towns drastically.

IIT Bhubaneswar students hold cleanliness drive at Jatni ground

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar took up a massive cleanliness drive the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan" on the behest of a proposal put forward by Director Prof RV Rajakumar at the Jatni playground and in and around the Argul Jatni road.

The NSS students removed plastics at the Jatni ground, which has been heavily littered and strewn,



posing a major health concern for the nearby residents including the commuters and cleaned it.

Rajakumar said participating in a cleanup drive would sensitise and build environmental stewardship and teach students the importance of keeping our surroundings

clean, reducing, recycling of plastics and an environment friendly lifestyle, taking it as a responsibility.

This would be inspiring and motivating to the inhabitants of the area and it would set a positive example to students of sister institutions, he added.

Naveen: BJD will do very well in polls

Retorts to Modi's Tripura-like-win claim

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday reaffirmed his confidence of winning the elections this time too.

In response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion on Sunday that Odisha would "surprise" the country with election results like those of Tripura last year, Patnaik said the BJD would perform very well in the polls.



"We will do very well in elections as I said before. We will do very well, you will see," said Patnaik.

poll prospects in Odisha, claimed on Sunday that Odisha would be the second Tripura, where the BJP won a comfortable majority in the last Assembly elections dismantling the Left Front Government of 25 years.

"Odisha Hindustan ko surprise kar dega, Is baar Odisha dusra Tripura ban jayega. (Odisha will surprise India. It will become a second Tripura)," said Modi while addressing a 'Main Bhi Chowkidar' programme via videoconferencing from the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.

'Odisha film policy best in country'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A roundtable meeting was held between the State Industries Department and the media and entertainment industry stakeholders from Odisha and other parts of India with a focus on assistance to be provided by the Odisha State Film Policy 2019 to enhance the opportunities for the film sector in Odisha. It was organised by the FICCI.

It saw participants, which included Bollywood film per-

sonality Sanjay Suri, Himanshu Dhanuka from Eskay Movie, Kolkata, South film producer Sabu Cherian, Business Head, Zee Rahul Rao, Sidhant Mohapatra from Odia film industry, producer/directors Manmohan Mohapatra, Akshya Parija, Deepak Samantray, Jugal Debata and representatives from Cine Chambers, Film Producers Association among others.

Key speakers at the roundtable included Sanjeev Chopra, Principal Secretary, Industries

Department, Dr Nitin Jawale, MD, IPICOL and Satyabrata Tripathy, Chairman Odisha Film Development Corporation (OFDC).

They shared information and knowledge about the Odisha Film Policy 2019 through open house discussion and presentations.

Addressing the audiences, Chopra said, "Odisha Film Policy 2019 is the most comprehensive and attractive policy by any State in India."

JOB HOGS...

From Page 1

The survey, conducted between October and December 2018 in the State then ruled by the BJP, was released on Monday. The Raman Singh Government was in power in the State for 15 years, before it was replaced by the Congress in December 2018.

According to Bihar survey report, the performance of the Nitish Kumar Government in Bihar was below average on the most important concerns of voters, including employment opportunities, availability of water for agriculture and better healthcare facilities. Across the State, major concerns of voters were employment (49.95 per cent), availabil-

ity of water for farms (41.43 per cent) and better hospital/primary healthcare centres (39.09 per cent). Employment (47 per cent) continues to be a huge concern for the urban voters other than drinking water (46 per cent) and better hospitals/primary healthcare centres (43 per cent).

In rural Bihar, the top voter concerns were employment (50 per cent), availability of water for agriculture (48 per cent) and farm loans (42 per cent) and the Government performed below average on all three areas. The election watchdog's 'Bihar Survey 2018', says the Government performed "poorly" on traffic congestion, electricity for domestic and farm use as well as in providing high realisation of agricultural products.

The survey report on Madhya

Pradesh shows that for 61.91 per cent voters in Madhya Pradesh, including rural areas, better employment opportunities matter more than issues related to agriculture, corruption or terrorism. "A total of 61.91 per cent voters in rural and urban MP consider better employment opportunities as the biggest election issue," the report said. As per report, better employment avenues was the primary concern for 70 per cent of Madhya Pradesh's urban population and 59 per cent of rural voters. The second priority for 39.19 per cent Madhya Pradesh voters was remunerative prices for farm produce, while the third concern for 32.69 per cent voters was better health care by way of more hospitals and primary health centres, the report said. In rural areas, 56 per cent voters

wanted higher prices for farm produce while 40 per cent spoke of the need for electricity for agricultural purposes, the survey showed.

The ADR report on Telangana said voters in both rural and urban areas gave big thumbs up to jobs for youth with 63 per cent of voters in the rural hinterland wanting jobs and 71 per cent in urban areas pitching for better employment opportunities.

The other issue which got voter preference was noise pollution with 50 per cent in urban areas believing it to be an important issue which needs to be addressed. In rural areas, 45 per cent voters gave priority for better price realisation of farm produce, another 45 per cent think subsidy for seeds and fertilizers must continue.

Army destroys 3 Pak posts after...

From page 1

Local residents claimed Pakistan army shelled civilian areas using 120 mm artillery shells. In response, Indian army retaliated strongly and effectively. Local reports claimed, "at least three Pakistani posts were destroyed in retaliatory strikes by the Indian army". Local intelligence reports claimed, at least 12-15 Pakistan army soldiers were present in these posts when Indian Army hit back. However, there was no official confirmation from the Indian army officers or the Ministry of Defence spokesman over the extent of damage caused to the Pakistani army posts in retaliatory strikes across the line of control.

In Poonch town, as injured civilians started trickling in the district hospital, Poonch from shelling affected forward villages, panic stricken residents staged protest demonstrations against the local authorities for failing to provide adequate treatment facilities to the injured in time. Delay

caused in shifting the injured residents via chopper to Government Medical College hospital in Jammu triggered protests against the district authorities.

Tension prevailed in the area for last four days with regular exchange of fire along the LoC for several hours. The situation on ground deteriorated on Monday afternoon after Pakistan army started targeting civilian areas on the Indian side.

To prevent injuries to schoolchildren the district authorities had closed down the schools in the worst affected areas falling within 5 km radius of the LoC. The schools will remain closed on April 2 as well in the wake of prevailing security situation.

In another related development, Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Ranbir Singh arrived in Srinagar for a two day visit to review the security situation in the region in the backdrop of recent successful counter terrorist oper-

ations and the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Accompanied by the Chinara Corps Commander Lt Gen KJS Dhillon, the Army Commander visited the forward areas in the frontier district of Baramulla, where he was briefed by commanders on ground about the current situation.

During the visit, the Army Commander was briefed on the counter infiltration grid and operational preparedness of the formations apart from the various developmental works being undertaken to improve the life of the people residing in remote areas. He was appreciative of the measures and Standard Operating Procedures instituted by the units and formations to meet the challenges posed by the inimical forces.

Later in the day, the Army Commander was briefed by the Chinara Corps Commander, Lt Gen KJS Dhillon at Badami Bagh Cantonment on the prevailing operational aspects.

Swarm of Pak F-16s beats...

From page 1

In the ensuing aerial duel, Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman flying a MIG-21 had shot down an F-16. However, during the combat, he entered Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and Varthaman's jet was shot down by Pakistan air defence. He bailed out and was captured by the Pakistan Army and released two days later.

The Pakistani jets had carried out the attack in retaliation against Indian air strikes in Balakot a day earlier.

Since then, the defence forces are maintaining maximum operational readiness along the fronts facing Pakistan. In fact, the IAF shot down at least two Pakistani spy drones on a mission to gather intelligence about Indian military positions in Rajasthan sector in early March.

Harsimrat urges youth to highlight SAD's good work on social media

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Emphasising the need to use the social media to counter the "false propaganda" of the rival parties, the Union Minister and SAD MP from Bathinda Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Monday admitted that not using the platform might be one of the party's weaknesses.

"During (the) meetings with party workers in the last few days, I have got feedback that we need to highlight (our work) more on social media. Our political opponents are into promoting false propaganda against us with the use of money power and having a full-fledged team," said Harsimrat in a video message posted on her official Facebook page. Working at the ground level has been the Akali Dal's strength, but we do not want to showcase it.

EXTENSION OF CANCELLATION OF TRAINS DUE TO MAINTENANCE WORK

In order to upgrade the safety standards, Northern Railway has undertaken the infrastructure & maintenance related works. In view of some important additions, these works are being further extended upto 15.04.2019. As a result, during this period the following trains will temporary be Cancelled as under :-

Train No. & Name	Dates of Cancellation from originating stn.
14235/14236 Varanasi - Bareilly - Varanasi Express	upto 15.04.2019
14265/14266 Varanasi Jn - Dehradun - Varanasi Jn Express	upto 15.04.2019
14004 New Delhi - Malda Town Express	4,7,11 & 14.04.2019
14003 Malda Town - New Delhi Express	6,9,13 & 16.04.2019
14213/14214 Varanasi Jn- Gonda Jn - Varanasi Jn Intercity Express	upto 15.04.2019
11109/11110 Jhansi Jn - Lucknow- Jhansi Jn Express	upto 15.04.2019
13119 Sealdah - Anand Vihar (T) Express	4,7,11 & 14.04.2019
13120 Anand Vihar (T) - Sealdah Express	6,9 & 13.04.2019
22406 Anand Vihar (T) - Bhagalpur Garib Rath	3 & 10.04.2019
22405 Bhagalpur - Anand Vihar (T) Garib Rath	4 & 11.04.2019
15273 Raxaul Jn - Anand Vihar (T) Express	4 & 11.04.2019
15274 Anand Vihar (T) - Raxaul Jn Express	5 & 12.04.2019

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Please join us on **NORTHERN RAILWAY** visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

8852019 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

IT dept seizes Geelani's Delhi house

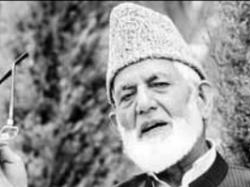
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department has attached a house of hard-line Kashmiri separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani located in the national Capital in connection with an over ₹3.62 crore tax evasion case against him.

The attached flat is located in south Delhi's Khirki Extension locality in Malviya Nagar. A Tax Recovery Officer (TRO) of the department sealed the house as Geelani allegedly failed to pay ₹3,62,62,160 income tax for assessment years 1996-97 to 2001-02, an order said.

The department has

The attached flat is located in south Delhi's Khirki Extension locality in Malviya Nagar. A Tax Recovery Officer (TRO) of the department sealed the house as Geelani allegedly failed to pay ₹3,62,62,160 income tax for assessment years 1996-97 to 2001-02



Various agencies have tightened the noose around terror sympathisers ostensibly working at the behest of Pakistan and are suspected to be engaged in fuelling terror in J&K in conjunction with terror affiliates of the Pakistan Government and the Army combine

undertaken the action under section 222 of the Income Tax Act (assessee deemed in default of tax payment) and "prohibited and restrained" the Hurriyat Conference leader from transferring the asset to anyone.

An order to attach the

property was issued on March 29 by the department.

TRO is the enforcement wing of the IT department and deals with cases of wilful defaulters. The authority is empowered to attach an asset and subsequently auction it to realise the tax dues.

In March, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) slapped a penalty of ₹14.40 lakh on Geelani in a 17-year-old case of illegal possession of foreign currency worth \$10,000 in alleged contravention of foreign exchange law.

The foreign currency,

equivalent to about Rs 6.90 lakh, had also been confiscated by the ED in 2002 as part of an order issued under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) on March 20.

This currency was seized during an Income Tax raid at Geelani's residence in Srinagar's Hyderpora area in 2002.

Various agencies have tightened the noose around terror sympathisers ostensibly working at the behest of Pakistan and are suspected to be engaged in fuelling terror in Jammu & Kashmir in conjunction with terror affiliates of the Pakistan Government and the Army combine.

Army Chief to visit US to boost military ties

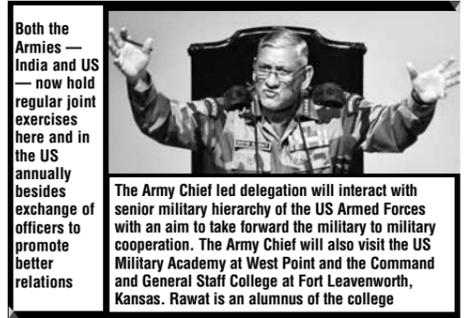
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen military-to-military ties, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat will hold wide ranging discussions with the US top brass during his four-day visit there beginning on Tuesday.

Both the Armies now hold regular joint exercises here and in the US annually besides exchange of officers to promote better relations. His visit comes against the backdrop of growing strategic and Defence ties between the countries increasing manifold over the past few years.

Moreover, the US has emerged as one of the biggest weapon suppliers to India in the last two decades with India recently signing deal with a US firm for 72, 400 Sig Sauer assault rifles worth over Rs 700 crore for frontline troops guarding the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan and Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China.

The rifles will be acquired on fast track basis and likely to be inducted within a year. Also, the arms exports



Both the Armies — India and US — now hold regular joint exercises here and in the US annually besides exchange of officers to promote better relations

The Army Chief led delegation will interact with senior military hierarchy of the US Armed Forces with an aim to take forward the military to military cooperation. The Army Chief will also visit the US Military Academy at West Point and the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Rawat is an alumnus of the college

from the US have crossed the ten billion dollar mark in last few years and the US keen to have joint ventures with Indian companies to manufacture weapons here.

Given this scenario, the Army Chief led delegation will interact with senior military hierarchy of the US Armed Forces with an aim to take forward the military to military cooperation. The Army Chief will also visit the US Military Academy at West Point and the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth,

Kansas, officials said here on Monday. Rawat is an alumnus of the prestigious college.

Rawat will interact with General Joseph F Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General Mark A Milley, Chief of Staff of the US Army to discuss military cooperation issues of mutual interest.

The visit to US aims to give impetus to the military ties and enhance strategic engagements. The functional experience gained during the visit shall further enhance India-US relationship, they said.

Zika virus: US relaxes advisory against travelling to India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre for Disease Control (CDC), a US health protection agency, has relaxed its December 2018 travel advisory to India over Zika outbreak, especially for pregnant women. Earlier, the CDC had cautioned pregnant women to not travel to India as there was an ongoing outbreak in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

On Monday, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) issued a statement saying that its March rebuttal to CDC's earlier advisory has led the international agency to say the status of Zika outbreak has changed to "current or past transmission but no current outbreak" from the earlier status given to all south Asian nations — "ongoing outbreak".

According to the CDC website, the advisory now states, "India has reported past or current Zika virus transmission. We do not have accurate information on the current level of risk. There may be delays in detection and reporting of new outbreaks."

"Because Zika is a cause of severe birth defects, CDC recommends pregnant women and couples trying to become pregnant within the next three months work with their health care providers to carefully con-

The Indian Council of Medical Research in an statement said its March rebuttal to Centre for Disease Control (CDC)'s earlier advisory has led international agency to say the status of Zika outbreak has changed to "current or past transmission but no current outbreak" from the earlier status given to all south Asian nations — "ongoing outbreak"



According to the CDC website, the advisory now states, India has reported past or current Zika virus transmission. We do not have accurate information on the current level of risk. There may be delays in detection and reporting of new outbreak

As many as 159 cases of Zika were reported in Jaipur during October-November. In Madhya Pradesh, 130 cases were reported during the same period, whereas in Ahmedabad the number of cases were two

sider the risks and possible consequences of travel to areas with risk of Zika. If you travel, you should strictly follow steps to minimise exposure to and prevent mosquito bites."

The ICMR adds that Zika virus strain isolated in Rajasthan matches with the one in Brazil, which saw a massive outbreak in 2016. It further clarifies that though preliminary studies done on strain in Rajasthan do suggest that the mutation causing birth defects (microcephaly) was absent there but "further characterisation of the strain is required as microcephaly has several

attributable cases.

Also, the ICMR has said that a study was being rolled out in Madhya Pradesh among Zika-positive pregnant women to understand the outcomes of pregnancy and to know the occurrence of neurological complications, including microcephaly. A similar study, ICMR said, has been rolled out in Rajasthan as well.

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SSC paper leak case: SC OKs declaration of re-exam results

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) to declare the result of a re-examination of SSC Combined Graduate Level (CGL) 2017 held last year. A Bench of Justices SA Bobde and S Abdul Nazeer said that injunction granted on August 31, last year on the declaration of result for SSC CGL, 2017, would not continue on a re-examination conducted on March 9, 2018.

The top court said that lakhs of unemployed youths have suffered because someone from the organisation was corrupt. It also set up a high powered committee comprising Nandan Nilekani, a co-founder of tech giant Infosys, and renowned computer scientist Vijay P Bhatkar to suggest reforms for conducting of competitive examinations fairly by Government bodies. **PTI**

ITBP command activated at Leh to counter China build-up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Monday operationalised its strategic command at Leh in the Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir after moving it from Chandigarh as part of a plan to counter the ever-increasing Chinese military build-up in the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

The North West frontier of the ITBP, headed by an Inspector General of Police-rank officer equivalent to a Major General in the Army is tasked to guard the 3,488-km India-China border in peace times. It has now been made operational from Ladakh from Monday, officials said.

The Indian tricolour and the paramilitary's flag were unfurled to herald the new



move and the frontier will be operating from the existing premises of the ITBP sector headquarter, they said.

ITBP Director General SS Deswal has sanctioned more infrastructure including buildings and logistics for the new command. The DG is expected to visit the formation some time

A decision to the effect was taken in January this year to shift the command from Chandigarh to Leh, which are separated by a distance of 960 km

Location of the ITBP and the Army in the same region will resolve the coordination issue between the two forces

The new ITBP frontier will have command of about 12 battalions (12,000 personnel) deployed along the Chinese border that runs along Jammu & Kashmir, a move intended to increase the presence of the troops on the icy, blizzard-prone mountainous border

officer and the shift is expected to facilitate a better interaction between the two forces in terms of strategic and defence planning.

The Army, which carved out a separate Corps in Leh after Jammu and Srinagar following the Kargil incursion in 1999, has been demanding operational control over the ITBP. The proposal has been rejected by the Government.

Location of the ITBP and the Army in the same region

will resolve the coordination issue between the two forces.

The Union Home Ministry had first mooted the proposal for this strategic move in 2015 but it did not materialise.

The new ITBP frontier will have command of about 12 battalions (12,000 personnel) deployed along the Chinese border that runs along Jammu & Kashmir, a move intended to increase the presence of the troops on the icy, blizzard-prone mountainous border.

2019 Elections Battleground LOK SABHA

Paramilitary forces exempted from code of conduct



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has exempted a host of agencies under the Union Home like paramilitary forces, NIA, IB, CBI and other security agencies from Model Code of Conduct and allowed them to procure operationally required items through open tender or Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal.

The move comes after Joint Secretary in the Union Home Ministry Piyush Goyal in a letter to the Election Commission

of India NOC (No Objection Certificate for MHA/CAPFs, NSG, Assam Rifles, Intelligence Bureau, CBI-CFSL and other security organisations for procurement of operationally required items through open tender.

In a recent letter to Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, Election Commission Secretary Avinash Kumar said it has no objection from Model Code of Conduct angle with regard to procurement of any item by the security agencies under the Home Ministry.

EC seeks report on Yogi's 'Modi ji ki sena' remarks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday took cognizance of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath referring to the Indian Army as 'Modi ji ki sena'. The district magistrate of Ghaziabad has been asked to furnish a report in this regard.

The report will be submitted to the office of Chief Electoral Officer of Uttar Pradesh which has sought the details after taking cognizance of media reports in this regard.

"Congress ke log aatankwadiyon ko biryani khilate the aur Modi ji ki

sena aatankwadiyon ko goli aur gola deti hai. (Congress would feed 'biryani' to terrorists, while Modi's army gives them bullets and bombs). This is the difference. The Congress people use 'ji' to refer to Masood Azhar to encourage terrorism," Adityanath said at an election rally in Ghaziabad on Sunday.

The Chief Minister was campaigning for sitting MP and Union Minister VK Singh. The EC had on March 19 asked political parties to "desist" from indulging in

any propaganda involving actions taken by Defence forces during their Lok Sabha poll campaigns.

The fresh advisory came days after the poll panel asked parties and their candidates against using pictures of Defence force personnel in their campaign material. "...Parties/candidates are advised that their campaigners/candidates should desist, as part of their election campaigning, from indulging in any political propaganda involving activities of Defence forces," it said.

The poll body said the new advisory was in continuation to its earlier one on use of pictures of Defence personnel in campaigning.

EC: VVPAT order will delay results SC asks 21 parties to file reply in a week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

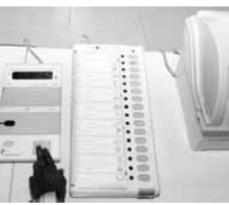
The Supreme Court on Monday granted time to 21 political parties time till April 8 to respond to the stand of Election Commission of India that verification of 50 per cent of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPAT) in all constituencies will delay counting.

The Election Commission (EC) has filed counter-affidavit in the matter pointing out logistical difficulties in carrying out 50 per cent verification of VVPAT. According to the EC, this will delay the announcement of results by at least six days.

"It is therefore submitted 50 per cent VVPAT slip verification in each Assembly segment of a Parliamentary Constituency or Assembly Constituency on an average shall enlarge the time required for counting to about 6 days. It is also relevant to mention that in many Assembly Constituencies, there are more than 400 polling stations, which will require about 8 to 9 days to complete the VVPAT slip count," stated the affidavit filed by the poll panel.

This has come in response to a PIL filed by leaders of 21 Opposition political parties, demanding counting and cross verification VVPAT in at least 50 per cent (randomly chosen) of all polling stations within each Assembly Segment/Constituency.

The petition also challenges the decision of ECI to verify VVPAT of only one randomly selected booth of a constituency. The petitioners say



the Court in 2017 that VVPAT will be used 100 per cent in future elections. However, the decision taken by the EC in July 2018 was to verify VVPAT of a randomly selected polling station from a constituency.

The petitioners that this will account only for 0.44 per cent of the votes polled. This guideline defeats the entire purpose of VVPAT and makes the same "ornamental" without actual substance, they state.

Last week, the Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had required the Commission to reply whether it is possible to increase the VVPAT sample survey in every assembly segment. The Commission has explained that the VVPAT slip is displayed to the voter through a transparent window in the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) for about seven seconds after the casting of vote. The EC had informed

are: N Chandrababu Naidu (TDP), Sharad Pawar (NCP), KC Venugopal (INC), Derek O'Brien (TMC), Sharad Yadav (LTD), Akhilesh Yadav (SP), Satish Chandra Mishra (BSP), MK Stalin (DMK), TK Ranga Rajan (CPI(M)), S Sudhakar Reddy (CPI), Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD), Arvind Kejriwal (AAP), Farooq Abdullah (NC) K Danish Ali (RJD), Ajith Singh (RLD), M Badruddin Ajmal (AIUDF), Jithin Ram Manji (Hindusthani Awam Morcha), Ashok Kumar Singh (JVM), Khorrum Anis Omar (IUML) Prof. Kodanadram (Telangana Jana Samithi), and KG Kenye (Naga Peoples Front).

