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BHOPAL, THURSDAY APRIL 25, 2019; PAGES 12+4 ₹1.50



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## SC ropes in CBI, IB, police

Agencies asked to unravel alleged conspiracy against CJI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday roped in CBI, Intelligence Bureau and Delhi Police to go into the larger conspiracy behind the attempt to "frame" Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi in a sexual harassment case. The court emphasised that it will go to the root of the alleged conspiracy and the sensational claims made by a lawyer that he was offered bribe to "fix" the CJI.

A three-judge Special Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said if fixers continue to work and manipulate the judiciary as claimed, neither this institution nor any of "us" will survive.

The Bench, also comprising justices RF Nariman and Deepak Gupta, asked lawyer Utsav Singh Bains, who has made claims of a larger conspiracy, to file another affidavit by Thursday morning after he claimed that he has some more "incriminating evidence".

The Bench said it will take up the matter for hearing

on Thursday. "We will inquire and go to the root of alleged claims of fixers at work and manipulating the judiciary. If they continue to work then none of us will survive... Fixing has no role to play in the system. We will inquire and take it to the logical end," it said.

Earlier in the day, the apex court directed chiefs of the CBI, IB and Delhi Police to appear and meet in chambers the three judges who are hearing his claim that there was a larger conspiracy to frame the CJI.

After meeting the directors of the CBI and the IB, and the Delhi Police Commissioner, the Bench reassembled at 3 pm to hear the matter at length.

The court turned down a request by Attorney General KK Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to order a court-monitored SIT probe into the matter, saying the court was not venturing into any enquiry at this moment.

The Bench also clarified that there is no connection



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between the hearing of Bains' claims of larger conspiracy and the in-house inquiry ordered into the sexual harassment allegations against the CJI.

"It is not an enquiry. We are

meeting these officers in secret. We don't want any evidence to be disclosed," the Bench said. It had asked the three officers to meet the judges in chamber at 12.30 pm.

At the outset Bains, who

has filed an affidavit in the top court claiming a larger conspiracy of alleged fixers to frame the CJI on allegations of sexual harassment, placed before the Bench material to substantiate his claims.

The Bench after perusing the material, placed by him in a sealed cover, said "very disturbing" facts have emerged in the matter.

"Can you call some responsible officers from the CBI, preferably the director? Can you call him to meet us in our chambers?" Justice Mishra asked Venugopal.

He replied in the affirmative and referred to the April 20 Facebook post of Bains in which he had claimed that there was a larger conspiracy by some people to fix verdicts of the Supreme Court and malign the office of the CJI.

Mehta told the Bench that he was very disturbed with the allegations against the CJI as well as claims made by the lawyer and said they concern the judiciary in the country.

## Mamata sends me sweets, says PM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a non-political interview on Wednesday Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed that notwithstanding political rivalries West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee used to send him

Bengali sweets and his favourite 'Kurta-Pyjama' from Kolkata.

In an interaction with film star Akshay Kumar, the Prime Minister detailed some interesting anecdotes of his life saying he has never been nervous while speaking at international fora. Modi said so when Kumar asked him whether he was nervous when he first spoke in the United Nations after taking over as Prime Minister.

Pointing out that contrary to public perception there is good bonhomie among political leaders and they keep good relations with each other, Modi said Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazid used to send her Bengali sweets and when Mamataji (West Bengal Chief Minister) came to know about it she would also send him Bengali sweets. The Prime Minister said TMC chief would also send him a set of 'kurta-Pyjama' each year from Kolkata. Detailing some of his habits, he said he is habitual of taking tea without sugar at 5 am and then in the evening at 6 pm under open sky. "But that is not possible in his South Block office," he said.

Asked what would he want if he gets the magical lamp 'Aaladeen-ka-chirag', the Prime Minister said there was nothing like this exists as the concept has come from outside. Nevertheless, he said he would wish that all the people in the country be instilled with a notion that hard-work makes everything possible. This is what our ancient wisdom has bequeathed to us, he said.

Relating an interesting incident where he hit out at the 'double-faced' practices of 'Samajwadi', the Prime Minister said once when he came out of the Pune Railway station and was walking down the road, a three-wheeler was slowly moving by his side. After a distance he stopped and asked the 'Rikshaw wala' why he was following him. To his surprise, the three-wheeler driver quizzed him "Are you a Samajwadi?" To that Modi asked "what makes you say so?"

"Sir, all Samajwadis walk a distance for a while before stepping into a rickshaw as they do not want public to see that they are taking to rickshaw comfort", Modi said and laughed suggesting that there was a gap between the preaching and practice of 'Samajwadis' in the country.

While answering the actor's answer, Modi also quipped about his wife and columnist Twinkle Khanna's views saying she takes her anger against (me) that would have balanced Kumar's family life. "That way I am doing a favour to you," said a smiling Modi. "I keep tabs on social media to know what is happening in the world. I also keep an eye on your and Twinkle Khanna's Twitter accounts."

The way she vents her anger against me, your family life must be quite peaceful. She would take out all the anger against me. You must be at peace. In a way, I feel I have helped you, especially in Twinkleji's case," Modi told Kumar in Hindi.

## MP politicians unfazed despite EC's cracking down

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Even after the Election Commission of India cracking down heavily on the politicians over loose comments, especially women leaders, politicians in Madhya Pradesh seem unfazed.

Two senior leaders from BJP and Congress were engaged in below the belt remarks on women.

Former BJP State head and the Khandwa candidate Nandkumar Singh Chauhan who made headlines calling scribes Pakistanis for asking uncomfortable questions and also said that Rahul Gandhi could say he was bringing a machine where he would put a man form one side and a woman would come out of the other.

Chauhan when accosted by the media over his remarks crossed the line even further. "There are women who give birth to kids every week and produce 52 babies every year," said the senior BJP leader who has stirred controversy with his bizarre remarks in the past as well.

Another senior leader, former Leader of Opposition of Congress Ajay Singh while comparing his family's works with that of his opponent--BJP's Reeti Pathak also crossed the line.

"Unko aap log ajma chuke, thik maal nahin tha (You people have tried her and she wasn't a good choice), Singh had said in Baghelkhandi.

Continued on Page 4

## NIA court rejects plea to stop Pragya from fighting poll

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major relief to Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, a Special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court here on Wednesday rejected a plea seeking to restrain her from contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Bhopal, even as it upbraided the investigating agency for mentioning in its response to the plea that it had given a "clean chit" to Sadhvi Pragya in the case.

Hearing an application filed by Nisar Ahmed Sayyad Bilal, father of one of the victims in the 2008 Malegaon blasts, seeking to restrain Sadhvi Pragya from contesting the Lok Sabha polls, Special Judge VS Padalkar noted: "In ongoing elections this court does not have any legal powers to prohibit anyone from contesting elections; it is job of electoral officers to decide. This court can't stop the accused number one (Pragya Singh Thakur) from contesting elections. This application is negated".

While dismissing Bilal's application, the special court did not mince words when it expressed its displeasure over the NIA's mention of "clean chit" being given to Sadhvi Pragya in its reply to the plea seeking a bar on her contesting the Lok Sabha polls.

"There was no need to mention in your reply that

you have given clean chit to Sadhvi Pragya Thakur. Applicant did not ask about it.

Keep in mind that the court has framed charges against her because it found some substance in allegations made against her," Judge Padalkar observed.

Sadhvi Pragya is one of the seven accused who are being tried by Special Court under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and various other sections of the IPC for their alleged involvement in the 2008 Malegaon blasts.

On October 30, 2018, the special court in Mumbai had framed charges against Sadhvi Pragya, Lt Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit and five other accused in the 2008 Malegaon case.



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ HOOGHLY/BURDWAN

There seemed no political "hangover" of gifts being exchanged between Narendra Modi and Mamata Banerjee as the duo pounced on each other from public rallies hours after a televised interview of the Prime Minister highlighted Mamata's 'sweet diplomacy' with Modi. In the interview, the PM said he often received gifts like sweet and apparel from his stated arch rival, the Bengal Chief Minister.

"Yes I send him sweets but I will not let him take votes," Mamata told a huge rally at Serampore in Hooghly even as the Opposition CPI(M) and the Congress promptly went to town "exposing the nexus between the BJP and the TMC so as to divide the votes in order to establish a pro-rich and anti-working class Government in Delhi".



The PM in an interview to film star Akshay Kumar conceded having received sweet and apparel from Mamata at the cost of affecting electoral prospects. "It may affect me during elections but I can admit that Mamata still gifts me kurta," said the PM, adding that when the Chief Minister heard that "Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina gifted me Bengali sweets, she also started sending me the same."

But before the Opposition could exploit the statement, particularly among the Mamata's minority voters, the Chief Minister hit out at the

## Udit Raj quits BJP, joins Cong, says Modi Govt anti-Dalit

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A day after being denied party ticket and outwitted by the poll managers of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the sitting Member of parliament (MP) from the North West Delhi seat, Udit Raj deserted the saffron party and joined Congress. He termed the BJP and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "anti-Dalit".

Launching a blistering attack on the BJP leadership, the disgruntled Udit slammed his former party saying it wants 'Dalit votes' but not a leader from the community who speaks his mind. The BJP has replaced Udit from the North West Lok Sabha constituency with Punjabi Sufi singer Hans Raj Hans.

High drama had unfolded on Tuesday the last day of filing of nomination for Delhi's seven LS seats that go to the polls on May 12. Udit waited for some communication from the BJP and in the process kept changing goal posts.

He had threatened to file his nomination as an Independent candidate on Tuesday if the BJP denied him the party ticket, but did not do so. He removed the prefix 'Chowkidar' from his twitter handle in the afternoon, only to add it again by Tuesday evening.

## Wife smothered Rohit with pillow: Cops

Delhi Police arrests Apoorva, says she confessed to killing husband

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday arrested wife of Rohit Shekhar Tiwari for allegedly killing him last week. Citing a turbulent and unhappy marriage as the motive behind the murder, police said Apoorva strangled her husband Rohit, the son of the late veteran politician ND Tiwari and choked him with a pillow following a heated argument.

Apoorva was produced in Delhi's Saket Court on Monday where she was sent to two days police custody. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Deepak Sherawat allowed inter-

rogation of Apoorva after the police sought her 3-day custody.

Rohit, 40, was smothered to death on the intervening night of April 15 and 16, an autopsy report said. Apoorva, a lawyer by profession, was questioned by police for last three days. Rohit was earlier believed to have died of a cardiac arrest but the autopsy report by the forensic experts of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), turned the

case on its head. The autopsy said the cause of death in this case is asphyxia as a result of strangulation and smothering and also stated that the death occurred within two hours of his last meal around 11 pm.

"Rohit had gone to Kathgodam in Uttarakhand to vote on April 10 and returned on the night of April 16. He was in an inebriated state when he returned home. During investigation it was

also revealed that on way back to Delhi he had been drinking all the way along with a woman relative," said Rajeev Ranjan, Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch. "The couple had a fight over a relative. Rohit was in inebriated state and was not in a condition to resist," said Additional CP.

"She has confessed. As of now, from the fact and circumstances, it seems the killing was not planned. The background was there that they had a turbulent marriage and Rohit and his family were thinking of separation.

After interrogation, it was found that Apoorva and Rohit had a rocky marriage and were not on good term owing to their inherent contradictions," said the Additional CP adding that discrepancies were found in her statements which led police to suspect her involvement.



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# Training workshop of Gond painting kicks off



Participants at Gond painting workshop organised at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya under its popular summer series of 'Do & Learn' educational programmes, commenced the training workshop of Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh till May 1, 2019.

In this workshop, traditional Gond artists, Ram Singh Urveti and his assistant, are imparting training of this figurative and narrative visual art. On this occasion, Prof Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri, Director, IGRMS, Dilip Singh (Joint Director, IGRMS) and Participant formally inaugurated Museum's training workshop for Gond Painting of Madhya Pradesh.

On this occasion, Traditional artist, Ram Singh Urveti said that the clay houses of Gond community are

**Traditional artist, Ram Singh Urveti said that the clay houses of Gond community are centre of Gond paintings. The Gond houses are the best examples of rural primitive architecture and Gond paintings represents the traditional festivals of the community**

centre of Gond paintings. The Gond houses are the best examples of rural primitive architecture and Gond paintings represents the traditional festivals of the community.

Making mural paintings on whitewash clay walls is one of the favourite activities of women of Gond Community. With the formation of the wall, the Gond women make different design from the emerging lines, which is called

'Nohadora', the beginning of each painting.

Besides, the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya is organising the next chapter of its popular series, Curatorial Talk Show on Thursday at 4.30 pm. In this Curatorial Talk, Assistant Curator of Manav Sangrahalaya, Shri Arun Kiro will speak on 'Bhagiran: A vanishing folk theatre of the Rabhas of Assam'.

# Liquor in car: Two arrested near Bilkharia check post



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bilkharia police has seized a car transporting liquor illegally and nabbed two persons. The police recovered 61 litres of liquor worth ₹23,640 near Bilkharia check post in the night of Tuesday.

Acting on a tip off, police rushed to the spot and after stopping the car, bearing registration number MP04CV8878, found liquor inside the car. When the two inside the car were asked about the illegal liquor, they failed to provide any details and then, they were detained.

The two were identified as Deepak Thakur and Sanjay Punjabi of Chawni Pathar. The crime record of the two would be investigated. The loading of the vehicle and scheduled delivery of the liquor could not be ascertained.

The circumstantial evidences suggest that a nexus is working behind the illegal transport as the quantity of liquor transported was sched-

**The two were identified as Deepak Thakur and Sanjay Punjabi of Chawni Pathar. The crime record of the two would be investigated**

uled to be delivered but it could not materialise as the smugglers were nabbed before delivery.

The police have registered a case under section 34 (2) of the Excise Act and have started further investigation.

Police have recovered two plastic sacks in which 250 bottles of country made liquor were recovered. The car was coming from Raisen but it was not immediately confirmed.

The Police are also trying to verify the details of the seized car.

# CRISP launches Industrial training Calendar for engineering and polytechnic students



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

CRISP Bhopal has launched Industrial training Calendar for engineering and polytechnic students exclusively for summer vacation 2019. These programmes are of two weeks, three weeks and four weeks' duration.

These are designed in such manner that students will get chance to get exposure on technology related to University curriculum. Programs are useful for all branches of engineering i.e. Electrical, Electronics, Mechanical, Automobile, Civil etc.

Most of these programs will get start from May onwards. Various batches would start from May 8, 16, June 2 and 4.

Online registrations have already started in it and students can enroll it on [www.crispindia.com](http://www.crispindia.com). In addition to students of Bhopal

region, students from institutes of other states i.e. IIT BHU, NIT, Government colleges of Chhattisgarh, VIT Vellore, VIT Bhopal, SRM Chennai, Jaypee Noida, SGISTS Indore, KIT Bhuvneshwar etc has started enrolling in these Industrial training programs.

The CRISP in a statement informed that these programmes have been designed keeping in mind needs of Corporate world and more and more focus is given on practical. Almost 80 per cent time is spent on performing practical, which lead to improvement in placement. With the support of corporate world, four new labs have been stated functioning.

Three labs in Automobile fields have been established in association with M/s Eicher tractors Mandideep, M/s Volkswagen Pune and M/s TVS Chennai. These are useful for students of Mechanical,

**The CRISP in a statement informed that these programmes have been designed keeping in mind needs of Corporate world and more and more focus is given on practical**

Production and Automobile engineering. Another LN Electrical and Electronics Lab have been established in association of M/s Lucas Nuelle. It is useful for students of Electrical, Electronics and Communication engineering. Students will get chance to work on State of the Art equipments and instruments.

25 अप्रैल, 2019

## विश्व मलेरिया दिवस

EMBEDIC 2/14-23  
मच्छरदानी रोग रोकने हे.  
मलेरिया दर रोकने हे।  
-ओमवती-

EMBEDIC 2/14-23  
मच्छरदानी रोग रोकने हे.  
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-सुनील-

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-ओमवती-

मच्छरदानी रोग रोकने हे.  
मलेरिया दर रोकने हे।  
-सुनील-

**मच्छरदानी महाकल्याणी**

मलेरिया रोग मितानी है, घर-घर कीटनाशी मच्छरदानी लगाना है।

**आपकी और आपके परिवार की सुरक्षा के सरल उपाय**

<p>मच्छरदानी के भीतर ही सोयें</p>	<p>खिड़कियों एवं दरवाजों पर जाली लगायें मच्छर निरोधक क्रीम और रिपेलेंट का प्रयोग करें</p>	<p>हल्के रंग के कपड़े पहनें एवं हाथ पैरों को पूरा ढंके</p>	<p>हुर साहब कूलर, टंकी और ड्रम के पानी को खाली करें</p>	<p>आस-पास पानी को न रुकने दें</p>	<p>रोज बुखार, उल्टी और बदन दर्द होने पर चिकित्सक से सम्पर्क करें</p>
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राष्ट्रीय वैक्कर जलित रोग निवृत्तन कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत जनहित में जारी  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश**

D-11003/19



MN Patel, Field General Manager of Allahabad Bank, along with other officers felicitates customers during 155th foundation day programme of Allahabad Bank at Samanvay Bhawan in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# Tara: A lifestyle exhibition woos city shopaholics

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An exhibition of designer dresses, kurtis, saris and other accessories on display wooed the shopaholics of the city. Tara, a lifestyle exhibition, began here at Hotel Sayaji from Tuesday that concluded on Wednesday.

The two-day exhibition cum sale was all about the designer dresses, kurtis, saris, clutches and accessories. The exhibition cum sale was organised by the women entrepreneurs of the city.

Named Tara this exhibition was an offering to fashion lovers who are passionate to wear something beautiful, exclusive and unique. This was also an attempt to get the vibrant colours and Indian couture on the same stage.

The exhibition cum sale showcased a magnificent mix of contemporary fashion and more from across the State. The exhibition cum sale was a fusion of various styles of Madhya Pradesh. Some stalls displayed bagh print while some showcased chanderi and maheshwari with a western twist. The



exhibition cum sale gave shoppers ample choice of accessories, clutches and Indian wear such as saris, dresses and kurtis.

Besides, the exhibition cum sale Tara aims to capture not only the young crowd but also mid aged and aged ladies to be in the league of latest trends prevailing.

This exhibition covered all the accessories, fashion trends and other lifestyle essentials that are must in this festive season.

The exquisite variety of fabrics and colours, unique pattern creations and trend setting pieces with attention down to the minutest detail, was the highlight of the exhibition. It displayed a colourful range of designer Kurtis, Salwar Kameez, Suits, Handbags and other elegant accessories, that are sure to whet the appetite for designer wear.

# Four gamblers arrested from two places

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Crime Branch nabbed four gamblers from two different places in the State Capital for accepting bets on the ongoing IPL T20 cricket matches late in the night on Tuesday. The police recovered 3 mobile phones, one LED TV, betting slips and ₹18,300 cash from their possession. The police team conducted raids at MP Nagar and Lalghati area and nabbed two persons each from the areas.

From Roof Tree fourth floor building in MP Nagar zone 2, police nabbed a person identified as Bharat Mangwani and recovered betting slips, mobile phones and ₹10,500 and when he was quizzed, he revealed that he worked for Arman of TT Nagar and would get 10 percent on the betting booked.

The police have registered a case under section 4 of the Public Gambling Act and section 66 of IT Act.

The Second place which was raided was Hotel Moksh at Lalghati and nabbed Deepak Shivnani, Sagar Israni and Praveen Manglani. Three mobile phones, one LED TV, one set top box and ₹7,800 cash and betting receipts were recovered.

# International Shooting Federation starts D-Course

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

For shooting players, D Course has been organised by the International Shooting Federation from April 25 to 28 at the shooting academy located in the Capital city.

In this four-day event, 60 training coaches from all over the country will be trained and participated.

Director, Sports and Youth Welfare, Dr. S L Thoussen, said that the training programme is being done by the International Shooting Federation for the purpose of applying technical training program to the Academy.

Under this, Kevin Kulti of Germany; Annie Grith of Oslo, the President of Oslo, will provide technical training to the trainers in Shantgan, Pistol and Rifle, all the three games of Dante Devipat Shikshan Shooting game.

This is the first time when the D-course is being organised simultaneously in all the three shooting genres. Shri Rajiv Bhatia, Secretary, Indian Shooting Federation will be in the D-Course programme on April 26 and 27.

It is to be noted that it is an international level shooting academy. Interestingly, at the academy the equipments are provided from the International Shooting Sports Federation and players are provided with international facilities.

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# Iftekhhar Theatre Festival evokes good response

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Iftekhhar Theatre Fest is evoking a good response. It is being conducted at Ravindra Bhavan. Marking the third day of the fest, a comedy play of mid twenties Chacha Chakkan was staged here on Wednesday.

The play is a story by Imtiaz Ali Taj and it was directed by Sayed Alam. The play was presented by the artists of the theatre troupe from New Delhi.

Chacha Chakkan (1926) is a hilarious comedy of plays for children with themes of satire and humour. Chacha Chakkan is considered the funniest character in Urdu drama. Chakkan is said to be based on Jerome K. Jerome's character Uncle Podger.

The play revolves around Chacha Chakkan, a forty-five-year-old gentleman, his family, and the quirky misadventures that emerge from his penchant for interfering in household affairs.

four hours in Chacha's life from three stories of the series: "Talaash", "Teemaardaari", and "Dhoban Ko Kapde Diye". The hilarious play was a satire on society.

The character Chacha Chakkan is an entirely different man present on this planet. He loves to interfere in each and every thing. He is lovable but at the same time he is annoying. All the comedy stories were beautifully making audience laugh their hearts out.

The play was much enjoyed by the audiences. Somewhere down the line it brought a huge smile on their faces as they burst out laughing at comical situations, it also somewhere told about the ill-fated situation of a common man. Sensible acting skills along with a good presentation, the play received much appreciation of the audiences.

The comedy play beautifully describes the social evils through the play. It was performed with much intelligence.

# Sadhvi Pragya's residence gets extra security

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Security has been beefed up to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Pragya Singh Thakur's local residence in Bhopal on Wednesday.

The security cover would be led by a CSP rank officer and Thakur's safety would be taken care of by 22 armed police personnel and a metal detector has also been installed at Thakur's residence.

Every person entering the residence based in Rivera Town in the city would have to go through frisking. Official sources also claimed that the move has come following an alert from security agencies.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath replying to the media query on this, claimed that it was only done to ensure that the BJP candidate does not blame the State government on security cover in case any untoward incident takes place.

On being asked whether it was done on the basis of any intelligence input, Nath said he was not aware of this and police officer could answer this.

Notably, a man was arrested by the police on Tuesday after he showed black flags to the sadhvi during her procession taken out before filing nomination papers and was also beaten up by the BJP workers.

With large number of women coming to meet the BJP candidate, some women police personnel too have been deployed at her residence.

The sadhvi could also Z plus security cover shortly, said sources.

**Every person entering the residence based in Rivera Town in the city would have to go through frisking. Official sources also claimed that the move has come following an alert from security agencies**

# Programme held in memory of Dr Babu Rao Gujrar

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In memory of Dr. Babu Rao Gujrar, a programme was organised by Smriti Babu Rao in Dushyant Kumar Memorial Manuscript Museum. Various personality traits of Baburao were discussed on this occasion.

Initially, the museum director Rajurkar Raj told that Babu Rao was an integral part of Museum. Baburao's presence is still felt in one of the museum mammals. Remembering Baburao, the museum patron, Shri Ramrao Vamankar said that Baburao used to live in the role of a saint in the true sense. He continued working as a museum and the right hand of Rajurkar. Not only for the museum, but also the presence of Dr. Babu Rao in the entire city is known today, he added.

Recalling Babu Rao, Shailendra shared a secret that he also wanted to contest the election of the Ward Councilor, Ghanshyam Maithil Amrit told that Baburao used to practice wrestling by going to the exer-

**All the speakers remembered his work and his contribution as well**

Presiding over the function, Mahesh Saxena said that Baburao was friendly and was a very serious person. The Chief Guest Ashok Nirmal said that Baburao had a different kind of creativity.

Special guest Mamta Tiwari said that Baburao's habit was made to reach his work at any cost. He used to put himself in trouble, but he would have done the work.

All the speakers remembered his work and his contribution as well. A piets neet was also held on the occasion.

On this occasion, Rajendra Sharma letter, Ramvallabh Acharya, Rajshree Rawat, Ramesh Nand, Gokul Soni etc. remembered Baburao. Finally, Vice President Vipin Bihari Vajpayee expressed gratitude.



Congress senior leader and party's candidate for Bhopal Lok Sabha seat, Digvijaya Singh, meets Aamli Shaikh Taher Bhai and other Community members of Dawoodi Bohra Community at the office complex of Anjuman-e-Mohammadi Dawoodi Bohra Jamaat during an election campaign in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# 20-year-old girl commits suicide at Kiran Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Annoyed over taking mobile phone by her mother, a 20-year-old girl committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at Kiran Nagar under Piplani police station area on Tuesday.

Police said that the deceased Urvashi was found hanging and was rushed to nearby hospital where she was declared dead. The deceased was pursuing BCA from private college and was eldest among three siblings.

In the initial investigation police found that on Tuesday evening Urvashi's mother reprimanded her after her for talking for long on mobile phone and took away her phone and went outside house which irritated Urvashi and she

deceased used to remain depressed and was frequently teased by friends and on teasing he would warn of committing suicide.

The body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation and a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation.

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old man committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at Shankracharya Nagar under Bajaria police station area on Tuesday. Deceased identified as Shahbaz Khan was found hanging by his house owner and other tenants and later he was declared dead when taken to hospital.

Police found that the

**THE DECEASED WAS PURSUING BCA FROM PRIVATE COLLEGE AND WAS ELDEST AMONG THREE SIBLINGS**

## RTI revelation

### About ₹1.58 cr spent on Kamal Nath and three of his top bureaucrats' stay in Switzerland

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

About ₹1.58 crore was spent for making arrangements for the stay of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath and three of his top bureaucrats in Switzerland, among other expenses, according to RTI documents.

In a note sheet, a copy of which was received in response to the RTI application filed by anti-corruption activist Ajay Dubey, necessary approval for expenditure of nearly Rs 1.58 crore on the trip, including that on a session on Madhya Pradesh, was sought on January 5.

Kamal Nath and Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary SR Mohanty, Principal Secretary to the chief minister Ashok Barnwal and Principal Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion of the state government, Mohammed Suleman participated in the World Economic Forum, 2019

in Davos, Switzerland held in January, it said.

The delegation of Madhya Pradesh government participated in the exclusive business lounge in Davos to co-brand the state along with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, government of India, the RTI documents said.

"The dedicated team members of the delegation in collaboration with 'Invest India' will closely interact with potential investors, academia, policy makers, etc. To highlight the state as a highly potential investment destination in central India so as to get them attracted for making investments in various sectors in Madhya Pradesh," the state government had defined as the purpose of the visit.

It said if the visit is not undertaken then Madhya Pradesh "may lose opportunities of investment promotion to get investments in the state."

"Further, it is clarified that

a representative of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Madhya Pradesh is also accompanying the delegation and the financial sanction of Rs 1,57,85,000 accorded for the above visit to Davos, also covers the cost of air tickets, accommodation, etc. Of the CII representative," an order said.