HACKED LAST MONTH, BJP WEBSITE BACK



The BJP website that was hacked almost a month back has come back with much better design, user-interface and navigation capabilities. The portal went into the "maintenance" mode on March 5 when hackers hit it, wiping out the data. The message on the BJP website read: "We'll be back soon! Sorry for the inconvenience..." If you open it now, the message reads: "Welcome to the world's largest political party". **IANS**

Cong questions Amit Shah's assets info, demands action

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused BJP president Amit Shah of providing "false information" related to his property in the affidavit filed by him for Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat and demanded that the Election Commission direct the Returning Officer to initiate action against him.

Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari alleged Shah in his affidavit has "undervalued"

his assets which is "very serious" as it is against the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. Referring to a plot in Gandhinagar, the Congress leader claimed that as per the Government guidelines the market value of the plot comes to Rs 66.5 lakh, but Shah had declared its value at Rs 25 lakh.

There was no immediate reaction available from the BJP or Shah's office on the charges. "We would like the Election Commission to take cog-

nizance of this matter and direct the Returning Officer of Gandhinagar to take appropriate action under the law. Because this is no ordinary candidate, this is the president of the BJP and an alleged false declaration on an affidavit is a serious issue," he told reporters.

Tewari alleged that when there is a laid down process, by which a clear market value of the property can be declared, the president of BJP for some reason has decided to declare only

less than half its market value.

He also claimed that Shah's assets have seen a jump of 300 per cent from 2012 to 2019, growing from Rs 11.79 crore to Rs 38.81 crore. "At least, for some, 'achche din' have come, even if they have not come for 125 crore Indians," he said referring to the BJP's poll slogan for 2014 elections.

He said Section 125-A of Representation of the People Act clearly says that "a candidate who fails to provide full infor-



mation or provides false information or conceals any information, will be punishable with fine and/or imprisonment."



Stalin washes off anti-Hindu blot

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Taken aback by the aggressive posture of Hindutva elements in the BJP and the Sangh Parivar that the DMK is an anti-Hindu organisation, party chief MK Stalin on Monday made a strategic change in his approach to religions, especially the Hinduism.

"There is an attempt by certain political and social groupings to portray the DMK as an enemy of the Hindus. But this is absolutely wrong as we are not against any religions. We, in DMK, follow what the party founders C N Annadurai and my late father Kalaingar (M Karunanidhi) had taught us. They told us to follow the dictum of one God and one community. This is what we are doing even today," declared the DMK leader while campaigning in Vellore district.

Stalin's declaration comes at a time when the social media is agog with his speech made at Tiruchi where he declared that Sanatana Dharma was the biggest threat faced by the country than that from Pakistan and China. The speech has



including Anbumani in the Cabinet," claimed Stalin.

Meanwhile, the DMK fielded Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of M K Stalin to campaign against Anbumani Ramadoss, the NDA candidate contesting at Dharmapuri Lok Sabha constituency. In a no-bar holds attack on Anbumani, the scion of the DMK family asked the people of Dharmapuri not to believe the promises made by the former as he has failed in implementing any of the offers he had made in 2014.

"He has not visited the constituency regularly. Though he had promised to resolve the water crisis in the district, the situation continues to remain the same," charged the film actor son of Stalin.

Anbumani is facing challenge from the DMK's DNV Senthil Kumar at Dharmapuri who hails from a leading Vanniyar family of the district. Though the DMK has declared that it was against caste and religion, the party has been careful in selecting and fielding candidates from the dominant community in the constituencies from which the party is contesting.

BSP announces 2nd list of six candidates



Lucknow: The BSP on Monday announced its second list of six candidates for Lok Sabha Polls in Uttar Pradesh.

While Amar Chandra Jauhar has been given ticket from Shahjahanpur (SC), Nilu Satyarthi will be party candidate from Mishrikh (SC), a party statement said.

Manoj Agarwal has been fielded from Farukhabad, Nisha Sachan from Akbarpur, Pankaj Singh from Jalaun (SC) and Dileep Kumar Singh from Hamirpur.

The BSP, which is contesting on 38 Lok Sabha seats (of the total 80 seats) after entering into an alliance with the Samajwadi Party, had on March 22 declared its first list of 11 candidates.

The party in its earlier list gave ticket to former JD(S) leader Kunwar Danish Ali from Amroha, besides announcing Haji Fazulrahman as its nominee from Saharanpur, Malook Nagar from Bijore and Girish Chandra from Nagina. PTI

TMC is BJP's Trojan Horse in Bengal: CPM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

BJP and the Trinamool Congress conspired together to demolish the impact of Left-democratic parties from Bengal, State CPI(M) secretary Dr Suryakanto Mishra has said.

Attacking the two parties, calling one the proverbial Trojan Horse of the other, Mishra, also a politburo member, said, "TMC is the Trojan Horse of BJP," in the Opposition camp, urging people to identify their hidden camaraderie "or else you will have to repent the way you have been for the past eight years" of the Mamata Banerjee rule.

Attacking the BJP for its "nefarious designs" to deconsecrate the Constitution of India by robbing it of its "secular democratic" ethos Mishra said "if it comes for the second time the very future of the secular democratic republic enshrined in our Constitution will be at stake."

On who brought the BJP in Bengal and who was behind

the saffron party's steady emergence, the senior Left leader and a former State Minister said, "the TMC had first tried to bring the saffron menace directly to Bengal through an alliance. But when the people under the Left leadership rejected that move she (Chief Minister) took a circuitous path by trying to communally divide Bengal, the way she did all these years" — by propping one community much to the chagrin of the other.

"It is the TMC that has to answer the proliferation of Sangh in the State, it is for the Trinamool to explain the import of a political culture in this State which had never been present since the Independence," Mishra said adding the "Chief Minister will have to answer to the people for her misdeeds."

For the BJP he said despite its meteoric rise and undue importance in the media the party "will never be able to survive in Bengal as the region is basically secular and Left minded with impact of the renaissance culture."

Shocking as Yogi terms Army Modi's Sena, tweets Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday launched a blistering attack on her Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath for tagging the Indian Army with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hours after the UP Chief Minister attacked the Congress for treating terrorists with Biryani while "Modi ji's army feeds them with bullets and bombs," Banerjee retorted saying the remark had shocked her.

"It is shocking to hear the UP CM saying that the Indian Army is the 'Modi Sena,'" Banerjee tweeted adding the Yogi's statement had only insulted the Army. "Such blatant personalisation and usurping of our beloved Indian Army is an insult and a humiliation," she said.

"We are proud of our Army. They belong to all. They are a great asset of our nation and not a cassette of the BJP," Banerjee said adding people of this country "must stand up and reject this state-

ment."

Another Trinamool leader Firhad Hakim said "this proves how the Modi Government is politicising the Army to win elections. They are not only politicising the Army but also using it for their narrow end. This will only evoke hatred from the people of India.

Meanwhile in an unrelated and unprecedented development the Chief Electoral Officer of Bengal was literally forced to leave the venue of a meeting between Special Police Observer for the State Vivek Dubey and opposition parties when a delegation of the BJP refused to speak to the in front of the CEO accusing him of "playing a partisan game."

Expressing no-confidence on State CEO Aariz Aftab the Bengal BJP delegation led by senior leader Mukul Roy "refused to take part in a discussion with Dubey in presence of the CEO as we had no doubt that whatever we bring to the notice of the Police Observer will be related to the TMC or the State Government in two minutes if he remains present in the meeting."

Tej Pratap launches Lalu Rabri Morcha

Urges mother to contest from Saran

Patna: In fresh trouble for Lalu Prasad's RJD, his mercurial elder son Tej Pratap Yadav on Monday urged his mother Rabri Devi to contest from Saran Lok Sabha seat in place of the father of his estranged wife and threatened to contest as an Independent if his request was not heeded.

The maverick MLA and former Minister spoke while announcing the formation of a parallel outfit Lalu Rabri Morcha which he insisted was not separate from the RJD and pointed towards photographs of his parents besides younger brother Tejashwi Yadav who has in the recent past emerged as the partys de facto leader.

Saran is the seat of my father Lalu ji and mother Rabri ji. I urge my mother, with folded hands, that she herself enter the fray from there. If this does not happen I will contest as an independent and make my best efforts to win it, a furious Yadav told reporters here.

Chandrika Rai, the partys MLA from Parsa seat falling under Saran, was announced as the party candidate from the Lok Sabha seat last week. BJP has named sitting MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy as its nominee on the politically important seat.

Rai's daughter Aishwarya had tied the knot with Yadav in May last year though the latter moved a divorce petition within less than six months of the marriage.

After the announcement of his candidature, Rai had sought to downplay speculations that the development could enrage his volatile son-in-law and said



he is one of the star campaigners of the party. He will not do anything that is detrimental to the interests of the RJD.

About his own candidature, Rai had said I am a six-term MLA from Parsa and hence competent enough to fight this seat which is valuable to our party. Rabri Devi may have chosen not to contest this time as she would be very busy with campaigns across the State.

Notably, Saran was won by Prasad in 2009 his last shot at the hustings before conviction in a fodder scam case four years later left him disqualified. Rabri Devi was fielded from the seat in 2014 but she lost to BJPs Rajiv Pratap Rudy. Prasad had represented Chapra, the name by which the parliamentary segment was previously known, a number of times.

Yadav, who has been pressing the candidature of two of his loyalists Chandra Prakash from Jehanabad and Angesh from Sheohar announced that the duo would be fielded by his Morcha from the respective seats.

Replying to a query, he shot back what action can the party take against me. The RJD leadership has to realize that there is widespread resentment against the NDA Government in Bihar which we have to harness. We must not end up angering the people. PTI

Speaker accepts rebel Cong MLA's resignation from K'taka Assembly

Bengaluru: Karnataka Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar on Monday accepted the resignation of rebel Congress MLA Umesh Jadhav, who is taking on party veteran Mallikarjun Kharge as the BJP candidate from Gulbarga constituency in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress had petitioned the Speaker seeking disqualification of Jadhav along with other party rebel lawmakers Ramesh Jarkiholi, B Nagendra and Mahesh Kumathali under the anti-defection law.

"I am convinced that the decision (by Jadhav) has been taken of his own volition without being under duress or without falling for all assurances," Kumar said in his order.

The ruling came as a big relief to Jadhav as there was

uncertainty over his political future with the Congress seeking disqualification under the anti-defection law.

On March 25, the speaker had conducted a public hearing too giving the voters of Chincholi, the Assembly constituency Jadhav represented, a chance to express their views on his decision.

Even before the order could come, Jadhav joined the BJP on March 6 at Kalaburagi the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a gathering in the town.

Jadhav was upset with the Congress against the alleged dominance by Kharge, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, and his son Minister Priyank Kharge in the region.

He was against Priyank Kharge getting ministerial berth ahead of several senior

Congress leaders including himself.

The four MLAs had kept the party on tenterhooks for several weeks, defying its whip twice to attend the Congress Legislative party meetings on January 18 and February 8 and had skipped the early part of the Assembly budget session.

During the political turmoil that engulfed the state in January, following BJP's alleged attempts to topple the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government by poaching their MLAs, the four MLAs had gone incommunicado and were said to be camping in Mumbai, with a plan to jump ship to the saffron party.

After they refused to fall in line, the Congress had petitioned the Speaker to disqualify them under the anti-defection Law. PTI

With 123 companies of Central forces, Assam prepared for polls: DGP

Guwahati: A total of 123 companies of Central paramilitary forces are currently deployed in Assam and the state is prepared for the three-phase Lok Sabha elections, Director General of Police Dr Kuladhar Saikia said.

"Thirty three companies of paramilitary forces have recently been sent to the state. Ninety more such companies have also been in Assam for quite sometime," Saikia said. "Our own Assam Police force is engaged for ensuring free and fair polls in the state. We are prepared for all the eventualities. We are ready to handle any situation," the DGP told a press conference here.

The 14 Lok Sabha constituencies of Assam will go to

polls on April 11, 18 and 23. Saikia said those engaged in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) related duty have not been pulled out for poll security work.

The DGP said he is in constant touch with his counterparts in the neighbouring states for maintaining law and order along the inter-state borders.

Saikia said, "Patrolling by security forces was intensified in the border posts and railway stations." The DGP said vulnerable pockets were identified on the basis of law and order situation and repoll ordered during past elections.

Patrolling by security forces has been intensified in those areas. PTI

Two brothers go missing from home in J&K's Kishtwar

PTI ■ JAMMU

Two minor brothers went missing in Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir, police said on Monday and sought help of the general public in tracing them.

Mohammad Ramzan (14) and his brother Faizan (10) have been missing from their residence in Kuchaal since on Wednesday, a police official said.

He said their father Ghulam Mir informed the police about the missing of his children and accordingly a case was registered and investigation was started.

"Anybody having any information regarding the missing boys may kindly contact police," he said.

Manipur's Kuki militants to cast vote through postal ballots

Imphal: The Election Commission on Monday notified that cadres of Kuki militant groups who signed Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with both the Centre and the Manipur government will cast their votes in postal ballots.

To exercise their franchise, the cadres also must reside in their designated camps and their names feature in the voters' list, the office of the state chief electoral officer (CEO) said in a statement here.

They would have to collect the postal ballots from assistant nodal officers or nodal officers.

The Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement — a pact to ensure peace in the Kuki dominated areas in

Manipur — was first signed by the state and the Centre with two militant groups of the community in 2008. Since then, agreement is being renewed periodically.

Kuki militants are members of two major conglomerates — the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the United People's Front (UPF) who were demanding a separate Kuki State out of Manipur.

Many cadres of the KNO and the UPF are currently putting up at designated camps set up by the Government in different Kuki-dominated areas in the State.

Polling for two Lok Sabha seats of the State — Outer Manipur and Inner Manipur — will be held on April 11 and 18 respectively. PTI



A woman casts her vote at a demo electronic voting machines and checks on Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail or VVPAT during an election awareness drive by district administration amongst the tea garden labourers ahead of Lok Sabha polls in Jorhat on Monday. PTI

BJP blames SKM for backing out from pre-poll alliance in Sikkim

Gangtok: The BJP on Monday hit out at the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) for backing out the alliance between the two parties for inexplicable reasons a few days after making a firm commitment on the issue.

"We were ready to accommodate most of the demands by the SKM leadership to set up an alliance with us for Sikkim Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, but P S Golay led-party chickened out at the last minute without giving any reasons," a senior BJP leader, who was involved in talks with the SKM leadership, told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

He said that the SKM's withdrawal from a pre-poll

alliance in Sikkim has embarrassed the BJP no end as it had gone public about it on a commitment given by Golay himself following a meeting with BJP's North-East and Sikkim incharge Ram Madhav in Delhi in the first week of March this year.

The SKM leadership, however, took an about turn after reaching Sikkim and reneged on alliance with the BJP without citing any reason, the BJP leader said.

Ruing at the missed opportunity to oust the 25 year-old Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) from power, he said that the SKM will be held "squarely responsible" if the Pawan Kumar Chamling gov-

ernment returns to power for a sixth term in Sikkim.

The BJP leader said that his party was undaunted with setback to fructify an alliance with the SKM and said that it will aim to make its presence felt in political waters of Sikkim.

He said that the BJP has put up candidates on 12 assembly seats and the lone Lok Sabha seat with an aim to open its accounts at the hustings.

Elections to the 32 Assembly seat as well as the sole Lok Sabha constituency in Sikkim will be held simultaneously on April 11 next.

The SKM and SDF are contesting on all 32 Assembly seats. PTI

Bombay HC refuses to interfere with release of biopic on PM Modi

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Monday refused to interfere with the release of the Vivek Oberoi-starrer biographical drama on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A bench of Chief Justice Naresh Patil and Justice N M Jandam noted that the Election Commission (EC) has already issued a notice to the makers of the film 'PM Narendra Modi' over allegations of breach of the model code of conduct in view of the Lok Sabha elections.

The Election Commission has already taken note of the issue and shall deal with it," the court said.

The bench disposed of a

Public Interest Litigation filed by Satish Gaikwad, national president of the Republican Party of India (I), who said the film, if permitted to be released for public viewing, would violate the model code of conduct imposed by the EC.

The plea questioned the timing of the film's release and said if released, it was likely to earn the Prime Minister electoral mileage.

The petitioner urged the court to pass orders ensuring that it is not released this Friday, April 5, as scheduled.

The EC, however, told the court that it had already sought replies from the filmmakers. PTI

NPP will continue to oppose Citizenship Bill, says Conrad

Tura: National People's Party supremo and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Monday said the party will continue to oppose the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB).

"Meghalaya was the first state in India to oppose the Bill and raise its objection. We took the initiative to unite different political parties of Northeast and made our voice heard in Delhi and ensured that the CAB was not introduced in the Rajya Sabha," he said while campaigning for the NPP candidate in the Lok Sabha polls in the state.

He claimed that the NPP is the only party that can unite the voice of the region and made it heard in Delhi. PTI

Conrad asked the people to vote for the NPP as "NPP is the party of the Northeast."

The NPP chief on Monday flew to three different locations in North Garo Hills and East Garo Hills (Rongrong Abema, Mangsang and Chibonga respectively) to campaign for his sister Agatha, the NPP candidate for the Tura Lok Sabha seat.

Former Meghalaya chief minister Mukul Sangma is the Congress candidate for the Tura Lok Sabha seat while the BJP has fielded Rikman G Momin.

He alleged that the Congress party is propagating a wrong notion that NPP will partner with BJP and will ensure that the CAB is passed

in the Lok Sabha.

The NPP chief said, "We will remain true to our commitment promised to the people of Northeast and will never allow any bill that would hamper the interest of our people."

Conrad claimed that the NPP has "fulfilled" its promise made in the 2018 election with education as its top priority.

"We had promised education policy and we brought out the policy well ahead of completion of one year. For over four decades the education department had to work without any policy or direction, we have scripted a direction to move forward to ensure better educational facilities in Meghalaya," he said. PTI

Voters will punish Cong for coining Hindu terror: Modi

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Tearing into the Opposition "Mahaghatbandhan" in Maharashtra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the people in the country had made up their mind to "punish" the Congress for coining the term "Hindu terror" and "insulting" the majority community in the eyes of the world and ridiculed NCP chief Sharad Pawar for his decision not to contest the Lok Sabha polls.

Kicking off the BJP's Lok Sabha poll campaign at Wardha in eastern Maharashtra, Modi came down heavily on Pawar and Rahul Gandhi and said the Congress and its ally NCP would not be pardoned by the people by the latter's act of linking terrorism to Hindu community.

In perhaps the most vicious attack launched against the Congress, Modi said: "For the sake of vote bank politics, the Congress and NCP can go to any lengths. It was the Congress that coined the term 'Hindu terror' and created a slur on the crores of people in the country. Tell me were you not deeply hurt when you heard the term 'Hindu ter-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnis (L) and BJP candidate from Wardha constituency Ramdas Tadas (R) during an election rally ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in Wardha on Monday. PTI

ror"? There is not even an incident in the country's thousands of years of history. Even British historians have mentioned that Hindus ever indulged in terror acts. Who has defamed the 5,000 years of country's culture. Can the Congress that coined the term "Hindu terror" be pardoned? Can the Congress-NCP alliance be pardoned?"

Accusing the Congress of having committed the sin of insulting the Hindus and defaming the country's mainstream, Modi said: "The Congress has tried to show the Hindus in a poor light interna-

tionally. Let them run them as much as they can, but the Congress will never be pardoned — a thing even Congress is realising that the Country has made up its mind to punish it". Slamming Rahul Gandhi for his decision to contest the second from Kerala's Wayanad, Modi said: "The realisation of impending defeat has forced the leaders to flee the poll scene. Having linked terrorism to Hindi, they do not have the guts now to contest the elections where majority (Hindus) lives and they have chosen to contest from places where minority is majority".

4 terrorists killed in Pulwama gunfight

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In another successful operation, the joint teams of security forces, early Monday morning, eliminated four terrorists in Laspipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

According to the police, it was a combined group of proscribed terror outfits Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT).

This is the third big operation in the last two weeks in which security forces have achieved major success.

According to police, "It was a clean operation and no collateral damage happened during the encounter. However, in the initial exchange of fire, three army jawans and one policeman also sustained injuries. Their condition is now stated to be stable", official sources said.

Since January 2019, around 66 terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces across the Kashmir valley.

Out of this, 21 killed terrorists were members of Jaish-e-Mohammad terror outfit.

According to Jammu & Kashmir police spokesman, "the operation was launched in the Laspipora area of Pulwama on the basis of credible input about the presence of terrorists in the area".

"During searches, terrorists



Kashmiri villagers carry body of terrorist Aqib Ahmed Kumar during his funeral procession in Hillow village, Srinagar, on Monday. PTI

fired on the search party. The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter", the police spokesman said.

In the ensuing encounter, four terrorists were killed and the bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

According to police, the killed terrorists have been identified as Zaffar Paul, son of Mohammad Ahsan, resident of

Dangerpora Shopian, Tauseef Ahmad Yattoo, son of Abdul Aziz, resident of Gudbug, Pulwama, Aqib Ahmed Kumar, son of Bashir Ahmad, resident of Hellow Shopian and Mohammad Shafi Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad, resident of Sedow Shopian".

Police spokesman said, these terrorists were wanted by law for their complicity in a

series of terror crimes including attack on security establishments and civilian atrocities.

As per police records, Tauseef had a long history of terror crime records and several terror crime cases were registered against him including FIR No. 281/2016, 509/2016, 19/2018 registered in P/S Pulwama and 33/2018 registered at P/S Litter. He was

involved in conspiring and executing many terror attacks in the area.

Similarly, Zaffar was involved in many terror crimes cases which include FIR No. 290/2017, 307/2018, 13/2019, which were registered against him in Police Station Shopian. Aqib Ahmad and Mohammad Shafi were also involved in terror crimes in the area.

Mizoram civil society body call for poll boycott

Aizawl: An umbrella organisation of major civil societies and student associations in Mizoram on Monday decided to boycott the April 11 election to the lone Mizoram Lok Sabha seat and organise a State-wide indefinite bandh from April 8, sources in it said Monday.

The NGO Coordination Committee said that a decision was taken earlier to boycott the Parliamentary polls if special polling booths are established at Mizoram-Tripura border Kanhmur village.

"The NGOCC opposed the establishment of special polling stations at Kanhmur by the election department and the state government officials," a statement issued by the committee and signed by NGOCC Secretary Lalhmachhuana said.

The EC is setting up 15 exclusive polling booths in the village for Bru refugees from Mizoram who are housed in six camps in neighbouring Tripura. The step had been taken in the November 2018 Mizoram assembly polls too.

Appeals would again be made to the authorities to ensure that Bru voters housed in the relief camps in North Tripura district should exercise franchise in their respective villages where they were enrolled as voters and indefinite bandh be organised from April eight to pressurise the authorities, the statement said.

The NGOCC appealed to all the commercial and private vehicle owners requisitioned for transportation of central armed police force (CAPF) and state police personnel as also for use by polling officials not to allow their vehicles for the election purposes.

The Bru community in the Tripura relief camps have refused to return to Mizoram for years despite several repatriation efforts. PTI

Outfit claims Faesal's resignation not accepted by Govt, demands probe

Jammu: A Dogra outfit on Monday claimed that the Government has not accepted the resignation of Shah Faesal from Indian Administrative Service though he has floated a political party after announcing his decision to quit in January, and demanded a high-level probe into the "delay".

"Even after more than three-and-a-half months, Shah Faesal's resignation has not yet been accepted by the Government," the outfit Team Jammu's Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal told reporters here.

Singh said that Faesal tendered his resignation from civil services on January 9 this year

and had launched his party — Jammu Kashmir People's Movement.

"But his resignation has not yet been accepted for the reasons best known to the administration whereas resignation of another IAS officer Farooq Shah was accepted within a week's time and order issued in this regard," he said.

Alleging that some Government employees were promoting Faesal actively participating in political activities, Jamwal demanded a probe into why his resignation has not been accepted yet.

When contacted, officials refused to comment on the issue. PTI

I-T officials seize huge amount of cash in TN

Seizure linked to Durai Murugan

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Income Tax raids at the residence and business premises of DMK treasurer, Durai Murugan, have snowballed into a political controversy on Monday as the Income Tax department disclosed that huge amount of unaccounted money was seized from a local party activist who is linked to Durai Murugan.

The cash, packed in small bundles, marked with numbers of wards and divisions, was kept concealed at a cement

godown located in the residential premises of DMK's Katpadi town panchayat secretary Seenivasan, at Karigiri Salai, in Pallikuppam in Vellore district.

According to a statement from the I-T department, "The cash shifted from Kingston College (Durai Murugan Educational Trust), Vellore, to a cement godown in the night between 29th and 30th March due to botched up operation by the State Police and revenue authorities was found by I-T team."

Friday night saw the DMK local workers holding a demonstration blocking the team from IT Department entering the residence of Durai Murugan. It was only after the

arrival of Murugan at the scene the officials were allowed to check the residence.

Durai Murugan's son Kathir Anand is the DMK candidate from the Lok Sabha constituency of Vellore. Friday night and Saturday morning saw sleuths of the IT department and officials of the flying squad deployed by the election Commission swooping down on Durai Murugan's residence and on the engineering college owned by him.

RS Bharati, the legal wing head of the DMK met the Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu and lodged a complaint with him alleging that the raids at Durai Murugan's residence and business premises were part of political vendetta.

HM terrorist behind failed fidayeen attack on CRPF convoy held

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir police on Monday claimed to have arrested a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist behind failed fidayeen attack on a CRPF convoy near Jawahar tunnel, Bahihal on March 30.

The arrested terrorist has been identified as Owais Amin, a resident of Shopian. After triggering the explosion, he had managed to flee away from the spot.

A Santro car, loaded with explosives, hit a bus of CRPF at Tethar, Bahihal while the Convoy was moving from Srinagar to Jammu. As a result, the CRPF Bus, No. HR66-8067,

suffered minor damage and the CRPF personnel, travelling in the bus, had a narrow escape.

Addressing a press conference here in Police control room, late Monday evening, DGP Police Dilbagh Singh said, "on Sunday evening at about 2030 hours at Upper Gund (Bahihal) one person namely Owais Amin S/O Mohd Amin Rather R/O Vehil, Chhatta Waran, Shopian was apprehended by joint Mobile vehicle Check Post (MVCP) of Army and J&K Police who was trying to sneak to valley".

"He was having injuries and burn marks when he was apprehended from a tipper moving towards the Kashmir valley".



Photo released by ISRO, Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-45 lifts from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on Monday. PTI

Police officials who handled Pollachi sexual harassment case transferred by TN Govt

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Government on Monday transferred police officials who had handled the Pollachi sexual harassment case, including a Superintendent who revealed the identity of the woman victim.

The case relates to a four member gang woman allegedly trying to strip a woman inside a car near Pollachi, over 500 km from here, recording the act and blackmailing her using the visuals. The victim, who managed to free herself, later lodged a complaint with the police.

A total of eight persons have been arrested in connection with the case. The Government had last month transferred the investigation of the case to the CBI from the state's CB-CID, which had earlier taken up the probe from the local police. PTI

According to a Home Department order, Coimbatore SP R Pandiarajan and DSP, Pollachi sub-division, R Jayaram, have been transferred with "immediate effect." Further, A Natesan, Inspector, Pollachi East police station, has also been transferred, it said.

The order allocated no postings to them, virtually putting them in the waiting list.

Sujit Kumar IPS, Deputy Commissioner, Traffic, Coimbatore City, has been posted in place of Pandiarajan while KG Sivakumar, DSP, District Crime Records Bureau, Ooty will replace Jayaram.

Earlier, there was a public outrage after Pandiarajan revealed the name of the victim during a press meet, with civil society groups demanding action against him. PTI

Farmer held with 14 lion claws in Gujarat's Amreli

Ahmedabad: A farmer has been apprehended with 14 claws which he had removed earlier in February from a dead lion in the Tulshishyam Range of Gujarat's Gir Forest, senior official said on Monday.

The farmer, identified as 45-year-old Vashram Dhapa of Pachapachiyia village in Khambha taluka from Amreli, was nabbed Sunday from his farm in nearby Sonariya based on a tip-off, DT Vasavada, Chief Conservator of Forests, Junagadh Wildlife Circle said.

In February, a lion, aged between five to nine years, was found dead in the Tulshishyam

range Gir East division by forest staff. Fourteen of its claws were missing. We had then formed a special team to nab the person responsible," Vasavada said.

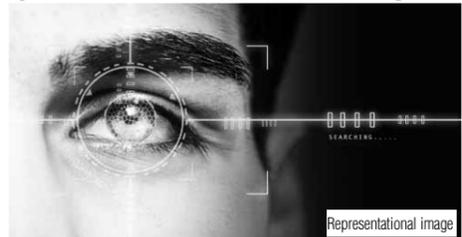
"We zeroed in on Dhapa who has confessed that he had removed the claws and hid them near his farm in Sonariya. We have recovered all 14 claws," he informed. He added that, as of now, it had not been established whether Dhapa killed the lion for its claws but the angle was being pursued. "Claws are worn by some people as pendants. We are probing if Dhapa had a connection to gangs dealing in such items," he said. PTI

Tech to diagnose dementia by tracking eye

Gandhinagar: Scientists at IIT Gandhinagar have developed a technology that can non-invasively diagnose dementia by tracking a person's eye movements, much before the symptoms appear.

With a significant rise in ageing population, neurodegenerative disorders are becoming a serious health issue. While dementia cannot be cured, its progression can be delayed if diagnosed early.

"By the time symptoms of dementia are detected, it is too late — Alzheimer's disease kicks in and it can not be managed. But if dementia is caught early, we can delay the progression of Alzheimer's," said Uttama Lahiri, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gandhinagar.



Her team, which included Ritika Jain and Valay Patel, developed the 'MindEye' project that can track a person's eye movement, quantifying gaze in terms of reaction time and correct fixations, in response to visual stimuli presented on computer monitor.

"We present a stimulus -- dots appearing at certain portions of the screen at certain angles. People with dementia

often have issues with following the dot or fixing their gaze," Lahiri told PTI. Researchers can then map the eye movements in response to the stimulus. They can identify subtle patterns that predict whether the person suffers from mild cognitive impairment.

The preliminary results of the experimental study with 10 healthy participants were promising, Lahiri said. PTI

"We have handed the technology over to the industry and a larger clinical trial is under way in Kolkata and Gujarat," Lahiri said.

About 1,600 people have been screened already, she added.

The researchers used standard tests — long questionnaires that a patient answers with the help of a psychiatrist — to validate their results.

The results were presented this month at the Faculty of Old Age Psychiatry Annual Conference held in the UK.

Existing tests methods to diagnose dementia in patients have several shortcomings. During their research, Lahiri found that uneducated people in old age homes have difficulty answering the questionnaires, making it harder to give a correct diagnoses. PTI

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Chandni, W/o Sohail, R/o H.No. 2070-71, Gali Haji Kayamuddin, Choti Baradari, Hauz Qazi, Delhi** has been missing since 22.03.2019. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 1A, dated 23.03.2019, has been registered at P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing female is as under:

Name: Chandni, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** About 26 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Medium, **Hair:** Black colour.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing female, kindly inform SHO/ Hauz Qazi, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi
DP/6157/CD/19 Ph. No.: 011-23212482, 23210414

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes /amendments & corrigendum etc.

A(1)	28/SPE/PE (PH-1)/E-T/2018-19	Supply of Labour and Machinery for cleaning and Desilting of drain from Sabdeep Paper Mill to Harola Sec-4, 19, 27, 28, 29, 37, 38, 40, 41 to Sec-51 Irrigation Drain, Noida.	3621568.00
(2)	57/SPE/PE (PH)-1/ET/18-19	Supply of Insecticides used for Vector Control in Noida.	3122000.00

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 09/04/19 upto 5.00 PM. Pre - qualification shall be opened / downloaded on dated 10/04/19 at 11.00 AM.

(S.C. Mishra)
Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health)
Sector-39, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

The Wayanad gamble

Rahul Gandhi is looking to maximise the Congress' national tally by going south, not betraying Amethi as a lost cause



It would be too naive to interpret Congress president Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest from Wayanad in Kerala as a thoughtless, hasty move. Neither is he abandoning his homestead of Amethi — though the BJP would very much like you to believe that — nor is he betraying the few alliances he has managed to stitch up with that amorphous entity called the *mahagathbandhan* by taking on the Left. There are now apprehensions that the Congress is not serious about the Lok Sabha election or stopping the Modi juggernaut and

is using it to just shore up its footprint as a truly national party than be subservient to the federal front. The truth is a layered gambit. And in the end, given that the southern States share 120 seats among them, the party does want to put up a strong fight in winning the elections and be a major political entity in doing so.

First, Rahul has realised that in the personality sweepstakes that this election has been reduced to, a Balakot-armoured, space-faring Narendra Modi has found his beat in the popular pulse of North India, riding a swell of Hindu pride that's no longer dependent on Ayodhya. But Modi has not been able to penetrate the South with such ease, perhaps because these States are helmed by territorial strongmen, who are believed to be in sync with local aspirations, and partly because people here have a far more inclusive idea of India than the 'new India' peddled by the Modi army if not himself. Rahul has actually fared well in opinion polls in these parts. So, by positioning himself as a claimant to national relevance from the South, where it is easier for him to explain his idea of India, he could indeed create a polar opposite in the elections that could work in his favour. Second, Wayanad is a strategic choice because it sits on the juncture of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and Rahul's campaign here will have some cascading effect in the three States as well, where the party has a more respectable presence compared to the North. Third, the farmers' distress has been most palpable in this drought-hit region and, therefore, sets the right pitch for Rahul to lead a crusade on core livelihood issues. It is also a minority-dominated district and he wants to be seen as the protector of those pushed out of the mainstream discourse. Besides, the South, Karnataka to be precise, has a legacy of loyalty to the Gandhis whenever they have faced their severest challenge and all of them were metaphorically reborn in crucial verdicts. Indira Gandhi contested from Chikmagalur and won after her debacle post Emergency while Sonia Gandhi resurrected her political worth from Bellary despite a fierce campaign mounted by the BJP's Sushma Swaraj. So if he can give the southern States a coordinated voice in the national discourse, then chances are that the Congress' seat tally might improve enough to help it bargain better in power games. For howsoever the Opposition front might complain about being sidelined as power brokers rather than the king, fact is, at this point, the Congress still has the better national recall value and some heartland States in its kitty. So both cannot do without each other.

Even if the Congress were to give up seats in Delhi or settle for just two in Uttar Pradesh, would AAP or SP-BSP be able to make good in other States? The Congress has a better chance of solidifying its scoreline if it focusses on States that are easier to turn around. Both Rahul and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi are caught between the devil and the deep sea. They can either help prop up the Opposition by becoming their B-team and risk losing their voteshare further or consolidate and grow in the long-term. And though the return may be delayed in the latter option, it is worth the investment of building a pyramid from the base. In fact, Priyanka has been vocal about the endangered species status of the Congress, calling out party workers over organisational weaknesses and insisting upon booth-level connect for 2022, the UP Assembly election. Wayanad seems to be the eject parachute that will keep them sailing on an emergency jetpack of improved tallies.

End of the road?

With US-backed Kurdish forces claiming IS territory, its reign may come to an end. But the outfit is still dangerous



As the Kurdish forces of the Syrian Democratic Front (SDF) moved into Baghuz, the last stronghold of the Islamic State (IS), a small town located on a bend of the Euphrates river, reports emerged that sounded eerily similar to events that occurred in Berlin towards the end of the Second World War. Thousands of refugees, mainly women and children, many of the kids fathered by IS fighters, left the city. This created a huge problem for several Western Governments as many refugees were

citizens who now wanted to return. The case of Shamima Begum, a British citizen and her new-born baby, made headlines when the UK rescinded her citizenship and during the vocal debate on whether to take her child back or not, the new-born baby unfortunately died in the heat, dust and unhygienic conditions of a refugee camp. That is another debate and one that Governments in the West will have to ponder about, as will India, where tens of brain-washed youth have traversed all the way to the Levant to rape, pillage and kill 'infidels'. The big question is whether this signifies the end of IS. The loss of Baghuz means it has lost the last shred of real estate that it owned. But just because IS does not have any territory or a population under its control, and most importantly money, the kind it made from trading crude oil as well as through kidnapping and even the slave trade using Yazidi women, does not mean that it is over. The IS ideology survives as do many of the group's leaders such as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, sheltered by friendly tribespersons in Iraq and Syria. Post regime-change Iraq is still a den of corruption and long-standing tribal and religious schisms papered over in the Saddam-era continue to fester. And while Bashar al-Assad's forces have with Russian help ousted many of the forces inimical to the regime in Damascus, much of Syria is still a mess. With US President Donald Trump unwilling to keep more boots on the ground, things could still go haywire.

More importantly, much of what IS achieved was with the internet and using modern communications and media tools to disseminate its information. This led to promoting 'lone wolf' attacks such as those made with trucks in Berlin and Marseilles. This is unlikely to end, even though social networks have cracked down on such pages. Pro-IS propaganda still exists online and recorded audio messages by leaders like al-Baghdadi are available on the internet, imploring supporters to stay active. Without money and material, IS might have been defanged for now but the poison glands are still producing venom. To ensure that the fangs don't re-emerge, Governments must remain vigilant.

Busting several myths

The NIA's failure to present even an iota of evidence in the court in the Samjhauta Express blasts case has battered its reputation. There is no proof of funding either



SANDHYA JAIN

The collapse of the Samjhauta Express bomb blasts case against anti-conversion crusader Aseemanand and his "co-conspirators", Lokesh Sharma, Kamal Chauhan and Rajinder Chaudhary, on the March 21 Samjhauta Express Case, has trounced attempts by a previous regime to establish the bogey of "Hindu terror." Aseemanand allegedly mentored people seeking revenge for attacks on Hindu temples (Akshardham, Gujarat; Raghunath Mandir, Jammu; and Sankat Mochan Mandir, Varanasi). The National Investigation Agency's (NIA) failure to present even an iota of evidence in the court has battered its reputation. Aseemanand has already been acquitted in Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid and Ajmer's dargah blast cases. Living among tribals in Dangs, Gujarat, his ability to inspire terror attacks with trifling amounts like ₹25,000 and ₹40,000 seems laughable; no other sums are attributed to him.

The NIA case revolved around Sunil Joshi, who was murdered in December 2007 in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. As no credible corroborative evidence was forwarded, the case collapsed once Aseemanand withdrew his confession, claiming it was coerced. As his plea of innocence before one judge clashed with his confession before another judge, special judge Jagdeep Singh upheld the forced confession plea. The shoddy probe thus helped those behind the killing of 68 people on the night of February 18-19, 2007, to get away scot-free.

Interestingly, the US Department of the Treasury informed the 1267 committee of the UN Security Council that Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) was behind the attacks and that Fazeel-A-Tul Shaykh Abu Mohammed Ameen Al-Peshawari; Arif Qasmani; Mohammed Yahya Mujahid; and Nasir Javaid had carried out train bombings in India. The 1267 committee stated on June 29, 2008, that these people were financed by proclaimed offender Dawood Ibrahim. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered an FIR and Safdar Nagori of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIM) admitted in October 2008 that the Samjhauta blasts were executed by SIMI activists with the help from LeT from Pakistan. The judge observed that the NIA did not follow these leads. Survivors reported that some people had got off the train midway but this line of investigation was totally neglected.

In 2010-11, the investigators began to pursue the "Hindu terrorists" theory. Aseemanand "confessed" in January 2011 that on February 16, 2007, he met Sunil Joshi and Bharat Rameshwar at Balpur and was told to expect some "good news"; Joshi later told him that his (Joshi's) men were behind Samjhauta and other incidents. Even *prima facie*, this does not suggest Aseemanand's involvement in any conspiracy.

In NIA vs. Naba Kumar Sarkar @ Swami Aseemanand and others, Aseemanand denied



confessing any crime to convict Abdul Khaleem in Chanchalguda Jail, Hyderabad. The judgement agreed that this was unlikely as Aseemanand was in solitary confinement. It noted that while the "confession" said Indresh Kumar, Pragna Thakur, Bharat Rameshwar and others also attended meetings (denied by them), the NIA had not charged them as co-accused.

According to the retracted confession, in March 2006, Sunil Joshi met Aseemanand at Shabridham and asked for money to purchase a SIM card and pistol from Jharkhand and received ₹25,000. However, the NIA failed to prove that the SIM card or pistol was used to execute the Samjhauta Express blast. Besides, as the judgement observed, no material evidence was recovered from places associated with the alleged conspiracy, namely, Thakurghar, Shabridham and Balpur Mandir; instead the NIA took Aseemanand to unrelated places like Daman.

The prosecution claimed that Lokesh Sharma, Rajinder Chaudhary, Kamal Chauhan and Amit Hakla came to Old Delhi Railway Station from Indore on February 18, 2007, and stayed in railway dormitories but offered no evidence in this regard. There was no evidence (train tickets/reservations or other records) to establish that the accused people travelled from Indore to Nizamuddin station and then to Old Delhi Railway

“ THERE WAS 'NO CONCRETE ORAL, DOCUMENTARY OR SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE' REGARDING MOTIVE TO INDULGE IN THE CRIME; NOTHING TO SHOW HOW AND FROM WHERE RAW MATERIALS FOR MAKING BOMBS WERE PROCURED; WHO COLLECTED THE MATERIAL; WHO ASSEMBLED THE BOMBS; WHO PLANTED THE BOMBS IN THE TRAIN ”

Station. Similarly, they allegedly escaped to Jaipur by train and then travelled to Indore by bus; but no evidence was furnished to support their journey.

The prosecution claimed that the bombs were transported in two suitcases, whose covers were stitched by tailor Iqbal Hussain of Kothari Market, Indore. Suitcase covers of two unexploded bombs were recovered from the crime scene. However, the NIA did not bother to conduct a Test Identification Parade (TIP) to establish if any of the accused people had got the covers stitched at the said shop. More glaringly, the report of the finger print expert was not matched with the fingerprints of the suspects or accused people to get vital clues.

The prosecution claimed that the accused people were trained in Bagli Forest area in 2006. Sand samples from the alleged site were reportedly taken in December 2012 from a pit created at the time of training. The judgement observed that it was highly improbable that any pit would remain in the same condition after more than six years, especially when the site was a hill slope; soil erosion and weather wear and tear would change the complexion of the site.

More pertinently, scientific literature states that after six months, RDX turns into Nitrite; after the explosion, RDX would turn into carbon in the shape of ash. Hence, the prosecution's claim of finding "traces of RDX"

in the alleged sand samples collected from Bagli Forest area suggests that the investigating agency "went whole hog in order to create fake evidence to ensure false implication of the accused... by any means, whether scientific or not and that, too, with a totally irrelevant piece of evidence". Lt Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit is accused of providing the RDX in this and other "Hindu terror" cases; this verdict may help him.

Thus, after five years of investigations and seven years of trial, the NIA failed to furnish any evidence regarding any agreement to commit the crime among the accused people. There was "no concrete oral, documentary or scientific evidence" regarding motive to indulge in the crime; nothing to show how and from where raw materials for making bombs were procured; who collected the material; who assembled the bombs; how and from where technical know-how was arranged; who planted the bombs in the train.

Above all, there is no evidence regarding the funding of this gigantic exercise. The NIA built its edifice on extracted confessions revolving around the culpability of the deceased Sunil Joshi. Little wonder the judge bemoaned the "gaping holes in the prosecution evidence"; this is a blistering indictment of the NIA.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

We have seen in recent times how the dignity of the RBI was diminished. Sanctity of these high offices must be maintained.



TMC chief —Mamata Banerjee

Priyanka is fantastic... (I would) love to work with her... I am talking to her for something. I am not going to say what it is.



Director —Joe Russo

China is in close communication with various parties and has made positive progress on Masood Azhar. The US knows that very well.



Chinese official —Geng Shuang

Education must lay the foundation for developing a society that is strongly grounded in ethics and moral values to ensure peace in life.



Vice President —M Venkaiah Naidu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

China must mend ways

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "US move on Azhar" (March 29). After Beijing used its veto to stall the sanction committee's unanimous decision to designate Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar a global terrorist, its double-speak became abundantly clear. On the one hand it maintains a firm stand on terror, on the other, it seeks to promote Pakistan.

Already, China's inconsistent policy on terror has drawn the ire of the US, the UK, France and other European countries. Before stonewalling repeated attempts to bring extremists to book, China must set its own house in order. Repeated human rights violations on Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang have been reported. This is humiliating and must be condemned.

It's high time that China falls in line to support the resolution at the Security Council instead of remaining a stumbling block to declare Azhar a terrorist with unconvincing defence.