Giving the break up, it said Rs 30 lakh was paid for air ticket and visa expenses for Davos, Rs 45 lakh for hotel (stay and meeting room), Rs 9.5 lakh on local conveyance, Rs two lakh for VIP lounge access at Zurich airport, ₹ 50,000 on travel insurance and ₹ 40 lakh on DIPP lounge participation charges and promotional material.

A sum of Rs 1.5 lakh was the Dearness Allowance (DA) at the rate of USD 100 per day and ₹ 15 lakh was for miscellaneous expenses, the RTI reply said. An amount of ₹14.35 lakh was paid as ten per cent administrative fees to the CII, it said.



Priyadarshini Rajee Scindia, wife of Congress candidate for Guna Lok Sabha seat Jyotiraditya Scindia during an election campaign in support of her husband in Chanderi State Assembly constituency, Ashok Nagar district on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# LS election: 149 candidates declared valid out of 169

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

One hundred forty nine candidates have been declared valid after the scrutiny out of the total 169 candidates, who had filed their nominations for Lok Sabha election-2019 for 8 parliamentary constituencies to be held under the 3rd phase (6th phase of the country) of the State. The parliamentary constituencies namely Morena, Bhind (SC), Gwalior, Guna, Sagar, Vidisha, Bhopal and Rajgarh are included under this phase. The last date for withdrawal of name and voting has been fixed as April 26 and May 12 respectively.

After the scrutiny, 25 candidates in Morena, 19 in Bhind (SC) (Hearing against objection of one candidate has been fixed for April 25), 19 in Gwalior, 11 in Guna, 12 in Sagar, 15 in Vidisha, 35 in

Bhopal and 13 candidates in Rajgarh parliamentary constituency are left in poll fray.

For the election under the 3rd phase, 27 nominations in Morena, 22 in Bhind (SC), 27 in Gwalior, 11 in Guna, 13 in Sagar, 16 in Vidisha, 39 in Bhopal and 13 in Rajgarh parliamentary constituency have been filed till Tuesday April 23.

Besides, 15 nomination papers of 14 candidates have been received for the fourth phase (seventh phase of the country) in the state under Lok Sabha Elections-2019.

This phase includes 8 parliamentary seats which are Dewas (SC), Ujjain (SC), Mandsaur, Ratlam (ST), Dhar (ST), Indore, Khargone (ST) and Khandwa. One nomination of one candidate each has been received in parliamentary constituency of Ujjain (SC) and Dhar (ST), two nominations of two candidates each in

Mandsaur and Khandwa, two nominations of one candidate in Ratlam (ST), four nominations of four candidates in Indore and three nominations of three candidates have been received in Khargone (ST) from the publication of notification dated April 22 to till date for fourth phase election.

Today one nomination each of one candidate received in Ujjain (SC), Dhar (ST) and Indore parliamentary constituency, 2 nominations of 2 candidates in Mandsaur and Khandwa and 3 of 3 candidates in Khargone (ST).

**Besides, 15 nomination papers of 14 candidates have been received for the fourth phase (seventh phase of the country) in the state under Lok Sabha Elections-2019**

## IN BRIEF

### FIRING AT PRISONERS' VAN: POLICE STARTS PROBE

Bhopal: Police have started investigation in a case of firing by unidentified miscreants who opened fire at a police van at VIP road carrying 42 prisoners back to Central Jail after appearing in a hearing case at district court in the evening on Tuesday. ASP Zone 3 Manu Vyas said that an ASI with the prisoner inside the van spotted miscreants firing in air but cartridges had not been found at the spot. A case has been registered and further investigation has been started. The incident occurred at around 4 pm on Tuesday when the prisoners of central jail were on their way back in police custody. ASI Shobhan Singh spotted three bike-borne miscreants who fired in air. The nearby CCTV cameras and other details would be investigated.

### MASSIVE FIRE ENGULFS FACTORY

Bhopal: A car, two bikes, massive amount of raw material of incense sticks and goods at servant quarters of incense sticks factory worth over ₹10 lakh at Lambakheda were gutted in fire in the evening on Tuesday. Fire tender vehicles from Chola Mandir, Gandhi Nagar and Fatehgarh fire stations were pressed into service after fire broke at around 4 pm. The fire rapidly spread in the incense sticks making factory Pooja Path incense sticks owned by Congress leader Govind Goyal. Panic prevailed in the area. There were few workers and security guard at the time of incident. After the fire tenders reached the spot, they started extinguishing fire but it took more than an hour for around a dozen fire tenders. In the fire, apart from vehicles, huge amount of raw material was also gutted. The fire broke out due to short circuit which was found in the initial investigation.

### 17 BHEL EMPLOYEES GIVEN FAREWELL

Bhopal: In a simple programme held at Third Floor Administrative Building BHEL, Bhopal Shri D K Thakur, Executive Director bade farewell 17 employees comprising of 02 supervisors and 15 workmen on their superannuation from the organisation. Shri Thakur, in his address, wished all the employees a happy retired life. On this occasion, M Isadore GM (HR), all general managers and DROs were present.

### TRAINEE NAIB TEHSILDARS CALLS ON GOVERNOR

Bhopal: Trainee Naib Tehsildars on Wednesday called on Governor Smt. Anandiben Patel at Raj Bhavan and shared their training experiences with her. Since March 11, as many as 102 Naib Tehsildars are undergoing a 10-week training at RCPV Noronha Academy of Administration.

Governor Patel said that prompt redressal of public grievances along with regional development should be the first priority of the administrative officers. If the officers discharge their duty with patience and fairness, the results will always be pleasant and satisfying. She said that administrative staff should work as a team, only then implementation of schemes will be ensured at the ground level. Director General of the Academy AP Shrivastav presented a book, 'My experiments with truth' by Mahatma Gandhi, to the Governor. The trainees told about the positive change that came over in their work-style from innovations during training, Deputy Director of the Academy Shweta Pawar was present.

### SAGAR STUDENTS CELEBRATE ENGLISH DAY

Bhopal: Students of Sagar Public School Gandhi Nagar and Rohit Nagar celebrated English Day mirroring works of Jane Austen and William Shakespeare in its state-of-the-art auditorium. The school celebrates English day to inform, communicate and enrich students on values of literature for the enrichment of lives. At Sagar Public School, Rohit Nagar students depicted the execution of theatrical performance King Lear written by William Shakespeare. The flawless performance of the students accompanied with their mesmerising and stupendous dance performances was witnessed by Chief Guest Seema Raizada and Director, Sagar Public School, Jaishree Kanwar. At Sagar Public School, Gandhi Nagar, Students of Class VI to X staged different nuance of Jane Austen famous novels - Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield Park, Emma, Persuasion and evoking the consciousness of the Era amongst the audiences. With their acts students depicted Women are Strong and are gender equal in society. The acts were adjudged by Rakesh Dubey, Manager, Training and Development at Veta and Kulddeep Ganju, Principal SISTec Pharmacy. Radhika Sagar Agrawal, Director Sagar Group, Jaishree Kanwar, Director, Sagar Public School also graced the celebration as special guest.

# One arrested for stabbing wife over 'illicit relationship'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Govindpura police has arrested a 40-year-old man who had stabbed his 38-year-old wife at Bengali colony in the evening on Tuesday. The husband attacked wife suspecting her illicit relationship.

The victim was identified as Rajni Ahirwar. she was attacked with a sharp-edged weapon by her husband Naresh Ahirwar after a verbal spat which soon turned violent.

The victim was rushed to nearby hospital where she is reportedly stable.

In her complaint woman stated that she separated from her first husband in the year 2012 and along with her parents she came to Bhopal and started living with her parents in Alkapuri and later started living in a rented house in Bengali Colony where she came in contact with her neighbour Naresh and later tied knot in Bhojpur temple around a year ago but their relationship went sour as Naresh addicted to liquor started fighting frequently with her suspecting illicit relationship and from

past few days he used to drop and pick her wife from workplace in Shakti Nagar area where she used to work as domestic help. On Tuesday night while bringing her home, the accused entered a fight at Shakti Nagar area and attacked her injuring her in her neck and faces and she was rescued by locals.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 307 of the IPC and started investigation. Accused was nabbed by the police later in the investigation. The crime record of the accused would be searched.

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**CORRIGENDUM**  
With reference to advertisement Published in this Newspaper on 13-04-2019 regarding "Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties" of Borrower No.3 Bhagvan Das Sachdeva (Loan Code No. 00000457 & 00000552), Please read Reserve Price Rs. 1,95,88,875/- in place of Rs. 1,50,00,000/- & EMD Rs. 19,58,888/- in place of Rs. 15,00,000/-.  
All other details shall remain the same.  
Authorized Officer

**INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION DIVISION)**  
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**NOTICE**  
The ICAR's All India Entrance Examinations for Admission to UG [ICAR AIEEA (UG)-2019], PG [ICAR AIEEA (PG)-2019] and Ph.D. [ICAR AICE-/RF/SRF/PGS-2019] for the Academic Session 2019-20 shall be conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA), under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.

All the prospective candidates for these examinations are advised to visit NTA website [www.nta.ac.in](http://www.nta.ac.in) or [www.icar.ac.in](http://www.icar.ac.in) for submission of online application, notifications regarding schedule and conduct of examinations (CBT mode), etc.

davp 01304/11/0001/1920 SU/  
Controller of Examinations (Agril. Edn.)



Congress senior leader and candidate for Bhopal Lok Sabha seat Digvijaya Singh addresses a meeting of wholesale vegetable and fruit traders during an election campaign in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

## Nine MLAs, 10 MPs in the fray in Punjab

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

No less than nine leaders are eyeing to traverse the road from Punjab Vidhan Sabha to the Parliament during Lok Sabha elections.

Banking on their not only tried and tested, but also winning horses, the major political players in the State are banking on their elected representatives to romp home to victory in the May 19 elections.

While the ruling Congress and its arch rival Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has decided to lay their bet on two sitting MLAs each, Bharatiya Janta Party has fielded a sitting legislator from one out of the total

three seats it contests in alliance with the SAD.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has snatched the position of the main opposition party from SAD after 2017 state assembly polls by bagging 20 seats, has also decided to field its one MLA in the ensuing elections.

A total of three sitting MLAs would be representing the Punjab Democratic Alliance (PDA) — a conglomeration of six political outfits and newly-created splinter groups.

Maximum three legislators would be facing each other in the most watched-out electoral battle of Bathinda against the SAD's sitting MP and the Union

Minister Harsimat Kaur Badal. Congress' MLA from Gidderbaha Raja Amarinder Singh Warring, AAP's MLA from Talwandi Sabo Prof Baljinder Kaur, and AAP's 'rebel' MLA from Bholath Sukhpal Singh Khaira would fight it out against each other in the known Badals' bastion.

Khaira, who had rebelled against his party after he was unceremoniously removed from the post of the Leader of Opposition and left AAP, floated his own political outfit by the name of Punjab Ekta Party (PEP) and would be contesting his first Lok Sabha election from Bathinda as PDA's joint candidate.



Tamil devotees participate in a religious procession on the occasion of Mariamman or Goddess Kali Puja in Bhopal on Wednesday. Devotees perform ritual to appease Goddess Kali for the well being of their families. Pioneer photo

## BJP chief Amit Shah to address rallies on May 5

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

BJP President Amit Shah will hold election rallies in Chandigarh and Yamunanagar (Haryana) on May 5 to boost party's Lok Sabha poll campaign.

Apart from these two rallies, Amit Shah may also address another rally in the region on the same day.

Chandigarh, being the joint capital of neighboring states of Punjab and Haryana, is a prestigious Lok Sabha seat in northern India.

On the other hand, parts of Yamunanagar district falls under two Lok Sabha constituencies including Ambala and Kurukshetra in the state of Haryana.

The ruling BJP is facing a tough challenge to retain three Lok Sabha seats of Chandigarh, Ambala and Kurukshetra in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

While voting to 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana is scheduled to be held on May 12, the polling in Chandigarh will be held on May 19. In Haryana, the BJP had won 7 out of 10 seats in last general elections.

Only a day before, the BJP had announced to re-nominate MP Kirron Kher to contest the general elections from Chandigarh parliamentary seat. Seeking a mandate for the sec-

ond term, BJP's Kirron Kher is once again pitted against Congress' nominee and former four-time MP Pawan Kumar Bansal while the Aam Aadmi Party's candidate is former Minister Harmohan Dhawan.

While Kher had managed to register her maiden victory and defeat former MP Pawan Kumar Bansal in 2014 polls while riding high on Modi wave and lapping up the anti-incumbency votes against Congress, she is locked in a tough triangular battle in Chandigarh this time.

Similarly, BJP nominee and outgoing MP Rattan Lal Kataria from Ambala seat and Haryana Minister Nayab Saini from Kurukshetra constituency are pitted against strong contenders of opposition parties.

BJP's Rattan Lal Kataria will take on Congress' heavyweight Rajya Sabha MP Kumari Selja in Ambala constituency while Nayab Saini is facing a triangular electoral contest against Congress' former Minister Nirmal Singh and INLD candidate Arjun Chautala, fourth generation politician from Chautala family in Haryana.

Rattan Lal Kataria, while talking to the mediapersons said that the BJP chief Amit Shah will address an election rally on May 5 in Yamunanagar. Apart from him, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari will also address election rallies in the region in the coming days, he said.

Chandigarh BJP media-in-charge Ravinder Pathania informed that as per the tentative schedule received by the party city unit, national president Amit Shah will address a rally in Chandigarh on May 5.

The Chandigarh BJP unit has also requested the party high command for a rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior Central leaders in Chandigarh, he added.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief Amit Shah, Union Ministers and senior national leaders are among the star campaigners named by the BJP in Haryana and Chandigarh.

The star campaigners include Central leaders including Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Road and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

BJP vice president Uma Bharti, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, HRD Minister Smriti Irani, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal, actress and MP Hema Malini, actor turned politician Sunny Deol are among other senior leaders named as star campaigners.

## U'khand HC seeks Govt reply on skeletal remains in Kedarnath

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The Uttarakhand High Court has directed the State Government to reply within four weeks regarding the skeletal remains of pilgrims missing since the 2013 disaster in Kedarnath. The HC division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice Narayan Singh Dhanik also asked that if DNA tests were conducted on the skeletal remains and which laboratory were these being conducted in.

Delhi resident Ajay Gautam had filed a PIL in the high court stating that since the 2013 disaster, 4,200 persons had been missing from Kedarnath and that skeletal remains of 600 had been found so far. The government is not doing anything to remove the

remains of thousands of people still buried in Kedarnath, the petitioner had stated. In the past too, the court had directed the government to remove the remains from Kedarnath valley and cremate them but the government has not done so. The petitioner has also stated that even now remains of the disaster victims are being found in Kedarnath. More than 900 people had approached the government so far seeking the remains and were also ready for DNA tests. The government should extract the remains, get the DNA tests conducted and hand over the remains to the family members, the petitioner has demanded. Considering the seriousness of the matter, the HC has directed the State Government to reply within four weeks.

## Capt: Will personally campaign to ensure the defeat of Badals

PNS ■ FARIDKOT

A day after Akali power couple of Sukhbir Badal and Harsimrat Badal declared as party's candidates from Ferozepur and Bathinda respectively, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday declared to "personally campaign" to ensure their defeat.

"I will personally campaign in Bathinda and Ferozepur to ensure that the Sukhbir-Harsimrat Badal couple is forced to bite the dust in these Lok Sabha elections," he declared, adding that even the BJP's delaying tactics in not making the chopper available to him one week after it was hired by the Congress would not help the Badals.

Lashing out at the Badals for making the SAD a family affair, the Chief Minister questioned their claim to being Akalis, who he said had

played a very important role in the Gurdwara movement. "They (Badals) have forgotten history and have defamed the Akal Takht," added the Chief Minister who was addressing a public gathering in Faridkot, in support of Congress candidate Mohd Sadiq, who filed his nomination papers later.

Also unleashing a virtual war on the Badals, Capt Amarinder made it clear that they could not escape investigation in the Bargari and Kotakpura firing cases by getting an SIT officer shifted out by the BJP-controlled Election Commission.

Taking the Badals head-on over the Bargari and Kotakpura police firing incidents, the Chief Minister warned that they could not evade inquiry by using their influence with the ruling BJP to get IG Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh shifted by the Election Commission from the SIT

probing the case. "The EC belongs to the BJP and they got the officer removed, despite the fact that even courts do not interfere in the ongoing investigations," he pointed out, declaring that the same officers would probe the case and take it to its logical conclusion once the elections are over.

"They (the Badals) have simply managed to delay the probe for some time, but they will eventually have to pay," said the Chief Minister, vowing to ensure that nobody found guilty of the crime escapes punishment.

Taking a dig at former Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal for claiming ignorance about the Bargari and Kotakpura firing, Capt Amarinder termed it a complete lie, pointing out that "no officer could have opened fire without orders from the top".



BJP candidate for Bhopal Lok Sabha constituency Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur during an election campaign in Bhopal South-West State Assembly constituency, for Lok Sabha elections, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

## Anyone who tries to use Akal Takht for personal gains is not a Sikh: Capt

**Sangrur:** Terming the "brazen use" of the Akal Takht for political gains as the act of a non-Sikh, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday lashed out at the Badals for playing with the religious sentiments of Sikhs by abusing the community's highest temporal seat to promote their vested interests.

"Such politicisation of religion would backfire on SAD," said the Chief Minister, declaring that "anyone who tries to use the

Akal Takht is not a Sikh in my eyes".

Capt Amarinder, addressing a public rally before Congress candidate from Sangrur Kewal Singh Dhillon filed his nomination papers, minced no words in condemning the outrageous attempts of the Badals to undermine the supreme power of the Takht.

The Akalis claim to be the custodians of Sikh religion but have always used it to promote their political interests, he added.

## MP politicians unfazed...

**From Page 1**  
Congress in Rajgarh has also accused the Badrilal Soni the former BJP MLA from Susner of making a derogatory comment on its woman candidate in Rajgarh.

There was an unlike member in the list in former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh

Chouhan who is known as a sober and decent takes on opponents.

Chouhan was scheduled to address two rallies at Chowrai and Umreth in Chhindwara on Wednesday but the district collector did not permit his chopper to land at Umreth which left Chouhan fuming.

## Sitting BJP MPs facing public's ire in Haryana

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

The electoral battle for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party would not be a cakewalk in Haryana with its sitting MPs facing anti incumbency and public ire during election campaign.

The incidents of public protests in various corners of the state have gone viral on social media, causing major embarrassment to the BJP while it has handed opposition fresh ammo to target the saffron party in the election season.

Four out of five MPs re-nominated by the BJP have faced awkward situations, finding themselves at the receiving end of public anger during election campaigning in the state.

Only a day before, BJP nominee from Ambala seat, Rattan Lal Kataria was left embarrassed when the residents of Bhagwali village of Raipur Rani block of Ambala district asked him why he failed to visit them in the past five years.

The villagers alleged that neither they were allowed to meet the MP nor he visited them in the last five years.

The video that went viral saw Kataria seeking forgiveness and votes with folded hands. He was also seen arguing with the villagers that it was not possible to cover all villages and asked them to have faith in him.

Later, Kataria justified the anger saying that he got around 6 lakh votes in 2014 polls while other 6 lakh voters in the constituency supported opposition parties. Thus, 6 lakh people who voted against me in last elections, could speak their mind whenever they want, he said.

BJP's nominee Kataria is facing a tough challenge from Congress' candidate Rajya Sabha MP Kumari Selja in Ambala constituency this time. Another BJP lawmaker and party's nominee from Sonapat, Ramesh Kaushik also had to face the anger of villagers on two separate occasions during canvassing.

Ramesh Kaushik, who is locked in a three-cornered electoral contest with Congress nominee former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Jannayak Janta Party candidate Digvijay Chautala in the fray, has faced protest by people of Pouli village and Chhichhrana village in his constituency.

When Kaushik was asked by villagers on why he did not redress their grievances in last five years, the outgoing MP highlighted his achievements and went onto say that he has 100 percent attendance in Parliament sessions.

Recently, BJP's Bhiwani-Mahendragar candidate and outgoing MP Dharambir Singh was also left red-faced due to protest in Gaidawas village during his election campaign in the constituency.

Upset over videos of protest surfacing on the social media, Dharambir had a day back alleged that his opponents are trying to defame him by posting videos on the social media. The BJP nominee is pitted against Congress candidate, former MP Shruti Choudhry, who is daughter of CLP leader Kiran Choudhry and granddaughter of former CM Bansil Lal.

In another incident, Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar, who is seeking mandate for the second term in Faridabad had to face protest from his own party workers.

Last month, BJP workers had protested against Krishan Pal Gurjar at party's much-

hyped 'Vijay Sankalp rally' at Pirthala in Faridabad. In the video which had gone viral, workers were seen shouting slogans against Gurjar in the presence of Kalraj Mishra, party's in-charge in Haryana for Lok Sabha polls and party MLAs.

Interestingly, not only sitting MPs but party's candidate from Sirsa constituency, Sunita Duggal also came under fire from farmers during canvassing in Hassanga village in Fatehabad. She had reportedly engaged in a war of words when they criticized BJP for not doing anything for the farming community.

Notably, the saffron party, which was riding high on the Narendra Modi wave in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections had won seven seats out of 10 seats in Haryana.

Eyeing to win all 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana which goes to polling on May 12, the party has retained its MPs namely Rao Indrajit Singh (Gurugram), Krishan Pal Gurjar (Faridabad), Rattan Lal Kataria (Ambala), Ramesh Chander Kaushik (Sonapat) and Dharambir Singh (Bhiwani-Mahendragar) for 2019 Lok Sabha polls

## Perform or perish: Capt makes ministers, legislators accountable for Cong candidate's victory

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Perform or perish! The Congress party has cautioned Punjab Ministers and party legislators to ensure victory of the party candidates or else face action.

The party has made it clear that all the Ministers and the MLAs would be held accountable for the party's Lok Sabha candidates' performance in their respective constituencies.

"As per the high command's decision, incumbent Ministers in Punjab who do not succeed in ensuring a victory for the Congress, especially from the constituencies they represent, will be dropped from the Cabinet. In the case of Congress MLAs, it has been decided that those who fail to perform in their constituencies will not be considered for tickets in the next Assembly elections," said Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday.

Capt Amarinder said that the party has decided to push the bar of performance for its

leaders by fixing the responsibility for the victory of the candidates in Punjab on the Ministers and MLAs of the ruling party.

"The decision has been taken by the Congress high command, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, to accelerate the momentum for achieving the party's Mission 13 in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections," he said.

Chief Minister said that the party has also made the criteria for allotment of chairmanships of various Board, and Corporations, etc more stringent. "Toughening its stance, the Congress has decided that such chairmanships will be allotted on the basis of the performance of individuals in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls," he said while adding that performance and not seniority will be the criteria determining their eligibility for boards and corporations.

He clarified that the objective behind these decisions was to promote a performance-based culture in the party.

# Sonia authorised to take call on Priyanka vs Modi

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

With Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi insisting on contesting the Parliamentary polls against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi, the party has authorised UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi to take a final call on the issue.

The decision was taken in a meeting on Tuesday night attended by Congress president Rahul Gandhi, party's general secretary in-charge of Eastern UP Priyanka, senior party leaders KC Venugopal, Ahmed Patel and others where the Gandhi scion was taking stock of the prospect of three phase poll ending April 23.

AICC sources said when the deliberations over Varanasi candidate was initiated, Priyanka reportedly expressed her keen interest to take heads on with Modi who is all scheduled to file his nominations from the seat which he represented in the current Lok Sabha.

Though Priyanka was making statements regularly about her desire to contest the Lok Sabha elections, Rahul himself is learnt to be precarious about fielding his sibling against a heavyweight for the first time. The last date of nominations for the last phase of May 19 polls is April 29 and



the party has to decide the candidature during the next couple of days.

A senior leader in the meeting, sources said, recalled that late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had once regretted about roping in Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan, who successfully defeated one of the tallest leaders of his time, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna, in 1984.

"Retrospectively there has been no big contest during the times of Jawahar Lal Nehru, Ram Manohar Lohia, Jay Prakash Narayan, Indira Gandhi or Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is a sort of convention. It still exists barring a couple of example like Sushma Swaraj taking on Sonia Gandhi once. Rahul Gandhi has given a second thought to Priyanka's idea and thus has thought it wise to send the matter to Sonia's court. She is an astute politician and only

her advise will decide the fate of Varanasi Lok Sabha," said a top leader privy to the meeting which discussed.

Priyanka is understood to have conveyed that a win or loss does not matter to her but it has to be an exercise to resurrect the grand old party in Hindi heartland which has only two Lok Sabha MPs of the 80 from Uttar Pradesh in the Parliament.

"I have said this repeatedly that I will do what the party asks me to do. Am ready to fight from Varanasi if Rahul ask me to do so," Priyanka replied to media when asked last on the issue.

Priyanka was appointed General Secretary in-charge of East UP comprising of 40 seats and has been campaigning in the region which also includes Rahul's Parliamentary constituency Amethi and Sonia's seat Rae Bareilly.

# Nakul Nath richest candidate of MP

## Kamal Nath's son holds over ₹600-cr assets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With total assets worth more than ₹660 crore, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath's son Nakul Nath is the richest candidate of the fourth phase of polls that will be held on April 29. Nakul is contesting from MP's Chhindwara Parliamentary seat, represented by Kamal Nath for nine terms.

He is followed by Sanjay Sushil Bhonsle of Vanchit Bahujan Aagadhi party, contesting from Mumbai South Central seat, with total assets worth of ₹125 crore. BJP's Anurag Sharma who is contesting from Jhansi is the third position having assets worth of ₹124 crore.

According to the ADR (Association for Democratic Reforms), three Independent candidates-Priyanka Shirole and Vithal Natha Chavan, both of them from Nashik and Premalata Banshiwal from Tonk Sawai Madhopur have declared zero assets in their affidavit while Prince Kumar of Jhalawar Baran, Shamshudin of

Chittoragarh and Baban Thoke of Mumbai North East have declared total assets worth of ₹500, ₹786 and ₹1100 respectively.

These candidates have not given details of their assets. There are 306(33%) candidates who have assets worth Rs. one crore and more. Among the major parties 50(88%) out of 57 candidates from Congress, 50(88%) out of 57 candidates from BJP, 20(37%) out of 54 candidates from BSP, 13(62%) out of 21 candidates from SHS and 8(80%) out of 10 candidates from SP have declared assets worth more than ₹1 crore.

As per ADR report, as many as 24 candidates out of 928 contestants, who are contesting during the fourth phase of polling, are facing attempt to murder charges in the court. Five candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC section 302) and 12 have been convicted cases against them.

The ADR also says 210 (about 23%) candidates in the fray have criminal cases against their names. Of them, 158(17%) have declared serious



criminal cases. The ADR also says four candidates are facing charges of kidnapping such kidnapping for ransom (IPC Section-364A), kidnapping (IPC Section-363), Kidnapping or abducting with an intent secretly and wrongfully confine person (IPC Section-365), against them.

The report further says 21 candidates have declared cases related to crime against women such as assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty (IPC Section-354), husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty (IPC Section-498A)," the ADR said. The ADR says among the

major parties, 25(44%) out of 57 candidates from BJP, 18(32%) out of 57 candidates from Congress, 11(20%) out of 54 candidates from B S P, 12(57%) out of 21 candidates analysed from SHS, and 60(17%)

out of 345 independent candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

"Among the major parties, 20(35%) out of 57 candidates from BJP, 9(16%) out of 57 candidates from Congress, 10(19%) out of 54 candidates from BSP, 9(43%) out of 21 candidates analysed from SHS, and 45(13%) out of 345 independent candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves. Besides, 37 out of 71 constituencies are red alert constituencies. Red alert constituencies are those constituencies where 3 or more contesting candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves," it said.