KR Srinivasan
 Secunderabad

The need to be wary of jingoism

With poll dates nearing, things are really heating up. If Prime Minister Narendra Modi's crafted speeches in the initial stages of the high-profile election campaign are anything to go by, we can safely say that there's going to be more of jingoism, bellicosity and sabre-rattling against a well-argued discourse on bread-and-butter issues of politics from the side of the ruling BJP. It can be argued that the BJP and the Prime Minister have made hyper-nationalism their campaign pitch as they cannot run the risk of running their narrative on below-par performance indicators on the economic front. The plank of national security suits the party to divert people's attention away from the economic situation, visibly blighted by unemployment and farmer distress. It is an undeniable fact that an overarching appeal of Hindutva nationalism has diminished passion for secularism and social justice.

The virulent nationalism represented by the Hindu right, of which the BJP is a principal and prominent part,



is a far cry from true patriotism. But then the BJP has a dubious and diabolical strategy to juxtapose *desh bhakts* (nationalists) with *desh drohis* (anti-nationals) to score brownie points. Nevertheless, most of the time it is the so-called *desh drohis* who take up the political cudgels on behalf of the country's impoverished people.

G David Milton
 Maruthancode

Protect the protectors

Sir — This refers to the article, "Return our green cover" (March 28) by VK Bahuguna. It is shameful that instead of rewarding the forest dwellers for their outstanding contribution towards protecting the forests, efforts have been made to jeopardise their symbiotic

relationship with the ecology. The Bishnoi tribe of Rajasthan, for example, follows rules as prescribed by their guru. Felling trees and killing animals are treated as crimes under their purview. The Bishnois are rightly called the first environmentalists of India. They build water storage tanks that can store rain water for humans and animals. They bury the deceased instead of

following their religious tradition to cremate the dead. They do this to avoid wastage of firewood and air pollution. To minimise the use of trees, they use cow-dung cakes as fuel for cooking. They only collect dead wood. Further, this tribe has been fighting court cases against poachers, no matter how big the suspect may be. Indeed, the environment and the lives of forest dwellers

improved in less than three per cent of the total forest cover in India where traditional inhabitants became managers of their forest land. The need is to improve upon the Forest Act, 1927 and implement it soon so that it can be extended to the remaining 97 per cent of our forests.

Sujit De
 Kolkata

There will be no takers

Sir — In times when the Congress' political fortunes have reached a low, it isn't surprising that it has come up with the Nyuntam Aay Yojana scheme. What is astounding is that the plan is being backed by some eminent economists, who have thrown their sacred principles to the winds and rushed to back this idealistic scheme that would only make this nation a country of idlers and beggars. No self-respecting Indian would like to receive alms and, therefore, this scheme is an insult to their dignity.

Shivansh
 Via email

Send your feedback to:
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Journey towards sustainability

The energy revolution looks much more attainable, undeterred and above all promising than it has ever seemed so. But challenges need to be addressed, say **MEGHA JAIN** and **AISHWARYA NAGPAL**

Undeniably, financial volatility and climate change are considered to be the twin prime catalysts for alteration in the global ecology that can profoundly impact businesses and society alike. It has been universally acknowledged that in the last one decade, corporate sourcing of renewables holds the potential to churn substantial surplus investments in the renewable energy sector. With the right framework in place, it can enable not just the acceleration of energy transition but shift the world closer to achieving the ambitious Paris Agreement goal.

While on the one hand, 2018 drew to a close with a hotly-contested 'Katowice Climate Package' finalised at COP24, which established a set of guidelines to make the Paris Agreement operational by 2020, on the other, the findings of a May 2018 report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has startled most of us as it indicated that corporate sourcing occurs only in roughly one-third of the countries across the world (ie about 75 countries), even as most Governments are yet to adopt specific policies to nurture such demand. The said report also hinted towards tremendous potential that still remains to be tapped by the rest of the world.

Against this backdrop, it will be worth mentioning that a coalition of companies, committed to 100 per cent internal energy sourcing from renewables by 2050, has come into existence and is popularly known as RE100. The alliance works as an international NGO and has global presence with offices located in London, New Delhi and New York. RE100 initiative is led by the Climate Group in association with the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). Placing renewables at the core of corporate strategy, the existing 155 members (as of November 2018) are generating demand for 188 terawatt hours (TWh) of renewable power yearly, which is comparable to the 23rd biggest economy power consumption all over the world.

In such a small span of time, RE100 members' commitments envelop more than 140 markets globally. Till now, big corporate houses like Sony, Facebook, H&M, Infosys, Tata Motors and Mahindra Holidays among others, have pledged to rely 100 per cent on renewable power in their overall setup by joining RE100. Some other groups like Google, Apple, Jupiter Asset Management and Wells Fargo among others have already met their 100 per cent renewable electricity target. Of course, India is striving to attain the RE objective, which offers enormous prospect for investors and corporates to create a level-playing field for the growth of India's renewable sector. Let's dig deeper to understand the complete rationale behind the RE100 setup.

The RE installation sourcing can be pursued either through corporate Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or self-generation via direct investments. Going ahead, it is most likely that growth will come through PPAs and captive production as no fresh renewable energy capacity is coming under REC because the industry has decisively moved towards tariffs and determined competitively through bids, thus leaving no scope for RECs. Even in the current market scenario, the enforcement of RECs is not so strong and needs a lot of reforms before its true realisation. Thus, it is envisaged that to fulfill the dream, the need is for greater investment and as RE prices go down, more and more companies may adopt RE financing.

Way forward: While financing of utility-scale RE projects by well-established RE developers has improved substantially over the years, corporate sourcing of RE has nuances that need to be sorted out to ensure a better spread. This, as and when it happens, will create volumes that will result in financing that may tap help debt capital markets, both in terms of gathering required capital to put up the projects and refinancing of some assets with access to a larger pool of funds outside the banking system. Issues have been many. Take, for example, Apple's publication of green bonds, dedicated to financing clean energy projects across its global business operations. Clearly, the need is also to spread awareness regarding the number of corporates, who have financed some of their RE assets.

Since the entire process of transformation involves multiple patrons, backward and forward linkages need to be strengthened in advance. Also, a step forward could be to ensure an energy market structure that allows for direct contracting between companies and renewable energy developers. Last but not the least, the process of environmental stewardship and benchmarking remains incomplete until these RE100 companies amalgamate disclosure, awareness, management and leadership together.

(The writers are Senior Research Fellows, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

CONGRESS PEOPLE WOULD FEED BIRYANI TO TERRORISTS, WHILE MODI'S ARMY GIVES THEM BULLET OR BOMB. THIS IS THE DIFFERENCE.

—UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER
 YOGI ADITYANATH



YOGI'S COMMENT IS HIGHLY CONDEMNABLE. THIS IS A CLEAR WAY OF INTIMIDATING THE VOTERS AND CREATING A FEAR PSYCHOSIS IN THEIR MINDS.

—CPI LEADER
 D RAJA

Footprint for a fintech hub

Though it's almost next to impossible for India to become cashless in the immediate future, we can at least give it a shot. A start has to be made by changing people's mindset



MOÏN QAZI

The financial industry that serves the lower income segment has gone through distinct transformations in recent times — from social banking to microfinance; to financial inclusion; and now to technology-driven financial services or 'fintech'. The last represents the potent intersection of finance and technology, has changed people's lives and transformed the business landscape forever. It has enabled us to trade dollars for bits and bytes. For the millennial — those for whom the internet, mobile phones and plastic cards are a fact of life — cash is now quaint and transactions are mostly via digital tools. Banking is fast moving to a paperless and real-time era. While bank branches will always be there, banks are gradually becoming 'invisible' in how they deliver services.

Today, India is the world's second biggest fintech hub with 2,035 start-ups operating in this sector, according to India Fintech Report 2019. India's digital payments market is set to grow to \$500 billion by 2020 and to \$1 trillion by 2023. Industry research has projected that \$1 trillion or 60 per cent of India's retail and SME credit will be digitally disbursed by 2029. The year 2018 was particularly significant for financial technology and financial services ecosystem in the country. With \$2.34 billion being raised across 145 deals, fintech finally unseated e-commerce from the top.

The fintech sector comprises mobile payments, money transfers, crowdfunding, loans and asset management among others. It is creating highly sophisticated intellectual property assets in advanced risk management and artificial intelligence that has the potential of leapfrogging India in the global digital economy and demolishing most barriers to accessing financial services like distance, cost and paperwork. It is expected to bring diversity in banking, broaden its spectrum and ensure that banking no longer remains black and white.

Fintech stands for financial technology or an application used for the financial sector. It comprises multiple technologies like Artificial Intelligence, virtual reality, blockchain, cloud-based software, machine learning — all of which provide a powerful and revolutionary *mantra* to financial institutions to power themselves with limitless reach. Fintech offers an array of benefits:

- Financial flows can be accurately tracked, resulting in safer and speedier transactions and less corruption/theft.

- Suppliers can get useful insight from the transaction patterns of the clients. This helps them design products that are better suited to customers' needs.

- Firms can use financial histories to develop products that are tailored to the customers' needs.
- Providers can instantly relay account information of clients and use them to develop automatic reminders. It also provides helpful default options via mobile phone menus, making it easier for consumers to track and monitor their accounts. Further, clients can also sign up for services quickly on their own.

- Direct deposits (including wages and social assistance) allow money to "bypass" the client's pocket, thus helping users save rather than spend and often gives more financial authority to women within the family.

The phenomenal footprint of data, thanks to

CONSUMERS WILL ADAPT THE DIGITAL PLATFORM AND EMBRACE NEW TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES ONLY WHEN THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY WILL RESOLVE EXISTING ISSUES IN THE ECONOMY. THUS, WE HAVE TO ADDRESS REAL PAINS, NOT JUST OFFER BENEFITS. TRUST MUST BE EARNED AND SUSTAINED THROUGH CONTINUOUS REINFORCEMENT



smartphone or data-connected mobile phones, is a blessing for people with limited credit-access account. It provides an unprecedented opportunity of bringing people with limited credit-history into the formal mainstream. Various research studies have shown that even simple and easily accessible variables from digital footprints can be analysed to produce alternate credit profiles.

The digital world offers both major opportunities and challenges. Technology and infrastructure are only a part of the picture. Appropriate regulations and consumer protection safeguards are of paramount importance. Sparse population, inconsistent network coverage, insufficient capital for building new business models, lack of trust and of comfort with technology and literacy needed to fully use these services, can stand in the way of success, particularly in connecting remote communities.

While ground-breaking technology and innovative business operations provide several fresh business opportunities, new risks, too, are there. Challenges related to implementing digital financial services are not just operational and technical. Loss of privacy is the most dangerous. Despite all efforts to create ample safeguards, they remain inevitable. For the financial inclusion industry to be able to fully capitalise on the benefits of digital financial services, it is essential that accompanying risks are understood and addressed adequately. Though these issues can't be eliminated, they can be mitigated. We need to keep in mind the concerns of security, affordability and safety.

Although it's impossible for India to become a cashless economy in the immediate future, the country can, of course, look forward to becoming one. Making India cashless is like treating multiple chronic societal diseases with

one injection. However, there are several challenges peculiar to our country that may constrain a full-scale digital transition in the foreseeable future.

To start with, India has 438 languages, with each having multiple dialects and different scripts. Further, India has to contend with geographical and cultural divide of a great magnitude. The aversion of the 'other India' to digital finance has more to do with its aversion to everything that has to do with technology. This stems from a lack of trust. It is also partly on account of low technical literacy of consumers. Women often face additional barriers: Less access to mobile phones, lower literacy and numeracy levels, less confidence in using technology and restrictions on travel or social interaction. Furthermore, villagers' value personal relationships — particularly when it comes to money.

Migrating from a cash-based economy to a digital one demands a recast of mindset. In fact, the last mile of digital highway is not infrastructure but skills of the users. Equally critical is the smooth functioning of the last mile touch point. Making gadgets available will not help unless we bring about a change in the overall outlook of the people. This aspect requires much thinking on the part of motivators to pull the consumers into this new space. The issue is a lot more nuanced than what we see today. Nuances change from culture to culture and consumer segment to consumer segment.

Changing the financial framework, too, may not be enough. Consumers will have to walk an extra mile if they want to reap benefits of new financial tools. The new revolution will have better chances of success if driven less by financial punditry and more by empathetic governance. People take to new technologies when they see clear benefits; have

greater confidence in the markets and services; find it convenient; and can afford it. The painful reality is that providers, too, often focus on short-term incentives at the expense of long-term consumer trust and loyalty.

Consumers will adapt the digital platform and embrace new technological opportunities only when they are convinced that they will resolve existing issues in the economy. Thus, we have to address real pains, not just offer benefits. Trust must be earned and sustained through continuous reinforcement. How secure is it? How long will it take to get one's money back? Are there any hidden fees? The key is to offer digital financial services in an empathetic way and to understand the development needs of the community to drive adoption.

The central bank has rightly been espousing a cautious approach in addressing concerns around consumer protection and law enforcement. The key objective of the regulator has been to create an environment for unhindered innovations by fintech, expanding the reach of banking services for the unbanked population, regulating an efficient electronic payment and providing alternative options to the consumers.

There have been two highly significant developments in this space. The first is the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018, which specifies that a private entity must seek user consent before collecting personal data. A user can also choose to remove consent at any point while availing a service. The second is the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions (OSDT) for redress of complaints regarding digital transactions.

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)

Ukraine election no laughing matter

Is Zelensky just a stalking horse behind which Kolomoysky can take control of Ukraine away from Poroshenko? Not necessarily. The two men may have a pragmatic alliance but their own separate agenda



GWYNNE DYER

Unlike comedian Alec Baldwin, who is famous for his impersonation of US President Donald Trump on *Saturday Night Live*, comedian Volodymyr Zelensky is famous for playing the anti-President, an accidental hero who sweeps into the presidency of Ukraine and cleans up all the corruption. He used to play it for laughs and now, he's playing it for real.

Zelensky had been leading the opinion polls for the Ukrainian election that was held on March 31, with 25 per cent of the vote, well ahead of incumbent president Petro Poroshenko (12 per cent) and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (18 per cent). (She's the one who used to wear

her hair in braids wound up around her head.) With no one expected to secure a majority, a runoff with the leading two candidates, Zelenskiy and Poroshenko will be held on 21 April. Baldwin will never be the US president, but there's a good chance that Zelensky will be the Ukrainian president.

What a heart-warming story, I hear you murmur. Humble comedian plays even humbler high-school history teacher Vasyl Holoborodko, whose classroom diatribe against the corruption of Ukrainian politics was secretly filmed by a student. It goes viral on the internet and humble teacher is instantly elevated into the presidency by a grateful public.

The story gets even better. In real life, *'Servant of the People'*, the TV show about the teacher-turned-President, plays on the country's biggest television channel, *1+1*, and is a nation-wide hit. Then the guy playing the teacher, comedian Volodymyr Zelensky, decides that he has a chance of working the same miracle in real life. So he puts himself up for the presidency and lo! The public agrees.

This is not art imitating life; it is



life imitating art. But if you are a nasty old cynic, who suspects the worst about people's motives, then you are probably right, at least in this case. Zelensky is not just a simple comic who got lucky.

A little background. Ukraine is one of the less fortunate post-Soviet countries, with ageing heavy industries, few natural resources and barely a third of Russia's per capita income (in terms of purchasing power parity). It has been mired in a low-intensity war with Russian proxies in its eastern provinces

for the past five years and has lost Crimea to Russia for good.

You might think that in these circumstances, political debate would concentrate on ending the war and raising popular living standards but the war is barely mentioned and the main economic debate is about 'corruption'.

That debate would make sense if it was really about cleaning up an extremely corrupt political system dominated by the 'oligarchs' (who also control most of the media). In practice, it is mainly a struggle

between rival oligarchs, using accusations of corruption to target each other when in fact they are all corrupt albeit by definition.

Poroshenko, a leading oligarch who won the election after the 2014 revolution, was at daggers drawn with Ihor Kolomoysky, the second-richest man in Ukraine, from the beginning of his presidency. In 2016, he nationalised Kolomoysky's PrivatBank, the largest bank in the country, and Kolomoysky went into self-imposed exile in Israel while fighting Poroshenko's actions in the courts and the media.

It was at this time that Kolomoysky and Volodymyr Zelensky, already a successful comedian with his own production company, began developing the TV series about the accidental president and it went on air on Kolomoysky's *1+1* channel two years ago. It was an instant runaway hit and now Zelensky is the leading candidate for the real presidency.

Is Zelensky just a stalking horse behind which Kolomoysky can take control of Ukraine away from Poroshenko? Not necessarily. The two

men may have a pragmatic alliance but their own separate agenda. But it is noteworthy that Zelensky showed up at Kolomoysky's birthday party last year and was introduced as 'our president'.

That large numbers of Ukrainians should fall for a fake maverick (who doesn't even offer much in the way of concrete policies) is a measure of their disappointment with the status quo of rule by oligarchs behind a facade of democracy. Russia's relative prosperity is mostly due to its oil but it also owes much to the fact that Vladimir Putin has brought its oligarchs under control. In Ukraine, their rivalries still dominate everything. There is not much reason to believe that Ukraine will finally turn the corner in this election and escape from the miseries and failures of its first three decades of independence. On the other hand, it's not getting any worse either and for the moment the war in the east seems encysted and confined. Hope dies last and maybe Zelensky will surprise us.

(The writer's new book is *Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work*)



FOREIGN EYE



SETTING A GLOBAL STANDARD IN LEADERSHIP

Unexpectedly faced by an appalling atrocity, Ardern has shown exemplary leadership skills. Her instinct was to trust her humanity and the humanity of others. By quickly moving to meet, embrace and comfort the bereaved, by wearing the *hijab*, by taking swift action on gun control and by refusing to acknowledge the killer, she brought out the best in her fellow citizens. (The Guardian editorial)

RBI to inject \$5 bn more liquidity through 2nd \$/₹ swap auction

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said it will inject long-term liquidity worth \$5 billion into the banking system through dollar-rupee buy-sell swap for a tenure of three years on April 23, the second such auction within a month.

Earlier on March 26, the central bank had bought \$5 billion through similar swap auction in a bid to ease liquidity ahead of elections.

"In order to meet the durable liquidity needs of the system, the RBI has decided to inject Rupee liquidity for longer duration through long-term foreign exchange Buy/Sell swap in terms of its extant Liquidity Management Framework," the RBI said in a statement.

The USD/INR Buy/Sell swap auction of \$5 billion for tenor of three years will be held on April 23, 2019, it said.

The swap will be in the nature of a simple buy/sell foreign exchange swap from the Reserve Bank side. Under the



swap, a bank would sell US dollars to the RBI and simultaneously agree to buy the same amount of US dollars at the end of the swap period.

The US Dollar amount mobilised through this auction would also reflect in RBI's foreign exchange reserves for the tenor of the swap while also reflecting in RBI's forward liabilities, it added.

It further said the market participants would be required to place their bids in terms of the premium that they are willing to pay to the RBI for the tenor of the swap, expressed in paisa terms up to two decimal places.

The auction would be a multiple-price based auction — successful bids will get accepted at their respective quoted premium.

The minimum size of each bid should be \$10 million and in multiples of \$1 million thereafter.

The swap will increase India's foreign exchange reserves while injecting liquidity into the financial system.

The auction is meant to give RBI greater flexibility in managing banking system cash while helping absorb any potential large dollar inflows, which could make the rupee rise sharply.

Sebi proposes amendments to norms governing SROs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday proposed amendments to norms governing Self Regulatory Organisations, including recognising such entities on a nomination basis.

Coming out with a consultation paper, the watchdog said that an SRO would be defined as an organisation of intermediaries or an entity promoted by a stock exchange, recognised by the board.

A Self Regulatory Organisation (SRO) is considered as the first level regulator.

"As per the proposed process, instead of inviting applications, Sebi would recognise an entity as an SRO on nomination basis, after conducting due diligence," the regulator said.

Sebi proposes to constitute a nomination committee to consider and give recommendation to the regulator regarding the suitability of an organisation or entity to be recognised as an SRO.

The committee will comprise external experts and will preferably be headed by a retired judge of a High Court or Supreme Court.

Sebi also said the recognition of an SRO may be on permanent basis subject to certain conditions.

The paper further suggest-

ed that a governing board may consist of elected representatives of members of SRO public interest directors nominated by Sebi and shareholder directors.

The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the SRO will vest in the board and its creation, composition and functions will be specified by Sebi from time to time, it added.

The SRO shall provide for a dispute resolution mechanism including arbitration to settle disputes between investors and its members and disputes between its members.

Besides, the SRO of distributors of MF products shall not handle disputes between the distributors and the MFs. They shall continue to be governed under their contractual arrangements.

Among other criteria, eligibility criteria for an entity to be recognised as an SRO includes that its minimum net worth shall be Rs 1 crore.

The paper was floated after Sebi initiated process of selection of SRO for distributors of MF products and got nod from the Supreme Court to amend SRO norms that included recognising a company as an SRO, without calling for applications after considering its experience and capability.

RBI reshuffles lead bank responsibilities post banks merger

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank has reshuffled lead bank responsibilities in some districts of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Union Territory Dadra & Nagar Haveli following the merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda.

Amalgamation of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda has been notified on January 2, 2019. The notification has come into force on April 1, 2019, the RBI said in a notification.

Following the merger, the RBI has decided to assign the lead bank responsibility of districts hitherto held by Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank, the central bank said.

The lead bank responsibility in seven districts in Chhattisgarh has been assigned to Bank of Baroda from Dena Bank.

In Gujarat, Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar will get SBI as the lead banker from Dena Bank earlier. While eight other districts in the state will be deputed to Bank of Baroda from Dena Bank.

Three districts in Karnataka goes to Bank of Baroda from Vijaya Bank.

"There is no change in the lead bank responsibilities of the other districts across the country," the RBI said.

TRAI issues showcause notice to BARC India for not releasing TV viewership data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Broadcast regulator TRAI has issued a showcause notice to Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC India) for not complying with its direction on release of TV viewership data on website during the sector's migration to the new tariff regime, according to a source.

The regulator has asked BARC India to explain, by April 5, why action should not be taken against it for contravention of sections of the TRAI Act, the source privy to the development said.

Reached for comments, a BARC India spokesperson said it had temporarily suspended making public limited set of data given the "significant volatility in data" due to "distribution disruptions" in the NTO (new tariff order) transition period.

It said making public such "misleading" data would be against public interest and could be open to "misuse by vested interests."

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its showcause notice dated March 29 noted that BARC India did not comply with its past direction given on February 22, 2019, seeking immediate release of viewership data (for the week ending February 8 and subsequent weeks) on its website.

BARC India has been

granted registration by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to carry out TV rating services. The source said that following the directive, BARC India had approached the regulator seeking additional time for response.

The stand-off between TRAI and BARC India over viewership data has been brewing for the last few months now. TRAI's past directive had said that BARC India modified its Fair and Permissible Usage Policy on February 14, 2019, despite being repeatedly asked by the regulator to not stop publishing of rating data and viewership data on its website during the migration to new regulatory framework unless explicitly permitted by the authority.