## IN SHORT

### CONG MOCKS BJP ON FALSE REPORT OF PRESS MEET

New Delhi: The Congress on Wednesday used BJP's denial of media reports of Prime Minister Narendra Modi holding a Press conference in Varanasi to take a dig at him saying, "Tum se na ho payega (you will not be able to do it)". After media reports claimed that Prime Minister Modi would hold a Press conference on April 26 in Varanasi, the BJP clarified that there is no presser scheduled either on Thursday or Friday.

### LOCS THRU TO BHUSHAN STEEL CHAIRMAN, WIFE

New Delhi: The CBI has issued Look Out Circulars (LOCs) against chairman of Bhushan Power and Steel Limited Sanjay Singhal and his wife Aarti, who is also vice chairman of the company, in connection with bank loan fraud worth over ₹2,348 crore, sources said. The LOCs have been opened recently to prevent any attempt by the accused persons to flee from the country. A lookout circular is a letter used by authorities to keep a tab on an individual wanted in major criminal cases. In the wake of the LOCs, the Immigration authorities at all airports and other entry-exit points across the country will have to inform the CBI if Singhal and his wife attempt to leave the country.

### 25 SCHOOLS TAKE PART IN 2-DAY WWF FEST

New Delhi: Over 150 students from 25 schools across the country participated at the two-day annual 'Ek Prithvi Panda Fest', that included a leadership workshop for the students who also displayed and presented their yearlong efforts to learn about their environment and take steps to protect it, according to a statement here by the WWF-India, the organizer of the event.

### ENDS LESS HARMFUL THAN CIGARETTES: STUDY

New Delhi: A study conducted by Indian experts in North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, and Assam University, Silchar has after systematic review of 299 published scientific literature has concluded that Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) are much less harmful than cigarettes. Authored by Prof. R N Sharan (North-Eastern Hill University) and Dr Sambuddha Das (Assam University) among others, the study is published in the Indian Journal of Clinical Practice (IJCP). It has compared the toxicities of nicotine, other chemicals, and metal ions produced during cigarette smoking and ENDS vaping, and to evaluate the health and safety aspects of ENDS.

### 'THE JOURNEY' BY MANJIT RELEASED

New Delhi: 'The Journey' a novel written by Manjit Ghoshal released this week. Author Manjit Ghoshal dedicated this book to his son Abhishek Ghoshal whose journey has just begun. The book is about three generations of a family spread over three continents over a century of strife, turmoil, love, tragedy, separation and faith. The story starts in the jungles of North East region of India, during the Second World War.

# ED attaches over ₹40cr assets of Alagiri's son



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday attached 25 moveable and immovable assets worth over ₹40 crore belonging to the son of expelled DMK leader MK Alagiri in connection with a money laundering case.

The agency has attached land, buildings in Madurai, Chennai and fixed deposits totalling to ₹40.34 crore of Olympus Granites Pvt. Ltd. and others under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) in the illegal granite mining case, the ED said in a statement.

The company's share holders S Nagarajan and Alagiri Dhayanidhi along with other accused, criminally conspired and indulged in illegal mining

activities in the adjacent TAMILNADU and thereby causing wrongful loss to the Government and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves, the agency alleged.

The ED initiated the probe under PMLA against Olympus Granites P Limited, Madurai to identify the crime proceeds on the basis of FIR and charge sheet filed by Tamil Nadu Police against the company, its promoters and directors and other individuals.

The charge sheet discloses commission of various offences including offences under the Indian Penal Code, Explosive Substances Act, by the accused consequent to the illegal granite mining indulged by the company and other accused. persons.

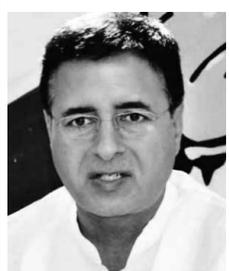
Investigation under PMLA

The agency has attached land, buildings in Madurai, Chennai and fixed deposits totalling to ₹40.34 crore of Olympus Granites Pvt. Ltd. and others under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) in the illegal granite mining case

revealed that the company and its promoters have committed a scheduled offence and derived proceeds of crime by indulging in the illegal quarrying and the trade proceeds of the company were further relentlessly incubated resulting in further accruals of proceeds of crime, all of which were camouflaged in the organisational system as business earnings, the ED further said in the statement.

The statement claimed that these earnings were gained out of the illegal activity. Accordingly, 25 moveable and immovable properties were identified as part of crime proceeds and the properties worth of ₹40.34 crore were provisionally attached under the provisions of PMLA. These include land and buildings in and around Madurai and Chennai and a fixed deposit, it added.

# Cong takes dig at PM, says seems like 'failed politician'



PNS ■ DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his interview to actor Akshay Kumar saying it seems a "failed politician" who is about to be rejected by the people on May 23 - when the Lok Sabha election results come-is looking for an alternative employment avenue in Bollywood.

The Congress's swipe at Modi came after channels aired the Prime Minister's interview with the Bollywood star, who described it as a "candid and completely non political" chat.

Reacting to the interview, Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said: "Akshay Kumar ji is a great actor and we like him. He is a very successful actor. An unsuccessful politician who has decimated

India's economy, who has decimated India's jobs, who has made life hell for India's farm-

ers and the poor, is now trying to become a better actor than Akshay Kumar ji."

"It seems a failed politician who is about to be rejected on May 23, 2019, is looking for an alternative employment avenue in Bollywood, but I don't think so, a failed politician like Modi ji will be a successful actor in Bollywood. Akshay Kumar will remain Akshay Kumar," he told reporters.

To another question on the interview, Surjewala said Prime Minister Modi is trying to "become a better actor than Akshay Kumar but he has again failed miserably like he has failed India".

Asked about Modi's remarks in the interview that other prime ministers left early, but he works till 11 PM, Surjewala asked if he used to work in the Prime Minister's Office or he used to do PM's scheduling. Surjewala alleged that the Prime Minister makes a joke of everything.

"You looted the entire currency of this country and were clapping and laughing during demonetisation. Is the PM's job to make fun of people, make fun of institutions, make fun of people whom the country feels proud of, or will he do some work also," he said.

In the interview, which aimed to unveil "some lesser known facts" about Modi, the prime minister touched upon various aspects of his childhood and his journey before he came to power.

# PM Modi's biopic will tilt electoral balance: EC to SC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a "hagiography", which treats the subject with undue reverence, and its public screening during poll campaign will "tilt the electoral balance", the Election Commission (EC) has told the Supreme Court while opposing the release of the movie starring Vivek Oberoi before the polls end on May 19.

The EC said "there are several scenes depicting a major opposition party as corrupt and showing them in poor light. Their leaders have been depicted in such a manner that their identification is clear and obvious to the viewers"

"there are several scenes depicting a major opposition party as corrupt and showing them in poor light. Their leaders have been depicted in such a manner that their identification is clear and obvious to the viewers"

ed in such a manner that their identification is clear and obvious to the viewers."

It said that the biopic was more than a biography and was a "hagiography" (which treats the subject as saints and gives undue reverence) and the construct of the movie was "unabashedly uni-dimensional", which puts an individual on a higher pedestal through use of specific symbols, slogans and scenes.

The report was submitted after the apex court had on April 15 directed the EC to re-examine its earlier order and take an informed decision on banning pan-India the release of the biopic after watching the full movie. The court had asked the poll panel to provide its report to the producer of the movie.

# 'Cancer-afflicted kids deprived of vital drugs'

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

India may be the largest manufacturer of generic medicines in the world, but cancer-afflicted children, who are among society's most vulnerable groups, remain a deprived lot as far as availability and affordability of essential anti-cancer drugs are concerned.

This has been pointed out by a new study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health, which found that there is a lack of availability of essential anti-cancer drugs, in both public and private sector pharmacies even in the national Capital, for treating childhood cancer, so much so that it is much below the World Health Organisation's prescribed standards.

The study titled, 'Evaluating access to essential medicines for treating childhood cancers: a medicines availability, price and affordability study in New Delhi, India', was led by the George Institute for Global Health in collaboration with the University of Sydney, Cankids India, Max Super Speciality Hospital, and Boston University School of Public Health. Seven hospitals — four public and three private — and 32 private-



sector retail pharmacies were surveyed.

The researchers used a modified WHO/Health Action International methodology to collect data on availability and price of 33 strength-specific anti-cancer essential medicines and four non-cancer essential medicines. Affordability was calculated for the two most common cancers in India: acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"Mean availability of essential anti-cancer medicines across all hospitals and pharmacies surveyed was less than the WHO's target of 80%. Low availability and poor affordability of anti-cancer essential medicines highlight the need to streamline public sector and private sector medicine pro-

urement and supply systems," said Neha Faruqi, principal author of the study from the George Institute for Global Health.

Median prices were calculated by comparing consumer prices with international reference prices. On an average, the mean availability of essential anti-cancer medicines in the survey hospitals and retail pharmacies combined was 70%, in retail pharmacies it was 38%, in public hospital pharmacies 43% and in private hospital pharmacies it was 71%.

The study found that only three anti-cancer essential medicines were available on the Jan Aushadhi website. The prices of Jan Aushadhi prices are much lower than retail pharmacies but compared to

"Mean availability of essential anti-cancer medicines across all hospitals and pharmacies surveyed was less than the WHO's target of 80%. Low availability and poor affordability of anti-cancer essential medicines highlight the need to streamline public sector and private sector medicine procurement and supply systems"

public-sector procurement prices, a patient would pay two times and 2.9 times for anti-cancer and non-cancer medicines in the private-sector. Therefore, initiatives to improve public-sector medicines availability are needed, the researchers said.

"Availability is low in the capital city of India which can be considered the best case scenario for access to anti-cancer medicines. We don't expect availability to be higher in other states," said Rohina Joshi, associate professor at University of Sydney.

Medicine prices were relatively low in Delhi compared with international reference prices. However, the cost of chemotherapy medicines seems unaffordable in the local

context. "When calculated using the lowest (and most-sold) generic price offered in pharmacies, the estimated cost of chemotherapy medicines needed for treating a 30 kg child with standard risk leukaemia was ₹27,850 and ₹17,500 for early stage Hodgkin's lymphoma, requiring 88 and 55 days' wages, respectively, for the lowest paid government worker," said Ramandeep Arora, paediatric oncologist. "If the patient/family is not offered any pharmacy discount and had to buy the same medicines at maximum retail price, they require an extra 12 days' wages for both diseases," he said.

"Government insurance schemes and discount pharmacy initiatives should expand the inclusion of essential anti-cancer medicines, as a way towards limiting the catastrophic out-of-pocket expenditure associated with cancer treatment," said Faruqi.

Childhood cancer comprises almost 3-5 percent of the total cancer cases in India. According to the Indian cancer society, it is estimated that about 50,000 children and adolescents ages 0 to 19 years will be diagnosed with cancer each year in India.

# SC slams lawyer's remarks against AG, warns he will be thrown out

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court warned a lawyer on Wednesday that he will be "thrown out of the court" after taking umbrage at his remarks that Attorney General K K Venugopal was "personally targeting" him during the hearing on his claims of fixing and manipulation in the top judiciary.

A special three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra told advocate Utsav Singh Bains, who has filed an affidavit alleging "larger conspiracy" to frame Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, that Venugopal is one of the most respected members of the bar and he should also must respect him.

"You (Bains) must know that we learn from him (Venugopal). You must respect him," the bench, also comprising Justices R F Nariman and Deepak Gupta, told Bains.

When Bains reiterated that Venugopal was attacking him personally, an irked Justice Nariman said, "You must not have even an iota of doubt on him. He never attacks anyone



personally. He is the most respected member of the bar. We also learn from him."

"...Otherwise we will throw you out of the court," Justice Nariman told the counsel, adding, "he (Venugopal) is a true gentleman".

Minutes later, Bains said, "Since Justice Nariman said he will throw me out, I myself opt to walk out of the court."

mean was that he should respect the Attorney General.

"We, all of us, have so much respect for him. You are a young man and you should understand this," Justice Mishra said.

"Do not take anything to your heart. What my lord (Justice Nariman) advised you is to be polite. He does not mean to throw you out (of the court) really. Nobody is attacking you. You are doing an important job," he added.

## Who's the bigger star?

Akshay Kumar's interview of PM Modi shows how Bollywood now has a finger in every pie that matters



The *neta versus abhineta* is no longer a culture debate. It is one of symbiosis. And it is difficult to judge who is the better performer while selling dreams and crafting larger-than-life heroism. So it is but natural that in the bigger business of capturing the mass imagination, both have now emerged as the perfect prop for one another. Although our Bollywood stars, unlike their peers in Hollywood, may not take a stand on political-ly divisive issues or even effect a change in

discourse — they fear being ostracised as compulsive liberals — they have at least decided to go with the flow of histrionic patriotism that's on display and do their bit by aligning themselves with whichever party casts them in such a role. That's safe at one level as nobody can question them on their contribution to national life. At another level, they would have to mouth party ideologies as their own, the same way they do their dialogues. Who better than actors then, who have so far been used in campaigns and as candidates to play inquisitors? So it is that yesterday morning we had Bollywood star Akshay Kumar conduct a free-wheeling, non-political chat with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his Delhi residence. Now we all know how structured the Modi interviews to the Press are to the point of boredom. Hence, strategists thought there would be more life with a Bollywood star, considered a "friendly" too, as a news anchor, asking all the questions that would lionise the journey of Modi, the common man in cinematic terms. It cascaded across news portals without falling foul of the Model Code of Conduct. Who would have a problem with the story of a simple man who washed his clothes, loved mangoes and was on his quest? This had a far greater effect than the banned films and NaMo TV could ever have. We all know the old stories from lyricist Praseen Joshi's chat in London but this one, by a *desi* boy from Chandni Chowk, was meant to convey an at-home image of the PM, who has to hard sell himself more to the domestic constituency than Indians abroad this time. This one was even more deliberate than the others as Modi wittily drew in Kumar's "liberal" wife Twinkle Khanna into the conversation, saying the anti-Modi invectives in her tweets meant that Akshay was spared her spiffire moods at home. Or the very pointed reference to his harshest opponent, Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee, saying Didi personally had no issues with him and sent him *kurtas*, gifts and sweets once or twice a year. Did this mean that personal goodwill could overtake politics some time? We would not want to hazard a guess. At a time when all of us are lamenting the lack of civility in election speeches, Modi swiftly reminded us that rabidity was a part of polemics and we should not react to it too much. So going by the filmy *didi-bhai* vibes, we should be convinced politicians have grace. Having consistently promoted the Modi government's schemes, Kumar's stellar role of a news anchor epitomises the Bollywoodisation of the spectator space, from films to sports, and now think tank summits to even journalism. That's because compared to the Congress era, beginning with Nehru, whose engagement of Prithviraj Kapoor was more subtle and based on shared thought processes, Modi has been more inclusive, roping in every star as his brand ambassador, even those who may not agree with him. He has got the reticent Sunny Deol, too.

The power of cinema as a propagandist tool began during World War I when the British realised it could change public opinion. The Soviets followed up on that template in the 1920s but it was Nazi Germany which perfected it, Joseph Goebbels being the inventor of newsreels that had to be screened before a film. Of course, there were films which showed the Germans having a charmed life. Post-war, there was a counter-movement of the Jewish narrative, war movies extolling Allied efforts to defeat Hitler and the travails of persecuted Jews. Even now Hollywood indulges in these war films and builds the American saviour narrative through sci-fi, space films or the usual Gulf and Afghan war tropes. But yes we are yet to have a George Clooney interview Donald Trump.

## Innovation regulator

Medical devices have saved or improved millions of lives but their unregulated use has become a concern



There is little doubt that medical devices such as cardiac stents or implants for damaged bones and cosmetic improvements have had an impact on people's lives. Cardiac stents and their ease of implantation have made major operations for blocked arteries a thing of past. Hip and knee implants have allowed millions of people with degenerative bone diseases to walk without pain again. Cosmetic implants have been around for a few decades and have improved the self-esteem of millions. However, a rash of cases in India and across the world have shaken the faith of people in implants and increased the calls for regulation in this sector. The Government has taken some steps in response. For example, the move to dramatically reduce the price of stents was seen as a way to prevent unnecessary procedures by hospitals seeking to line their pockets. However, there have also been cases where implants, hip and breast ones, have gone faulty. With the lack of tort law in India or the ability to have class-action lawsuits against manufacturers, many impacted individuals, particularly after the recent case involving faulty hip implants from American healthcare multinational Johnson & Johnson, have demanded that a regulator with the ability to fine and punish companies be established. This also highlights a bit of the "wild west" nature when it comes to medical devices that are on the edge of technical innovation. India is a critical emerging market with a growing population that can afford the implants and other aids. However, with few rules and regulations, there have been rampant imports of pre-used devices and a lack of incentives for domestic manufacturing. At the same time, there were few legal remedies for patients impacted by poor quality devices or botched installations.

Given that medical devices are a rapidly emerging field of technology, it is vital that the government and the recently reconstituted Medical Council of India (MCI) work towards developing not just a scheme to compensate individuals but also have a regulator for them. While we can all see progress on smartphones, medical device technology is a rapidly evolving field whose capabilities are growing day after day. It is also a sector where major frauds have been perpetrated such as the former Silicon Valley darling Theranos. In India, we should not let our patients be bamboozled by technology and suffer as a result. The hoops through which many of the patients of faulty implants have had to jump through cannot be allowed to continue. There is no doubt that those impacted by poor devices are a fraction of those who have gained, but that does not mean that they fall by the wayside and suffer because something that was supposed to improve their lives has cursed them.

MC Joshi  
Lucknow

### Vote share story

Sir — It may be true that caste and religious considerations do influence the voting pattern in rural areas. But it is not the only reason. In rural areas, people generally back people who are popular locally so as to gain employment opportunities and other benefits. In urban areas, people are generally well-informed about the policies and work of political

parties and form strong opinions on parties.

TR Anandan  
Coimbatore

### Dividing the nation

Sir — This refers to the article, "Hindu nationalism: Ultimate trump card" (April 24) by Kalyani Shankar. In a recent interview,

# R&D key to India's status

With Beijing taking a giant leap in filling the gap in research to match that of developed nations, India is still lagging behind. We need to take some lessons



CLAUDE ARPI

If one looks at India's development during the five last decades, one can only admire the progress made by it. However, there are some fields where the country has been left far behind by the 'great' powers, particularly in the domain of innovation. China's case is worth studying. Huawei technologies, which often for the wrong reasons, has been in the news in recent months, has been a role model in terms of innovation for the Middle Kingdom.

In February 2018, *Reuters* reported that the giant telecom group of companies increased "its annual spending on Research and Development (R&D) to between \$15 billion and \$20 billion as it races to be a global leader in 5G technology." Can you name any Indian telecom company investing in R&D in this way and on this scale? No. The big Indian business houses simply prefer to remain in the "service" field, without taking the risk of investing in any long-term vision. As a result, during the next 10 or 20 years, China and Western companies will remain the leaders while India will have to buy their technologies, with all the risks involved.

According to *Reuters*, Huawei, China's largest telecommunications equipment and smartphone maker, spent \$13.23 billion on R&D in 2017, a whopping 14.9 per cent of its total revenue. The world's top R&D spenders, Amazon and Alphabet, the two biggest spenders on R&D in the US respectively, spent \$22.6 billion and \$16.6 billion in 2017. About 80,000 of Huawei's employees or 45 per cent of its total workforce are engaged in R&D. Should India not start emulating world leaders such as Huawei or even Google, Apple or Amazon instead of just being proud of the Indian origin of Google's CEO? In the defence domain, China is innovating too. Earlier this month, the China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC) announced that the first armed amphibious drone boat was successfully delivered to the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN).

The *Global Times* pointed out: "China has built the world's first armed amphibious drone boat, which military analysts said could be used in land assault operations and is capable of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships."

Named 'Marine Lizard', the drone left the factory in Wuhan in Hubei Province: "The 12-metre-long Marine Lizard is a trimaran propelled by a diesel-powered hydro-jet and can reach a maximum speed of 50 knots while maintaining stealth. When approaching land, the amphibious drone ship can release four continuous track units hidden under its belly and travel at 20 km/hour on land," wrote a local newspaper. Another gadget, said to be capable of delivering precision bombs, is the weirdly shaped helicopter drone Blowfish A2. The Chinese Press said that it already "sparked interest from many countries' militaries." In a statement from the Guangdong-



based Zhuhai Ziyuan UAV company, the manufacturer explained: "The 1.87-m long, 0.62-m tall helicopter drone has a maximum take-off weight of 38 kilograms and is capable of carrying a 12-kilogram payload. In its strange belly-less fuselage, the Blowfish A2 can carry radar, jamming devices, guns or bombs under its spine." The speed of the helicopter drone is 130 km/hour.

The examples can be multiplied. The most prestigious is undoubtedly the J-20 (or Mighty Dragon), a single-seat, twin jet, all-weather, stealth fifth-generation fighter aircraft developed by China's Chengdu Aerospace Corporation. The first aircraft was delivered to the PLA Air Force (PLAAF) in March 2017 and inducted in February 2018. The J-20 is the world's third operational fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft after the US F-22 and F-35.

In March 2016, on the occasion of the third plenary session of the National People's Congress, President Xi Jinping asked the PLA delegates to "pour efforts into developing cutting edge defence technology, which has strategic significance." Xi, who chairs the powerful Central Military Commission, affirmed: "The capability to innovate will determine the future of the Chinese armed forces."

In recent years, China has been pouring funds into devel-



IN NEHRU'S SOCIALISTIC WORLD, RESEARCH WAS A STATE MONOPOLY, IT CAN'T REMAIN SO FOREVER. THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WITH ITS DYNAMISM, HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO INVEST LARGE PARTS OF ITS PROFITS IN THE FUTURE



oping high-tech weapons; some of this armament is also being exported. Another article reported that the Chinese scientists continue to research stealth and camouflage materials that can hide from a broad spectrum of electromagnetic waves, "after they successfully fabricated a material that can hide a hot object from heat-seeking infrared cameras."

The research, published in *American Chemical Society Journal*, affirmed that the new material, a kind of aerogel film, has good thermal insulation properties: "It is enhanced by coating its fibres with polyethylene glycol (PEG) and a protective waterproof layer."

One can also give the example of a new turbofan engine to power China's carrier-based stealth fighters, though the exact outcome should perhaps be taken with a pinch of salt. According to *The Global Times*, a team of young researchers and aero engine designers received an award "for successfully designing and prototype testing of a new top-class turbofan engine that will help Chinese fighter jets take on their advanced foreign counterparts."

The new engine may be installed on China's new carrier-based stealth fighter jets; the previous aircraft had faced serious issues. The manufacturer's statement said that this will help China rival advanced foreign fighter jets.

Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military analyst, told *The Global Times*: "With the new engine, China's future advanced fighter jets will finally solve the 'heart problem'... This is great, great news." All this does not imply that the outcome of the Chinese research will soon be reaching the level of the US or European technology but it simply means that the gap between China and the most advanced nations is being filled up... while India is left behind.

At the same time, all is not rosy in China. The Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* recently observed: "The slowing Chinese economy may be claiming some unexpected victims... Despite healthy capitalisation, investors are finding that some companies' underlying technologies may not be as innovative as hoped...". In other words, the most innovative will be the fittest to survive. Even if tomorrow China produces less new Baidu, Alibaba or Tencent, there is no doubt that the future belongs to those who innovate.

In Nehru's socialistic world, research was a state monopoly; it can't remain so forever. The private sector, with its dynamism, has no choice but to invest large parts of its profits in the future. The next Indian Government has lessons to learn from China if it wants India to become a great power. (The writer is an expert on India-China relations)

## SOUNDBITE

I have never left anything incomplete...The decision to join politics was well thought of and I will give more than 100 per cent to it.

Congress leader  
—Urmila Matondkar



I wanted to say hi because things that are being said have gotten out of control. Wow, there's rumours, death threats to my family and my team.

Pop star  
—Britney Spears



US efforts to boycott the sale of Iran's oil won't get them anywhere. We will export our oil as much as we need and we intend.

Iran's supreme leader  
—Ayatollah Ali Khamenei



Like the BJP, the Congress, too, believes in threatening its opponents. We had an alliance with it but found that their ego is too big.

Samajwadi Party leader  
—Akhilesh Kumar



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Stand firm on terror

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Terror returns" (April 23). Terrorism is a threat to humanity. A series of blasts in Sri Lanka that ripped through high-end hotels and churches on Easter Sunday is a sad reminder that the world is not free from terrorism. It is necessary that the world community stands united in fighting terror. While the UN needs to impose sanctions on nations, who sponsor terrorists and allow it to be used as a state-policy, India needs to remain persistently on guard.

MC Joshi  
Lucknow

### Supreme Court needs to be more transparent

This refers to the editorial, "A matter of honour" (April 23). It is a matter of concern that dirty hands of politics have now reached the Supreme Court, too. However, this isn't surprising as ominous signs of things moving in this direction were quite visible. In this context, it will be worthwhile to recall that concerns had been raised in matters connected with judicial overreach. Our courts had started entertaining matters that would normally come under the purview of the executive. Often, decisions went beyond the interpretation of law.

It is in this context that matters like the necessity of laws remaining absolute and separation of powers between the executive and judiciary had been brought to the fore. The second degradation came with the dirty fight between the executive and judiciary in the matter of appointment of judges, with the latter insisting on having a closed in-house system for deciding the composition of such a powerful body. It was amazing to note that even Parliament, which is the supreme voice of the



people, had no say in the composition of the highest court. The third and the final nail in the coffin was put with the judges coming out of their exalted and secluded chambers to have a Press conference. Thus there's a need to review the entire working structure of the Supreme Court, including its jurisdiction, composition and appointments.

BP Srivastava  
Noida

tion promises of 2014. Now, the only option for it to attract votes is to use Hindutva as a political tool. Further, given that the Congress nominated two-time former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh as its candidate from Bhopal, the BJP felt the dire need to ratchet up a Hindutva component by announcing the candidature of Thakur in the same constituency. In effect, the BJP has let short-term electoral gains dictate its policies. Unfortunately, this will only serve to divide the Indian society irreparably in the long-run.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee  
Faridabad

### Learn from New Zealand

Sir — The world must unite to help Sri Lanka recover from the tragedy. In particular, India must go all out to help while also being watchful against terror elements slipping into its own soil. The way New Zealand responded should be a template.

Aditi  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Incentivise, don't destroy business

The Government's brazen attempt to increase the profits of MSMEs by letting them retain a good portion of tax collected from consumers is illogical



UTTAM GUPTA

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has adopted a liberal stance towards small businesses, keeping in mind their potential to generate employment and increase workers' income. The bearing is particularly reflected in its decision to (i) exempt businesses having a turnover below a certain threshold of ₹4 million from registering under GST and paying tax; (ii) allowing a manufacturer having a turnover less than ₹15 million opt for 'composition scheme' under which he will pay tax @1 per cent and face minimal compliance viz returns to be filed quarterly against monthly for regular assessees; (iii) allowing service providers with turnover less than ₹5 million under composition scheme and pay tax @6 per cent.

The decision to bring service providers under the composition scheme was taken in the 32nd meeting of the Council (January 10), which also raised the threshold under (i) and (ii) from the earlier ₹2 million and ₹10 million respectively. The special dispensation carved out for small businesses may give them reason to cheer but there's a flip side. A cardinal principle behind indirect taxation is that all consumers pay tax at the same rate, irrespective of who offers the services. Further, unlike direct tax, which is levied on the income of an entity, by nature, an indirect tax is payable by the consumer, which the supplier collects and gives to the Government.

In this case, however, the entity opting for composition scheme pays tax at a lower rate than for normal assessees. Thus, a service provider under the composition scheme pays tax @ 6 per cent as against normal 18 per cent (slab rate applicable to most services). The rules also bar it from raising a tax invoice and charging tax from the user. Both stipulations are in contravention to the guiding principles. Where do we go from here? What is the situation on ground? An illustration will help unravel the intricacies.

Take for example, the value of a service is ₹100,000. For a normal service provider, with GST @18 per cent, the tax included value will amount to ₹118,000. He will raise a 'tax invoice' which includes ₹100,000 and ₹18,000. On the other hand, a service provider under composition scheme will raise a simple sales invoice for ₹118,000 without separately mentioning the tax component of ₹18,000. He/she may not appear to be collecting tax from the customer (in sync with the rule) but receives ₹18,000 as part of the price. After depositing tax @6 per cent (on ₹118,000) or ₹7,080, he is left with ₹10,920.

The entity under composition scheme does not get offset for the tax paid on purchased inputs. However, for a service provider not purchasing inputs, this is not relevant; so he retains the entire surplus. Even in case he buys inputs say worth ₹40,000, paying GST @18 per cent or ₹7,200 (for which he does not get offset) then also, he will make net gain of ₹3,720 (₹10,920-₹7,200). In case of a trader/manufacturer, an entity under composition scheme is even more favourably placed as he gets away by paying a mere 1 per cent even as his collection from consumer is higher. Even with denial of input tax credit, he will end up with net gain. For dealers not paying tax at all (having turnover more than ₹4 million), the gain will be even higher. In short, even as all dealers/service providers collect GST at the same rate (this fundamental point can't be camouflaged by sheer innovation in documentation technique viz tax invoice versus simple sale invoice), those under composition scheme give to the Government a lesser tax amount, thereby pocketing the differential. Correspondingly, the tax department incurs revenue loss. No wonder, small businesses contribute very little to the overall tax kitty. Thus, businesses having a turnover between ₹2 million and ₹10 million constitute about 25 per cent of those registered under GSTN but their contribution to revenue is only 5 per cent. Further, more than 50 per cent of the registered firms having turnover of more than ₹2 million, contribute a meagre 1.5 per cent of the total. In other words, 75 per cent of the registered entities contribute a minuscule 6.5 per cent to the total revenue.

The Government's intent to help small businesses/enterprises is indeed laudable. But a brazen attempt to increase their profits by letting them retain a good portion of the tax collected from consumers is illogical and unacceptable. All tax collections must flow into the state coffers. To sum up, the decision of the Council to let businesses under composition scheme pay flat tax (albeit minuscule) on the turnover is flawed. It is nothing but a cover-up for the untenable practice of letting them make money at the cost of the exchequer. Prior to GST, traders were evading tax payment by not billing sales. Under GST, this is being legitimised. The exemption or concessional tax on small businesses, which essentially means their giving to the Government less than what they collect from consumers, is an anathema to the very concept of indirect taxation. This needs to go. However, the Government should continue to encourage them by ensuring hassle-free filing of returns, minimal documentation and ease of doing business.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

**THE PRIME MINISTER'S POST IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR AUCTION THAT YOU CAN BUY IT WITH THE MONEY EARNED IN SARADHA, NARADA (SCAMS). —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI**



**YOU (MODI) ARE DESTINED TO BE DETHRONED AFTER THE ELECTIONS. OUR GOVERNMENT WILL PROVE WHAT A BIG SCAM DEMONETISATION WAS. — WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE**

# Don't short-change women

Despite a spectacular performance, India's financial inclusion story suffers from gender inequity. Significant change can come only through focussed efforts from Governments and banks



MOIN QAZI

It is now a universally-acknowledged fact that India has shown spectacular performance in financial inclusion and is now a guiding light for the developing world. Several international surveys and studies have vouched for this. They also highlight the impressive gains made by women. Drumbeaters are excited about India climbing the ladder of financial inclusion. According to the World Bank's Global Findex Survey (2017), 80 per cent of adults in India now have a bank account — 27 points higher than the 53 per cent estimated in the Findex 2014 count, which showed a 17-point addition to the 2011 measure (35 per cent). Findex 2017 estimates that 77 per cent of Indian women now own a bank account against 43 per cent and 26 per cent in 2014 and 2011. On this basic measure of financial inclusion, females are more empowered than before. The male-female difference, or the gender gap, in account ownership narrowed to 6.4 percentage points in 2017; it was 19.8 in 2014.

However, a deeper view will reveal that this granular and rosy picture is tinted. While more women have been enrolled for bank accounts, a larger gender gap persists in account usage. And beyond account ownership, in terms of credit and insurance usage, gender gap remains high. For example, female account owners showed 11 per cent point gap against men in terms of account usage; 54 per cent of women with an account made no deposit or withdrawal in a year as compared to 43 per cent of men. The credit gender gap is more stark. Distribution of outstanding credit in small borrower accounts showed 24.5 per cent share of female account owners against 72 per cent of men as on March 2017.

Financial inclusion of women is one of the many powerful levers that can advance gender equality. Efforts to get more women signed up for accounts has seen good results in recent years as development agencies and Governments alike have started focusing on financial products as a tool for poverty alleviation and female empowerment. Despite increased attention to financial inclusion for women, we have not been able to translate these efforts into large-scale, meaningful progress. Significant change can come only through focussed efforts from Governments and banks. It is here that increasing awareness can play a big role to bridge the gap.

Women have the power to make, spend, save and control their money — they make gains not only for themselves but also for their communities. It is now a recognised fact that "women's market" represents numerous segments of clients — from low-income salaried workers (factory and domestic) and low-income self-employed women in the informal sector to women who work in agricultural value chains to small and medium enterprises.

Gender characteristics shape cultural beliefs, which, in turn, impact women's attitudes about money and finances. The top barriers that constrain women's effective financial inclusion are: Not having enough money to invest; unexpected expenses; not knowing whom to trust; inability to maintain balance between spending and saving so as to achieve a healthy balance between short-term needs and long-term goals; being overwhelmed by choices when it comes to financial options; and not understanding financial jargon. More broadly, these barriers break down into three categories: Insufficient knowledge, insecurity and lack of control. Moreover, woman customers continue to be served by gener-



“ TO MAKE FINANCIAL INCLUSION FOR WOMEN MORE RELEVANT AND MEANINGFUL, WE ALSO NEED TO EDUCATE MEN ABOUT THE PECULIARITIES AND NEEDS OF THE FEMALE LOT. ABSTRACTING WOMEN FROM THEIR SOCIAL REALITIES DISTORTS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONAL NATURE OF GENDERED POWER AND THE INTER-DEPENDENCY OF WOMEN AND MEN. THIS HAS A STRONG BEARING ON WOMEN'S MOTIVATIONS, CHOICES AND POSSIBILITIES ”

ic products that are only superficially tailored to their needs.

Women face several barriers towards their path to financial inclusion: Limited access to mobile phones, low literacy levels, less confidence in using technology and restrictions on travel or social interaction. We need to address these through behavioural and reformist approaches instead of the usual hardware-based approach so that demand and supply side barriers faced by them in accessing finance are eliminated. A simple all-embracing broadest possible definition of financial inclusion for women would include not just access to services and credit but meaningful use of valuable and innovative financial products to build security and prosperity.

Women's participation in the financial system can have significant benefits in terms of economic growth, greater equality and societal well-being. When women are empowered as economic actors, benefits touch everyone. Women have more child-centered preferences than men. Access and usage of financial services are levers for increasing their participation in the economy. This enhances their self-confidence and gives them the power to make financial decisions, thus resulting in large development payoffs.

In short, financial inclusion enables women to smooth consumption, ensure security, increase saving and investment rates, lower financial risks and facilitate new livelihood and income opportunities for the family. It enhances financial resilience for low-income women. Further, there are several barriers that constrain the full inclusion of women in formal finance. Product-driven financial literacy is necessary to ensure that poor women are not short-changed. While financial products have their benefits, there is a clear dan-

ger of mis-selling that can damage marginalised segments, who have an uncertain cash flow. The philosophy shared by the financial inclusion community is that engagement creates knowledge, which creates confidence. The goal must be to ensure that women become confident financial stewards, make wise decisions for themselves, their families and the world. Women are more discerning customers, asking for more information before buying products and services than men.

Financial products are often not designed, distributed or bundled to meet the needs of women. They are usually tasked with stretching the family budget in times of financial hardship. Providing micro credits or a small affordable and account-linked overdraft can help women cover their day-to-day household emergencies. Women's financial needs and responsibilities require bundled solutions of savings, credit and insurance.

Professionals and practitioners have put forth some silent features of financial products and services that foster women's active participation in formal finance. They found that women do not have a smooth financial journey and have more interruptions and life-stages in their financial lives (withdrawal from employment during pregnancy and in medical emergencies for nursing sick family members). They may remain active users of the accounts during these periods. Women should be able to reactivate their accounts without much hassles or penalties. Women are also more price-point sensitive and expect affordable fees.

Women clients, particularly in rural areas, find interacting with male staff at banks an intimidating experience and may not trust them. Banks are not considered part of their trusted service providers. To overcome such psychological barriers,

financial institutions can increase women staff and appoint dedicated people to serve women customers because most of them have a preference for a non-inhibiting environment.

Women customers are likelier to entrust such a retailer with their finances. Women look for a consistently high-quality experience and the qualities they look include: Trustworthiness, understanding, dependability and accessibility. In failing to develop client experiences rooted in men and women's fundamentally different perspectives on finance, financial services institutions are missing a significant business opportunity. Employing more women as bank tellers or mobile money agents can make it easier for women to board financial services. Women want financial services to be delivered to them by someone who experiences similar issues as them. The country has only five per cent women as business correspondents. India has 8.7 million SHGs comprising more than 100 million women members. The number of SHGs in the business correspondent space needs to be stepped up.

To make financial inclusion for women more relevant and meaningful, we also need to educate men about the peculiarities and needs of the female lot. Inadequacies of focussing on women in isolation have long been recognised: Women live in communities, they live in families and with men. Abstracting women from their social realities distorts our understanding of the relational nature of gendered power and the interdependency of women and men. This has a strong bearing on women's motivations, choices and possibilities.

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

# Of rising temperatures and falling standards

A new study that links global warming with inequality must prompt world leaders to raise their fight against climate change. In the Indian context, we need region-specific and customised policies besides awareness drives



KOTA SRIRAJ

The spectre of climate change has spread its tentacles far beyond the ambit of the environment. As global warming and Green House Gas emissions scale new heights, their aftershocks are being felt across new quarters. According to a recent Stanford University study, global warming has increased economic inequality since the 1960s. Changes in temperature caused due to climate change have not only enriched cooler countries like Norway and Sweden but also dragged down economic growth of warmer countries such as India and Nigeria. These observations are disturbing since India specifically features in the report.

According to the study, Canada and Norway witnessed per capita growth of more than 30 per cent due to global warming. On the other hand, economies of India and Sudan have become over 30 per cent smaller than what it would have been if there was no global warming.

Researchers at the university examined 50 years of annual temperature data as well as GDP from 165 countries during the same time period to analyse effects of temperature fluctuations on economic growth. By looking at 20 different climate models, the team determined how much each nation had already warmed between 1961 to 2010. The team also calculated 20,000 versions of what a nation's economic output would have been if climate change was not a factor. Post the examination of the data, researchers came to the conclusion that crop yield and people's health are better when it's neither too hot nor too cold.

This means that in countries which witness cold conditions, little warming can help. The opposite

is true for places that are warm. So, ironically, countries with high historical emissions are among those that have enjoyed the highest per capita GDP and fastest economic growth since the 1960s. On the other hand, global warming reduced per capita income in the poorest countries by 17-30 per cent. The researchers claimed that climate change has brought few of the largest economies to perfect temperature for economic output, while some smaller nations are taking the hit.

However, the good news for developed economies is only short lived for if uncontrolled global warming continues, it will push the big economies further away from the ideal temperature optimum, thus changing the entire economic scenario again. So, even though the impacts of rising global temperatures may seem smaller year to year, they can yield dramatic gains or losses over the next 30 to 50 years. The study emphasised on the importance of improving sustainable energy access for the purpose

of economic development of the poorer countries.

No matter how climate change fuels economic inequalities, it is also true that economic and social inequalities, too, are exacerbating climate change conditions. It is, in fact, a vicious cycle. In order to arrive at a sustainable solution, it is crucial to understand that social and economic inequality itself can act as drivers of climate change.

Several researches in the past few decades have shown that unequal societies inflict more environmental damage than more economic ones. One key issue that is still being overlooked is how environmental degradation and climate change are the toxic byproducts of our inequality problem.

There is also an urgent need to get a grasp of the link between climate change and inequality. Many people, who live in low-income communities, for example, cannot afford to retrofit their homes to make them more energy-efficient. Meaning, they use more power than necessary, thus generating

more pollution. Strategies for controlling climate change and ensuring economic equality that are in consonance with environmental principles have to be tailor-made and region specific. This due to the fact that every country and region has its own peculiarities and differentiating features.

India must understand that global policies to control climate change and ensure economic equality are not directly applicable for conditions over here. The problem of poverty is deep-rooted in our country and can only be weeded out through a customised solution. To ensure that climate change does not further wreak economic havoc, the agricultural sector would have to be insulated against the vagaries of climate change.

Additionally, the impact of climate change in urban India will have to be valued economically and damage assessments must be done at regular intervals. This is crucial because one cannot improve something when it is not quantified. The Government must also

embark on an awareness campaign that seeks to educate the people about their financial well-being. They must be told that their position in the society is dependent on their carbon footprint. This will encourage the masses to seek environmentally-friendly solutions for their energy and transportation needs. An aware population that has embarked on an eco-friendly way of life can turn the clock back on climate change and start restoring the temperatures to previous levels. All of this is possible through a hybrid collaboration of the legislature and the judiciary.

Socio-economic inequalities as a result of climate change are not new and were long expected. What is concerning though is the alarming rate at which this is taking place, leaving no room for evasive action by humanity. This is worrisome and has to be resolved at the earliest. The beginning, as always, will have to be at the grassroots level by adopting sustainable development solutions.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



## FEWER ROBOCALLS? MAY BE NOT FOR LONG

In the wake of the telecom companies taking action against robocallers, what's likely to happen is that they will adjust their tactics. There's no guarantee the telecom companies will continue to fight the scammers as their shady tactics evolve. Phone calls are not the lucrative part of the current array of services the telecom companies offer and are dirt cheap to boot. (The New York Times editorial)

# Priyanka dubs Modi as 'Pradhan Prachar Mantri'

Will end politics of divisiveness and teach BJP a lesson, says Congress GS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary and UP east in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for questioning the achievements of the Congress in the past 50 years and went on to dub Modi as 'Pradhan Prachar Mantri'.

In a tweet, Priyanka also accused the BJP of "wasting drinking water" to clean roads in Banda, an arid town in Uttar Pradesh's Bundelkhand region. Priyanka's attack on Modi and the BJP came a day ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to Banda on Thursday.

"Water from tankers was being used to clean roads to welcome our Pradhan Prachar Mantri (chief publicity minister). This is happening at a time when the entire Bundelkhand, men and women living there, school-going children, crops, birds and animals are facing the spectre of drought," Priyanka tweeted.

"Is he a 'chowkidar' (watch-



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra meets her supporters during an election campaign for Lok Sabha elections in Fatehpur on Wednesday. PTI

man) or a 'shahenshah' (emperor) coming from Delhi?" asked the Congress leader in her tweet. Later, addressing a poll rally in Khaga town of Fatehpur, Priyanka attacked Modi for questioning the Congress work in the last 50 years. "The BJP is not saying what they have done in the past five years but questioning what Nehru had done, what Indira Gandhi had done in the past 50 years," she said.

Priyanka claimed that neither the BJP had any policy nor does it have any intention to

develop the country. "The mentality of the BJP is just to attack my family as all speeches of their leaders' revolve around Congress," she said.

On Congress' promise to give Rs 72,000 every year to the poor, Priyanka said, "It is the BJP leaders who are spreading lies that our NYAY scheme is a jumla. We have worked on it and my brother Rahul Gandhi is committed to fulfilling the promise."

The Congress leader did not spare the Prime Minister for his interview to Bollywood actor

Priyanka accused the BJP of 'wasting drinking water' to clean roads in Banda, an arid town in Bundelkhand

Akshay Kumar, saying, "Now the PM is only interested in giving interviews to big actors, to showcase how big he is."

Reiterating her allegation that the PM did not visit any village of his Varanasi parliamentary constituency, Priyanka said Modi had no concern for poor in his constituency.

The Congress leader said though the Prime Minister called himself a 'chowkidar', everybody knew that only the rich could afford 'chowkidars'.

Priyanka appealed the voters to help her and her party candidates to end the politics of 'divisiveness and negativity' and teach the BJP a lesson in the Lok Sabha election.

"Change the government not only for your needs, but for your future generations and save the country as the country is in danger. Remove the politics of divisiveness and negativity, and usher in politics which speaks about you, your grievances and makes efforts to redress them. Do not to go for a person who speaks lies and does not work for you," the Congress leader said.

"The reality of the BJP's politics is that farmers, youth, women and workers feel exploited, so wake up. Once you are awake, these people will not be able to destroy the country," she said.



BJP national president Amit Shah being garlanded at an election campaign in Samastipur on Wednesday. PTI

# Shah accuses Opp of being soft on terror

PTI ■ MUNGER/BEGUSARAI/ UJIYARPUR

BJP president Amit Shah on Wednesday tore into the Rahul Gandhi-led Congress and its allies accusing them of being soft on terror and of tacitly approving Kashmir's secession from India.

Shah also lambasted the Congress for coming up with promises of scrapping the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and abolition of sedition law in its poll manifesto and declared that such moves would be stoutly opposed by the BJP even if it was no longer in power.

The BJP chief was on a whirlwind election tour of Bihar where he spoke at three back-to-back rallies at Munger, Begusarai and Ujijarpur in as many Lok Sabha constituencies. In Munger, BJP's ally JD(U) candidate Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lallan, a close associate of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is in the fray. Union Minister Giriraj Singh is trying his luck from Begusarai while at Ujijarpur in Samastipur district state BJP president Nityanand Rai is the NDA nominee.

When elections were being held in Jammu & Kashmir, leaders of the National Conference which is a Congress ally came out with the demand that the post of Prime Minister be restored in that State. "For the past fortnight, I have been challenging the Congress to come clean on the issue. But Rahul is silent and so is his allies like Lalu and Rabri Devi (RJD leaders, allies of the Congress in Bihar)," Shah said at his rally in Ujijarpur.

Can any country have more than one Prime Minister. The Congress and its allies want Kashmir to secede from India. It is for the voters to decide whether it is acceptable,

Shah alleged referring to former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullahs controversial statement favoring restoration of the office of Wazir-e-Azam.

With the surgical strikes after Uri terror attack and the air strikes after Pulwama, India found itself on par with the US and Israel which are known to act tough against terrorism. But the leaders of the Congress made faces as if a tragedy had befallen on them. Their facial expressions resembled those of the Pakistanis. Were terrorists blown to smithereens by our armed forces cousins of these Opposition leaders, Shah asked.

Let Rahul hear and let Lalu hear inside his prison cell, you are free to do Ilu Ilu (a famous Bollywood song of the 1990s that abbreviated the expression I love you) with terrorists. But at present Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister and he is going to assume power again. Even when the BJP was no longer in power, every worker of the party will oppose your designs against AFSPA and sedition law.

"Rahul Gandhi will not be able to do as he pleases in his lifetime. We will ensure that after him if another Gandhi rises to power, he too does not play with national interests, Shah said evoking frenzied reactions from the crowds.

Earlier, speaking at Begusarai where Union minister Giriraj Singh is in a triangular contest with CPIs Kanhaiya Kumar and RJDs Tanveer Hussain, Shah launched a caustic attack on the former JNU students union president, who is facing sedition charge. You must teach a lesson to this 'namoona' (sample). Defeat this member of the tukde tukde gang and send him back to Delhi for cooling his heels, Shah said without mentioning the CPI candidate by name.



## BJP CONTESTING ON 437 SEATS, HIGHEST EVER

The BJP has fielded 437 candidates in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the highest number of seats the party has contested so far and perhaps for the first time more than its principal rival Congress. The BJP had contested 427 seats in 2014 and won 282 of them, while the Congress had fielded candidates in 450 seats and bagged just 44. Political observers say the BJP contesting on more seats than the Congress as a result of its expansion across the country post 2014.

## NO NATIONALIST PARTY LIKE CONG: HARDIK PATEL

Hardik Patel on Wednesday termed Congress the biggest nationalist party in the country and said several of its leaders have sacrificed their lives for the nation. Addressing an election meeting here, Patel, who recently joined the Congress, also accused the BJP of trying to "derive mileage" out of the bravado of the country's armed forces, while his party is contesting the elections on issues of education, health and farmers.

## 1 BOOKED FOR OBJECTIONABLE POST ON PM'S MOTHER

One person has been booked for allegedly making objectionable comment about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother on social media, a senior police official said on Wednesday. The case was registered at the Andheri police station a few days ago based on a complaint filed by Nitesh Tiwary (27), general secretary of Andheri unit of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BYJM), police said.

## 4TH PHASE; 17 SEATS UP FOR GRABS IN MAHA

The fate of 323 candidates, including Union Minister Subhash Bhamre, Congress nominees Milind Deora and Urmila Matondkar, will be decided in the fourth and final phase of polling in Maharashtra covering 17 Lok Sabha constituencies on April 29. More than 3.11 crore voters, spread across the 17 Lok Sabha seats located in North Maharashtra, Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and parts of Western Maharashtra, are eligible to exercise their franchise. As many as 33,314 polling stations are being set up in these constituencies, where 323 candidates are in the poll field. Of the total 3,11,92,823 voters, 1,66,31,707 are male, 1,45,59,698 female and 1,418 from the third gender.

## ASANSOL: PEOPLE WARY OF TALKING POLITICS OPENLY

If you don't want to be identified as a sympathiser of a particular political party, do what the people of Asansol do. They attend meetings called by every political party, and say it is the surest way to keep away from being aligned to any one of them ahead of polls marred by violence. Residents are wary of discussing their political preference openly in Asansol, a metropolitan city and important coal-trading centre in West Bengal. They say the atmosphere is not conducive for such a discussion. Asansol has seen sporadic violence this election season, not new to West Bengal where panchayat polls in May last year too were bloodied. In the run up to the Lok Sabha election on April 29, the worst incident in Asansol happened in March when violence erupted during Ram Navami processions. Stones were pelted, bombs were hurled, vehicles and houses were set ablaze. "I go and sit in the front (during a political meeting) and ensure the local guy sees me. Then I leave. That's how it is," said a resident, a Left supporter who is unsure if he will vote in this situation.



Congress North Mumbai candidate and Bollywood actor Urmila Matondkar interacts with locals during her election campaign for the Lok Sabha polls, at Borivli East in Mumbai, on Wednesday. PTI

# Decision on politicians invoking Armed forces in campaigning soon: EC sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission will "soon" take a decision on complaints regarding political leaders invoking armed forces in campaigns, highly-placed sources said on Wednesday.

While the commission had asked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to be careful in his utterances in future on his "Modi ji ki sena" remarks, it is examining reports on comments made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah on the armed forces.

Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was also asked to be careful in future for his "Modi ji ki sena" remarks.

The EC had sought reports on Modi and Shah in the context of its advisory issued last month asking parties to desist from indulging in political

propaganda involving actions of the armed forces.

"...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," the commission said on March 19.

"Decision will be taken soon. The commission is examining the matter," highly-placed sources said. On Tuesday, Deputy Election Commissioner Chandra Bhushan Kumar, responding to a question on Shah's reported remarks on 'Modi ji ki vavy sena' made in West Bengal on Monday, had said, "details have to be collected which will come in a day or two".

Responding to a volley of questions on 'delay' on the part of the commission in finalising its response on the prime min-

ister's remarks in Latur, Maharashtra on April 9 urging young voters to cast ballot in the name of heroes of Balakot air strike, Chandra Bhushan Kumar had said, before taking a decision, the EC looks into the issue in its "entirety".

Initially, he said, district authorities had sent only the relevant paragraph of the PM's speech. "The officials there are good in English and Marathi. But Hindi is an issue. When we demanded, a certified transcript was sent to us on April 16. The matter is (now) under examination," he said.

Asked why in some cases the EC has taken decisions immediately and why was it delaying in other matters, another Deputy Election Commissioner Sandeep Saxena said the EC takes decision after looking into various aspects such as model code of conduct, legal angle.

# PM's Balakot remark: EC seeks explanation from official for incorrect entry on complaint

New Delhi: The Election Commission is examining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks urging youth to vote in the name of those who carried out Balakot air strikes, but its grievance redressal portal shows that the complaint has been "resolved".

Now, the Commission has sought an explanation from the concerned returning officer for the error.

"The status should have shown that the matter has been referred to Election Commission headquarters. But the entry reflected that the complaint as resolved ... It is being rectified," explained a senior EC functionary.

An explanation has been sought from the concerned official the functionary said. PTI

# Naseeruddin Shah reiterates 'there is no space for rational debate in country'

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

Renowned theatre personality and film actor Naseeruddin Shah who is vocal in criticising Modi led Government feels space for rational debate has disappeared. In a brief chat on Wednesday at theatre Ranga Shankara in Bengaluru Naseeruddin Shah feels sad about disappearing space for rational expression. However he was very firm and said he stood by his earlier statements which were subjected to right wing criticism.

He said, "Anything you say today becomes controversial. The space for rational debate has just disappeared. I don't want say anything. So far what I have said I stand by it. I stand by all my previous statements; I don't want to make any further statements because my family and I have been put to lot of harassment". "I don't want to get in to any sort of controversies or create the controversies. And I have lot to do inside the theatre," he added.

On Modi's biopic he said it looks hilarious. He said "We make terrible biopic. As you must have seen the biopic of Milka Singh. It's bogus and false. And there is Dhoni one I did not bother to see. And I don't think we make good bio picks. I don't think we should do it. Modi's it looks pretty hilarious. That's all I can say as I have seen only the trailer".

Naseeruddin Shah made many statements against

the divide created by the BJP and vehemently criticised the intention of divide of Hindus and Muslims. He had said he was worried for children in today's India. He's worried because he imagines a situation where his children may be surrounded by an angry mob and asked: "Are you Hindu or Muslim?"

"My children will have no answer," Naseeruddin Shah says, "Because we chose not to give a religious education to our children." Naseeruddin Shah also says that there is a "poison" that has spread in the Indian society. "It will be very difficult to capture this djinn (genie) back into the bottle."

"There is complete impunity for those who take the law into their own hands," Naseeruddin says. "We have already witnessed that the death of a cow has more significance [in today's India] than that of a police officer."

Recently he was one of the signatories of artists asking people to vote against BJP.