TRAI had ruled that BARC India did not comply with its past instructions despite being repeatedly asked by the authority to publish rating and data of the viewership of different TV channels. BARC, on the other hand, had argued that disruption caused by transition to the new regime could prevent consumers from accessing the channels of their choice, thus not giving fair and true picture of TV consumption in India.

But TRAI has maintained it would not be appropriate to stop rating of channels as these changes were an outcome of consumer choice and real reflection of market dynamics.

RBI to unveil this fiscal's first bi-monthly policy decision on April 4

Industry and experts are expecting that the banking sector regulator may cut the key lending rate — at which it lends to commercial banks — by 0.25 per cent so as to boost the economic activities as fears loom large about global economic slowdown impacting India's growth prospects.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will unveil on Thursday its first bi-monthly monetary policy decision of this new fiscal.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet from April 2 to 4 for the first bi-monthly policy statement for 2019-20, the central bank said in a release Monday.

"The resolution of the MPC will be placed on the website at 11.45 AM on April 4, 2019," it said.

Industry and experts are expecting that the banking

sector regulator may cut the key lending rate — at which it lends to commercial banks — by 0.25 per cent so as to boost the economic activities as fears loom large about global economic slowdown impacting India's growth prospects.

The RBI had cut the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) or 0.25 per cent in February after a gap of one-and-a-half years.

Ratings firm ICRA said: "We expect a 25 bps rate cut in the upcoming meeting of monetary policy committee..."

"With the subdued growth outlook and moderate inflation. The RBI does not seem to have any major reason not to cut the policy rate again during its next meeting. I think that the relevant question is whether the bank would cut the rate by more than 25 bps," said Sujan Hajra, Chief Economist and Executive Director, Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

NMDC passes 30 million tonne production

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NMDC, the largest producer of iron ore in the country has once again showcased excellent performance for the year 2018-19. NMDC has surpassed the 30 million tonnes figure of production and sales for the 3rd year consecutively.

In spite of suspension of Donimalai Mine operations for 5 months, no exports in Karnataka in Q1, NMDC has produced 32.44 MT and sales of 32.38 MT iron ore during FY-19.

During the year, NMDC's iron ore projects have clocked their best in a single day, monthly and annual production and sales figures.

Baijendra Kumar, IAS, CMD, NMDC congratulated all the employees for their dedicated hardwork and excellent team work.

GST collection records ₹1.06 lakh cr in March

For fiscal 2019-20, the GST collection target has been budgeted at ₹13.71 lakh crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections scaled record high of ₹1.06 lakh crore in March, up from ₹97,247 crore in the previous month, as compliance improved amid increased number of returns filed.

"Total gross GST revenue collected in March, 2019 is ₹1,06,577 crore of which Central GST is ₹20,353 crore, State GST is ₹27,520 crore, Integrated GST is ₹50,418 crore and cess is ₹8,286 crore," an official statement said.

Total number of summary sales return GSTR-3B filed for the month of February up to March 31, stood at 75.95 lakh.

The collection in March 2019, has been highest since introduction of GST and also

reflects a 15.6 per cent growth over March 2018, collection of ₹92,167 crore.

Monthly average of GST revenue during 2018-19, stood at ₹98,114 crore which is 9.2 per cent higher than the previous fiscal. These figures indicate that the revenue growth has been picking up in recent months, despite various rate rationalisation measures.

The Government has lowered the GST collection target for 2018-19 fiscal to ₹11.47 lakh crore in the revised estimates, from ₹13.71 lakh crore budgeted initially.

GST collection stood at ₹1.03 lakh crore in April, ₹94,016 crore in May, ₹95,610 crore in June, ₹96,483 crore in July, ₹93,960 crore in August, ₹94,442 crore in September, ₹1,00,710 crore in October, ₹97,637 crore in November, ₹94,725 crore in December 2018, ₹1.02 lakh crore in January 2019 and ₹97,247 crore in February 2019.

For fiscal 2019-20, the GST collection target has been budgeted at ₹13.71 lakh crore.

ONGC gas output jumps 6.5% to record high in FY19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reversing years of decline, State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has reported a record 6.5 per cent jump in natural gas production to 25.9 billion cubic meters in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019, as it doubles up efforts to raise domestic output to curb imports.

Natural gas production from ONGC-operated nomination fields, NELP blocks and joint venture assets reached 25.819 BCM in 2018-19 as compared to 24.61 BCM output in the previous fiscal, ONGC Chairman and Managing Director Shashi Shanker said here.

The company is on course to produce 42 BCM by end of fiscal 2022, when its prized KG basin discoveries will come onstream.

Business Corner



Rakesh Kumar, CMD, NLC India Limited joins SCOPE as Chairman. He was recently elected the new Chairman of SCOPE



Vipin Anand has taken charge on Monday as Managing Director of LIC of India. He was appointed Managing Director wide Government of India Notification dated 14th March, 2019. Prior to taking charge as Managing Director he was in-charge of LIC's Western Zone, headquartered at Mumbai and comprising of 23 (Twenty Three) Divisions covering the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Union Territories of Daman, Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Earlier, he has also headed LIC's East Central Zone headquartered at Patna

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo) namely Pika S/o Sh. Uttam Chand R/o R-1368, Mangol Puri, Delhi Aged - 47 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 21.02.2019 vide DD No. 28-A dated 26.02.2019 registered at Police Station Raj Park, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-



Pika

Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, ID: Mentally Weak, Clothing: Red coloured t-shirt, green coloured pant and sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped man, may inform SHO, Raj Park, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Telephone No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Raj Park, Delhi.
DP/2060/OD/19 Tel.: 011-27910070, 27910071

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Shweta Thakur, D/o Shri Jay Shankar, R/o H.No. C-79/7, Aram Bagh, Paharganj, Delhi has been missing since 24.03.2019. In this regard D.D. No. 32-A, Dated 24.03.2019 has been lodged at Police Station - Paharganj, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:- Age: 18 years

& 5 months, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'0", Face: Long, Hair: Black, Build: thin, Identification: She has six fingers in left hand. Clothing: Wearing yellow colour suit & salwar, blue colour jeans and hawai chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Paharganj, Delhi
DP/6156/CD/19 Ph.: 011-23520787, 23524746

UP RERA issues show cause notices to Ansal API

PTI ■ NOIDA

The Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP RERA) Monday said it has issued show cause notices to Ansal Properties and Infrastructure over alleged fraud and diversion of funds.

In October 2018, the authority ordered forensic audit in registered projects with a view to investigate into the affairs, especially the accounts of Ansal API to find out the

possible diversion of funds, and causes of inordinate delays, among others.

The authority had also appointed Currie and Brown (C&B) for conducting the forensic audit, it said in a statement.

"The show cause notices have been issued to the developer following a report submitted by forensic auditor that had investigated 91 projects of Ansal API over the last three months for financial misappropriation.

MOTHERSON GROUP ENTERS VEHICLE LOGISTICS

Samvardhana Motherson Group tied up with Japanese logistics major Hamakorex to establish a 'finished vehicle' logistics firm in India. With the Indian automotive market expected to grow manifold in the next few years, both companies hold high-hopes for this joint-venture which will bring a professional, safer and technology-driven solution to automotive manufacturers in India.

MARUTI SALES GROWTH SLOWS IN 2018-19

The country's largest carmaker Maruti-Suzuki released details of the sales for March 2019 and for the financial year 2018-19. As the company had indicated in previous announcements, sales growth was slower than in previous four years and domestic sales growth increased by 6.1 per cent to 1,753,700 units from 1,653,500 units in the previous financial year. Maruti-Suzuki Chairman R C Bhargava had in his year-end press-conference in 2018 mentioned that sales growth slows dramatically in pre-election years and the last major time sales growth had stalled was 2013-14, but there was usually a commensurate pick-up in sales in a post-election environment. Maruti-Suzuki launched several new models in the past few months including new generation models of the Ertiga and WagonR.

TOYOTA SALES GROW IN FY 2018-19

With 150,525 units sold in 2018-19, Toyota-Kirloskar Motors saw sales grow by seven percent from 140,645 units in the previous year. While the company said that demand for the Innova and Fortuner continued, there was a slowdown in consumer spending ahead of polls and demand has slowed down in the past few months, sales growth in March 2019 over the same month last year was just two per cent. Toyota and Suzuki Motor Corporation, parent of Maruti-Suzuki recently announced a partnership by which Toyota would sell versions of the Ciaz and Ertiga through Toyota dealerships and would also be producing the Vitara Brezza at their manufacturing plant at Bidar, Karnataka. In addition, Toyota would sell cars produced by Maruti-Suzuki in the African market.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MAN

General public is hereby informed that a Man namely Krishan Pal, S/o: Ram Lal, R/o H. No. K-2, Nihal Vihar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 27.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 89-A, dated 10.03.2019 has been registered at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out this missing Man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing Man is as under:

Name: Krishan Pal, Age: 29 Years, Height: 5'7", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Blue Jersey- Black Pant and black Sleeper in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing Man please inform P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 011-24368639 Police Station, Nangloi, Delhi
Tel.: 011-24368638/24368641 Ph: 011-25947225, 25949470

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely Vivek Kumar, S/o Shri Sukhmandan, R/o H.No. 157, Extn 2-D, Nangloi, Delhi has been missing from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi since 11.03.2019. In this regard D.D. No. 54-A, Dated 12.03.2019 has been lodged at Police Station - Nangloi, Delhi. His physical description is as under:- Age: 25 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'8", Face: Round, Clothing: Blue colour shirt, Blue colour jeans & shoes in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
DP/2054/OD/19 Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra-390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., 2nd Floor, Videcon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext., New Delhi- 110055

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/Amount in Demand Notice(Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Vivek Kumar Sharma/ Rajeev Gautam/ LBGH200002014386 and LBNOD00002024893	House No. III-K-35/5, Ground Floor Without Roof Right, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad/ 29- March-2019	June30, 2015 Rs. 31,39,325/-	Ghaziabad

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : 02-04-2019
Place: Ghaziabad
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

CaffeinePunch

Finding it hard to concentrate? A study, published in the journal *Consciousness and Cognition* says that just looking at something that reminds us of coffee can cause our minds to become more alert and attentive

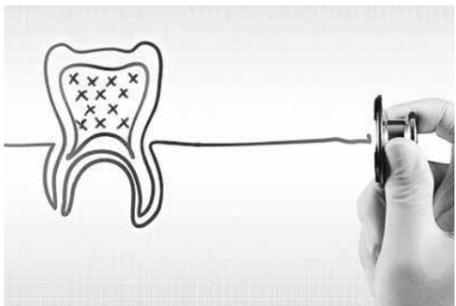


HEALTH

DOCYARD
DR KEERTHILATHA M PAI

Dean, Professor, Oral Medicine and Radiology

MANIPAL COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES,
MANIPAL ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION



Keep gums in tip top condition

Gum related problems occur when good oral hygiene is not maintained. This leads to plaque build-up, which is a thin sticky layer of bacteria that accumulates on the teeth. Over time, if not taken care of plaque will eventually irritate your gums causing redness with bleeding, swelling, and soreness. If the condition worsens then the gums tend to move away from the teeth, opening gaps putting your teeth at greater risk for infection.

Yet, many people choose to ignore bleeding gums when they brush and floss, or even while eating, thinking it is a normal, common occurrence. The main concern about gum disease is that many people are not aware that they have it, as it can be symptomless.

Myth 1: There is a commonly held view that bleeding gums are a part of everyday life and can be ignored.

Fact: If you notice bleeding from your gums, it is always best to consult with your dentist or doctor to determine the cause. The good news is that, most of the time, it is easily preventable - part of it you can do yourself through sound oral hygiene measures, coupled with regular dental check-ups.

Brushing too hard can cause bleeding gums, but this could also be a sign of gum disease - Gingivitis. It is also recommended to change your toothbrush every three months

Myth 2: Gum disease occurs to those who have cavities and have poor oral hygiene

Fact: The reality is that people of any age group can experience gum bleeding. Gum disease affects many people all over the world, with around 50 per cent of adults experiencing Gingivitis during their life.

Myth 3: Brushing too hard can cause gum bleeding

Fact: Brushing too hard can cause bleeding gums, but this could also be a sign of gum disease - Gingivitis. It is also recommended to change your toothbrush every three months.

Myth 4: Do gums grow back after receding?

Fact: While receding gums don't grow back on their own, you can talk to your dentist or periodontist about the number of treatments available to correct the issue and prevent it from getting worse

TIPS

Choice of toothpaste: If you struggle with bleeding gums, you may want to consider a toothpaste that can neutralise the plaque found around the gumline.

Floss daily: Flossing is one of the most important ways to help prevent bleeding gums and maintain good oral health.

Avoid Tobacco: Tobacco use can damage your gums, and can also make you far more likely to develop gum disease.

Maintain a healthy lifestyle and balanced diet

Regular dental check-ups can prevent cavities and gum bleeding

WHEN TO SEE A DOCTOR?

See a dentist if gum bleeding does not improve within seven to 10 days. Your doctor may also check for vitamin deficiencies that could cause gum bleeding. If you don't have gum disease, but still suffer from bleeding gums, don't ignore the problem for it may also be caused by bleeding disorders, leukemia, Vitamin K deficiency, medications, hormonal changes during pregnancy, wrong selection of toothbrush, poorly fitted dentures, medical issues, stress, tobacco products and sores or lesions.

SUMMERCoolERS

LEMON: The lemon is a species of small evergreen tree. Citrus fruits like lemons are high in vitamin C, a primary antioxidant that helps protect cells from damaging free radicals. Vitamin C may reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke, and lower blood pressure.

Vitamin C found in lemons may help reduce skin wrinkling, dry skin from aging, and damage from the sun. Some people drink lemon water as a daily morning laxative to help prevent constipation. Drinking warm or hot lemon water when you wake up may help get your digestive system moving.

Lemons can also be used to prepare lemon water which helps you stay hydrated and refresh in the scorching heat. Keep a pitcher of lemon water ready to drink throughout the day.

It also helps to freshen your breath. Lemon is thought to stimulate saliva and water also helps prevent a dry mouth, which can lead to bad breath caused by bacteria.



Nephrologists tell you the warning signs and foods to avoid to keep your kidneys healthy

FOR HEALTHY KIDNEYS

Globally acute and chronic kidney disease is now recognised as a major medical problem and in several countries it is now among the top five causes of death. In India, kidney disease is ranked as the eighth leading cause of death. Kidneys are very important parts of the body that perform critical functions such as regulating the acid content, potassium, and salt content. Along with producing Vitamin D and balancing the body's fluids, kidneys also perform waste removal of the body.

It is true that early signs of kidney diseases are not easily attributable. But that is not the reason to stay ignorant of the most common symptoms. While the best way to know if there is any issue with the kidneys is to get tested by a doctor, it is still highly recommended to look out for the following most commonly observed symptoms of kidney diseases:

Fatigue and lack of concentration: Build up of toxins and impurities in the blood can be the result of a severe decrease in kidney function. This can exhaust people and can make it hard to concentrate. Anaemia is another complication of kidney disease, which can cause weakness and fatigue.

Trouble in sleeping: When the kidneys do not filter properly, toxins stay in the blood rather than leaving the body through the urine. This can make it difficult to sleep. Also compared with the general population, sleep apnoea is more common in those with chronic kidney disease.

Dry and itchy skin: Advanced kidney diseases, when the kidneys are no longer able to keep the right balance of minerals and nutrients in the blood are often accompanied by mineral and bone diseases and dry and itchy skin can be a sign of that.

Increase in tendency to urinate: The increasing urge to urinate, especially at night can be an indicator to kidney diseases. When the kidney's filters are damaged, it can cause an increase in the tendency to urinate. But sometimes it can also be a sign of a urinary infection or enlarged prostate in men.

Blood in urine: While healthy kidneys typically keep the blood cells in the body when filtering wastes from the blood to create urine, the damaged kidney filters can "leak" out the blood cells into the urine. In addition to being a sign for kidney diseases, blood in the urine can also be indicative of tumors, kidney stones or an infection.

Foamy urine: Excessive bubbles in the urine indicate presence of protein in the urine. It can be a sign of kidney issues.

Persistent puffiness around the eyes: Due to damage of kidney's filters, the protein of the body happens to leak into the urine. Puffiness around the eyes can be due to the fact that the kidneys are leaking a large amount of protein in the urine, rather than keeping it in the body.

Swollen ankles and feet: Decrease in the function of kidney can lead to sodium retention, causing swelling in your feet and ankles. However, swelling in the lower extremities can also be a sign of heart disease, liver disease and chronic leg vein problems.

Poor appetite: It is a general symptom for so many diseases. But that does not cancel the possibility of it being a potential symptom of kidney diseases as the build-up of toxins resulting from reduced kidney function can be one of the causes.

In view of rising burden of kidney disease, there is an urgent need to make people aware not only about the symptoms for preventive measures but also about the advanced treatment now available. The writer is Dr Vikram Kalra, Additional Director, Nephrology and Renal Transplantation, Aakash Healthcare



LOOK OUT FOR

There is a link between inflammation, chronic disease and certain foods.

There are food which have antioxidants, these antioxidants neutralises from radicals and protect the body. Most of these foods are good for kidney health.

Garlic: It lowers cholesterol and reduce inflammation. You can add it to the vegetables, lentils and spinach.

Onion: It contain Quercetin, a powerful antioxidant, that can help to reduce heart disease and provide protection against certain cancers. Onions also contains Chromium, which helps in carbohydrate, protein and fat metabolism.

Cauliflower: It contains Indoles, Glucosinolates and Thiocyanates, they help liver neutralise toxins that can damage DNA. It is also packed with Vitamins C, folate and fibers.

Cabbage: It contains phytochemicals, which neutralises free radicals and hence protects against cancer and foster cardiovascular health. They are a good source of Vitamin C, K,

B6, folate and fibers. Cabbage are low in potassium, hence good for patients with kidney disease.

Red bell pepper: They are rich in Vitamin A, C, B6, folate and fibers. They are low in potassium and rich in antioxidant - lycopene.

Apple: They are high in fiber and anti-inflammatory compound. Potassium content is low in apple, which is good for patients having kidney disease.

Red Grapes: They contain flavonoids which are anti-oxidants and is cardio protective and reduces formation of blood clots. Resveratrol, found in grapes improves blood flow by stimulating nitric oxide.

Fish: It contains high quality protein and anti-inflammatory fat, omega-3. Omega-3 helps lower LDL cholesterol (bad cholesterol) and raises HDL cholesterol (Good cholesterol)

Olive Oil: Mono unsaturated fat and polyphenols in olive oil are antioxidant and anti-inflammatory

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Mono unsaturated fat and polyphenols in olive oil are antioxidant and anti-inflammatory

The writer is Dr Umesh Gupta, Senior Consultant & Director, Nephrology, Aakash Healthcare Super Speciality Hospital

STAY AWAY

Being the most important part of human body, we compromise it with some of our common habits

Painkiller addiction: To counter your body pains, people take NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) which affects kidney. Doctors advise to reduce the doses and stuck to recommended dosage only.

Processed foods: One of the studies has warned that the consumption of junk and processed food cause damage to kidneys, cause heart diseases in long run and also triggers diabetes, digestive problems, weakness, fatigue, and abnormal blood sugar level.

Less drinking water intake: Intake of adequate drinking water, cleanses the toxins from your body and keep you safe from kidney problems as painful kidney stones

Alcohol intake: Excess alcohol intake doubles the risk of

chronic kidney disease and if, heavy drinkers are smoker too then the chance of kidney diseases increase five times than people who don't drink or smoke.

Missing night sleep: Taking less sleep during night hours, increases the working hour of Kidney and disturbs its overall kidney function.

Eating foods with high sugar level: It is advisable to avoid sugar concentrated food items, if your blood sugar level gets more than 180mg/dl, then kidney starts flushing out sugar into urine. It indicates sugar is causing damage to your kidney.

Too much red meat: Intake of high amount of red meat (pork) increases the protein level in our body that generates acids in the blood that is harmful for kidney and cause acidosis.

The writer is Dr Sunil Prakash, Senior Consultant & Director, Nephrology & Renal Transplantation, BLK Super Speciality Hospital

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DadiKaKehna

Parts of Central and South India are already reeling under the temperatures well over 40 degrees C. It won't be long before North comes to a boil as well. ROSHANI DEVI shares tips to prevent heatstroke



One of the most important things to keep in mind to prevent a heatstroke is to remain hydrated all the time. Drink plenty of water. If the nature of your work keeps you outdoors, carry a bottle of water with you.

Peak sun hours are from 10 am to 4 pm. Try and avoid going out during this time.

Onions are great to prevent a heatstroke. Eat them in any form, though raw would be best.

The juice of coriander or basil leaves are also very effective in keeping the body cool. Drink coconut water a couple of times in a day.

Wear light fabrics that allow your body to breathe can keep you cool. Cotton is the best options. Lighter shades do not absorb heat and helps to keep the body cool. Wear loose fitting clothes.

When going out, cover your head with a wide-brimmed hat, cap or a scarf. One can carry an umbrella to shield themselves from the sun's rays.

Eat healthy. Yogurt is a great cooling food and easy to digest. Eat more fruits that are high in water content. Drink at least two glasses of buttermilk. Stay away from hot and spicy foods.

TIPTOP

People who wish to live longer must reduce their sitting time and replace it with just 30 minutes of physical activity, according to findings of a recent study published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. The results highlight the importance of movement - regardless of its intensity or amount of time spent moving - for better health. Studies indicate that about one in four adults spends more than eight hours a day sitting.

Adults who sat for long stretches at a time - an hour or more without interruption - had a greater risk of early death than those who were sedentary for the same total amount of time but got up and moved around more often. Thus, even short bursts of activity - of just a minute or two - can provide health benefits.

SLIMLINE

Drinking one alcoholic drink daily as well as being overweight can increase the risk of developing breast cancer, warns a study of over two lakh women. "That means that consequently, even relatively small preventable proportions translate into large numbers of preventable breast cancers," said Maarit Laaksonen, from the University of New South Wales in Australia. Over the next decade, drinking alcohol

Speaking about this, Dr KK Aggarwal, former national resident of Indian Medical Association said: "Modern and advanced technology has certainly made life easy and convenient for us. Online shopping, online payments and accessing information all of which can be done from the comfort of our homes but at the cost of our health. The benefits of exercise are well-established. But, the level of physical activity among all age groups has decreased. A heavy work schedule is often a deterrent to physical activity for many of us."