He is in Bengaluru to perform the play "Father" along with his troupe. The play has had three-month-long runs in September 2017 and 2018 at the NCPA, Mumbai, and November to December 2017 at Prithvi Theatre, Mumbai. Written by French novelist-playwright Florian Zeller and translated by Britain's Christopher Hampton, The Father is an emotional play about Dementia, and how a mental dysfunction can affect both the sufferer and carer.



A BJP supporter with painted body sports the party symbol, lotus, head gear during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at an election campaign for Lok Sabha polls, at Taherpur city of Ranaghat in Nadia, on Wednesday. PTI



# After LS polls, TN gets ready for bypolls

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Though elections to the 38 Lok Sabha and 18 assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu got over on April 18, the heat and dust generated during the poll are yet to settle down in the State.

Tamil Nadu is in for yet another bout of bypolls as four more Assembly constituencies would elect their representatives to the State Assembly on May 19. The results of these bypolls would be declared on May 23 simultaneously with that of the 38 Lok Sabha and 18 Assembly polls which were held on April 18.

Bypolls for two constituencies (Thirupparankundram and Sulur) were necessitated by the death of the sitting members, while the remaining two constituencies (Aravakurichi and Ottapidaram) saw the disqualification of the legislators by the

Speaker of the House under the provisions of the Anti-Defection Law.

Despite the support of 134 AIADMK MLAs in a house which has an effective strength of 234 members, the Edappadi Palaniswamy Government was always under the threat of TTV Dhinakaran, the lone member of the AMMK who had declared from day one that his 'sleeper cells' in the treasury benches would strike at the right time and bring down the government. But over the last one year, Dhinakaran has stopped speaking about the sleeper cells while it is the DMK which has upped the ante with claims of change of Government in the State.

The DMK which has 97 MLAs in its bench should win 21 of the 22 seats for which bypolls are held to touch the magic figure of 118 for government formation. Even hardcore DMK supporters do not

Tamil Nadu is in for yet another bout of bypolls as four more Assembly constituencies would elect their representatives to the State Assembly on May 19. The results of these bypolls would be declared on May 23 simultaneously with that of the 38 Lok Sabha and 18 Assembly polls which were held on April 18

share the optimism of party chief MK Stalin who claims at each and every opportunity that the end of the AIADMK Government is near.

Senthil Balaji, the DMK candidate for the Aravakurichi assembly constituency who filed his nomination paper on Wednesday said that Tamil Nadu would see a change of government immediately after May 23, the day when results are declared. "The DMK will

win all the 22 by-elections and Stalin would be sworn in as chief minister," said Balaji, who had returned to the DMK after a stint with the AIADMK and the AMMK.

Enthusied and energised by the results of the opinion polls held by certain private agencies which claimed that the DMK would make a clean sweep in the election, Stalin and some of the senior leaders have even started the process for forming the government, said a source close to the party leadership. Udhayanidhi and Sabari, son and son-in-law of Stalin are the persons entrusted with the task of selecting the MLAs to be sworn in ministers.

Some of the bureaucrats and leaders of Tamil Nadu Government Employees and Teachers Organisation (a frontal organisation of the DMK) have started lobbying for positions at the Government Secretariat.

# Phase IV: Spotlight on personalities in UP

IANS ■ LUCKNOW

The fourth phase of elections in Uttar Pradesh will focus more on political personalities than on parties in the 13 Lok Sabha seats where polling will be held on April 29.

The 13 seats are Kannauj, Shahjahanpur, Lakhimpur, Hardoi, Misrikh, Unnao, Farukhhabad, Etawah, Kanpur, Akbarpur, Jalaun, Jhansi and Hamirpur.

Among these Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Misrikh, Etawah and Jalaun are reserved seats. For the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the five reserved seats provide a major challenge since the BSP has been losing on

reserved seats over the years.

In 2014, the BJP had won all seats, barring Kannauj, where Dimple Yadav had won on a Samajwadi ticket, albeit with a slender margin.

Dimple Yadav now faces the challenge of retaining her seat in face of the tough challenge posed to her by BJP candidate Subrat Pathak. If Dimple Yadav manages to retain the seat for her party for the eight consecutive times, she will have a lot to thank the BSP for her win.

In Farukhhabad, it is former union Minister Salman Khurshid who is battling to make a comeback into centre stage politics. After his defeat

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in 2014, Khurshid has been keeping a low profile and his supporters want to see him back in action.

After denying Murli Manohar Joshi the ticket, the BJP is facing a tough challenge in Kanpur. Uttar Pradesh Minister Satyadev Pachauri, contesting the seat, is facing resistance from party cadres, making the electoral battle eas-

Ashok Dohre said, "I am thankful to the Congress and the results will prove that the scales have tilted in my favour."

In Unnao, BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj, known for his controversial remarks, is seeking re-election but Annu Tandon of Congress is giving him a run for his votes.

Sakshi Maharaj, however, is boisterously over-confident and says, "Every person with a conscience and a golden heart will vote for me. I am going to get elected with a record margin this time."

In Shahjahanpur, the BJP

has denied ticket to its union minister Krishna Raj and replaced her with Arun Sagar that has made party workers recede into their homes.

This phase, in fact, is rather troublesome for the BJP since it has changed six of the 12 candidates, causing ripples of discontent among its cadres.

# Modi protected interest of 15 selected people: Rahul



PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Firing a fresh salvo at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday accused him of shielding the interest of "15 selected people" and leaving "high and dry" farmers and the poor.

Rahul was addressing an election rally here to boost the prospects of the party's candidate for the Kheri Lok Sabha seat Zafar Ali Naqvi and its nominee for the Nighasan Assembly bypoll Atal Shukla.

Claiming that Modi during his last visit to Kheri had assured farmers in Uttar Pradesh that they will get their sugarcane dues within 14 days, the Congress chief asked, "Has any assurance come true in five years?" "Narendra Modi in 2014 made a number of false assurances of 'achhe din' (better days), of two crore jobs, of Rs 15 lakh in every bank account but none of them came true," he said.

Taking a jibe at Modi for referring to himself as 'chowki-

dar (watchman)", Rahul alleged, "This chowkidar obliged 15 selected people during his five-year term but told sugarcane farmers that cane-farming caused sugar (diabetes)." The diabetes remark is, however, mostly attributed to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Raking up the Rafale issue, the Congress chief said, "Anil Ambani, who never manufactured an airplane, was awarded with a Rs 30,000 crore contract, but cane farmers were told that cane-farming caused sugar (diabetes) when they demanded their dues."

The Government has repeatedly denied any corruption in the Rafale deal. Elaborating on his party's minimum income guarantee 'Nay' scheme, Rahul said, "The scheme was pronounced after due consultation with economists and think-tanks."

"The scheme will provide annually Rs 72,000 in individual bank accounts of 25 crore poor people," he said. The party has promised to give an annual income support of Rs

72,000 to poor families under the scheme, if voted to power, even as the BJP claimed 'Nay' will "ruin" fiscal discipline and the Congress will impose new taxes on the middle class to finance it.

"The scheme has been thoroughly discussed and if crores of rupees owed by Anil Ambani, Vijay Malya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi can be waived, then Rs 3,60,000 crore for five crore families under Nay can also be afforded," Rahul said in a bid to allay fears about the scheme's feasibility.

He said, "Unlike notebandi (demonetisation) and 'Gabbar Singh Tax' by Modi Government which disturbed the economy and employment, Nay will benefit the economy by enhancing demand for consumer goods and thus, boosting the manufacturing sector and employment."

The Congress chief has often termed the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as 'Gabbar Singh Tax'. The Congress's manifesto reflects the views and suggestions of the common

people and not "mann ki baat", Rahul said taking a swipe at Modi's monthly radio broadcast. He said as per suggestions from the people, the Congress manifesto provides no jail term for farmers who default loans.

"Similarly, the Congress has decided to present a separate budget for farmers so that they can know about MSP (minimum support price), bonus and cane dues in advance," the Congress chief said. He promised the youths that if the Congress is voted to power, the Centre will fill up 22 lakh Government vacancies within a year after assuming office, besides employing 10 lakh youths in panchayats.

Rahul also assured them "to scrap permission for new entrepreneurship for initial three years to boost self employment." Raising the issue of stray cattle in UP, he said, "The Modi Government has made every farmer chowkidar of their crops and he (PM) himself became the chowkidar of Ambani."

He claimed that his party

will form government at the Centre and that "after the Lok Sabha polls, the next target was (UP) Assembly elections (in 2022) to ensure that the State is at the top in education, health and employment as before." Earlier, Congress general secretary in-charge of west UP Jyotiraditya Scindia made a scathing attack on the Modi and Adityanath Governments and accused them of ignoring the farmers and youths.

## Akhilesh attacks Cong for its 'big ego', mocks BJP's 'chaiwala' PM

PTI ■ KANPUR/HARDOI

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday lashed out at the Congress over its "big ego" while continuing his attack on the BJP, suggesting that voters will walk away this time from the tea being offered by the 'chaiwala' Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mocking Modi at a public meeting in Hardoi, he said people voted for the 'chaiwala' in 2014. "As you know the taste of the tea now, will you vote for him again?" the Samajwadi Party president asked.

He also called the Prime Minister a "prachar mantri", or a publicity minister. At his Kanpur rally, Yadav sharpened his attack against the Congress, which has been kept out by the SP and the Bahujan Samaj

Party from their alliance in Uttar Pradesh for the Lok Sabha elections.

"Like the BJP, the Congress too believes in threatening political opponents," he said.

"We had an alliance with the Congress, but found that their ego is too big," Yadav said.

The SP had an understanding with the Congress during the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

In the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, the alliance of the SP, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal has shunned it.

However, the alliance decided not to field any candidate from Rae Bareilly and Amethi, the bastions held by Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.



Samajwadi Party candidate Dimple Yadav during an election campaign roadshow in Kannauj on Wednesday

## Modi to hold Varanasi roadshow today, file nomination on April 26

PTI ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a roadshow and take part in the Ganga 'aarti' on Thursday, a day before he files his nomination papers from this Uttar Pradesh constituency, a party functionary said.

The nomination on Friday will also see a show of strength with several BJP allies, including Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray and Janata Dal-United's Nitish Kumar, expected to accompany Modi when he files the papers.

The roadshow will begin at around 3 pm after the Prime Minister garlands the statue of Banaras Hindu University founder Madan Mohan Malaviya, according to the

schedule available now.

The procession will end at about 7 pm at the Dashashwamedh Ghat, the most prominent of Varanasi's ghats, where Modi will take part in the evening prayers.

On Friday, the PM will hold a meeting at 9 am with BJP workers at a hotel in the cantonment area. He will then offer prayers at the Kaal Bhairav temple before leaving for the collectorate to file his papers, seeking re-election from the Lok Sabha seat.

Senior leaders from the BJP and other parties in the National Democratic Alliance will accompany Modi to the collectorate.

# No one willing to take up JeM leadership in Valley: Army



15 Corps Commander Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon addresses a joint Press conference with Police and CRPF officers in Srinagar on Wednesday

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps, Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon, on Wednesday said after the elimination of over one dozen top commanders of Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) outfit, (categorised as A+terrorists), post Pulwama attack, no one in Kashmir Valley is coming forward to take over the leadership of JeM in the Valley.

"Even after Pakistan's best efforts, we will continue to suppress JeM, especially after Pulwama," he said.

"Operations against the terrorists will continue with full vigour and we will not let terrorism rise up," the top Army commander said.

Sharing details of CI operations conducted so far in this year, Dhillon said, "as many as 69 terrorists have been killed and 12 have been apprehended this year. Post Pulwama 41 terrorists have been killed and out of them 25 belonged to Jaish-e-Mohammed, 13 of

them were Pakistanis and 13 were A+ Category terrorists," he added.

During the Press briefing, Dilbag Singh revealed, "Recruitment of local youth continues to be low, it is a healthy sign. He said, in 2018, 272 terrorists were eliminated across the State and a large number of them were apprehended."

After the Press briefing was over, the State police also produced a Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorist in front of media.

LeT terrorist identified as Mohammad Waqar Awan, a resident of Mohalla Miana in Mianwali area of Punjab in Pakistan, was arrested earlier this week in Baramulla and paraded before the media at the Police Control Room.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Baramulla), Abdul Qayoom, said Awan had infiltrated in the Valley in July 2017. He was active in Handwara

(area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district). For the last about two years, he was active in different places of Srinagar. When he was returning to Baramulla, he was intercepted at a naka (check post). However, the driver of his vehicle rammed it into police vehicle and sped away.

Police chased them and about 1.5 km away from the naka, they left their vehicle on the road and tried to flee, but were apprehended. The driver, a conduit, is a Kashmiri. We will share further details when we have them, the SSP said at the Press conference.

Qayoom said Awan's primary task was to revive militancy in those areas which had been declared militancy-free. We had this input that since Baramulla was declared

free of militancy, they (militant leadership) were under pressure to revive the militancy there and that is why these two were going to Baramulla, he said.

He said a pistol and some other things were recovered from the Pakistani militant when he was arrested. Asked about Awan's activities in Srinagar, the SSP said he mostly visited areas around Srinagar-Baramulla highway and few areas in downtown the interior areas of the city here.

"We are identifying and pinpointing more people involved with him," Qayoom said.

executing the Mumbai attacks in November, 2008 that left 166 people dead. Lakhvi is currently on bail, and the case is moving very slowly.

Awan, known by alias of "Chota Dujana", told reporters that before he joined militancy, he was told that atrocities were being inflicted on the people of Kashmir by security forces but he saw no such thing in the Valley.

"I received training for four months at a camp in Muzaffarabad. I was told that atrocities are committed on children and women. Prayers are not allowed in mosques and houses of Muslims are destroyed," he told reporters, adding he found that the conditions were different in Kashmir. Police officials said Awan's arrest and "confession" is "live evidence" for Pakistan as to how youths are manipulated on its soil, prepared for militancy and then sent here to join Jaish-e-Mohammed or

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) Namely: Himanshu Tanwar, S/o: Sh. Mohan Tanwar, R/o: WZ-911/1, Naraina, New Delhi, Aged: 31 years, has been reported missing from his house, since 06.04.2019 at 07.00 AM. Vide DD No. 35A, Dated 07.04.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Naraina, Delhi.

His physical description is as under: Himanshu Tanwar  
Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'8", Face: Round, Physique/BUILD: Strong, Clothing: Orange Colour T-Shirt, Black Colour Linedar Half Pant & Grey Colour Gents Chappal in Feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Naraina, Delhi at E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tel No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O  
P.S. Naraina, Delhi  
DP/8209/WD/19. Ph.: 011-25891181, 25892010, 8750871122

### SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General public is hereby informed that one female Namely: Meena (with Two Child Anshu 10 Years & Ansh 6 years), H/o: Ravinder, R/o: C-12, Laxmi Park, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, Height: 4'10", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Suit-Salwar and Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing since 16.03.2019 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 22-A dated 23.03.2019 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

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

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

E-Mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

S.H.O  
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi Ph. 011-25946700, 25946710 DP/2128/OD/19

### AXIS BANK

Retail Assets Centre, Noida: Axis Bank Ltd. K-10, 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida. Retail Assets Centre, Delhi: Axis Bank Ltd. 4/6B, Asaf Ali Road, Near Delhi Cinema, New Delhi-110002. Retail Assets Centre, Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd. SC0 12, Sector 14, Urban Estate, Opp HUDA Office, Gurgaon 122001. Retail Assets Centre, Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SC0-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sector 16, Faridabad, Haryana. Office - Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower 1, 2, 2nd Floor, 14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens, Noida, (U.P.)-201301. Corporate Office: Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, PandurangBudhakarMarg, Worli, Mumbai-400 025. Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samarveshwar Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

### DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Name of The Borrower / Address/ Co-Borrower And Guarantor Name	Property Address of Secured Assets	1. NPA Date	2. Date of Demand Notice	3. Outstanding Amt (Rs.) As on Date of Notice	4. Loan Amount (Rs.)
1. Mr. Ajay Kumar S/O Sh. Kamleshwar Prasad Singh R/O A-302, Plot No. 11/2, Annapali Vaishali Apartments, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-122002, U.P. Also At: Mr. Ajay Kumar S/O Sh. Kamleshwar Prasad Singh M/S Ultra Home Construction Pvt. Ltd. 56/40, Tower-C, Sector-62, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301	Immovable Assets : All That Lease Hold Plot Of Land Bearing No. A-014 Having Area Of 200 Sq. Mtrs. (239.20 Sq. Yd.) In Project Pelican Villas Situated At Sector 128, Jaypee Green Fish Town, Noida (UP)	1. 9-Sep-18	2. 15-Apr-19	3. Rs. 39,82,740/- &	4. Rs. 53,70,808/- & Rs. 52,00,000/- & Rs. 80,65,000/-
1. Mr. Arvind Sud S/O Sh. Bhup Chand Sud R/O SCF-96, Sector-14, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana Also At: Mr. Arvind Sud Proprietor Captains Table SCF-96, Sector-14, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana	Immovable Assets All The Pieces And Parcel Of Freehold Site/Plot No. SCF-96 At Sector-14, Faridabad, Haryana Having Area Of 121 Square Metres.	1. 11-Apr-19	2. 15-Apr-19	3. Rs. 2,75,81,209/-	4. Rs. 2,80,00,000/-
1. Mr. Jitendra Pratap Singh S/O Sh. Bhagat Singh R/O House No. 44d, Block-B, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida-201301 U.P. Also At: Mr. Jitendra Pratap Singh S/O Sh. Bhagat Singh-111, 105, Sector-D, Aliganj, Lucknow, U.P.-226204	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Flat No. 201 On The Second Floor In Madison Tower Having A Total Super Area Measuring 161.64 Sq. Mtrs. (1739.89 Sq. Ft.) Having Covered Area Of 131.45 Sq. Mtrs. (1414.93 Sq. Ft.) And Share Of Common Areas In Respect thereof Vis-A-Vis The Area Of The Concreter Residential Tower, Measuring 30.19 Sq. Mts. (324.97 Sq. Ft.) Approximate In The Multi Storeyed Residential Complex Nri City Approximate Within "Omase Nri City" Township Situated At Omega-II, Builder Area, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) Alongwith The Undivided, Impartible, Unidentified Lease Hold Rights In The Portion Of The Said Land Underneath The Building, Consisting of Several Blocks, Comprising The Complex, In Proportion Of The Super Area Of The Said Flat/Dwelling Unit.	1. 11-Apr-19	2. 20-Apr-19	3. Rs. 3,413,767/-	4. Rs. 32,30,000/-
1. Mr. Kunal Kumar Khaitan S/O Mr. Kamal Kumar Khaitan R/O A-4/13, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 Also At Mr. Kunal Kumar Khaitan Partner M/S Rashee Constructions House No. L-95, Sector-2, Near Bada Gole Chakkarg, Dsdc, Bawana, Delhi-110071	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Property Bearing No. A-413, Area Measuring 202.50 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Paschim Puri Residential Scheme, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi And Bounded As Under- North - Plot No. 12 East - Road South - Plot No. 14 West - Service Lane	1. 31-Mar-19	2. 16-Apr-19	3. Rs. 1,07,27,357.87/-	4. Rs. 1,50,00,000/-
2. Mrs. Manita Khaitan W/O Mr. Kunal Kumar Khaitan R/O A-4/13, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 Also At: Mrs. Manita Khaitan Partner M/S Rashee Constructions House No. L-95, Sector-2, Near Bada Gole Chakkarg, Dsdc, Bawana, Delhi-110071	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No. 503, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part-2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen One Servent Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South: as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 11,201,794/-	4. Rs. 17284000/-
3. Mrs. Kamala Kumari Khaitan W/O Kamal Kumar Khaitan R/O A-4/13, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Property Bearing No. A-413, Area Measuring 202.50 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Paschim Puri Residential Scheme, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi And Bounded As Under- North - Plot No. 12 East - Road South - Plot No. 14 West - Service Lane	1. 11-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 11,201,794/-	4. Rs. 17284000/-
4. M/S Rashee Constructions Through Its Partner House No. L-95, Sector-2, Near Bada Gole Chakkarg, Dsdc, Bawana, Delhi-110071	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No. 503, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part-2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen One Servent Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South: as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 11,201,794/-	4. Rs. 17284000/-
1. Mrs. Nilofar Singh W/o Mr. Ipininder Singh R/O 607, Sarvapriya Vihar Apartments, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi 110016	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No. 603, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part-2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen One Servent Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South: as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 11,201,794/-	4. Rs. 17284000/-
2. Mr. Harman Singh S/o Mr. Ipininder Singh R/O 607, Sarvapriya Apartments, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi 110016	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No. 603, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part-2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen One Servent Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South: as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 11,201,794/-	4. Rs. 17284000/-
3. M/S Nitex Overseas Through Its proprietor Mrs. Nilofar Singh, F-9033, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-1 New Delhi-110020	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Property Bearing No. A-413, Area Measuring 202.50 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Paschim Puri Residential Scheme, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi And Bounded As Under- North - Plot No. 12 East - Road South - Plot No. 14 West - Service Lane	1. 11-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 11,201,794/-	4. Rs. 17284000/-
Also At: M/S Nitex Overseas Office at 287, Sant Nagar, East Of Kalash, New Delhi 110065	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Property Bearing No. A-413, Area Measuring 202.50 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Paschim Puri Residential Scheme, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi And Bounded As Under- North - Plot No. 12 East - Road South - Plot No. 14 West - Service Lane	1. 11-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 11,201,794/-	4. Rs. 17284000/-
1. Mr. Shahid Jamal, S/o - Tabajum Ali R/O-2642, G/F, Near Ration Card Office, Shalimar Bagh, Mother Dairy, New Delhi - 110088	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right consisting of 3 - Bedroom, 1-Drawing/Dinning, 1-Kitchen, 2- Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq.ft. or 83.61 sq.mtrs on Plot No - G-K-4144/5, GyanKhand -IVth Indrapuram Ghaziabad - 201014	1. 2-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 1,180,608/-	4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
Also At: Mr. Shahid Jamal, S/o - Tabajum Ali, 1024, Goldhar, Raj Nagar, Sector - 23, Ghaziabad, U.P. - 201011	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right consisting of 3 - Bedroom, 1-Drawing/Dinning, 1-Kitchen, 2- Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq.ft. or 83.61 sq.mtrs on Plot No - G-K-4144/5, GyanKhand -IVth Indrapuram Ghaziabad - 201014	1. 2-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 1,180,608/-	4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
Also At: Mr. Shahid Jamal, S/o - Tabajum Ali, Shastri Nagar, New Delhi - 110088	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right consisting of 3 - Bedroom, 1-Drawing/Dinning, 1-Kitchen, 2- Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq.ft. or 83.61 sq.mtrs on Plot No - G-K-4144/5, GyanKhand -IVth Indrapuram Ghaziabad - 201014	1. 2-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 1,180,608/-	4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
Also At: Mr. Shahid Jamal, S/o - Tabajum Ali, R/O - Flat No - SF - 1, IInd Floor, Plot No - 14405, Gyan Khand IV, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad - 201014	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right consisting of 3 - Bedroom, 1-Drawing/Dinning, 1-Kitchen, 2- Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq.ft. or 83.61 sq.mtrs on Plot No - G-K-4144/5, GyanKhand -IVth Indrapuram Ghaziabad - 201014	1. 2-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 1,180,608/-	4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
2. Mrs. Reena W/O - Mr. Shahid Jamal, R/O- 2642/2, G/F, Near Ration Card Office, Shalimar Bagh, Mother Dairy, New Delhi - 110088	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right consisting of 3 - Bedroom, 1-Drawing/Dinning, 1-Kitchen, 2- Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq.ft. or 83.61 sq.mtrs on Plot No - G-K-4144/5, GyanKhand -IVth Indrapuram Ghaziabad - 201014	1. 2-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 1,180,608/-	4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
Also At: Mr. Shahid Jamal, S/o - Tabajum Ali, R/O - Flat No - SF - 1, IInd Floor, Plot No - 14405, GyanKhand IV, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad - 201014	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right consisting of 3 - Bedroom, 1-Drawing/Dinning, 1-Kitchen, 2- Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq.ft. or 83.61 sq.mtrs on Plot No - G-K-4144/5, GyanKhand -IVth Indrapuram Ghaziabad - 201014	1. 2-Apr-19	2. 22-Apr-19	3. Rs. 1,180,608/-	4. Rs. 2,396,980/-

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules thereunder.

Kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFESI Act where under you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s). Please note that under Section 13(13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of this secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date : 25-04-2019, Place : Delhi Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.,

# FinMin brings in changes in e-way bill system

## To check GST evasion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has introduced changes in the e-way bill system, including auto calculation of distance based on PIN codes for generation of e-way bill and blocking generation of multiple bills on one invoice, as it seeks to crack down on GST evaders.

Touted as an anti-evasion tool, the electronic way or e-way bill was rolled out on April 1, 2018, for moving goods worth over ₹50,000 from one state to another. The same for intra or within the state movement was rolled out in a phased manner from April 15.

With instances of malpractices in e-way bill generation getting detected, the revenue department decided to rework the system for generation of e-way bill by transporters and business.

The new enhanced system would come with auto-calculation of distance between the source and destination, based on the PIN codes. The user would be allowed to enter the actual distance as per the movement of goods, which will be limited to 10 per cent more than the auto calculated distance displayed, according to



the e-way bill portal.

For example, if the system has displayed the distance between Place A and B, based on the PIN codes, as 655 kms, then the user is allowed to enter the actual distance covered up to 720 kms (655 kms + 65 kms).

Besides, the Government has decided not to permit generation of multiple e-way bills based on one invoice. This means, if the e-way bill is generated once with a particular invoice number, then none of the parties — consignor, consignee or transporter — can generate another e-way bill with the same invoice number.

The enhanced feature would permit extension of validity of the e-way bill when

the goods are in transit/movement.

The e-way bill portal, which has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the country's premier informatics services organisation, would also generate a report for users on the list of e-way bills about to expire.

This would help the user to analyse the data and ensure that the goods reach the destination within the valid time period.

Transporters of goods worth over ₹50,000 would be required to present e-way bill during transit to a GST inspector, if asked. Failure to produce an e-way bill can attract a penalty of ₹10,000 or amount of tax sought to be evaded, whichever is higher.

# Wireless broadband subscriber base touches 532 mn in Feb: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wireless broadband subscriber base surged to 532 million in February 2019, onboarding 10.2 million users during the month, with Reliance Jio cornering nearly 56 per cent of the overall wireless broadband market, ICRA said.

"The wireless broadband subscriber base continues to maintain its strong growth trajectory, increasing to 532 million in February 2019, or 45 per cent of the total subscriber base, witnessing addition of 10.2 million during the month. R Jio leads the wireless broadband market, with market share of 56 per cent, followed by Bharti and Vodafone-Idea at 21 per cent each," ICRA said in its latest report.

ICRA noted that 100 per cent of Reliance Jio's subscribers are broadband subscribers, while the same ratio for Vodafone-Idea stood at 27 per cent and for Bharti at 32 per cent.

The wireless subscriber base in India increased to 1,183.7 million in February 2019, adding 1.7 million subscribers over the previous month, the report said.

The active wireless sub-



scriber base remained steady at 1,023 million. It added to the wireless broadband subscriber base maintained strong momentum, demonstrating a growth of two per cent during the month of February.