Replacing just 30 minutes of sitting with low-intensity physical activity may lower the risk of early death by 17 per cent. Swapping the same amount of sitting for moderate to vigorous activity would be twice as effective, cutting the risk of early death by 35 per cent.

will lead to 13 per cent increase of breast cancer cases in pre-menopausal women and six per cent in post-menopausal breast cancers. Being overweight or obese will contribute to 13 per cent cases.

Together, these modifiable risk factors - regular alcohol consumption and excessive weight gain - will be responsible for nearly 30,000 cases of breast cancer by next decade, noted the study published in the *International Journal of Cancer*.

GIVE ME RED

DR SUJATHA VARALWAR tells you the benefits of having red wine in a limited quantity



We all have a question, is the hype around the red wine is so good to be true? Keep in mind that a modest glass is all you need. Beyond psychological happiness, drinking red wine one or two ounces of cup a day might enjoy alcohol health benefits. Centuries ago, wine was used to treat various health conditions. Wines, especially red have been studied extensively. However, research suggest any health benefits from red wine can be driven only by applying to moderate drinking.

PREPARATION

Red wine is an alcoholic drink derived by fermentation of grapes and other fruits.

The sugars are converted into alcohol and carbon dioxide either in a natural process or with the help of yeast. It is made from the pulp of red and black grapes. White wine is made from crushed grapes to extract the juice and skin is removed.

The process of wine making takes months to years, from fermentation to ethanol, and sent in tanks where skin is removed and malo-lactic acid conversion done by a bacterial process. Then it goes in to oak casks, settled and clarified.

COMPONENTS

Acid: The most important component, consisting of tannic acid, malic acid, citric acid and ascorbic acid. Sugar content increases as grapes ripen and acid decreases. The acid balances alcohol and sweetness.

Alcohol: Produced by the fermentation when yeast comes in contact with grape sugar.

Tannins: Belong to a group of poly phenols, are derived from skin and seeds. These are flavonoids found in plants. Anti-oxidants (Catechins, Resveratrol) flavonols, Anthocyanins (pigments).

Carbohydrates: Simple sugars and complex carbohydrates such as pectin's and glycan's. Residual sugars are those left in wine after fermentation.

Preservatives: Sulphur dioxide, sodium or potassium metabisulphite, potassium sorbate.

Inorganic components: Potassium salts (contribute to acidity) iron, copper, phosphate chloride, sulphate.

HEATH BENEFITS

Heart and blood vessels: Free radicals are held responsible for the effects of aging, inflammation and immune response. They are released as a result of the effect of pathogens, UV damage, environmental pollution and toxins. Resveratrol is known to slow down process of atherosclerosis. It inhibit platelet aggregation, plaque formation and relaxes coronary arteries.

Cholesterol: Reduces LDL cholesterol and increases good cholesterol (HDL).

Diabetes: Help lower blood sugar, maintain better insulin response.

Brain and Nervous System: Helps reduce age related free radical damage, plaque formation and lessen the age related dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Renal System: Prevents stone formation, by flushing effect and inducing diuresis.

SIDE EFFECTS

Alcohol is hepatotoxic and neurotoxic and unreasonable quantity can damage liver and nervous system. Contaminants found in wine such as sulphur can cause allergic reactions. Ideal amount recommended for women is one glass per day and two glasses per day for men. Maximum of five glasses per week is said to be ideal.

The writer is Health & Lifestyle coach and Nutrition Consultant

STUDYCENTRE

Statistics indicate that India accounts for one-third of all measles-related deaths worldwide. Measles is highly infectious and as per the WHO, a country needs to ensure that at least 95% of all children receive two doses of the vaccine. About 15 per cent of vaccinated children fail to develop immunity from the first dose, meaning that if only 80 per cent are fully immunised, an outbreak is likely.

Measles is a highly contagious and spread by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing. The infection is followed by high fever, rash that spreads over the body, cough, running nose and red watery eyes. Measles weakens the immune system and often leads to serious complications.

The vaccination schedule: BCG 1 dose at Birth (up to 1 year if not given earlier).

DPT Toxoid 5 doses; Three primary doses at 6 weeks, 10 weeks and 14 weeks. Two booster doses at 16-24 months and 5 years.

OPV 5 doses; 0 dose at birth, three primary doses at 6, 10 and 14 weeks and one booster dose at 16-24 months of age.

Hepatitis B vaccine 4 doses; 0 dose within 24 hours of birth and three doses at 6, 10 and 14 weeks of age.

Measles 2 doses; first dose at 9-12 months and second dose at 16-24 months.

TT 2 doses at 10 years and 16 years of age.

— Courtesy Heart Care Foundation of India

British MPs seek new Brexit plan

AFP ■ LONDON

British MPs will try again to chart a new Brexit path on Monday after rejecting Prime Minister Theresa May's deal for a third time, but the EU warned its patience was wearing thin.

Less than two weeks before Britain risks crashing out of the European Union, MPs will hold a second round of votes on various options to try to break the political deadlock.

But any attempt to force May to accept a closer relationship with the EU risks splitting the government, and there is widespread speculation she might try one last time to get her deal passed this week.

European Union leaders have called an emergency summit on April 10 and have warned that unless Britain sets out what it wants to do, it risks severing ties with its largest trading bloc two days later with no deal at all.

"With our British friends we have had a lot of patience, but even patience is running out," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told Italian public TV channel Rai 1 on Sunday.

Britain voted by 52 per cent to leave the EU in a 2016 referendum, but the process has been mired in divisions over the terms of the divorce and what kind of future ties to seek. May struck a divorce deal with the EU last November, but it has been repeatedly rejected by MPs, the last time on Friday — even after she promised to resign if her rebellious



Conservative colleagues helped push the deal through.

The impasse has forced May to postpone Britain's original exit day from March 29, but she said it would be "unacceptable" for a further delay beyond European Parliament elections held from May 23 to May 26.

Frustrated with her approach, MPs in the House of Commons last week voted to give themselves powers to find

an alternative strategy, by holding a series of "indicative votes" on various options.

No single plan won a majority in the first round but MPs hope to whittle down the proposals on Monday evening, with voting starting at 8.00 pm (1900 GMT), and another day of debate is scheduled for this Wednesday.

The two most popular options last week were a new EU-UK customs union or a

public vote on any agreed deal. There were a large number of abstentions on another widely discussed option, based on Norway's membership of the single market.

In an interview with the BBC released Monday, Chief Whip Julian Smith — the man responsible for enforcing discipline among May's MPs and ministers — suggested that a closer relationship with the EU was "inevitable". The 2017

election where May lost her parliamentary majority meant "this would be inevitably a kind of softer type of Brexit", he said. He also denounced the behaviour of May's own ministers, who he said were trying to undermine her. "This is I think the worst example of ill-discipline in cabinet in British political history," he said.

While some pro-European members of May's cabinet might support a customs

union, she herself is opposed and it threatens mass rebellion among the rest of her ministers. Brexit-supporting minister Andrea Leadsom has reportedly organised a letter signed by 170 Conservative MPs including 10 cabinet ministers, demanding a swift Brexit, with or without a deal.

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Turkey election blow for Erdogan in two big cities



People walk past posters showing Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Binali Yildirim, the mayoral candidate for Istanbul of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) a day after the local elections in Istanbul on Monday. AFP

AFP ■ ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party suffered a major upset on Monday after local election results showed it lost the capital Ankara and Istanbul after a decade and half in power.

Losing the country's two major cities would be a stunning defeat for Erdogan, a former Istanbul mayor himself, whose ability to win at the ballot box has been unparalleled in Turkish history.

Erdogan campaigned hard, portraying Sunday's vote for mayors and district councils as a fight for the nation's survival, but the election became a test for his Justice and Development Party (AKP) after Turkey slipped into a recession for the first time in a decade.

The opposition CHP party candidate for Istanbul mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu, was leading by nearly 28,000 votes with most ballot boxes counted.

On Saturday, Taliban fighters attacked a convoy carrying Afghanistan's vice president Abdul Rashid Dostum in the northern province of Balkh.

The attack killed one of Dostum's bodyguards but the former warlord escaped unhurt. A spokesman for Dostum said he would not be attending the Doha talks, but representatives from his political party would be.

Khalilzad's trip has already seen him stop in London and Brussels as he seeks global support for a peace deal.

to quickly meet the needs of Istanbul.

In Ankara, opposition mayoral candidate Mansur Yavas had 50.89 per cent of votes ahead of the AKP's Mehmet Ozhasaki on 47.06 per cent. Anadolu state agency reported, with 99 per cent of ballot boxes counted.

"Ankara has won. The loser in Ankara is Ozhasaki, dirty politics has lost," Yavas told supporters who were waving Turkish flags and setting off fireworks at a celebratory rally.

But in a sign of possible turmoil ahead, AKP officials said they would challenge the alleged invalidation of tens of thousands of votes in both cities.

AKP secretary general Fatoih Sahin said the party will appeal in Ankara, saying the gap between the candidates "will narrow down and I believe it will eventually turn into a positive result for us."

Speaking to supporters in Ankara after Sunday's polls closed, Erdogan had said the election was a victory for the AKP, which along with its coalition partner, the rightwing Nationalist Movement Party, won more than 50 per cent of votes overall.

The loss in Istanbul, analysts said, would be especially sensitive for Erdogan, who grew up in the city's working-class Kasimpasa neighbourhood, and liked to tell AKP rank-and-file that victory in the city was like winning all of Turkey.

GLOBE TROTTING

CATHOLIC PRIESTS BURN HARRY POTTER BOOKS
Warsaw: Catholic priests in Poland burned books they say are sacrilegious this weekend, including tomes from British author JK Rowling's Harry Potter series of fantasy novels.

B'DESH EX-PM ZIA SENT TO HOSPITAL FROM PRISON
Dhaka: An official says Bangladesh ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is being treated in a State hospital after being taken there from the centuries-old jail where she has been imprisoned.

ICC PREZ URGES US TO JOIN CRIMINAL COURT
The Hague: The International Criminal Court's top official has called on the US to join and support its work after Washington recently stepped up its dispute with the global legal body.

US peace envoy returns to Kabul ahead of Taliban talks

AFP ■ KABUL

US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad said on Monday he was in Kabul to meet with Afghan officials, ahead of a new round of talks with the Taliban aimed at ending more than 17 years of war.

The Afghan-born US adviser tweeted that he had met with several government representatives with responsibility for the Afghan peace process. "We discussed the urgency of making progress on intra-Afghan dialogue," Khalilzad wrote.

He later said he had met with representatives from a women's network, saying women "must be at the table

during all negotiations". Khalilzad held talks with the Taliban in Doha that were originally slated to last two days in February, but dragged on for 16 days, eventually ending March 12 with Khalilzad saying "real strides" had been made.

On the table were proposals to get foreign armed forces to leave Afghanistan, and the Taliban to guarantee the country cannot be used as a springboard for terror groups to launch any future attacks.

The State Department last week said Khalilzad's trip was "part of an overall effort to facilitate a peace process that brings all Afghan parties together in inclusive intra-

Afghan negotiations". So far, however, the talks have not included the Kabul government. The Taliban have long refused to speak with Kabul, deeming the administration of President Ashraf Ghani — who is seeking re-election this year — puppets of the West.

But a senior Taliban official told AFP they may consider meeting Afghan government officials in a fresh round of talks in Doha, reportedly due to begin mid-April.

"Taliban will not meet with the Afghan government, but they might meet with some Afghan government officials as independent politicians," the official said. New talks come as Afghanistan remains on edge

ahead of a new fighting season in the spring, and amid fears of an increase in Taliban attacks to gain leverage at the negotiating table.

On Saturday, Taliban fighters attacked a convoy carrying Afghanistan's vice president Abdul Rashid Dostum in the northern province of Balkh.

The attack killed one of Dostum's bodyguards but the former warlord escaped unhurt. A spokesman for Dostum said he would not be attending the Doha talks, but representatives from his political party would be.

Khalilzad's trip has already seen him stop in London and Brussels as he seeks global support for a peace deal.

31 killed, 600 injured as freak storm hits Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A freak storm battered several places in Southern Nepal on Sunday, killing 31 people and injuring 600 others as high speed winds tore down houses, flipped vehicles and toppled trees and electricity poles.

Massive winds accompanied by hailstorms and rain struck Bara and the adjoining district of Parsa late on Sunday evening. According to officials, 28 people were killed in Bara, 128 kilometers south of Kathmandu, one person died in neighbouring Parsa, while two more died in other parts of Southern Nepal.

High winds flipped cars and blew one passenger bus off

a highway, causing fatalities. According to police, many people were either killed after getting buried under rubble of houses and metal roofs that flung all over the settlements, or after coming under the electric pylons and trees that were uprooted as the disaster advanced.

According to Province 2 Attorney General Dipendra Jha, majority of the 600 injured are from Pheta and Bhulahi Bharwalya areas in Bara's Pheta Rural Municipality, which have mostly been affected by the hailstorm.

Every year hundreds die in landslides and floods during Nepal's monsoon season, but storms causing such high casualties in spring are rare.

30 dead in major China forest fire

PTI ■ BEIJING

At least 30 people, including 27 firefighters, were killed while battling a huge forest fire in the remote mountains in southwest China's Sichuan province, the state media reported on Monday.

The firefighters were sent to put the fire which broke out on Saturday in Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture in Sichuan province, China Daily reported.

About 30 people have been unaccounted for since Sunday afternoon after a sudden change in wind direction caused "a huge fireball", according to authorities in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture.

At least 20 dead in Peru bus fire

AFP ■ LIMA

At least 20 people were killed and about 10 injured on Sunday night in a bus fire at an illegal transport terminal in the Peruvian capital, emergency services said. A number of the victims burned to death, trapped on the upper level of the interprovincial bus in Lima, firefighters said.

Passersby described scenes of panic and cries of terror. Much of the vehicle was reduced to a skeleton, and the corpses of some victims could still be seen in the seats. Others asphyxiated on the stairway connecting the upper and lower levels. The tragedy reflected the chaos of Peru's public transport system, particularly in the capital of 10 million people where authorities are overwhelmed by transport problems. AFP

Sri Lankan authorities publicly destroy 770kg of cocaine

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan authorities on Monday destroyed nearly 770 kgs of cocaine, a day after President Maithripala Sirisena said he has decided a time period for the execution of the capital punishment of convicted drug traffickers.

The drugs were burnt in Sri Lanka's Puttalam town on the instructions of the President,

who also witnessed the destruction of the psychotropic substance.

Speaking at a mass protest against drugs organised by religious leaders led by Colombo Archbishop Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith here on Sunday, Sirisena said that he has taken a number of steps to strengthen laws relevant to curbing illicit drug trade.

Woman in Kim assassination to walk free next month

Shah Alam: A Vietnamese woman accused of assassinating the North Korean leader's half-brother will walk free in May after pleading guilty to a lesser charge, her lawyer said.

Doan Thi Huong welcomed the "fair sentence" after the judge handed down the verdict in a Malaysian court, where she has been on trial for the murder of Kim Jong Nam with a nerve agent. Huong was sentenced her to three years and four months in jail from her arrest in February 2017.

But her legal team said that with usual sentence reductions, she would be released next month.

"In the first week of May, she will go home," lawyer Hisyam Teh Poh Teik told reporters in the Shah Alam High Court, outside Kuala Lumpur. AFP

SC orders Musharraf to appear before court in treason case on May 2

Islamabad: Pakistan's former military dictator Pervez Musharraf was ordered to appear before a special court on May 2 by the Supreme Court in the high treason case and warned him that he would lose the right of defence if he failed to turn up.

A special court indicted General (retd) Musharraf for high treason in March 2014. Musharraf, 75, left for Dubai in 2016 to "seek medical treatment" and has not returned since. Last month, he was admitted to a hospital in Dubai after suffering a reaction from a rare disease.

A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa was hearing a petition filed by a lawyer, who pointed out that the proceedings of the treason case — being heard by a special court since 2014 — had come to a halt as Musharraf had not returned to the court since 2016. PTI

Facebook deletes pages, groups, accounts linked to Pak Army's media wing

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Facebook has taken down 103 "assets" — pages, groups and accounts — linked to employees of Pakistan Army's media wing and involved in "coordinated inauthentic behaviour", the social media giant said on Monday.

The company — which shared details on "four separate, distinct and unconnected" takedowns linked to both Pakistan and India — said it had removed the pages, accounts and groups set up by the networks "for violating Facebook's policies on coordinated inauthentic behaviour or spam".

"Today we removed 103 pages, groups and accounts for engaging in coordinated inauthentic behavior on Facebook and Instagram as part of a network that originated in Pakistan," said a state-

ment issued by Nathaniel Gleicher, the company's head of Cybersecurity Policy. The coordinated inauthentic behaviour is when groups of pages or people work together to mislead others about who they are or what they are doing.

"Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities, our investigation found that it was linked to employees of the ISPR (Inter-Service Public Relations) of the Pakistani military," the statement said.

There was no immediate comments from the Pakistan Army on the issue.

Quoting Gleicher, Dawn newspaper said, "the takedown is because there is this network of fake accounts that they are using to conceal their identity and make these pages look independent, when in fact they are not."

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI, 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE
NOTICE UNDER RULE 52(2) OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 25(A) THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993.

RC No. 493/2018 Dated: 16.10.2019
IN THE MATTER OF:-
ICICI Bank -Versus- NATCONN ENGINEERING (P) LTD.
1. Natconn Engineering Pvt. Ltd. Through Its Director (Borrower), Having its office At: A-209, Second Floor, Arcadia Commercial Complex, South City-II, Gurgaon-122001

2. Vijay Shanker Manohar Jha, S/o Manohar Jha, (Guarantor & Director), R/o 45, Town/Village-Babhni, Anchal - Falka, District Katihar - 854114.

Whereas the execution of recovery certificate no. 493/2018 in OA. no. 84/2015 dated 17.05.2018 ordered by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer Debts Recovery Tribunal-II DELHI for recovery from defendants recoverable and whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of movable assets mentioned in schedule assets for satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate Notice is hereby given that in the absence of any order of postponement the said assets shall be sold by Shri Sukhdev Limbore, Authorized Officer, Mobile No. 9561087522, who has been appointed as Court Auctioneer by this Forum through public auction between 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm on 26.04.2019 at site for further details Shri Sukhdev Limbore Authorized officer can be contacted on the aforesaid Mobile no.

The sale will be of the movable assets of the above named applicant Company, subject to the liabilities and claims attaching to the said assets, if any. If the amount to be realized by sale is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the assets the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder.

The sale will also be stopped if before any lot is knocked down the arrears mentioned in the said certificate interest costs (including costs of sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate along with the interest and costs has been paid to the undersigned.

At the sale the public generally are invited to bid either personally or by duly authorized agent No officer or other person having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the assets sold.

The assets being sold "As is where is basis" The sale shall be subject to the condition prescribed in the Second schedule to the income tax act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the following further conditions:-

The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.

Hypothecated vehicle i.e. commercial Hypothecated vehicles namely,
(i) CONCERT BATCHING PLANT, Reg. No. 10468391, Model ST-30-TS-IB-CN, engine no. AF827, Chassis No. AF827.
(ii) BATCHING PLANT, Reg. No. 10468391, Engine No. AF827, Chassis No. AF827.

Reserved Price for (i) Rs. 3,15,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Only) - EMD: Rs. 31,500/- (Rupees Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred Only) for (ii) Rs. 5,85,000/- (Rupees Five Lacs Eighty Five Thousand Only) - EMD: Rs. 58,500 (Rupees Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Only).

1. The amount by which the bidders are to be increased shall be determined by the Officer conducting the sale, in the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to bidder, the lot shall at once be again put to auction.

2. Intending bidders shall be required to deposit an earnest money as mentioned above for each by way of pay order/demand draft payable at New Delhi and in favor of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II Delhi. The said deposit shall be adjusted in the case of unsuccessful bidders; the same shall be refunded without interest, on the date of sale.

3. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale proceeds by way of pay order/demand draft favoring the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi immediately at the fall of hammer, after adjusting the earnest deposit stated above, failing which the earnest deposit shall be forfeited.

4. The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds along with poundage fee@2% upto Rupees 1,000/-@1% of the sale price exceeding Rupees 1,000/- by 4.00 PM on the next working day. The poundage fees shall be deposited through a demand draft payable in favor of the Registrar, DRT-II, DELHI.

5. In the case of default the amount earlier deposited by the bidder, if the undersigned considers fit, after defraying the expenses of the sale shall be forfeited and the assets shall be resold, and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the assets or to any part thereof or of any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

6. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

No of lots	Description of assets to be sold with names of co-owners where the assets belong to the defaulter and any other persons is co-owners	Revenue assessed upon the assets or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrances to which the assets is liable	Claims, if any which have been put forward to the assets and other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.
	(i) CONCERT BATCHING PLANT, REG. NO.10468391, MODEL ST-30-TS-IB-CN, ENGINE NO.AF827, CHASSIS NO.AF827	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	BATCHING PLANT, Reg. No. 10468391, Engine No. AF827, Chassis No. AF827	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at New Delhi on this 16th day of February, 2019.

(VIKASH JAITLEY)
RECOVERY OFFICER-II
DRT-II, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE BRANCH OFFICE SHIFTING

Bajaj Finance Limited having its Registered Office, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411 035 and Corporate office on 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv Corporate Office, Off Pune-Anhadnagar Road, Viman Nagar, Maharashtra 411 014 hereby informs its customers and concerned that its office located at Bajaj Finance Limited, 2nd Floor SC0-57, Opp. Prestine Mall, Sector-31, Faridabad-122001 (Haryana) will be closing with effect from 15.07.2019. For better customer facility all the existing services shall continue to be available at new branch shifted to Bajaj Finance Limited, Shop No. 20.21, 53 & 54, 1st Floor, New Tikona Park, Near ICICI Bank, NIT Faridabad-122001 (Haryana)

All customers and concerned are requested to take note of change of address and requested to contact our office at Bajaj Finance Limited, Shop No. 20.21, 53 & 54, 1st Floor, New Tikona Park, Near ICICI Bank, NIT Faridabad-122001 (Haryana)
Bajaj Finance Limited
4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv Corporate Office, Off Pune-Anhadnagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra 411 014 • Tel: 020 3040 5060
Date: 02.04.2019

Trend Blazer

I am interested in politics: Pankaj

Actor PANKAJ TRIPATHI, who will be seen in the forthcoming web series *Criminal Justice*, says though he has an interest in politics, he still has time before he pursues it.



Pankaj said, "I have an interest in politics but I am not going to explore that interest now. I have time for that. I believe that only a well-read, well-aware individual can make a great leader and build a progressive nation. I tend to read a lot of books and believe in a certain ideology. I think reading and travelling not only make us good artistes but also broaden our horizons and open our mind. It really helps us to become a good human being."

Living life in the public eye can be very difficult sometimes. As much as it is a blessing, it also comes with its downside. Over the last two years, I've gained weight. I'm going to bring you on the journey of becoming the best version of myself again, and I want you to join me on this journey too. —Nargis Fakhri



Actor SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT will have many "funny sequences" with his former *Shudh Desi Romance* co-star Nalnees Neel in the forthcoming film *Chhichhore*.



"The film will focus on an engineering college where different types of students study. My character's name is Pandu who is a cook. He is very interesting. He is a bit comical and also helps people win games," Nalnees said. "I enjoyed working with Sushant in *Shudh Desi Romance* too, he said. Nalnees will also be seen in *Bhor*, directed by Kamakhya Narayan Singh, and will be playing a lead role for the first time.

Kim anxious about her baby

Reality TV star KIM KARDASHIAN WEST is anxious about baby number four.

During an episode of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, the 38-year-old shared that she and husband Kanye West are expecting their fourth child via surrogate.

"We have an announcement to make," Kim told her family. "We're having a baby. We're having a boy." Kim later admitted to sister Kylie Jenner that she's "low-key freaking out" about the pregnancy. "I didn't think it was going to happen. I thought like 'Oh, it probably won't even take,'" she said.



GUILTY OR NOT?

Actor VIKRANT MASSEY, who plays a rape and murder accused in *Criminal Justice*, tells AYUSHI SHARMA that a discussion on the Indian Judicial System is a never-ending one

India or rather Indians do not cover themselves in glory when it comes to sexual assault and crimes against women. Despite formulating numerous women-friendly laws and doing away with outdated ones, the country still has a long way to go in delivering justice to many rape victims.

Criminal Justice, a crime drama captures Aditya Sharma's (played by Vikrant Massey) journey, as one fateful incident completely turns his life around. He is ambitious but is aware of his middle-class roots, a boy who drives his father's cab to add to the family income. But his life turns upside down when during his last trip for the night, he ends up being accused of rape and brutal murder of his passenger. As skeletons tumble out of his closet, one begins to wonder whether Aditya is innocent or guilty of the terrible crime?

Vikrant apprises us that playing the character of someone who has been accused of rape and murder took a mental toll on him. He says that he had to prepare "quite a lot" in comparison to what he has done earlier. The character required a lot of intensity as well as a huge amount of research. From the nuances of Indian prisons to the life of criminals locked inside, "every little detail was important." He says, "It was torturing, be it physically, emotionally or mentally."

The actor feels that one can never even imagine being in that position or envision what it is like to be an accused.



"Hence, it becomes even more difficult to put yourself in that person's shoes and be in that mindset. I have never been to jail and have always lead a very happy and protected life." (Touches wood). He goes on to add, "System jaise Aditya ko todta hai, main vaise kabhi nahi toota (I have never been as broken as the way the system breaks Aditya). There were days when it made me emotionally drained, but that is what all powerful stories do," says the actor who is going to star opposite Deepika Padukone in the forthcoming film *Chhapaak*.

As an artist, to be in the mental state of the character is important for him to live it "as when you are mentally ready for something, your body, gestures and everything else follows you automatical-

'ONE CAN NEVER EVEN ENVISION WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE ACCUSED OF RAPE. HENCE, IT BECOMES EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO PLAY THE CHARACTER AND PUT YOURSELF IN THAT PERSON'S SHOES'

ly." The show is the Indian adaptation of the renowned BBC's eponymously-named series, which was later adapted into the Emmy Award-winning HBO show *The Night of*. Vikrant says that the show is relevant and has been moulded to Indian preferences. "We obviously knew the sensibilities of Indian audience and that they differ in many ways — culturally as well as in terms of traditions. I wanted Aditya to be that one boy which every family has. The whole structure of the show is based on the Indian Judicial System."

When asked about what he thinks of the judicial procedures of India, Vikrant laughed and said that the topic was very lengthy and no amount of time would be sufficient to discuss it. "I don't think *main iska jawab aadhe ghante me bhi de paunga*. There are pros and cons of everything. It is up to us how we contribute towards any kind of change," he says.

Rather than feeling apprehensive while working with veteran actors like Pankaj Tripathi and Jackie Shroff, Vikrant feels that it's an opportunity for him. "There is a sense of motivation. I had a fan boy moment with Jackie Shroff ji. It was incredible seeing him in person, almost like a dream come true. I still remember when I was a kid and he was shooting and I was one of the hundreds of people standing there and trying to get a glimpse. I never thought I'll work with him," says the *Mirzapur* actor.

(It will air on Hotstar from April 5.)

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder

Acid attack survivor LAXMI AGARWAL says that she's happy to see Bollywood coming up with real stories

Laxmi Agarwal, whose life as an acid attack survivor has inspired an forthcoming Bollywood film *Chhapaak*, said she found it amazing how people were finding beauty in the 'burns' that actress Deepika Padukone sported for the movie.

Laxmi was attacked when she was all of 15. Over the years, she has been vocal about her experience and actively campaigns against acid attacks.

Last week, Deepika unveiled her first look from Meghna Gulzar's *Chhapaak*, and it was widely lauded by the film fraternity.

What was Laxmi's first reaction on seeing Deepika's look? "I was happy to see Deepika's first look from the film. The response and the messages I got on social media was overwhelming. In fact, it was my daughter's birthday, and more than messages for her, I got congratulatory messages about the film."

"I was feeling good that a celebrity has come in that look. A lot of make-up artistes changed a natural face to acid distorted face after that (on social media). And I felt, 'see, they are finding beauty in an acid-burnt face,'" said Laxmi,



who was a showstopper at the just concluded India Runway Week.

Laxmi was on her way back home from music class when a man, twice her age, threw acid on her for rejecting his advances. Her face and other body parts got disfigured in the attack.

With *Chhapaak*, she feels happy that Bollywood is coming out with real stories. "People are intrigued by Bollywood. A long time ago, a film named *Tezaab* came out. It spoke about beauty. Today, beauty through films is shown in a different manner and the youth will see and learn," she said.

Asked about her involvement with the film, Laxmi who has remained largely tight-lipped about it said, "I was involved with the film," and was happy to share the story of her struggle and survival with the makers of the film.

"I am always open about my life because I have seen several people in my journey who are doing a lot in front, but are suffering behind. I feel if you are an inspiration for someone, then you should come out and talk about these things. Laxmi is an open book," she said.

—IANS



Marvel universe to get LGBTQ superhero

Avengers: Endgame co-director Joe Russo says the Marvel universe will introduce a LGBTQ superhero very soon.

When asked whether it is time for a LGBTQ superhero in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Joe said, "One hundred per cent and you will see one very soon."

There has been talk that a LGBTQ superhero may find space in the Marvel world after Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige spoke about the possibility. He had said it's "percolating".

Rumour mills are also abuzz that Angelina Jolie is in talks to star in Marvel Studios' *The Eternals* in what would be the actress first venture into the superhero realm.

Created by Jack Kirby in 1976, the story of *The Eternals*

is set millions of years ago when the cosmic beings — known as the celestials — genetically experimented on humans to create super-powered individuals — known as the eternals — along with the villainous Deviants.

For now, the studio is set to release *Avengers: Endgame*, starring Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evans and Scarlett Johansson. It will release in India on April 26 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

The film, directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, is a continuation of *Avengers: Infinity War*, which left Marvel fans in shock with the failure of the superheroes against the supervillain Thanos.

Joe is in India to promote the film.

—IANS

AN AWARD FOR CREATIVITY

After creating a platform to acknowledge short films, critics now unite for feature films

After the success of the short film awards, critics unite for the first Feature Film Awards as a pan-India category to celebrate the diversity of the Indian cinema.

The awards will be a celebration of the best of Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam cinema.

Anupama Chopra, chairperson, FCG said, "The FCG is the first registered body of film critics in India. We are a pan-Indian, pan-language, pan-platform body. We have critics from print, television, radio and digital and our opinions reach millions of people including 32 lakh on Twitter alone. It gives us great pleasure to announce the first Critics Choice Film Awards to honour and celebrate the finest talent in the Indian cinema. We hope that these awards will contribute to setting and raising standards for films in the country."

With entries coming in from all parts of the country, a panel comprising India's top film critics have first curated and shortlisted the nominees. The Guild as a whole then voted for and felicitated the best short films



from across the country with the aim of acknowledging and appreciating the rising growth of the industry as a whole.

While the short film awards were decided based on entries by filmmakers, the Critics' Choice Film Awards will decide on nominees and winners based on the theatrical releases from the year 2018. With the participation of credible film critics from all over India, the awards aim to honour films based on the art of filmmaking as opposed to mere popularity.

"We bring credibility and the team has worked creative elements around this property which will truly give it a premium feel. We believe CCGA can become a benchmark in the years to come, through which quality films will be recognised and the masters of this craft can be given their due honour."

The nominations will be announced in the first week of the month, while the ceremony will take place on April 21.

Filmmaker Zoya Akhtar will grace the announcement.



THE PAINTER'S DILEMMA

History, legend and a tale about RAJA RAVI VARMA come together in this 1881 oil on canvas which came up for sale recently. By UMA NAIR

Amidst a range of artworks at the Saffron Sale, one painting, which was the cynosure of all viewers and art aficionados, was from the Income Tax department, Lot 13 — Nirav Modi's Raja Ravi Varma. The 1881 oil on canvas represented history, legend and the royal lineage of the Maharaja of Travancore.

Replete with tropical elements, royal bodyguards standing in knee-deep water with a houseboat, the scene was epic. The rare oil painting illustrated the welcoming of the third Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, Richard Temple-Grenville, on his official visit to Trivandrum, a Princely state in southern India in 1880.

Temple-Grenville was the Governor General of Madras (1875-1880). In the artwork, Visakhram Thirunal, the younger brother of the Maharaja Ayilyam Thirunal of Travancore, is welcoming the Duke, who is accompanied by his aide-de-camp and a few British army officers. Raja Ravi Varma was invited to document this historical event, and to paint "the moment when Buckingham alighted from the splendid barge, which must have undoubtedly brought him through the waterways of Kerala," noted the sale.

The Maharaja is seen standing behind his brother in the building which bears the image of a conch shell, the symbol of the state of Travancore, as well as a welcoming banner for the Duke. It is likely that the ceremony depicted in the present lot took place at the Vallakadavu Boathouse, which was built in the 1820s and served as an important waterway hub for travel and cargo activity during the Travancore era. "Historical records reveal that the boattupura, as it is known to the locales, was used by the state barges of the Travancore kings. The royal parties which went picnicking in the Veli Lake used to set sail from the boathouse. The priests, scholars and nobility who used to come to Thiruvananthapuram from far and near, used to alight here," wrote T Nandkumar in 2004.

According to Erwin Neumayer and Christine Schelberger, during the Duke's visit to Travancore, he was eager to meet Raja Ravi Varma, a fact that made the Maharaja jealous. This visit ultimately turned out to be disastrous for the painter. "When the Duke met Raja Ravi Varma in the presence of the king, he asked him to sit with them, which, according to the custom of the land was unthinkable. Raja Ravi Varma declined to sit in the presence of the king and the three, the governor, the king, and the painter, remained standing while talking. Raja Ravi Varma knew that he was now out of favour with the king and left Trivandrum never to come back



REPLETE WITH TROPICAL ELEMENTS, ROYAL BODYGUARDS STANDING IN KNEE-DEEP WATER WITH A HOUSEBOAT, THE SCENE IN THE PAINTING ILLUSTRATED THE WELCOMING OF THE THIRD DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS, RICHARD TEMPLE-GRENVILLE, ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO TRIVANDRUM

during the lifetime of the king," (Erwin Neumayer and Christine Schelberger eds., Raja Ravi Varma, Portrait of an Artist: The Diary of C Raja Raja Varma, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005, p. 300)

Upon completion, the present lot was gifted to the Duke as a token of appreciation. After his death, the painting passed on to his eldest daughter Baroness Kinloss. In the 1920s, it changed hands and became a part of Castle House, Buckingham, the offices of Buckinghamshire County Council and remained there until 1974, when a private collector acquired it. The scene in all its perfection its intricate details and the allure of the cultural fabric of those times created a once in a lifetime panorama of panache and royal regalia.

In search of oneself

Australian soprano DEBORAH CHEETHAM tells AYUSHI SHARMA that she found similarities with her Aboriginal roots

She visited India for the first time in 2017 and ever since she has loved the country and its people. "I knew that I will return," said Australian Soprano Deborah Cheetham, as she marked the closing ceremony of the six-month long Australia Fest in India recently.

The lyric soprano said that even though her visits to the country have been limited, "Indian music and art have been an important part of music and fashion for most of my life. Now that I have visited the source, I understand better why Indians know and love their culture and are attentive to their craft."

There are always certain stories and narratives etched deep in the songs that opera singers perform. Talking about the one that Cheetham narrated at the festival, she said that it is *Songs of Belonging*, which narrated "my journey of discovering my

identity as a Yorta Yorta or Jotijota (indigenous Australian people who have traditionally inhabited the area surrounding the junction of the Goulburn and Murray Rivers in present-day north-eastern Victoria and southern New South Wales) woman."

She believes that such events initiate a cultural dialogue between two nations as "they help us understand each other on a much deeper level."

Recalling one of her past experiences in India, she said that she plans to expand the art in the country. "Whilst in Mumbai, we visited a school at the Darvai Transition Camp. Although we have no plans to open a school here, I plan to stay in touch with the children who we met in order to mentor them," she said.

Having performed across the world, she talked about how she has explored different kinds of audience and music practices. "There are fundamental truths which bind humanity together. The desire to understand and realise that you belong to the world is a universal theme and so I find this recital has resonated well with the audience. Also there is so much about Australia which is not fully understood especially the shared history since colonisation and the effect it had on the Aboriginal Nations."

Talking about the evolution of the industry, she said, "It is true to say that the digital age has changed the way people connect to music thus opening up many new pathways. There is instant gratification everywhere. However I know there is still a place when you are seated in a theatre and the house lights are switched off and you wait in breathless anticipation for the music to be played live."



The fire within

Percussionist ANURADHA PAL tells CHAHAK MITTAL that when music is universal, its creators cannot be specific to one gender. She further discusses her struggle to become the biggest female tabla player of all time

Recently a daily quoted: 'If there's a female equivalent of Ustad Zakir Hussain, it's Anuradha Pal.' While the percussionist feels that the two can never be compared as he is "my guru", she is much more — an inspiration, a fighter, a writer as well as a trend-setter.

Even though her journey of more than 40 years in the industry has been rewarding, she says, it has been challenging as well. Coming from a non-musical and male-dominated background, Pal struggled to find her way through the restrictions and challenges the society imposes on a woman, to become the first professional female tabla virtuoso in the world. "I had to be really at the top of the game to prove my niche and have a unique set of offerings that would make an impact. I had to train myself very hard and practice for eight to 10 hours each day to reach the level of the best musicians. I had to make sure that my work does the talking since I didn't have any Godfather. Neither did I take any external help," she says.

She explains why she has never chosen to stop. From being featured in the

Limca Book of Records, to receiving a number of national and international accolades like the Excellence Award from the government of Canada, First Ladies award from the President of India, Women Achiever's Award and many more. She says, "I started receiving awards when I was 10-years-old. With every award that I brought home, my parents told me 'Very good, but you have to work harder.' Honestly, their attitude helped me reach out for more. I needed to do more for excellence in the field."

The legend, who has performed in the biggest international music festivals as both the youngest and the most senior musician, had begun the *Anuradha Pal in Tabla Jugalbani with Herself*, a series of live events across the country, where she played solo and narrated interactive stories through innovative rhythmic dialogues.

The world of classical instruments, especially that of tabla, has been dominated by men from the beginning. This was one thing she has aimed at changing ever since she began playing the percussion instrument. She formed the all-



woman ensemble *Stree Shakti*, the first-of-its-kind in an era when there were hardly any women's music groups. What also made it unique was that it combined both Hindustani and Carnatic styles. "When music is universal, its creators cannot be specific to one gender. When I started performing at the age of 10, I started encountering a lot of opposition, most of which was on account of my gender. I don't give up easily. I was studying science and until then I hadn't decided that I will dedicate myself to music and tabla," she says and adds that this was the time when she felt that there would be many other women who must have felt the same way.

Creating a platform for them was important. She says, "I formed *Stree Shakti* to give strength to women and change the society's perception that they can't do things other than what they are supposed to. I wanted the band to be different and develop as a community. It's also special since there is not even a band of men that has attempted to combine so many different styles of music — Hindustani, Carnatic, vocal and percus-

'With the Naari Shakti anthem, I wanted to document the journey of resilience and power that women have become over time. It's a fight against the numerous acts of monstrosity against them'

sion — together. It is a meeting of many different souls and streams."

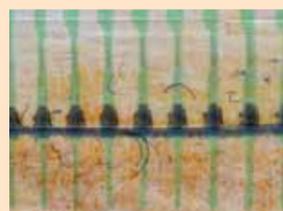
Pal says that she was determined to make it something different, rather than just women-centric. "It had to be something beyond a singular aspect. It had to be powerful and make a statement that inspires other women too. Even though many all-woman bands have come up today, this band created a revolution 23 years ago as it was a concept, completely unheard of. It was important to make people understand that women have a lot of potential that we don't realise," says the trend blazer.

The ambassador of the *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* Yojana recently launched and composed the *Anthem for Naari Shakti* campaign in India. "The idea of the lyrics for the anthem birthed when we (*Stree Shakti* team) were on our concept tour across Europe celebrating our 21st anniversary. I wanted to document this journey of resilience and power that women have become over time. I also wanted to give a voice to those who needed one," she says.

Pal has been exposed to writing as well since her mother was a writer. And it was one of her Hindi poems or prose that inspired the lyrics, which go like... "Khud ko tu pehchaan de khuddari ko choom ke/ Padh kar apni pehchaan bana, stree shakti ki misaal de." (Give yourself an identity by becoming self reliant/ Educate yourself and become a symbol for woman power.)

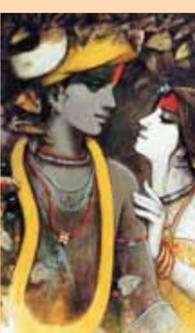
The anthem, she says, calls out the evils in the society against women, be it dowry, *sati*, or female foeticide and numerous other acts of monstrosity. "It's a fight against all the acts of injustice against women, and an initiative to show solidarity towards making India a superpower of women," she adds.

WATCH OUT



Gallery Espace presents artist Akshay Raj Singh Rathore's solo exhibition, *un-practised frugality*, showcasing his vision that "surpasses the present sense of contemporary contemplation." **WHEN:** Till April 13 **TIME:** 11 am to 6 pm **WHERE:** Gallery Espace, 16 Community Centre, New Friends Colony.

Art Tune of Spring is a group art exhibition by four painters and one sculpture, featuring works of Sekhar Kar, Subrata Das, Subrata Paul, Swarnali Pal and Jayanta Khan. **WHEN:** April 2 **TIME:** 10 am to 7 pm **Venue:** Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 35 Ferozeshah Road.



There are many stories hidden behind a veil in India, screaming to be told, revealed, expressed and staged. *Aaina*, the Indian Dance Theatre, brings a range of performances as a reflection of the human condition, mirroring up to give people a glimpse of their desires, anxieties, fears, and emotions. **TIME:** 7 pm onwards **WHEN:** April 4 and 5 **WHERE:** Kamani Auditorium.



The Needle Reverence, a story stitched by the thrift of Bengali women, is an exhibition of Kanthas from the late 19th century till pre-Independence, and contemporary Kanthas created in the 1990s initiated by late sculptor Meera Mukherjee. **WHEN:** April 4 to 12 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex.

Art Spice and Art Magnum presents Eclectic Strokes, an art exhibition featuring a wide collection of art pieces by all the Indian senior masters like S H Raza, M F Husain, Ram Kumar, F N Souza, to name a few. **WHEN:** Till April 10 **TIME:** 11 am to 8 pm **WHERE:** Art Spice gallery at the Metropolitan Hotel & Spa.



SINGLES

FEDERER GOES FOURTH IN RANKINGS
PARIS: Roger Federer jumped up one spot to fourth in the ATP rankings released on Monday after capturing his 101st career title with his victory over John Isner in Miami. The Swiss great switched places with Austria's Dominic Thiem, who had briefly climbed to fourth after defeating Federer in the final at Indian Wells two weeks ago. Rising Greek star Stefanos Tsitsipas moved up to a career best of eighth, while Canadian teenager Denis Shapovalov cracked the top 20 for the first time following his run to the Miami semi-finals. Felix Auger-Aliassime, 18, soared 24 places to 33rd after matching compatriot Shapovalov's run to the last four.

GHOSAL ENTERS TOP-10 IN PSA RANKINGS
NEW DELHI: Saurav Ghosal on Monday became the first Indian male squash player to enter the top 10 in the latest PSA world rankings. Indian women squash players — Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal — had earlier reached top-10 in the world rankings. Riding on his recent performances, Ghosal has moved up two places to a career-high ranking of 10. Ghosal made it to the quarter-finals of the 2018-2019 PSA World Championships in Chicago, USA for the first time in his career. He was also a quarter-finalist at the prestigious Grasshopper Cup in Zurich, Switzerland. In the women's rankings, Joshna continued to be the best-ranked Indian, moving up to the 15th position.

MARQUEZ CLAIMS 45TH MOTOGP TITLE
TERMAS DE RIO HONDO: World champion Marc Marquez emerged triumphant at the Argentina MotoGP ahead of his rival Valentino Rossi. Marquez put up an impressive show aboard his Honda RC213V as he claimed his 45th career victory in the elite class, finishing almost 10 seconds ahead of Rossi on a Yamaha. Andrea Dovizioso, who won the season-opener in Qatar, finished third on a Ducati. Marquez is currently leads the 2019 championship after two rounds with 45 points. "Today was a perfect day," he said. Honda now moves to the top of the Constructor's Championship as a result of the victory.

SL CAPT APOLOGISES FOR BEHAVIOUR
COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Test captain Dimuth Karunaratne apologised on Monday for his "unbecoming behaviour" after being arrested for drink-driving in an accident that left a taxi driver injured. Karunaratne, 30, was taken before a magistrate who suspended his driving licence and fixed a trial for May 2. The cricket star was also asked to take a medical test. "My actions were utterly unbecoming of a Sri Lankan national cricketer and I do apologise to all of you for this incident," Karunaratne said in a statement. Sri Lanka's cricket board said it would investigate the incident "in order to take necessary action." Agencies

Benzema saves Real blushes

French forward scores in last minute of regulation time to help Madrid win 3-2

AFP ■ MADRID

Karim Benzema stopped Real Madrid's underwhelming La Liga season going from bad to worse on Sunday after firing a last-minute winner to hand the European champions a barely-deserved 3-2 win over bottom club Huesca.