"The growth in subscriber base in February was primarily driven by Rjio, which added 7.8 million subscribers. State-owned BSNL or MTNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd/Mahanagar Telephone nigan Ltd) was the only other telco gaining subscribers in the month, adding 0.9 million users," Harsh Jagnani, sector head and vice president — Corporate Ratings, ICRA said.

"The overall active subscriber base remained at 1,023 million in February, as increase in Rjio's and BSNL or MTNL's active subscriber base has been at the expense of other industry participants, who lost 10.4 million active subscribers on a combined basis," he added.

# WeWork India, others offer jobs to Jet Airways employees

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US-based co-working operator WeWork on Wednesday said it will offer job opportunities to Jet Airways employees, who were affected by the recent suspension of operations.

Running into a debt of more than ₹8,500 crore, Jet Airways has shut down operations temporarily after lenders decided against extending emergency funds for its survival.

Cash-starved Jet Airways, which has around 23,000 employees, has delayed payment of salaries to the employees, including pilots.

WeWork, in a statement, said it will actively consider job applications from Jet employees for openings across marketing, community management and sales.

"In line with WeWork's mission to create a world where people work to make a life, not just a living, the company is opening up opportunities for jet employees to be a part of the global shared community," it added. WeWork said interested



candidates can send their resumes...And we will fast-track the process to schedule a meeting with you," it said in a statement.

SpiceJet Chairman Ajay Singh has stated that the airline has absorbed nearly 1,000 Jet Airways employees and will continue to hire more.

Startups like CureFit have also stepped in to offer employment to the distressed workers at Jet. CureFit co-founder Ankit Nagori had recently tweeted that the company would be open to hire candidates from Jet.

# RBI sells entire stake in NHB, Nabard to Govt for ₹1,470 cr

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank has divested its entire stake in National Housing Bank (NHB) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) for ₹1,450 crore and ₹20 crore, respectively.

The central bank sold stake in NHB on March 19, while it sold the stake in Nabard on February 26, the bank said in a statement Wednesday.

"With this, the Government now holds 100 per cent stake in both these financial institutions," the RBI said.

Divestment has been done on the recommendation of the second Narasimham committee report and the discussion paper prepared by the RBI on "harmonizing the role and operations of development financial institutions and banks," the central bank said.

# CBI issues Look Out Circulars against Bhushan steel chairman, wife

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has issued Look Out Circulars (LOCs) against chairman of Bhushan Power and Steel Limited Sanjay Singhal and his wife Aarti, who is vice chairman of the company, in connection with cheating in loans worth over ₹2,348 crore, sources said.

The LOCs have been opened recently to prevent any attempt by the accused to leave the country without permission from the authorities, the sources said.

A look out circular is a letter used by authorities to keep a tab on an individual. The Immigration authorities at all airports and entry-exit points across the country will have to inform the CBI if Singhal and his wife attempt to leave the country.

The agency had on April 6 carried out searches at 18 locations connected to the company after registering a case of cheating amounting to ₹2,348

crore against Singhal and others.

Loans worth ₹47,204 crore were availed from 33 banks and financial institutions from 2007 to 2014 and the company defaulted on their repayments, the CBI said.

The searches were carried out in a number of cities, including the Delhi-NCR, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Odisha, at the office and residential premises of the company, its directors and promoters and their associates in the bank fraud case.

The CBI has also already booked Sanjay Singhal, Aarti Singhal, directors Ravi Prakash Goyal, Ram Naresh Yadav, Hardev Chand Verma, Ravinder Kumar Gupta and one Ritesh Kapoor besides unidentified public servants.

The company deliberately defaulted on repayment and also claimed inadmissible credit causing a loss approximately of over ₹2,348 crore to the banks, the CBI had alleged.

# COMPOSITION SCHEME BIZ TO NOW FILE SIMPLIFIED 'SELF-ASSESSED' GST RETURN QUARTERLY

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Giving relief to composition scheme taxpayers under the GST, the finance ministry has allowed such businesses to file 'self-assessed' return on quarterly basis in a simplified form.

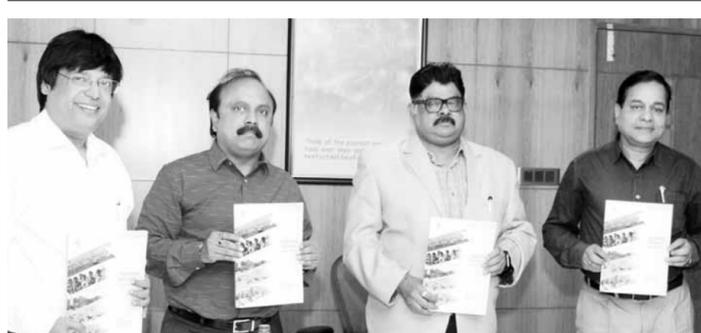
So far, businesses opting for composition scheme had to file tax returns every quarter in GSTR-4 which ran into around seven pages.

As per a Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) notification, composition scheme taxpayers will now file GSTR-4 annually by April 30 for the previous financial year ending March 31.

The CBIC has notified the simplified 'statement for payment of self-assessed tax' in Form GST CMP08 to be filed by taxpayers who have opted for composition scheme, under

which businesses have to pay lower rate of tax on their turnover.

The CMP08, which has to be filed by the 18th day of the subsequent month following the end of a quarter, will include details like outward supplies, inward supplies attracting reverse charge including import of services; tax, interest payable; and taxes and interest paid.



NMDC's 2nd sustainability report titled "Expanding Horizons — from Ore to Steel" is released on Wednesday by N Bajjendra Kumar, IAS, CMD, NMDC in presence of functional Directors of NMDC Dr TRK Rao, Director (Commercial); PK Satpathy, Director (Production) and Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance) and senior officials of NMDC and Thinkstep Sustainability Solutions Private Limited

# Gaana expects double monthly active users to 200 million

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Music streaming app Gaana expects to double the number of monthly active users on its platform to 200 million in the next two years representing around 50 per cent share in the overall market, a top official of the company said Wednesday.

"With increased competition, the market stands at about 160 million total online music listeners. That will go to 400 million in the next two years. We will continue to be the market leader. We will get next 100 million (monthly active) new listeners in two years," Gaana Chief Executive Officer Prashan Agarwal said on the sidelines of achieving 100 million monthly active users (MAUs).

He said the next 100 million MAU will come from the company from Tier-III towns and cities.

# Govt procures 55.17 lakh tonnes of wheat so far this year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has purchased 55.17 lakh tonnes of wheat from farmers in the ongoing 2019-20 marketing year so far, a senior Food Ministry official said on Wednesday.

Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have contributed the most to wheat procurement so far, the official said. The Centre has set the wheat procurement target at 357 lakh tonnes for the 2019-20 marketing year (April-March) on hopes of a record 1,000 lakh tonne production this year.

State-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) along with state government agencies buy wheat at the minimum support price to meet the demand of welfare schemes. The Government has fixed the wheat MSP at ₹1,840 per quintal, up from ₹1,735 a year earlier.

### MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one man, **Namely: Harish Kumar @ Tota, S/o: Naresh Kumar, R/o: H. No. A-137, Kamruddin Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/kidnaped since 27.03.2019 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard, a **Case Vide DD No. 22-A, Dated 02.04.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.** Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the man could not be traced. The description of the missing/kidnaped man is as under:

**Name: Harish Kumar @ Tota, S/o: Naresh Kumar, R/o: H. No. A-137, Kamruddin Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi, Age: 32 years, Height: 5'5" Feet, Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: White Shirt, Blue Jeans Pant and Yellow Chappal in feet.** If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnaped man, then please inform P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) S.H.O  
 Fax: No. 011-24368639  
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi  
 Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710  
 DP/2145/OD/19.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Rinki Kumari, D/o Tri Bhawan Thakur, R/o H.No. A-103, Sainik Enclave, Bala Ji Chowk, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnaped since 05.04.2019 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 29-A, dated 07.04.2019, has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnaped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnaped girl is as under:

**Name: Rinki Kumari, Gender: Female, Age: 20 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing: Orange colour Suit, Blue colour Pajami and Red colour Hawal Slippers in Feet.** If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnaped girl, kindly inform SHO Ranhola, Delhi.

E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Ranhola, Delhi  
 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. No.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003  
 DP/2152/OD/19

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Rekha with three child (Mahi-8 Years, Manas-7 Years & Taniya-04 Months), W/o: Shiv Dev, R/o: Gali No. 4, Backside Raja Public School, Chandan Vihar, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, Age: 30 Years, Height: 5'4", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Saree and Sandal in feet** has been missing/kidnaped from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, since 06.04.2019. In this regard **DD No. 25-A dated 09.04.2019** has been lodged at **PS. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnaped lady & her children but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnaped lady & her children please inform the undersigned.

E-Mail ID: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
 Fax: 011-24368639 PS, Nihal Vihar, Delhi,  
 DP/2155/OD/19 Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **accused person Rajiv Singh, S/o Sh. Sudarshan Singh, R/o C-40, 1st Floor, Mansarover Garden, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 649/18 punishable u/s 392/394/365/411/34 IPC, P.S. Begumpur, New Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rajiv Singh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rajiv Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Rajiv Singh** of F.I.R. No. 649/18 punishable u/s 392/394/365/411/34 IPC, P.S. Begumpur, New Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **25.05.2019.**

By Order,  
**Ms. Ekta Gauba**  
 Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West)  
 DP/2755/OD/19 Room No. 101, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Sangeeta W/o Dharmender R/o A-21, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/kidnaped with her daughter **namely: Ruchi (age 2 years)** since 06.04.2019 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 38-A dated 08.04.2019** has been registered at Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age: 24 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Wearing: White colour saree and pink colour chappal in feet.**

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnaped female with her daughter, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id — [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: SHO  
 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi  
 Fax No. 011-24368639 Outer Distt., Delhi  
 DP/2154/OD/19 Ph. No. 011-25946700, 25946710

### HDFC BANK

Legal Cell  
 2nd Floor, Indian Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

**POSSESSION NOTICE [RULE 8(1)] (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices, and calling upon to pay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Details are given as under:-

Customer Name	13(2) Notice Date	Notice Amt.	Possession Date	Description of Property
1. M/s Mega Computers Through Its Proprietor Mr. Suresh Kumar Singh 2. Mr. Suresh Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Inderjeet Singh 3. M/s Gadgets And Gizmos Through Its Proprietor Mrs. Chandrawati Singh 4. Mr. Chandrawati Singh W/o Sh. S.K. Singh	24-Jan-2019	Rs. 81,61,086/- & Rs. 1,66,27,173/- Total = Rs. 2,47,88,259/-	20-Apr-2019	1. Commercial Space No. Sa-32 (A), Measuring 293 Sq. Ft. & SA-32 (B), Measuring 294 Sq. Ft. on Lower Ground Floor, Situated in Jaipuria Sunrise Plaza, At Ahinsa Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad. 2. B-55, On Ground Floor, Situated At Express Greens, Built On Plot No. D-10, Sector-44, Noida.
1. M/s Synergy Infonet Private Limited Through Its Director Mr. Shailendra Pratap 2. Mr. Shailendra Pratap S/o Sh. Surendra Pratap Singh 3. Mrs. Ruchi Pratap W/o Sh. Shailendra Pratap 4. Mr. Surendra Pratap Singh S/o Late Sh. Gopal Narain	11-Jan-2019	Rs. 60,61,354/-	22-Apr-2019	Flat No. 48, on 4th Floor, in Block-C, Situated in The Layout Plan of The Mangal CGHS Ltd. On Plot No. 16, Known As Mangal Apartments, Situated At Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi.

The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules, on above mentioned dates. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of the HDFC Bank Ltd. for an amount of notices mentioned above and interest thereon together with expenses and charges etc. less amount paid, if any. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DATE :- 20/04/2019 & 22/04/2019  
 PLACE :- GHAZIABAD (UP), NOIDA & DELHI  
 Authorised Officer  
 HDFC Bank Ltd.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Plot no. 13, Road No. U-3 (area 50 sq.mtrs) in village Nathurpur now forming part of colony DLF Qutub Enclave Complex, Tehsil District Gurgaon, Haryana was registered in the name of **Mr. P.C. Moitra S/o. Late Provasch Chandra Moitra R/o. Flat 21C, Shivalki Apts, Plot 32, Sec-6, Dwarka, New Delhi - 75**, who has expired intestate on 07.03.2015

Now **Mr. Partho Moitra S/o. Late P.C. Moitra and Mrs. Bharati Moitra W/o. Late P.C. Moitra both R/o. Flat 21C, Shivalki Apts., Plot 32, Sec-6, Dwarka, New Delhi - 75** are the Legal Heirs of the Deceased. Further, Mrs. Bharati Moitra is relinquishing her share in to. Mr. Partho Moitra who will become sole owner and accordingly his name is being noted in DLF's Records in respect of the captioned plot. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach Ms. DLF Ltd., or undersigned alongwith documentary evidence within 21 days of publication of this Notice

Mitali Sett & Gaurav Gambhir (Advocates)  
 P/o. GAMBHIR & JURISTS  
 304, Park View Plaza, LSC-3, Sec-6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 Ph:8860520253

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Where as complaint has been made before me that **Bittu, S/o Om Prakash, R/o I-33, Adhyapak Nagar, Delhi** the offence in case **FIR NO. 313/18 u/s 341/354/506/509/34 IPC and 8 POCSO Act, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Bittu** cannot be found and where as it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Bittu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **FIR NO. 313/18 u/s 341/354/506/509/34 IPC and 8 POCSO Act, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **25-05-2019.**

By Order  
 Ms. Vrinda Kumari  
 Add. Session Judge-07  
 DP/2157/OD/19 Room No. 216, 2nd Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
 MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)  
 E-TENDER NO.2019RS11TC

Director, Railway Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 9,968 nos. Wagons consisting of 3,900 BCNAHSM1, 2,840 BOSTHSM2, 107 BOBRN, 1000 BOBYN, 600 BRN 22.9, 1021 BTPN and 500 BFNS Wagons.

2.0 The interested tenders are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.

3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.

4.0 Tender will be closed at 15.00 hours on 21.05.2019.

5.0 Any corrigendum to this tender will be published on the website <http://ireps.gov.in> only and not in print media.

Director, Railway Stores (W),  
 Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi  
 for and on behalf of the President of India.

1210/19  
**Serving Customers With A Smile**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED WOMEN**  
**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person (1) Sunil Wadhvani, S/o: Lt. Sh. Lal Chand and (2) Laveena Wadhvani, W/o Sh. Sunil Wadhvani both R/o: H.No. 4429/9, Jai Mata Market, Tri Nagar, Delhi have committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 705/16, u/s 354/354B/323/452/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Sunil Wadhvani & (2) Laveena Wadhvani cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Sunil Wadhvani & (2) Laveena Wadhvani have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said (1) Sunil Wadhvani & (2) Laveena Wadhvani accused of FIR No. 705/16, u/s 354/354B/323/452/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court or to me to answer the said complaint on or before 03.06.2019.

By Order  
 Ms. Sonam Gupta  
 Metropolitan Magistrate, Mahila Court-02, West District, DP/8217/WD/19 Room No. 158, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unknown dead body was found on Tikona Park, Angoori Bagh, Near Red Fort, in the area of P.S. Kotwali, Delhi, dated 08.04.2019. In this regard a DD No. 14-A, dated 08.04.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.

The Description of the dead body is given as under: **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Sex:** Male, **Age:** 40 Years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Shirt, White Pajama and Bare Footed.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned.

SHO  
 P.S. Kotwali, Delhi  
 DP-9898-N-19 Ph. No. 011-23977100, 08750870121

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown** residence and family is **unknown** about 35 years of age was found dead at Near DDA Park, Near Nigam Both Ghat, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmir Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 26-A, dated 13.04.2019 has been registered at Police Station Kashmir Gate, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'5" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Blue Check Shirt.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO  
 P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi  
 Ph.: 011-23967889  
 DP/9912/N/19 Mob. No. - 8750870123

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Rubina**, D/o Madhlub, R/o H. No. 221, Chajju Ram Colony, Kamruddin Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi, has been missing since Dated 02.04.2019. In this regard a D.D. No. 57-A, Dated 05.04.2019 has been registered at Police Station - Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-  
**Age:** 25 years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'1", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Wearing black & white Suit-Salwar and Chapple in feet.

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

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
 E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
 Ph: 011-24368639  
 Fax No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO  
 P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi  
 DP/2160/OD/19 Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is here by informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: **Sangeeta D/o Devender Singh** R/o A-19, Extn. 4, Nangloi, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Nangloi since 04.04.2019. In this regard DD No. 35-A dated 09.04.2019 has been registered at P.S. Nangloi Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Female, **Age:** 18 years, **Height:** 5' ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Black Dangri and White shoes in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-  
 SHO  
 P.S. Nangloi, Delhi  
 Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. No.: 011-25947225, 25949470  
 E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No. 7065036127  
 Tel. No.: 011-24368639 Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/2156/OD/19

**EASTER ATTACKS**  
**SL Govt admits 'major' intelligence lapses**  
**President asks Defence Secretary, police chief to resign**

**Colombo:** Sri Lankan Government on Wednesday admitted that "major" intelligence lapses led to the horrific Easter Sunday blasts and asked two top security officials to resign, even as the death toll in the coordinated attacks rose to 359 amidst a nationwide manhunt to nab the perpetrators.

Nine Suicide bombers, believed to be members of local Islamist extremist group called National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ), carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three churches and three luxury hotels.

President Maithripala Sirisena has asked Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando and Inspector General of Police Pujith Jayasundara to quit after their failure to prevent the blasts despite having prior intelligence.

Sirisena Tuesday night pledged that he will make changes in top positions in the



security establishment within the next 24 hours, saying the people were questioning why action had not been taken by the top security officials despite the availability of intelligence support from a friendly neighbouring country.

Meanwhile, several people succumbed to their injuries sustained in the blasts, taking the death toll to 359.

"The number of death now is 359," police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekera said.

He said that the search operations were being carried out and so far 60 people, all Sri Lankan nationals, have been arrested in connection with the attacks.

Many of the arrested people have suspected links to the NTJ, the group blamed for the bombings. However, the NTJ has not claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The Islamic State has

claimed responsibility for the attacks and identified the seven suicide bombers who carried out the devastating blasts.

Gunasekera said that there were nine suicide bombers including a woman involved in the bombings. "Eight of them have been identified," he added.

Top officials have acknowledged that Sri Lanka received intelligence about possible terror strikes ahead of the attacks, but both President Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe have said that they did not receive the information.

State Minister of Defence Ruwan Wijewardene acknowledged that there had been "major" lapses in the security arrangements.

"We (the government) have to take the responsibility," he said.

"Some of them (the attackers), in earlier incidents, had been taken into custody (after

small skirmishes, but nothing of this magnitude," Wijewardene told reporters here.

Intelligence suggested that the attackers were motivated by the Christchurch shootings, the minister said.

"One of the suicide bombers studied overseas. Most of them are well-educated, and come from maybe middle-class or upper-middle-class. So they are financially quite independent and their families are quite stable financially.

"We believe that one of the suicide bombers studied in the UK and maybe later on did his post-graduate in Australia, before coming back to settle in Sri Lanka," he said.

Wijewardene said the multiple bomb attacks were carried out by a splinter group of the NTJ. The group had differences and the final attack was carried out by a group that left the main NTJ, he added.

Local and international media reported that India and the US provided specific warnings about terror attacks to Sri Lanka, ahead of the Easter Sunday bombings.

However, US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alaina Teplitz said, "We had no prior knowledge of these attacks."

Meanwhile, police said that as many as 34 foreign nationals who lost their lives have been identified.

Of them, 10 are from India, three from Denmark, one each from Japan, the Netherlands, Portugal, Bangladesh, Spain, two each from China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, six from the UK, two holding the US and the UK nationalities and two holding Australian and Sri Lankan nationalities, officials said.

The mortal remains of nine out of 10 Indians have been sent to India, according to the Indian High Commission in Colombo. **PTI**

**'Nonsense' to link attacks to NZ: Senior Lankan Muslim official**

**Colombo:** A senior Sri Lankan Muslim leader on Wednesday dismissed as "nonsense" the Government's view that the deadly attacks on Easter Sunday on churches and luxury hotels may have been a retaliation for last month's massacre of Muslims in two mosques in New Zealand.

Addressing an emergency session of Parliament on Tuesday to discuss the country's worst terror attacks, state minister of defence Ruwan Wijewardene said the early findings of the

ongoing probe found that the suicide bombings were in revenge for the March 15 killings at two mosques in Christchurch which left 50 people dead.

But Hilmy Ahamed, the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka's vice president, did not buy the government's version.

Pointing to the relatively short period of time between the attacks, Ahamed said it was impossible for the bombings in Sri Lanka to have been planned in the period, saying it was likely in the works for longer, with

foreign influence.

The Islamic State terror group has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Sri Lanka, but did not mention New Zealand as a justification.

"It is nonsense to link (the attacks) to New Zealand," Ahamed told CNN.

"The New Zealand attack opened the eyes of the world to the crisis the Muslims are facing," he said, adding it was something of "blessing" for drawing attention to growing Islamophobia worldwide. **PTI**

**US denies providing intelligence**

**Colombo:** The US has said that it did not provide Sri Lanka with advance intelligence prior to the Easter Sunday militant attacks that killed over 350 people.

This comes amidst what the Sri Lankan government minister Harsha de Silva said Monday that advance intelligence had been provided by "both India and the United States."

"We had no prior knowledge of these attacks," US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alaina Teplitz was quoted as saying by the CNN.

At least four Americans were killed in the attacks.

She said, "the Sri Lankan government has admitted lapses in their intelligence gathering and information sharing."

When asked her about de Silva's claim, Teplitz responded, "Well I can't speak for others. I don't know what other sources of information the government of Sri Lanka might have had. I can just tell you that we had no prior knowledge."

Sri Lankan authorities have started an investigation

into how warnings about possible attacks were not passed to top ministers.

Nine suicide bombers, including a woman, were involved in the massive Easter Sunday bombings and 60 people have been arrested so far for their suspected links to Sri Lanka's worst terror attack that killed at least 359 people.

Suicide bombers, believed to be members of local Islamist extremist group, carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through churches and luxury hotels in Sri Lanka on Sunday. **PTI**

**Scottish leader calls for second independence vote by 2021**

**London:** The Scottish Government will introduce legislation "shortly" as a first step towards another independence referendum to be held by 2021, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced on Wednesday.

"We will shortly introduce legislation to set the rules for any referendum," the Scottish National Party (SNP) leader told lawmakers in Edinburgh.

She said she hoped the legislation would be agreed by the end of 2019.

Her government aims to "give people a choice on independence" from the United Kingdom before the end of the current term of parliament expires in May 2021. **AFP**

**Trump threatens SC fight against impeachment**

**Washington:** President Donald Trump threatened on Wednesday to fight a possible impeachment effort by Congressional Democrats in the US Supreme Court.

That could be difficult — the US constitution, and the court itself, have made clear that it has no role in impeachment proceedings, which represent the legislature's power to check wrongdoing by the president.

But Trump's tweet suggested the White House is taking seriously a debate among Democrats on whether to launch the process that could remove the president on the basis of evidence of obstruction of justice in the Mueller report released last week.

"The Mueller Report, despite being written by Angry

Democrats and Trump Haters, and with unlimited money behind it (\$35,000,000), didn't lay a glove on me. I DID NOTHING WRONG," Trump wrote.

"If the partisan Dems ever tried to Impeach, I would first head to the US Supreme Court." Released on Thursday, Special Counsel Robert Mueller's final report from his Russia meddling investigation listed a dozen separate actions by Trump that supported obstruction allegations.

But Mueller demurred on concluding if they amounted to a crime, leaving that decision to Congress, where the House of Representatives has the power to impeach a president — formally charge him — and the Senate to find him innocent or guilty. **AFP**

**Iran leader says US oil sanctions won't go 'without response'**

**Tehran:** Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Wednesday called the end of oil sanction waivers by the United States a "hostile measure" that "won't be left without a response."

"US efforts to boycott the sale of Iran's oil won't get them anywhere. We will export our oil as much as we need and we intend," his official English-language Twitter account said.

The United States on Monday announced it will no longer grant sanctions exemptions to Iran's oil customers and will start imposing sanctions on countries such as India, China and Turkey if they buy Iranian oil.

In May 2018, President Donald Trump withdrew the US from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal which had given the Islamic republic sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme.

Washington reimposed oil sanctions on Iran in November but initially gave eight Governments six-month reprieves.

Five of the countries — Greece, Italy, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan — have already heavily reduced their purchases from Iran.

"They (the US) wishfully think they have blocked Iran oil sales, but our vigorous nation and vigilant officials, if they work hard, will open many blockades," Khamenei said on Twitter. **AFP**

**UNHRC chief condemns 'shocking' Saudi mass executions**

**Berlin:** The UN's human rights chief is calling Saudi Arabia's mass execution of 37 men, including three who were sentenced as minors, "shocking" and "abhorrent."

Michelle Bachelet's office said Wednesday the beheadings in six cities across Saudi Arabia were carried out Tuesday despite repeated warnings from rights officials about lack of due process. The men mostly belonged to the minority Shiite

branch of Islam and had been convicted of terrorism-related crimes. The body and severed head of a convicted Sunni extremist were pinned to a pole as a public warning. Bachelet said it was "particularly abhorrent that at least three of those killed were minors at the time of their sentencing." She urged Saudi Arabia to review its counterterrorism legislation, expressly prohibit the death penalty for minors and halt pending executions. **AFP**

**ICICI Bank**  
 ICICI Bank Limited

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara - 390 007.  
 Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051.  
 Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., 2nd floor Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSETS**  
 [See provision to rule 8 (6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (In ₹)	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (In ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
1.	Mr. Vivek Kumar Sharma (Borrower), Mr. Rajeev Gautam (Guarantor) (LBGHZ00002014386/LBNOD00002024893)	House No. III - K - 35/5 ground floor Without Roof Right, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. Area- 1079.41 sq feet	Rs. 4934287/- (As on Apr 12, 2019)	Rs 29,15,000 (Rupees twenty nine lacs and fifteen thousand only)	Rs 2,91,500/-	May 18, 2019 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM	June 04, 2019 From 11:30 AM onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency Shiram Automall India Ltd. (URL Link - "https://eactions.samil.in"). The Mortgagors/ Noticee are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till June 03, 2019 before 5:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F)) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 or our marketing agents Shiram Automall India Ltd having their office at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034 on or before June 03, 2019 before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised / Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. 8584874809/9650193259 of ICICI Bank Limited or 9910453434 of Shiram Automall India Ltd. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons thereof. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit ICICI Bank Ltd website at <https://www.icicibank.com/notice-board/properties-for-sale/properties.page?>

Date : April 25, 2019  
 Place : Delhi/ NCR

Sd/-  
 Authorised Officer  
 ICICI Bank Limited.

S-12, Green Park Extn. Branch, New Delhi-110016  
 Tel.: 011-26564471, 26963168, Fax 011-26568582  
 RTGS/IFSC : Sybn0009048 E-mail : Br.9048@syndicatebank.co.in

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)**  
 [Appendix IV under the Act - Rule 8(1)]

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the SYNDICATE BANK under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest. Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 01.02.2019 calling upon the borrower/surety/owner of the property, Shri Sandeep Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh. Manoj Ram Sharma (Borrower and owner of the property) and Shri. Arjun Tyagi S/o Mr. Mohan Lal Tyagi (Guarantor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 2,18,066,26.1/- (Rupees Two Crore Eighteen Lakh Six Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Six and Paise Ten Only) as on 01.02.2015 with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower/surety & owner property having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower/surety & owner of property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 24th Day of April of the year 2019.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower/surety/owner of property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Syndicate Bank, GREEN PARK EXTN. Branch for an amount of Rs. 2,18,066,26.1/- and interest thereon, costs etc.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

All that part and parcel of the Property consisting of Flat No. KLP0021103 in Kalyans Court Area 3527 Sq. Ft. 11th floor, Tower 2, Wishtown Noida in Jaypee Green Sector 128 Noida, in the name of Mr. Sandeep Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh. Manoj Ram Sharma.

East : Service line (Below)  
 West : Road (Below)  
 North : Flat No. 146  
 South : Flat No. 144

Date : 24.04.2019  
 Place : NEW DELHI

Authorised Officer  
 (Syndicate Bank)

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely:** **Sadik**, S/o: **Abdul Rasid**, R/o: **Vill-Kosaki**, PS **Warghi**, Distt- **Aariya**. **Bihar**, Present Address: **Mukti Aashram Bachpan Bacho Aandolan**, **Keshav Nagar**, **Delhi**, **Age:** 15 Years, **Height:** 5'4", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** White T-Shirt & Blue Colour Jeans and Brown Slippers in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 28.03.2019 from the area of P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 101/19 dated 29.03.2019 u/s 363 IPC** has been lodged at **PS. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/ kidnapped boy please inform the undersigned.

SHO  
 P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi,  
 Ph.: 011-27811415, 27811738

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**LAYING AND LINKING OF RAILWAY TRACK, POINT AND CROSSINGS**

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction) III Western Railway, Churchgate, Mumbai-400 020 invites offer through e-tender portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for the following tender : **Tender No. Dy.CE(C) ST/152. Name of work :** Laying and Linking of Railway Track, Point and Crossings, Transportation of P. Way Material and other related works for remodeling of Udhna Yard in connection with 3rd line and work of 3rd line between Udhna to Surat (Km. 262.00-266.00) of Mumbai Division of Western Railway in connection with Udhna-Jalgaon Doubling project; **Cost of Tender form (In ₹) :** ₹ 10,000/-; **NIT Value (In ₹) :** ₹ 5,35,37,749.57; **EMD (In ₹) :** ₹ 4,17,700/-; **e-Bid closing date :** 15.05.2019 at 15:00 Hrs.; **e-Bid opening date :** 15.05.2019 at 15:30 Hrs.; The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available in electronic format on our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Like us on [facebook.com/WesternRail12](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRail12)

LEADERBOARD	
<b>RUNS</b>	<b>574</b> David Warner (SRH)
<b>WICKETS</b>	<b>23</b> Kagiso Rabada (DC)
<b>6S</b>	<b>530</b> WE HAVE THREE AWAY GAMES NOW
<b>4S</b>	<b>1179</b> OUT OF FOUR AND WE HAVE TO WIN
	THOSE GAMES TO QUALIFY.
	— BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR



## Up Next Struggling KKR seek turnaround

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2

HEAD TO HEAD

M 19  
KKR 10  
RR 9

THURSDAY 8:00 PM

PTI ■ KOLKATA

His job safe for now, skipper Dinesh Karthik will be praying for a turnaround in the fortunes of a struggling Kolkata Knight Riders, as they meet Rajasthan Royals at Eden Gardens on Thursday.

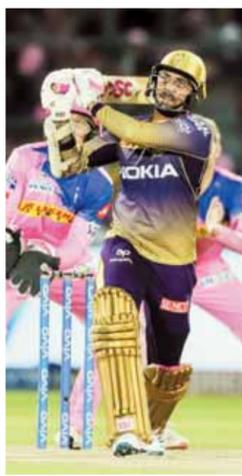
KKR have suffered five defeats on the trot, exposing their over-reliance on Andre Russell, and Karthik has copped criticism for not promoting the big-hitting West Indian up the order.

Chosen ahead of the young Rishabh Pant in the World Cup squad, the Tamil Nadu veteran, who was KKR's leading run-getter last season, is struggling for runs with an average of 16.71 from nine outings.

Facing a must-win situation ahead of the remaining four matches, head coach Jacques Kallis has backed the under-fire skipper to script a 2014-like turnaround when they won their second title with nine wins in a row.

The biggest letdown for the team has been its bowling unit, especially the spinners who have lacked sting at the Eden Gardens, something that was its main strength during the title-winning campaigns in 2012 and 2014.

The famed trio of Kuldeep



Yadav, Sunil Narine and Piyush Chawla have accounted for just 16 wickets from 10 matches, summing up their misery.

The seam attack too has been ordinary and they may be forced to rejig their bowling attack once again.

Clinging to one spot below KKR at seventh in the eight-team standings, Rajasthan Royals' fate too hangs by the thread. They showed urgency with Steve Smith replacing Ajinkya Rahane as the captain ahead of their clash against Mumbai Indians.

The move has clicked and RR were able to bring their campaign back on track beating Mumbai. Rahane, too, roared back to form with an elegant century, albeit in a losing cause, against Delhi Capitals in their last match.

# AB POSITIVE

De Villiers (82\* off 44 balls) & Stoinis (46\*) adds 64 runs in last 3 overs to help RCB post 202-4 against KXIP



PTI ■ BANGALORE

AB de Villiers' scintillating half century and a 121-run stand with Marcus Stoinis propelled Royal Challengers Bangalore to 202 for four against Kings XI Punjab in a must-win Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

Sent into bat, De Villiers scored a brilliant unbeaten 82 off 44 balls with three fours and seven sixes, while Stoinis hammered 46 off 34 balls with two fours and three sixes.

In the last two overs, both Stoinis and De Villiers hammered 45 runs off Mohammad Shami and Hardus Viljoen.

After reaching his 50 off 35 balls, De Villiers, smashed Shami for three sixes, plundering 18 runs in the penultimate over.

In the last over, both

Stoinis and De Villiers hammered 27 runs off Viljoen, which helped the hosts to race past 200 runs mark.

Put into bat, opener Parthiv (43 off 24 balls) and Virat Kohli gave a rollicking start getting 35 runs on board in 18 balls but RCB captain was dismissed by Shami after he was caught by Mandeep Singh at extra cover.

Parthiv then got into the act for RCB, hitting out of the park Shami for three boundaries and a six in sixth over, who conceded 18 runs in his third over.

The left-hander also was severe on Ankit Rajpoot, hitting him for four boundaries and a six. The wicket-keeper batsman did not last long as he was caught by Ravinchandran Ashwin off Murugan Ashwin, after he had smashed seven 4s and two sixes.

Looking good at 71 for 2 in 38 balls, RCB lost two quick wickets of Moeen Ali (4) and Akashdeep Nath (3), leaving RCB at the crossroads way 81 for 4.

De Villiers brought up the fifty runs partnership for fifth wicket with Stoinis with a mighty six over deep mid-wicket off Murugan.

Giving him an able support at the other end was Stoinis, who notched up a useful knock.

It turned out to be a forgettable day for Shami and Viljoen as they conceded 53 and 51 runs, respectively.

## 'Kuldeep's IPL form won't impact his WC performance'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kuldeep Yadav's sudden loss of form in the ongoing IPL will not in any way impact his performance in the World Cup where he will have ample chance of a comeback, feels senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

Kuldeep, who is expected to be a vital cog in India's World Cup campaign, has got only four wickets in nine games for Kolkata Knight Riders and was dropped in the last game against Sunrisers Hyderabad due to 'poor form'.

"There is no doubt that Kuldeep is going through a rough patch in IPL. T20 is a format which can destroy the confidence of any bowler but let's not compare formats. One day (match) is a different ball game and you will see a very different Kuldeep," Harbhajan said.

Harbhajan said from what he has seen Kuldeep bowling in the IPL, the wrist spinner has no technical problems as such.

"I have watched a bit of his bowling and I don't think there is any technical problems. And please check who all are hitting Kuldeep? The Indian guys are primarily hitting him. Virat (Kohli) in two games, Mayank (Agarwal), Mandy (Mandeep), Prithvi Shaw, Shreyas Iyer, Shikhar Dhawan.

"Leave aside Virat, who is in a different league, all these guys are competent players of spin bowling. They read Kuldeep's wrists much better than foreign batsmen. So in World Cup, Kuldeep will be bowling mostly to those who are still not reading him well. I think you will see a different Kuldeep," said Harbhajan, who has played two World Cup finals.



## They won't buy me at auctions if I reveal CSK's success mantra: Dhoni

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings' success mantra is a "trade secret" revealing which could leave Mahendra Singh Dhoni unsold at the IPL auctions, jocularly says the talisman.

"(On CSK's mantra of success) If I tell everyone what it is, then they won't buy me at the auctions. It's a trade secret," Dhoni said cheekily after CSK's six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad and their 97th overall.

Dhoni has led his team to glory three times in the Indian Premier League (2018, 2011 and 2010) and under him Chennai Super Kings have qualified to the playoff in every season of the league, barring in 2016 and 2017, when they were not part of the IPL.

"The crowd support and franchise's support are key of course. Huge credit has to also go to the support staff who play a huge role in keeping the team atmosphere good for the team and other individuals.

"Other than this, I can't reveal anything till I retire. It's alright, not showing signs of getting worse. With the World Cup coming, I need to be careful as that comes first," the 37-year-old said.

CSK, sitting pretty at the top with 16 points from 11 games, will next lock horns with Mumbai Indians on Friday.

Chennai Super Kings have lost only three off their 11 matches in the 2019 IPL.

Dhoni has led CSK in 155 matches and won 97 while losing 57.

Battling a sensitive back for a long time, Dhoni wants to be careful with it as the ICC World Cup is round the corner.

The CSK skipper said that there has been some stiffness but it is holding up as of now.

"The back is holding up, it's not getting worse, with the World Cup coming up, can't afford that, because that's too important," Dhoni said at the post-match presentation ceremony after CSK beat Sunrisers by six wickets.

Dhoni said that at the highest level, there aren't any players who are not playing with a niggler or two.

"If it becomes worse, I certainly take some time off but at this level you play with some niggler or the other. Because if you wait to get fully fit, then there will be a gap of five years between two matches," the skipper said.

In 10 matches for Chennai this season, Dhoni has been their top-scorer scoring 314 runs at an average of 104.66 and a strike rate of 137.11.

## Would've been dropped by now in other teams: Watson

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Shane Watson couldn't thank Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Stephen Fleming enough after ending his prolonged slump in form, saying he would have been "dropped a long time ago" in his previous franchise.

He had gone without a fifty in his first 10 innings of the ongoing IPL before striking 96 off 53 balls on Tuesday to guide Chennai Super Kings to a win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"I can't thank Stephen Fleming and M S Dhoni enough for their belief in me. Just about every other team I've been in... For me to miss out on not scoring runs for long as I had throughout the tournament, if I had been in a previous team I would have been dropped a long

time ago," Watson said. Thanks to Watson's knock, CSK chased down a target of 176 with six wickets to spare.

"... So, for Stephen



Fleming and MS Dhoni in particular to keep the faith in me and knowing that I had a really good innings in me it was great," the 37-year old Watson told reporters.

"For me personally, knowing that I had come off from the PSL and coming into this I was flying high and then things did-

n't go my way. I lost a bit of rhythm in my batting.

"So, for them to keep faith in me I really appreciate it. In the end, you need a bit of luck going your way as well. Bhuvu worked me over in the first couple of overs in particular and you need those little bits of luck," he added.

The strongly built batsman who hammered leg-spinner Rashid Khan for quite a few runs, said the Afghan is one of the best in this format.

The Australian was effusive in his praise of compatriot and SRH opener David Warner, who has been in tremendous form this IPL.

"I really don't sort of remember for the last four-five years a tournament where Warner hasn't scored a hell lot of runs. He's a world-class player.

## We have right combination for WC: Dravid

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Former skipper Rahul Dravid reckons India's recent 2-3 loss to Australia in a home ODI series will not have much impact in the Men in Blue's 2019 World Cup campaign and their good show in the past few years has made them the strong title contenders.

After taking a 2-0 lead in a five-match ODI rubber last month, India faltered and were defeated in the rest three matches and lost the series.

"In the last 30 months, India has been playing really well, and the loss, much to the credit of the way Australia played, came at the back end of a very busy series," Dravid was quoted as saying by The Times of India.

"We have the right combination for the World Cup. If India wins the World Cup, we will not be worrying about who won 2-3 or 3-2. There will be an odd series that India will lose. But the (ICC) rankings prove that India is there and should win the World Cup to become No 1," he said.

When asked what he thinks of the Indian squad for the showpiece event as stumper Rishabh Pant and Ambati Rayudu were not included in the team, Dravid termed the side as 'well-balanced'.

"India has a very good, balanced team for this World Cup. They have a lot of combinations, lot of options. It is a question of them



performing in the tournament. You can always argue one or two cases, one or two names. The team has been picked and hope they do really well," the 46-year-old opined.

Dravid also felt that unlike the previous times, the wickets have changed in England and the upcoming tournament will witness high-scoring games.

"This World Cup will probably be a much high scoring one, and India is well

equipped for that. English conditions have actually changed, especially for ODIs. We were there last year for an 'A' series, and the scores were really high, 300 was par score, and was being chased consistently.

"ODIs have changed in England and you can't go with the typical mindset that it will be the old English conditions of swing and seam. Wickets have become flatter, encouraging higher scores."

## Pant is just 21, WC omission not end of road: Ganguly

PTI ■ KOLKATA

World Cup snub could surely be disappointing but 21-year-old Rishabh Pant will play "many more World Cups" and don the national colours for at least 15 years, said former skipper Sourav Ganguly.

The 21-year-old Pant was pipped by veteran Dinesh Karthik as the second-choice wicketkeeper in the World Cup squad.

"Dhoni will not play on forever. DK will also not play on forever. Rishabh is the next best. Pant is the future absolutely," Ganguly said.

"He's got 15-16 years ahead of him. I don't see it as a major blow. I don't think it's a problem. He might miss this World Cup but he will play many more World Cups. This is not the end of road for him."

As a 'selector' Ganguly would have picked Pant in the side but overall he said it's a well-balanced side for the showpiece event beginning May 30.

"Maybe I would have (picked Pant as a selector). But I think Dinesh Karthik is also very good... I think it's a good team, they picked themselves. I don't think many missed out. Rishabh would have been great but that's the way it goes."

As an advisor, Ganguly's pat on the back during tough times was something that Pant needed and he got from one of India's greatest captains.

"Obviously, you tell him, he's just 21 years of age. You get upset for a couple of days and then you recover. I think Rishabh has been a better player outside Delhi than in Delhi because of the wickets. He enjoys fast wickets where the ball comes on to the bat," Ganguly said talking about Pant's explosive knock in in Jaipur.

A passionate Ganguly was seen lifting the youngster in the air in celebration, something many related to with his jersey-waving celebration at the Lord's balcony after winning the NatWest Trophy.



Ganguly also posted the picture on his official Twitter handle with a caption: "Rishabh pant @RishabhPant777 @ParthJindal11 u deserve this.. Ur wow!"

"Old habits don't go, what to do? It means a lot because you get involved with teams to make them successful. When you win the happiness is there," Ganguly said.

Ganguly is also credited for Shikhar Dhawan's turnaround as he's back among runs with three half-centuries including an unbeaten 97 against Kolkata Knight Riders here.

"I can help him because he's a left-hander. During a tournament, you can't talk much about skills, you just tell them how to bat in most situations. Dhawan's record in one-day cricket is as good as anybody in India. So the talent was always there. When he played for SRH, he had a fantastic record. He's just a good player."

# vivacity

LOOKS AREN'T  
EVERYTHING:  
PRIYANKA

-P 15



## MARRIAGE IS ALL ABOUT MANAGEMENT

Be open and receptive to forgiveness. Make a conscious decision to forgive your spouse. When images of the betrayal or hurt flash in your mind, think of a calming place or do something to distract yourself from dwelling on those thoughts. Do not throw an error or mistake back in your spouse's face at a later date. Also, do not use it as ammunition in an argument.

In every marriage, husband or wife does something that hurts the other. It's bound to happen because none of us is perfect. And in some cases, a spouse has a habit of doing the same thing over and over again, even after the behavior is confronted. Bitterness comes when you hold on to hurt and refuse to forgive the person that hurts you.

Most of the time, this comes as a result of ongoing actions of a small nature for example, lack of understanding, misuse of finances, harsh comments etc that build up over time. Each offence takes residence in the heart, and at some point, there is no more room left to take in more. That's when bitterness is manifested and causes the most damage.

Bitterness is a silent killer of life and destroyer of marital destiny. Many marriages have been destroyed because one partner decided to harbour bitterness against the other. Bitterness is an unnecessary weight, it is deadly. It stores itself in the soul, and slowly poisons the one who carries it. It's a blade meant for another that eventually severs the hand that tightly conceals it. Take a look at this setting and see what bitterness can do to your marital relationship: The problems with your spouse are real, and your anger is justified. Being able to forgive and to let go of past hurts is a critical tool for a marriage relationship. Additionally, being able to forgive is a way to keep yourself healthy both emotionally and physically. In fact, forgiving and letting go may be one of the most important

ways to keep your marriage going strong.

Resentment can begin to threaten the survival of your relationship without either of you knowing it and with neither of you doing anything wrong. You start to forge chains of resentment when one of you inadvertently lets your interest in the other decline. That's not hard to do, since interest, left on its own, naturally wanes with familiarity.

Be open and receptive to forgiveness. Make a conscious decision to forgive your spouse. When images of the betrayal or hurt flash in your mind, think of a calming place or do something to distract yourself from dwelling on those thoughts. Do not throw an error or mistake back in your spouse's face at a later date. Also, do not use it as ammunition in an argument.

Do not seek revenge or retribution. Trying to get even will only extend the pain. Chances are this won't really make you feel better anyway. Accept that you may never know the reason for the transgression, behavior or mistake. Remember that forgiveness does not mean you condone the hurtful behaviour. Be patient with yourself. Being able to forgive your spouse takes time. Don't try to hurry the process. If you continue to be unable to forgive, or you find yourself dwelling on the betrayal or hurt, please seek professional counseling to help you let go and forgive.

If you've been holding in your hurt, your spouse may not even know he or she has offended you. Bitterness often comes from hurt that has been suppressed with-



**RESENTMENT CAN BEGIN TO THREATEN THE SURVIVAL OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT EITHER OF YOU KNOWING IT AND WITH NEITHER OF YOU DOING ANYTHING WRONG. YOU START TO FORGE CHAINS OF RESENTMENT WHEN ONE OF YOU INADVERTENTLY LETS YOUR INTEREST IN THE OTHER DECLINE. THAT'S NOT HARD TO DO, SINCE INTEREST, LEFT ON ITS OWN, NATURALLY WANES WITH FAMILIARITY**

out communication, like filling up a bottle with pressure—eventually that bottle will explode. In the same way, the outburst in your heart can result in a broken marriage, and your spouse never even saw it coming. In this case, go ahead and tell him or her what's been bothering you. Sit down and try to work it out.

Perhaps your spouse does know of your unhappiness, but chooses to continue in the same patterns. This does not negate your responsibility to remove the bitterness from your heart. You still need to give your spouse the chance to repent, although stronger measures, such as marriage counseling, may need to take place.

If the decline in interest is equal in both parties, the couple has a good chance of remaining connected as they put more energy into things that indirectly support the relationship, such work, children, and social networks. Unfortunately, the decline in interest is rarely equal.

To understand the painful effects of one party losing interest, think of a time when you wanted to talk or do something with your partner but couldn't engage his interest, or worse, she lost interest while you were talking or doing what you wanted to do. Your gut emotional response was rejection, which stimulated shame or fear of isolation. Because these are such painful experiences, you were likely to avoid them by shifting interest into something else or, more commonly, with blame and resentment. The trouble is, declining interest can be so subtle that couples are

completely unaware of what is happening to them, until the chain of resentment, which builds mostly under the radar, chokes the life out of their relationship.

Marriage, like other close relationships, needs forgiveness to thrive. Remember that everyone makes mistakes. We all have bad or grumpy days. Many people say things they do not mean now and then. Everyone needs to forgive and to be forgiven. This is especially true if the person who hurt you is attempting to make amends and seek forgiveness.

No relationship, especially a marriage relationship, can be sustained over a long period of time without forgiveness. Even though you may find it difficult to forgive, being able to do so is crucial in a marriage.

Couples miss the absurdity of resentment because they succumb to the urge to justify it by pointing out how unfair the other is. Convinced that they have a right to feel resentful and to express it (which only makes them more resentful), they miss the sad fact that their resentment has made them just as insensitive as the partner they resent.

If you want to tilt the see-saw in favour of connection, you must be the first person in your relationship to replace resentment with compassion. That is how you escape the powerlessness of reactivity and realise the true power of fidelity to your deepest values.

Thanks a lot for sharing. Thanks a lot. Thank you.

Trend Blazer

Looks aren't everything: PeeCee

Actress **PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS**, who has been named Beauty of the Year by People magazine, says she has realised that looks aren't everything. Priyanka has also realised that "in the world we live in, the standard of beauty is not real." Looking back at the time she started working in show business, she said, "I think I realised what all it takes to actually look the way we do on magazine covers and the work we do. That's when I realised looks aren't everything, it's the confidence with which you walk into a room, it's the ability to do your job to the best of your capabilities."



'Me and Alia (Bhatt) had so much fun shooting the song for Student of the Year 2. Personally, I have never done a dance number like that. Working with Alia was an amazing experience. Though she is such a big star, she was open and cooperative on set while shooting the song.' —Tiger Shroff

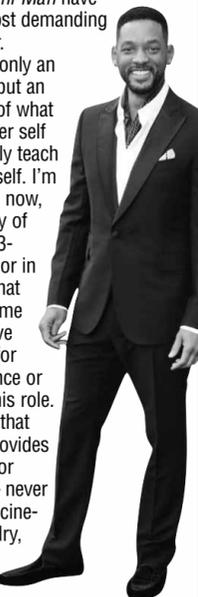


Actress **PARINEETI CHOPRA** has been roped in for the Hindi remake of the American film *The Girl On The Train*. She has called it a "thrilling ride." She wrote on social media — "Hopping onto this thrilling ride! Excited to be a part of *The Girl On The Train* official Hindi remake. The psychological thriller will be produced by Reliance Entertainment. The Hollywood film was based on author Paula Hawkins' 2015 debut novel of the same name."



'Gemini Man, most demanding film'

Actor **WILL SMITH** says the emotional and physical challenges of making Ang Lees science-fiction thriller *Gemini Man* have been the most demanding of his career. "This is not only an action film, but an exploration of what one's younger self can ultimately teach one's older self. I'm 50 years old now, and the irony of becoming 23-year-old junior in this film is that 23-year-old me wouldn't have been ready for this experience or to take on this role. Our hope is that this story provides something for everyone — never before seen cinematic wizardry, nuanced, relatable characters and next-level action," he said. The film will release worldwide on October 11.



'ENDING IS NOT A SCARY WORD'

Anyone who saw *Avengers: Infinity War* knows that the directors weren't kidding about bringing this saga to a close as Thanos literally dissolved half of humanity, including Spider-Man and Black Panther in an event known as 'the snap' that's inspired tears, memes and more fan theories than the internet can hold

About five years ago, Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige found himself on a retreat in Palm Springs plotting the future for the wild, experimental "cinematic universe" that he helped start in 2008. He wanted to do something that they hadn't done. He wanted an ending.

And after a quick pitch to Robert Downey Jr, he, directors Anthony and Joe Russo and screenwriters Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, started plotting a way to bring this saga to a close, brainstorming whenever they had a moment — even in between takes of *Captain America: Civil War*.

Anyone who saw *Avengers: Infinity War* knows they weren't kidding around either. Thanos literally dissolved half of humanity, including Spider-Man and Black Panther in an event known as "the snap" that's inspired tears, memes and more fan theories than the internet can hold. Talk about a cliffhanger.

Endings are a rarity in the franchise movie-making business; especially when one's popularity has only multiplied as the movies of Marvel have. But Marvel Studios, which has never shied away from a little rule-breaking, is taking a sledgehammer to that old "don't leave money on the table" maxim, and audiences will finally be able to see how they do it when *Avengers: Endgame* opens nationwide today.

"Ending is not a scary word," Feige said. "It's a necessary word."

What exactly that means for the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is something of a state secret. Feige said that this will be "definitive," though.

"People can debate and discuss what that means before they see the movie," Feige said. "But for us that means bringing to a conclusion the first three phases, the first 22 films in the MCU, so that everything thereafter is a new start."

So "new" in fact that Feige won't even discuss what's to come beyond the July release of *Spider-Man: Far From Home*. He won't confirm reportedly in-the-works projects like the *Black Widow* stand-alone, *The Eternals* or *Shang-Chi*, or talk about plans for the 20th Century Fox properties like *Deadpool* and *X-Men* that are now under his purview. They have the next five years mapped out; they're just not letting audiences peek behind the curtain until after *Endgame*. It's that big.

"How we leave *Endgame* will help define where we're going for many people," Feige said. But how does one talk about a movie that no press has seen and no actors or creators are allowed to discuss in detail? Well, carefully and cryptically.

It was Robert Downey Jr's Tony Stark (Iron Man) who kicked things off for the MCU, and it's him who opens "Endgame" and most often takes centre stage. Providing even the most basic of plot points in *Endgame* is a fool's errand, but it's fair to say that it takes place some time after the rapture caused by the megalomaniac boulder Thanos (Josh Brolin).

Having obtained all six of the "infinity stones," he wiped away 50 per cent of Earth's creatures (and superheroes) at the end of *Infinity War* with the snap of his fingers.

Rather than bask in the extra parking spaces and



uncrowded check-out aisles, the survivors have spent the ensuing time in a prolonged state of mourning. The remaining superheroes are also reeling, ashamed of their defeat. One has turned angry and vengeful, another has grown a beer belly. As nauseating as the aura of momentousness around *Endgame* has been for some, the movie — while certainly not lacking in ominous solemnity — is frequently funny, as the Russos, working from a script by Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, arrange their heroes in fresh pairings and unlikely contexts.

That's owed sizeably to the cast, which sports a number of top-tier comic actors, chief among them Downey Jr, but there's also the thankfully prominent Paul Rudd (Ant-Man) and *Avengers* regulars Chris Hemsworth (Thor) and Mark Ruffalo (the Hulk). While Marvel has improved in gender parity (Brie Larson's recently launched Captain Marvel plays a small but pivotal role here) its cosmos could still use some funny actresses. Can Maya Rudolph, please, be made queen of the galaxy?

From the previous outing, we knew some things. That the heroes left like Iron Man, Captain America (Chris Evans), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), Thor, Hulk and War Machine (Don Cheadle) are dealing with the devastating loss post-snap while trying to figure out what to do with Thanos. A helpful "Avenge the Fallen" campaign served as a reminder of who survived and who didn't (some of the dusted were even a surprise, like *Black Panther's* Shuri). We also know they have a new weapon in Brie Larson's *Captain Marvel*, who Samuel L Jackson's Nick Fury managed to page before dissolving into dust.

Characters die. But it is at least three clown cars worth of superheroes. Seldom, if ever, have more movie stars been brought together in one place; a film with this kind of collection of talent really can't help but be decent, at minimum.

Filming proved an emotional experience for many of the actors, a lot of whom have now been working together for almost a decade or more.