Humbled by Ajax in the Champions League and dumped out of the Copa Del Rey by deadly rivals Barca, third-placed Real showed little signs of improvement in Zinedine Zidane's second game in charge but Benzema, subject to rumours he may leave Madrid in the summer for Manchester United, struck with a fine curling finish the to snatch the three points at a sparsely populated Santiago Bernabeu.

"We are happy with him and I am going to count on him, now there are nine games left and then we will see what happens. He is a Real Madrid player and I don't think this will change," Zidane said. "You have to accept it. If the people want to come to the Bernabeu to see us so much the better, but I understand that since we are not going to win anything fewer people come."

Zidane's son Luca was given his second ever start between the sticks for Real but got off to the worst possible start, picking the ball out of his own net within three minutes after Cucho Hernandez lashed home Ezequiel Avila low cross.

Isco levelled the scores in the 25th minute when he tapped home a Brahim Diaz cross after Benzema's low shot was well saved, but it was the away side — playing their first ever La Liga game at the Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium — who went closer going into the break ahead.



REAL MOVE TO WITHIN TWO POINTS OF SECOND-PLACED ATLETICO MADRID, WHO HAMMERED CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HOPEFULS ALAVES 4-0 ON SATURDAY

Zidane junior had to be alert to stop Damian Musto from glancing home a header nine minutes before the break, while Avila punched the ground in frustration in first half stoppage time after flashing a power shot over from the edge of the box.

HEARTBROKEN HUESCA

Real continued to disappoint in the second half but took the lead just after the hour mark thanks to Dani Ceballos, who bundled home the second after Gareth Bale's beautiful cross was headed back across goal by Benzema.

Bale then missed a glorious opportunity to put the game beyond Huesca when he somehow

put Alvaro Odriozola's low cross over the bar from just yards out. Huesca pounced on that awful miss to draw level when Xabier Etxeita powered home Moi Gomez's cross from a short corner. However Benzema was on hand to break Huesca hearts with his 14th league goal of the season, which gives Zidane two wins from his first two matches back in charge.



Pogba has big part to play at Utd: Ole

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer says Paul Pogba has a "big, big part" to play at Old Trafford despite speculation linking the French World Cup winner with a move to Real Madrid. Real boss Zinedine Zidane is expected to be busy in the summer transfer market as he tries to reinvigorate a side that crashed out of the Champions League in the last 16 and are lagging 12 points behind leaders Barcelona in La Liga.

United midfielder Pogba last week described Madrid as a "dream club for every player" while on international duty with France and Zidane on Saturday hailed him as "a player who knows how to do everything".

But Solskjaer is determined that Pogba, one of the world's most marketable players, will not be a part of Zidane's rebuilding plans and

believes the midfielder simply gave a straight answer to a question.

"I don't like to talk about other teams' players," the Norwegian said ahead of his side's Premier League match against Wolves on Tuesday. "That is one of the challenges of the international break."

"Players are available all the time and it's a different environment and it's more of a general talk."

"Paul is a very nice and polite man and he answered a general question. Of course, Zidane is an icon in France. Zidane is a fantastic manager and he used to be a fantastic player and I played against him."

"So Paul has politely answered that question. But he is happy here. He is going to be a big, big part of things here."

"I have always said that you would like to build your team around him and that has not changed at all."



SRIKANTH HEADS TO MALAYSIA AFTER INDIA OPEN HIGH

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

A strong finish at the India Open will hold him in good stead when Kidambi Srikanth yet again strives to end his long title drought at the \$ 700,000 Malaysia Open, beginning here on Tuesday.

Srikanth, who last won a title at the 2017 French Open, came close to ending the lean patch when he reached the finals of the India Open but Denmark's Viktor Axelsen thwarted his challenge on Sunday.

Despite the loss, it was a good week for the 26-year-old as he quelled the challenge of one opponent after another on way to his first summit clash of a BWF world tour event in 17 months.

On Wednesday, Srikanth will begin his campaign against a qualifier, following the withdrawal of Malaysian legend Lee Chong Wei, who was supposed to play his first event after recovering from nose cancer.

"I'm just happy how it has been last week. I just want to take it the way it comes. I know I was trailing in most of the matches but somehow I wanted this kind of momentum. I wanted these kind of wins and want to continue this form now," Srikanth said after the final on Sunday.

Olympic silver medalist P V Sindhu too was on course for a title win before she blew a four game points to lose the semifinal against He Bingjiao of China last Saturday.

The fifth seeded Indian will cross swords with Japan's

Aya Ohori in the opening round of the BWF World Tour Super 750. She is likely to get a chance to avenge her first-round loss at the All England Championship against Sung Ji Hyun of Korea, who she is expected to face in the second round.

Indonesia Masters champion Saina Nehwal, who had battled pain after developing pancreas infection en route the All England Champion quarter-finals, will look for a good outing after skipping the Swiss Open and India Open. The eighth seeded Indian will face Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in the first round.

Among others, H S Prannoy will look to continue his promising show after regaining some form at the India Open where he reached the quarterfinals. He will square off against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus.

Sameer Verma will also look to snap his run of early exits this year but it will be easier said than done as he faces world No 2 Shi Yuqi of China.

Men's doubles pair Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy, the only Indian pair to reach the semifinals at New Delhi last week, will face seventh seed Chinese pair of Han Chengkai and Zhou Haodong in the first round, while Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will take on Korean pair of Baek Ha Na and Kim Hye Rin.

Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki will meet Ireland's Sam Magee and Chloe Magee in their opener.

Mbappe kills off Toulouse resistance

AFP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe fired Paris Saint-Germain to their eighth straight Ligue 1 win with a stunning goal that earned the champions a 1-0 victory at Toulouse on Sunday and kept them miles clear at the top of the league.

The 20-year-old World Cup winner crashed home his 27th league goal of the season, his seventh in as many league games, with 16 minutes left as he continues to shine in the absence of the injured duo Neymar and Edinson Cavani.

"We had to wait, be patient and in the end we won with Kylian's speed," said PSG skipper Marquinhos.



Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring against Toulouse during Ligue 1 clash

"It brought a great deal of joy to our fans, I'm sure of that."

PSG now have 80 points, 20 ahead of second placed Lille with a game in hand to boot.

Coach Thomas Tuchel said he was delighted that the runaway leaders have not been tempted to take their foot off the gas.

"Many of our players were away in the international break and there was a bit of fatigue in some of them," said the German.

"It could have been tempting to relax, especially with the lead we have in the league, but nobody does it and I like that."

Mbappe's goal was the

highlight of a dull game which was otherwise lit up by a cheeky PSG fan sneaking onto the pitch to snap a selfie with the striker.

The video assistant referee system ruled out Marquinhos' tap-in just before half-time after Mbappe was judged offside, and the runaway league leaders threatened little other than that.

However they maintain their huge gap on second-placed Lille, who earlier on Sunday scored three quickfire second-half goals to come back from 2-0 and snatch a vital win that kept them firm favourites for direct qualification for the Champions League.

Pep believes pressure will bring out best in Man City players

AFP ■ LONDON

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola believes the pressure of needing to win every one of their remaining Premier League matches to finish ahead of Liverpool will boost their quadruple bid.

City, with the League Cup already in the bag, are chasing an unprecedented clean sweep, with the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup also in their sights. They can return to the top of the table if they win their game in hand against struggling Cardiff on Wednesday.

City play an out-of-sorts Tottenham in the Champions League quarter-finals next week and Brighton in the FA Cup semi-finals on Saturday.

Liverpool, seeking their first English top-flight title since 1990, beat Spurs in a dramatic finish on Sunday to restore their two-point lead.

"For the semi-final and for the Champions League, being in the position in the Premier League where you know if you don't win you are going to lose the Premier League, maybe that's going to help us for the other competitions," said

Guardiola. "If you are 10 points in front you can maybe be a little more selective."

"But now there's no other option, we don't have any other choice, so every game we have to win, if not you drop that competition."

"So that's why sometimes to play with that pressure is nice, it's necessary to get the best out of ourselves." Guardiola is bidding to add a second Premier League title to go with the three he won in Germany and three in Spain with Bayern Munich and Barcelona.



Finch sounds WC warning as Aus confidence rockets

AFP ■ DUBAI

Captain Aaron Finch warned Australia will embark on their World Cup defence next month with confidence riding high after completing an ODI sweep against Pakistan on Sunday hot on the heels of a series victory in India.

Written off after a torrid 15 months which saw Australia win just three of 18 one-day internationals, Finch led the 2015 World Cup winners from 2-0 down last month to beat Virat Kohli's formidable side 3-2, Australia's first series win in India since 2009.

They then romped to a 5-0 rout of a depleted Pakistan who rested six top players for the series played in the United Arab Emirates, including regular captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, ahead of the World Cup.

"We'll go to the World Cup with a lot of confidence now, even after a lot of people wrote us off," said Finch who was declared man of the series for his 451 runs including two hundreds



Aaron Finch poses with the trophy after Australia beat Pak in final ODI to win five match series 5-0

and two fifties.

"Potentially we had a real focus coming here and that was our last hit-out before the World Cup so we wanted to go into that tournament with a lot of momentum," he said after inflicting a fourth whitewash on Pakistan in a bilateral series.

Winners of 2015 World Cup at home, Australia had endured a miserable time in limited-overs cricket since last year's ball-tampering controversy in South Africa.

TOUGH SELECTION CALLS

Finch admitted the potential return of Warner, who has been in top form in the Indian Premier League, and Smith would mean some difficult choices when the World Cup squad is named later this month. "There will be some unlucky guys," said Finch of squad that could also see the return of fast bowlers Mitchell Starc, Jos Hazlewood and Pat Cummins after injury.

"Everyone who has an opportunity has played some great cricket. At the

end of the day there will be some tough calls, but its exciting for Australia at the same time because six month back a lot of people were slamming us."

"A lot of people were writing us off, not in just the one-day cricket but in all forms of the game. It's been really positive last couple of months and we have been building nicely."

Pakistan's head coach Mickey Arthur, who has also coached South Africa and Australia, said the defending champions were in good shape.

"All the final jigsaw pieces are coming together nicely. Australia look a very, very good side. They will be a threat at the World Cup," said Arthur. Arthur defended leaving out key players Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Sarfaraz, while Mohammad Hafeez was missing injured. "All we can do is prepare as best we can," he said.

"We got on the road in September last year for the Asia Cup and then went to South Africa and then had the Pakistan Super League so we had to rest them."

India finish with 16 Gold medals at Asian Airgun C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian shooters continued their dominance claiming five Gold medals on the final day of the Asian Airgun Championships to sign off with a total of 25 medals in Taoyuan, Taipei.

India finished with 16 Gold, five Silver and four Bronze. On the last day of the competition, Yash Vardhan and Shreya Agrawal bagged three Gold medals each.

Yash finished on top in 10m Air Rifle men's junior event. He then clinched the yellow metal in Team competition with his partners — Keval Prajapati and Aishwary Tomar.

Yash scored 249.5, while Keval and Aishwary shot 247.3 and 226.1 for Silver and Bronze respectively.

Earlier Vardhan and Shreya combined to win the Mixed Team Rifle junior event.

Shreya won the Gold in the 10m Air Rifle women's junior event. She also won the Team Gold along with Mehuli Ghosh and Kavi Chakkaravarthy.

Shreya's Gold winning 24-shots ended on an impressive 252.5, while Mehuli settled for individual Bronze with an effort of 228.3. Kavi was fourth.

Indian shooting's next assignment is scheduled at Al Ain, UAE where the ISSF Shotgun World Cup stage two commences on April 5.

LEADERBOARD

RUNS	254	David Warner (SRH)
WICKETS	6	Imran Tahir (CSK)
6S	174	
4S	385	

We win as a team and we lose as a team. If we win the smaller moments in T20s we will do well — AJINKYA RAHANE



Gayle-less Kings manage 166-9 against Delhi

The lack of batting depth in hosts' line up was thoroughly exposed as KXIP just managed 37 off the final 5 overs, while losing five wickets



PTI ■ MOHALI

Chris Gayle's absence at the top of the order did have an impact as Kings XI Punjab could only manage a par-score of 166 for 9 against Delhi Capitals in an IPL encounter here on Monday.

With the 'Universe Boss' ruled out due to back injury (lat strain), KXIP batsmen despite being good at times could never really take the Delhi bowling apart.

Save David Miller (43 off 30 balls) and Sarfaraz Khan (39 off 29 balls), other batsmen didn't have a good day against the trio of Chris Morris *(3/30), Kagiso Rabada (2/32) and young Sandeep Lamichhane (2/27 in 4 overs).



Morris was the pick of the bowlers, removing KXIP's last-match hero KL Rahul (15) with an inswinger as he played across the line.

Sam Curran (20, 10 balls) promoted up the order did hit a couple of lusty blows but Lamichhane

got him with a flipper. Mayank Agarwal went for a non-existent single and couldn't beat Shikhar Dhawan's direct throw at the non-striker's end.

Miller and Sarfaraz however didn't get bogged down as they added 62 in 6.4 overs carrying out a

recovery process from 58 for three.

While Miller attacked Lamichhane hitting him for a six over long-on, Sarfaraz played his now patent "closed eyes scoop shot" over keeper's head.

But lamichhane had the last laugh as he edged

one to Rishabh Pant behind the stumps while Miller offer the Capitals skipper an easy skier trying to hit Morris out of the park.

In the end, Madeep Singh (29 no off 21 balls) took the team past 160-run mark.

Up Next

Royals and Challengers eye first win

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2

RR vs RCB

JAIPUR

TUESDAY | 8:00 PM

HEAD TO HEAD

M 18

RR 8

RCB 8

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, the only two teams yet to win a game in the 2019 IPL, will be desperate to outdo each other in a clash of strugglers at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium here on Tuesday.

Both teams have been more than disappointing thus far in the IPL and need a win to revive their respective campaigns.

Royals have failed to tighten the screws when it mattered most. In the all three matches, they were in a good position but could not grab the moments, losing to Kings XI Punjab, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Chennai Super Kings respectively.

In Chennai on Sunday, Royals had CSK reeling at 27 for three before skipper M S Dhoni smashed an unbeaten 75 off 46 balls to bail the hosts out of trouble and eventually win the game by eight runs.

Royals, who boast of star players such as Steve Smith and Ben Stokes, have failed to live up to the expectations.

In the first match against Kings XI Punjab, Royals' bowlers allowed the visitors to some vital runs in death overs and later the batsmen disappointed after being put on victory course by Rahane and Jos Buttler.

The same story has as batting and bowling units have failed to perform in tandem.

The likes of Sanju Samson, who had hit first ton of this IPL, Buttler and Rahane have been good. Rahul Tripathi also looked impressive during his 39 against CSK but Smith and Stokes are yet to set the tournament on fire.

The hosts face an equally hun-



LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

► Rajasthan Royals defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 30 runs at Jaipur

► Rajasthan Royals beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 19 runs at Bangalore

FOR THE RECORD

► Prayas Ray Barman, aged 16 years and 157 days, is the youngest player to appear in IPL. He made his debut for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the last match after playing just four Twenty-20 matches.

► Jaydev Unadkat who claimed 148 wickets in 118 innings of 119 matches, needs just two wickets to become 10th Indian and 72nd bowler overall to take 150 wickets in Twenty-20 cricket. **Faisal Features**

gry outfit in RCB, who too are looking to redeem themselves. Their skipper Virat Kohli had conceded that the defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday afternoon was "one of their worst losses".

"We just need our players to put up a better challenge up front. There are still 11 games to go. The pitch will be nice in Jaipur against the Royals. We need to bring our A-game, like we did against Mumbai and play with that kind of intensity," said Kohli after RCB's third loss in a row.

The visitors certainly have the resources in their ranks to beat

Royals. RCB have a destructive batting order comprising Kohli, AB de Villiers, Parthiv Patel, Moeen Ali and Shimron Hetmyer, yet their batting failed miserably in two out of the three games.

Both teams will also have to deal with the soaring heat in the Pink City with temperatures nearing 40 degrees celsius.

Wanted p'ship after early wickets: Mahi

FIANS ■ CHENNAI

Coming in to bat at 27/3, the stage was set for a typical MS Dhoni innings at the Chepauk Stadium and the CSK skipper did not disappoint as he hit a patient 75 off 46 balls to help the team put on 175 in their 20 overs. The end result was a 8-run win for the lions in their den.

Speaking after the game on Sunday, the 'Man of the Match' Dhoni once again looked at the team, rather than focusing on his own innings. Dhoni also added that he kept the dew in mind while planning his innings. Coming in, Dhoni said his first thought was to stop the fall of wickets and build a partnership.

"We wanted to get a partnership going — that was needed. We knew there was some dew on the field. We knew it would get easier as the game progresses. We bat quite deep until 9 (Mitchell Santner). We could accelerate in the last few overs, and we wanted to get a partnership going at that time," he said.



Dwayne Bravo congratulates Mahendra Singh Dhoni after Chennai Super Kings completes his half century against Rajasthan Royals during IPL clash on Sunday

Commenting on giving Santner a go against the Rajasthan Royals, Dhoni said: "We have a stable XI and there were a lot less left-handers in the opposition, so we gave Mitch Santner a go. It isn't that important to make changes if not necessary. As the tournament progresses everyone will get more chances."

Dwayne Bravo might have conceded 19 runs from the 18th over of the RR innings, but Dhoni still showed faith in the West Indian all-rounder and handed him the ball with the team needing 12 off the last over. Dhoni said that with every game the bowlers will only get better at execution.

"As the tournament progresses, bowlers start executing their plans much better. Initially I thought we would look at how the fast bowlers would bowl so we could bring in the spinners. Jadeja and Santner found it hard to grip the ball. Irrespective of the results, it is important to cut the boundaries and it is difficult for the fast bowlers to execute. It's better to keep hitting the same mark," he explained.



Imran Tahir and Mahendra Singh Dhoni communicate during CSK's game against Rajasthan ICC

Dhoni unreal as captain: Tahir

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Veteran spinner Imran Tahir described Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni as "unreal", saying even without talking much he has the capability to lift the team up.

"The way he carries himself is just unreal. He won't say much but he knows how to lift the team up. He is a great leader and a great human being," Tahir said at the post-match press conference after Chennai beat Rajasthan by 8 runs on Sunday.

The South African also credited Dhoni for living up to his reputation

of being one of the best finishers in the world and a good tactician.

"You know Dhoni plays really well in these situations because like (Dwayne) Bravo he's done this so many times, and that's why he's called Mr Cool. He works hard on his game plan. Even in practice sessions, he helps his team-mates. And we respect that."

"I think as a bowling group we did really well. Even while batting, Mahi bhai played unbelievably well and set the tone for us. I'm just really happy with whatever we did as a team," he told reporters after the match.

Comeback won't be easy after losing 4-5 games: Stokes

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Ben Stokes has said that his team can't afford to lose another game after suffering three consecutive defeats in the IPL. Stokes said there is no point in looking back and focus on the upcoming games because if they lose the next two, bouncing back could be beyond Royals' reach.

"Our first three games we got ourselves into a real good position to win All three, and we know it is just (about) winning those crucial moments. (This game) it was the last over and unfortunately we couldn't cross the line," Stokes said at the post-match press conference after the eight-run loss.



"There is always been one point in the three games where we haven't been a better team. Losing the first three games you probably would say we can't (take positives), but we are trying to and there is no point in looking back...Because if we lose 4-5, it's going to be really tough to come back from that," he said.

Stokes also hailed CSK captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni saying there was a lot to learn from him. Dhoni smashed an unbeaten 75 to bail his team out of trouble from 27 for three.

"Hindsight is a wonderful thing, if you look back at it like that. He just takes it deep as he possibly can. He's a great person to learn from and watch how he goes about his innings whether it's setting a total or chasing a total."

"Sometimes you got to hold your hand up and say the best players in the world can do that. He certainly showed that tonight."

Paying tribute to Dhoni's finishing skills, the Englishman said he is one of the greatest finishers to have graced the game and the Royals tried to attack him but he got reprieves which could have been a turning point.

"Especially when he comes in early, every team knows what he's going to try and do to start with and we tried to attack him. Getting him out was our main objective. There was a dropped catch which you can't blame anyone for — that happens — and the ball hitting the stumps and the bails not coming off."

Sawhney takes charge as ICC Chief Executive

PTI ■ DUBAI

Media professional Manu Sawhney on Monday took charge as Chief Executive of the International Cricket Council and will work alongside Dave Richardson, who will step down after the World Cup in July.

Former ESPN Star Sports MD Sawhney has already been working alongside outgoing Chief Executive Richardson for the last six weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

Richardson will remain with the ICC until July as originally planned to oversee the delivery of the World Cup in the United Kingdom. Sawhney was appointed in January.

"I am absolutely delighted to be taking over the reins from David, who has steered the sport so capably over the last seven years. I am excited by the opportunities ahead and I am looking forward to working in partnership with our Members, partners and staff to ambitiously accelerate the global growth of the game," said Sawhney.



INDIA RETAIN TEST C'SHIP FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

PTI ■ DUBAI

India retained the ICC Test Championship Mace and won the purse of \$ 1 million for a third year running after a memorable season that saw them winning their maiden series in Australia.

India finished at the top of the ICC Test team rankings on the cut-off date of April 1 while New Zealand have ensured second place, the world body said in a statement on Monday.

"Retaining the ICC Test Championship Mace once again is something we are all really proud of. Our team has been doing well across formats but it gives us extra pleasure to come out on top of the Test rankings," India captain Virat Kohli said reiterating his love for Test cricket.

"We all know of the importance of Test cricket and of how only the best can prosper in the format," he added.



A top place finish was never in doubt for India, while New Zealand's consistent performances over the past year saw them climb from third position, needing them to only avoid losing the home series against Bangladesh last month to finish at the same position.

The Kane Williamson-led side, who also had the satisfaction of seeing their captain get the ICC Spirit of Cricket award for 2018, earned \$ 500,000 after finishing with 108 points, eight behind India.

South Africa, who had finished second the previous two times, will now get a prize money of \$ 200,000 for finishing third with 105 points while Australia who edged out England on decimal points at 104 points bag \$100,000.

"Our team has a lot of depth and I am sure this will stand us in good stead once the ICC World Test

Championship commences later this year. That is again something we are really looking forward to as it adds more context to Test match cricket," Kohli said.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said it is an "awesome" achievement for his side to finish second in the ICC Test Team Rankings "...As a team we should be very proud. It's come off the back of a lot of hard work and perseverance; not just by the eleven guys on the field, but the entire squad and support staff."

"It's been especially pleasing to see the consistency we've shown in the longest form of the game over a decent period of time."

Nine Test nations will compete across 27 series and 71 Test matches to reach the World Test Championship Final in 2021 where the champions will be crowned.