"I was pretty teary-eyed," Evans said. "This is the culmination of a really long endeavor. It kind

of wraps up the journey for a lot of these characters."

It led to a lot of reflection, about where they started and how they've grown. Johansson noted that she'd been developing her character for 10 years now, and is excited that Black Widow has evolved from a "sexy secretary" type to a more fully realised woman.

"The whole shoot felt pretty nostalgic," Hemsworth added. "We were constantly talking about when it all started to how we pulled this off and what we were a part of."

But he also admits he was "kind of happy to get off the set." An eight month shoot can wear even on Thor.

And indeed the shoot was grueling. The directors, who did *Winter Soldier*, *Civil War* and *Infinity War* said it was the hardest of their life. "This went far beyond anything we'd ever done before," said Anthony Russo. "There's a reason why movies aren't made this way normally."

But that was unconventional was also the draw. "I think the only reason we stuck around, is because they were committed to an ending and we're deconstructionists," said Joe Russo. "We like to take things apart and see the ramifications of what happens. *Winter Soldier* the good guys became the bad guys, *Civil War*, we divorced the heroes, *Infinity War*, we killed half of them. We like to smash it and look at how you can put the pieces back together."

And no one, not even Feige, regrets putting the MCU on this one-way path. That's not to say he never second-guesses himself, however.

Two weeks before *Infinity War* came out he had a moment of panic about the snap. "That ending was one of the reasons why we wanted to make the movie. That's how we sold it to Disney. We were confident in it," Feige said. "But then a week or two weeks before the film came out, I went, 'Oh no. We're killing all these people. What if the audience totally rejects it?'"

Generous in humor, spirit and sentimentality, *Endgame* is a surprisingly full feast of blockbuster-making that, through some time-traveling magic, looks back nostalgically at Marvel's decade of world domination. This is the Marvel machine working at high gear, in full control of its myth-making powers and uncovering more emotion in its fictional cosmos than ever before.

But the main difference is that a dose of finality has crept in to a universe where death is seldom visited on anyone but the bad guys. *Endgame* will likely be most remembered for its teary goodbyes. To say who would, of course, invite my own

An epic send-off

There were more than a few sniffles from the audience at the premiere of *Avengers: Endgame* in Los Angeles, which Chris Evans and Chris Hemsworth proudly admitted contributing to.

"I don't know about you, but I cried like six times," Evans said standing alongside dozens of his Marvel Cinematic Universe co-stars like Scarlett Johansson, Brie Larson and Robert Downey Jr after the first public screening of the film.

Hemsworth chimed in too, "I cried more than six times, Chris."

It was an emotional affair for many as the film closes the book on the first 11 years and 22 films of the MCU, and ends the year-long cliffhanger of *Infinity War*, in which half of humanity turned to dust. And, as Hemsworth reminded on the purple carpet, "this grouping may never happen again."

Marvel and Walt Disney Co held the premiere in a fittingly massive setting, taking over the Los Angeles Convention Center and constructing a 2,000-seat movie theater, including a large format screen and Dolby sound, inside.

Disney Chairman and CEO Bob Iger kicked off the evening with a special thanks to two people — Downey, "the person who really helped to start it all," and Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige, who he called, "our own superhero."

The event was a who's who of Marvel and Hollywood, with actors and directors from MCU films past and present turning out to see the film, including the likes of Natalie Portman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Bradley Cooper, Jon Favreau and even Matt Damon, who some may remember had a cameo in *Thor: Ragnarok*. Luke Hemsworth, Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus also came out to see the film and support their family.

Initial reactions from press and insiders were largely positive with the words "epic" and "emotional" being tossed out by



many. Letitia Wright, who plays Shuri in *Black Panther*, tweeted, "Wow, I feel like crying... it was amazing."

The New York Times' Dave Karger wrote that he was, "Not prepared for the range of emotions that #Endgame put me through, from utter despair to pure elation."

Entertainment Weekly's Anthony Breznican added, "Epic is the word. Epic multiplied by a decade of emotion, excitement and investment. This is the payoff. It left me with a full heart."

And People Magazine's Kara Warner said to "see it as soon as you can and go in as blind as possible."

The film has been kept under wraps until the very last minute in the hopes of allowing general audiences to go into it spoiler free. Even still, some spoiler-y footage leaked on social media last week before being taken down.

"I wasn't pleased," Feige said. "But the response was what I expected, which was everybody turning it off, dismissing, don't watch it, don't spoil it for anybody else. People are excited to see the movie fresh. People are excited to see the movie for the first time. That's what they've been waiting a year, or 12 years, depending on where you joined us. So, I'm excited that that day is finally here." —AP

demise. But the send-offs, tender and sincere, capture something about the *Avengers* films. At their root, they are about family. Never has that been more apparent than in the daughters, fathers, sons, mothers, sisters, brothers and spouses that populate *Endgame*, making up the connections that bind this fantasy realm — one that, for all its turmoil, is far more unified than ours. Other farewells are more legitimately sombre. The late Stan Lee here makes his final cameo, and it's a good one. Lee's swan song, as much as anything, verifies

that *Endgame* marks the end of an era. The conclusion of this chapter in the MCU, of course, won't last long; Marvel's assembly lines are already humming. And I suspect it will be some time before we understand just what Marvel has wrought with these movies. At their worst, they are colossal, inhuman products built for a supersized form of binge-watching. At their best, they are grand, mega-sized Hollywood spectacles. It's not a spoiler to say that *Endgame* verges more on the latter. —AP

The myth and the reality

GAURAV CHOPRA's new show, *Aghori*, changes the perceptions about this little-known cult, says AYUSHI SHARMA

The mere mention of Aghoris triggers an image of fear, intrigue, mystique and bafflement in our minds, simply because little is known about this reclusive cult of *sadhus*. The instant visual that floats before the eyes is that of an ash-smearing man with intense eyes, sporting dreadlocks, reciting verses and, the most intriguing aspect of all, practising cannibalism. But there's so much more to them than what meets the eyes. Did you know that a man who looks just like us, has a job and seems well-adjusted socially could also be a worshipper of Aghora? Well, actor Gaurav Chopra's forthcoming show *Aghori* revolves around the same concept. He appraises us that Aghoris, contrary to their general perception, are actually healers.

He explains that the impression that we have of them is based on misconception. "An Aghori is somebody who follows a life of an Aghor, which is disciplined and does not demarcate between oneself and another human being. Practitioners are the purest and can feel you like a beehive. Many Aghoris are part of modern society but at the same time also follow the discipline of an Aghor. Just the way there are all kinds of people — Hindus, Christians, Muslims — similarly all kinds of Aghoris exist. They are the victims of stereotypes. There are convictions that get exaggerated

over a period of time. And once exaggerated, they become a typecast for the entire community. This show will reveal what they are meant to do and how they actually are."

The Uttaran actor clarifies that Aghoris are followers of Shiva. And the God has two forms — of the maker and of the destroyer. As a manifestation of the latter, they practise their craft on cremation grounds which have an all-pervasive sense of death.

"Everything comes from the God who kills and he kills because he has to give you another life," says the actor with finality ringing in his voice.

However, he disagrees with those people who might argue that shows like this feed myths and make them grow bigger. "I don't want to talk about myths. I'm trying to explain the truth. Within them also there are good and bad versions. There are those who go towards the cult and others who go towards *tantra*. This can happen to anybody just like people get corrupted in office

with the sense of power. In a similar manner, when they acquire these powers, some Aghoris direct their energies towards *tantra*."

People often refer to them as super humans and they do have immense powers as compared to an ordinary person. "But it's up to them where they channelise the power. It is nothing but energy. And that's exactly what this story is centered around — the fight between good and evil. Even if Ravan wouldn't have abducted Sita, Ram, the protector of the good, would have killed evil," he adds.

Gaurav explains further that it is also the attitude which makes them different. He says, "As an Aghori, I don't see a difference between you and me or on account of colour and creed. I don't have anger, vengeance or jealousy. All the powers and the *siddhis* that he acquires is used for healing. For instance, there's pain in my wrist and it's bothering me, I'll do something about it, probably go to a doctor. Similarly, if you have a pain in your wrist, I'll



do something about that too. Your pain is my pain."

What if a girl happens to fall in love with a seemingly ordinary man and later discovers that he is actually an Aghori? What if he has consciously held back his true identity for a hidden motive? Gaurav tells us that it is a story of love, mysticism and deceit. "It will shatter all the stereotypes surrounding love and happy endings. It will also present a saga which is set against the backdrop of the Aghori world," he says.

Gaurav had his reasons for signing up for the show. He says, "When you have been around for so many years and have given successful shows, people start slotting you. Every time they construct another character which is similar to what you have played before, they call you. However, as an actor, you feel trapped because how will you explore and do new things? The whole point of being an actor is to be versatile where one can play different roles and live different lives."

To play such a character requires a lot of research. Gaurav

had 100 questions when he heard the script and he says, "I didn't want to misrepresent Aghoris. I definitely don't want to wreck something which is so sacred. I watched many documentaries and did the groundwork. I was surprised to see that there are Aghoris who are engineers and are well-educated. It is just a way of life. It doesn't have to be in a form of a *sadhu*."

Did his opinion change after doing this show? Well, he says that he had to modify his outlook even before he started doing it because "how will I play with conviction if I do not get myself into the skin of the character?"

However, this show is not the only thing that he has up his sleeve. Gaurav teases us about *Avengers: Endgame*, by saying that he is probably the only person who has seen the much-hyped film as "I am the official voice behind the character of Thor in the Hindi version," he chuckles.

(The show will soon premiere on Zee TV.)

# NEW ENERGY ALLIANCE

The 4th Trans India Law Associates (TILA) International Energy Conference was recently organised by Dr Gopal Energy Foundation (DEGEF) and brought together key stakeholders from across the world to boost the power sector

The 4th Trans India Law Associates (TILA) International Energy Conference was organised by the Dr Gopal Energy Foundation (DEGEF) at New Delhi recently. The international event was inaugurated by the director general of the International Solar Alliance, Upendra Tripathi. The chief guest on the occasion released the 'Right to Energy Declaration' and launched the 'TICE Achievers Award 2020', for institutions and/or individuals who contribute to accelerate the pace of energy revolution through various innovative means. The dignitaries present on the occasion included the managing director of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), J N Swain, the managing director of PTC, Pawan Singh, the managing director of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), KS Popli, Anjali Chandra from Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) and Ramesh Chaudhry from BERCL, among others.



among others. The international community, including representatives from the Solar Alliance, Electricity Regulatory Commission, public sector undertaking units, energy funding agencies and various financial corporations, participated in this conference.

The convener of the conference, Raj Singh Niranjani, who is also an energy law expert and the managing partner of TILA, said that the objective of the conference is to bring about an 'energy revolution' by bringing together all key stakeholders on a single platform. This would allow them all to discuss the existing government's initiatives, policies and innovative ideas and to suggest potential measures for a wholesome implementation of the Indian government's initiative (Urja Kranti) to remove the course of



energy poverty in India. Some of the themes on which the delegates deliberated included sovereign fund/lending to the power sector and state regulatory bodies. During the conference, the delegates and

energy experts from across the globe resolved to observe April 15th as 'Right to Energy Day' every year. Keeping in view the above, the 5th TILA International Conference on Energy 2020 will be convened on

April 15 in New Delhi.

The conference was supported by leading companies in the energy sector like Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), IREDA, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation India Limited (THD-CIL), Satluj Jal Vidyut Limited (SJVNL), Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMCL), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC), Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO), Patel Engineering, Jakson, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Gujarat Metro, Maharashtra Metro, PTC Financial Services and others. Trans India Law Associates, the legal adviser to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was the knowledge partner of the conference.

## Ayurveda keeps your liver healthy

According to Dr Partap Chauhan, the director of Jiva Ayurveda, natural herbs are the best remedies to keep the body functioning perfectly

The liver (Yakrit), is a vital organ. It converts *rasa dhātu* to *rakta dhātu* (blood). It also produces bile (*ranjak pitta*) and detoxifies the body, eliminating *ama* from the blood. Wrong diet and lifestyle damages the liver tissues and leads to diseases like jaundice, fatty liver and hepatitis. Thankfully, Ayurveda can help. Include these five simple Ayurvedic herbs in your life to keep your liver healthy.



contain guduchi. The herb also has known benefits in treating *Kamala* (jaundice), hepatitis and fatty liver. Guduchi should be taken under the guidance of an Ayurvedic doctor.

**KUTKI:** This bitter tasting herb is cooling in nature and has a cleansing effect on the liver and the gallbladder. In Ayurveda, *kutki* is prescribed to improve the appetite and to

**TRIPHALA:** The mixture of *amla*, *bibhitaki* and *haritaki* helps in regularising metabolism and bowel movements. It



treat jaundice or bile disorders. The herb is beneficial in skin disorders and also improves the metabolism.

cools down the body and balances all *tridoshas* in the body. *Triphala* churna can be taken by anyone every night before bed.

**TURMERIC:** This yellow herb supports liver functions and cleanses the blood. It can also aid the process of transforming *rasa* into *rakta*.

**ALOE VERA:** Aloe vera juice flushes toxins out of the liver (hepatotoxicity) and promotes



Turmeric also promotes elimination of toxins from the body. In most cases, you do not need to take any additional turmeric if you already use it in your meals.

good bowel movements. In addition to soothing the digestive system, aloe vera also fights stress and strengthens the immune system.

**GUDUCHI:** This herb is known for its detoxifying and blood cleansing properties. Ayurvedic herbal medicines prepared for liver problems

**NOTE:** Please do not self-medicate with herbs. For treatment of liver problems, please consult a doctor.

(The views expressed are personal. Dr Partap Chauhan is an author, public speaker and a Ayurvedacharya).

## India-Russia to strengthen bilateral trade

In an attempt to fulfill the aspirations of the Indo-Russian business fraternity, the first ever national level participation in the sixth edition of the Irkutsk International Trade Fair, Irkutsk, Russia (August 21 to 24, 2019) is being organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) at the Irkutsk Exhibition Complex in Russia.

The event aims to carry forward the momentum to further strengthen the bilateral trade relations and provide an excellent business platform to the Indian companies in Russia's untapped Balkan region. The event will feature bonhomie of the people of Russia towards Indian products as they have a special place in their hearts. Significantly, the event will be visited by the companies from main cities of Siberia, Russia and India's neighboring countries like China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belorussia and so on.

India's participation assumes special significance as both the countries have made a resolution to set a target for US\$ 30 billion in bilateral trade by 2025 and both the countries are working together towards developing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to facilitate this target. This also includes the sale of commodities along with civil nuclear energy and defense equipment. The multi-product B2B and B2C event is being held with the support of the Embassy of India in Russia, the Government of Irkutsk Region, the East Siberian Chamber of Commerce and the Industry and City Administration of

the Irkutsk city. India's country level participation will bring the two countries together to work jointly towards integrating them into a regional value chain, thereby promoting mutual trade and investment.

The multi-product display profile includes goods and industries including engineering goods, information technology, renewable energy, electronics, building and construction industry (hardware, sanitary ware, ceramics, tiles, interior and décor), pharmaceutical, chemicals, medical and surgical equipment, apparel, textiles and handloom, jewellery, handicrafts,

**THE EVENT AIMS TO STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING PACTS AND PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT BUSINESS PLATFORM TO INDIAN COMPANIES IN RUSSIA'S UNTAPPED BALKAN REGION**



## INDIAN COAST GUARD COMMISSIONS NEW SHIP



A new coast guard vessel — AC-441 — was commissioned at the Vizhinjam Harbour by the chief secretary of the Government of Kerala, Tom Jose. He commissioned the ship into the series in a ceremonial function hosted under the aegis of the Regional Commander Western Region, Inspector General Vijay D Chafekar, PTM, TM. The function was witnessed by senior officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, BSF, police, Airport Authority of India, Central and state authorities and the National Cadet Corps. It was conducted with full ceremony of parading the guard and the band. The Indian Coast Guard ship C-441 is capable to undertake multifarious tasks such as close coast sur-



veillance, interdiction, search and rescue and rendering assistance to boats and crafts in distress at sea. It will enhance the search and rescue capacity of Kerala seas.

The ship is commanded by Assistant Commandant Amit K Choudhary, TM and has a 13 member crew onboard with specialisation in various fields.

## 'Muthoot Vishwaas Ki Tijori' bags Silvers at Abby Awards



At the recently concluded Goafest 2019, Muthoot Finance's 45-day mega activation effort at the Prayagraj Kumbh 2019 called 'Muthoot Vishwaas Ki Tijori', bagged the Silver Medal at the Abby Awards 2019. Abhinav Iyer, DGM (Marketing and Strategy) accepted the award on behalf of the brand.

Partnered with Radio Mirchi, 'Muthoot Vishwaas Ki Tijori' offered technology-enabled, free locker services for all devotees. This is for the first time in the history of the *Kumbh Mela*, that locker services were offered to all visitors to keep their personal belongings safe before they proceed to have their holy dip.

It was observed that more often than not, people coming for the festival found it a major challenge to keep their valuables safely and had to leave their personal belongings unattended on the banks of the

river and thus were unable to focus or enjoy having a peaceful holy dip. Identifying this problem, Muthoot Finance decided to leverage on its core asset of 'trust' and offer this unique solution.

Powered by a specially designed mobile App, online e-KYC was done while availing this service. Photographs of their belongings were taken and a physical confirmation document along with the photograph of their belongings was given to the depositors, providing them an added layer of assurance. The lockers were also equipped with 24x7 CCTV surveillance systems, security guards, metal detectors, alarm systems, fire extinguisher and other essentials to ensure added safety. On their return, their belongings and identity was re-verified and handed over to them in the same pristine condition. To sweeten

their experience, all their belongings were returned in Muthoot branded biodegradable non-plastic bags along with some interesting goodies.

To add to this, the exterior design and overall look and feel of the locker too was like that of an actual golden vault which by itself became a spectator's delight. During the activation, more than 10,000 beneficiaries availed this free service thereby, letting more than 50,000 family members have a peaceful holy dip during their *Kumbh* visit.

In addition to the above, innovative Muthoot Boat Services were also introduced to ferry people. Free transit shelter homes were also organised at multiple cities for devotees, free of cost. For overseas visitors who converged for this festival, Muthoot Forex helped them with instant foreign exchange services.

## First knowledge-sharing workshop between PRSI chapters in Bhopal

The first knowledge sharing workshop between the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) Chapters was conducted in Bhopal recently, under the patronage of Pushpendra Pal Singh, the chairman of the Bhopal Chapter and Naresh Kumar, the chairman of the Delhi Chapter. The former general manager (PR) of the Airport Authority of India, G S Bawa, was also present on this occasion. The workshop was organised by the Bhopal Chapter of PRSI on the occasion of the National Public Relation Day. The event was attended by professionals from the industry and students of the Makhmal Chaturvedi University.



## IndianOil's Northern region observes safety week



IndianOil's Northern Region kicked off the 'Safety Week' celebrations by observing the 'National Fire Service Day' to create awareness on fire prevention, fire protection and renew its employees' commitment towards safety. The company's employees undertook the safety pledge which was followed by various safety awareness events and competitions. A safety training program for contract workers of the Northern Regional office was also organised dur-

ing the week, wherein, inputs were provided to all the workers on usage of various fire and safety equipment, fire chemistry, fire organogram and emergency evacuation procedure. An exhibition of fire and safety equipment, inaugurated by Harsh Sachdev, Executive Director (Regional Services), IndianOil, Northern Region, was also set up to refresh the operating knowledge. He also released a booklet on 'Safety Briefing'.

# Spurs on course for top 4 finish

Eriksen's 88th minute strike help Tottenham beat Brighton 1-0; Long nets fastest PL goal against Watford



AFP ■ LONDON

Mauricio Pochettino admitted his tired Tottenham stars are pushing themselves to their limits after Christian Eriksen's superb late strike sealed a hard-fought 1-0 win over struggling Brighton on Tuesday. Pochettino's third-placed side dominated from start to finish at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, but a combination of brave Brighton defending and poor finishing kept the match in the balance until the 88th minute. Eriksen finally ended Brighton's stubborn resistance with a sensational long-range drive that lifted Tottenham three points clear of fourth-

placed Chelsea and four ahead of Arsenal in fifth. "The team are not as fresh as we wanted, not just legs, but minds, so we have to congratulate the players. I'm so proud of them," said Pochettino. "Brighton were a really brave opponent. The most important thing is we believed, we didn't give up." Although Arsenal can close the gap to one point if they win at Wolves on Wednesday, this was a vital result in Spurs' bid to qualify for next season's Champions League via a top four finish. Tottenham have now won all four games in all competitions at their plush new arena, scoring eight goals with-

out reply. This was the most frustrating fixture at the £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) ground as the hosts looked hamstrung without injured striker Harry Kane until Eriksen came to the rescue with his ninth goal of the season in all competitions. But Pochettino was delighted with the way his players kept plugging away right to the end despite the draining effects of their hectic fixture list. "There were more than 20 attempts and the reward is massive," he said. Tottenham can take another step towards securing their top-four berth in Saturday's crucial London derby



against West Ham before focusing on the first leg of the Champions League semi-finals against Ajax next week. **FASTEST GOAL RECORD SOUTHAMPTON:** Southampton striker Shane Long scored the fastest goal in Premier League history on Tuesday after netting just 7.69 seconds into his side's 1-1 draw at Watford, who snatched a point thanks to Andre Gray's late equaliser. Long's record-breaking goal came immediately after the kick-off when he blocked a clearance from Watford defender Craig Cathcart, allowing the Republic of Ireland international to dink a cool finish over Ben Foster.

The 32-year-old's effort surpassed the previous fastest Premier League goal, scored by Tottenham defender Ledley King in 9.9 seconds against Bradford in December 2000. "It's a record, is it?" Long told *Sky Sports News* with a grin after the game. "Straight from the kick-off we wanted to put them under pressure. 99 times out of a hundred you block it and it doesn't work but this time it did." Long's historic goal, just his fourth this season, didn't prove to be the winner at Vicarage Road after Gray's 90th minute equaliser for the FA Cup finalists but nonetheless moved them six points from the relegation zone with three matches remaining.



## Barca edge closer to La Liga title

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona will win La Liga on Wednesday if Atletico Madrid lose to Valencia after a 2-0 victory over Alaves gave them a 12-point lead at the top of the table. Lionel Messi started on the bench at Mendizorrotza on Tuesday in a move that made clear just how comfortable Barca are in this title race, its conclusion surely now only a matter of when rather than if. Should Atletico avoid defeat to Valencia at the Wanda Metropolitano, the Catalans will still be crowned champions on Saturday at the Camp Nou with a victory over Levante. They could even have it wrapped up before kick-off on Saturday if Atletico fail to take at least four points from Valencia and Real Valladolid, the latter whom they face a few hours earlier on Saturday. "It's an incredibly valuable win," coach Ernesto Valverde said. Real Madrid, who play their game in hand against Getafe on Thursday, sit 16 points adrift in third. Alaves stay eighth, their hopes of a Europa League spot fading fast. Messi came on as a substitute in the 61st minute shortly

after his team had scored twice, Carles Alena guiding one into the corner before Luis Suarez, in Messi's absence, took and dispatched a penalty. Valverde leaving out his captain and star player, presumably with an eye on next week's Champions League semi-final against Liverpool, was a luxury Barcelona have earned and can afford. Liverpool, still jostling with Manchester City in the Premier League, are unlikely to feel the same sort of confidence when they face Huddersfield on Friday. Other players were preserved too. Jordi Alba, Clement Lenglet and Arthur Melo all began on the bench, allowing Samuel Umtiti more minutes as he recovers from a knee injury, while the struggling Philippe Coutinho started in a front three with Ousmane Dembele and Suarez. Alena, the 21-year-old Spaniard, scored his second La Liga goal and showed again why many believe he could be a key figure for Barcelona in the years to come. Suarez's goal, meanwhile, was his 21st in the league and marks the fourth consecutive season in which he has passed the 20 mark for Barca.

## SINGLES

**L'POOL REVEAL PRE-SEASON US TOUR**  
**LIVERPOOL:** Premier League title contenders Liverpool will head to the United States for their pre-season tour ahead of the 2019-20 campaign, the club announced on Tuesday. Liverpool, currently leading the Premier League by two points, have announced three friendlies in the US to fine-tune their preparations for next season. The Reds will take on manager Jurgen Klopp's former club Borussia Dortmund in the first competitive match in Indiana, on July 19. Liverpool then fly to Boston where they will play Sevilla on July 21 at Fenway Park. Their final match of the tour is against Sporting Lisbon on July 24 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

**INIESTA NAMED CAPTAIN AT VISSSEL KOBE**  
**TOKYO:** Barcelona legend Andres Iniesta has been handed the captain's armband at J-League outfit Vissel Kobe, the club announced, part of a shake-up following the sacking of their manager last week. The club *tweeted* a picture of Iniesta holding the armband announcing him as the new captain, with defender Daigo Nishi and midfielder Hotaru Yamaguchi named as co-captains. World Cup-winning Iniesta, who lifted 32 major trophies with Barcelona, signed for Kobe last May in a historic J-League deal worth a reported \$30 million a year. The 34-year-old plays alongside fellow veterans former Germany striker Lukas Podolski and former Barca and Spain team mate David Villa.

**ATP FINALS SET FOR TURIN FROM 2021**  
**PARIS:** The ATP Finals, the annual event bringing together the top eight men's players in the world, will take place in Turin, Italy, from 2021 to 2025, the ATP said on Wednesday. The elite showdown which closes the men's tennis season has been held in London since 2009. "The five-year agreement will see the world's greatest players in men's professional tennis compete for the biggest indoor tennis title in the world at Turin's Pala Alpitour stadium, Italy's largest indoor sporting arena," the ATP said in a statement. Turin will be the 15th venue and the first in Italy to host the event introduced in 1970 as the biggest men's tennis tournament of the season after the four grand slams.

**SARRI CHARGED WITH MISCONDUCT**  
**LONDON:** Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association following his late dismissal in Monday's 2-2 draw with Burnley. The 60-year-old Italian has until Friday to answer to the charge. Sarri's assistant Gianfranco Zola claimed after the match that the decision to send his compatriot to the stands was unfair as he "was just trying to tell our players to get in position". "Maurizio Sarri has been charged with misconduct in relation to his behaviour in the 94th minute of Monday's (22/04/2019) Premier League fixture between Chelsea and Burnley," read an FA statement. "The Chelsea manager has until 18:00 (17:00 GMT) on Friday (26/04/2019) to provide a response."

**MANU, HEENA FAIL TO MAKE FINAL**  
**BEIJING:** Teen sensation Manu Bhaker and the seasoned Heena Sidhu looked out colour as both failed to make the final in the 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup here on Wednesday. In the qualification round, Manu shot 575 to end in 17th place while Heena shot 572 to finish at the 26th position. Korea's Kim Minjung won Gold in the event with a score of 245 in the final on day 2 of the competition. In the Men's 3P event, Chain Singh's qualifying round effort of 1165 got him 27th place while Parul Kumar shot 1164 for the 33rd position. Senior marksman Sanjeev Rajput was languishing at the 58th spot with a score of 1145. In the two medal events of the day Yashaswini Singh Deswal's 10th place finish in the women's 10m Air Pistol was the best Indian performance. **Agencies**

## Pugilists aim to continue marauding run in semis

PTI ■ BANGKOK

The men have already equalled their best ever medal haul, while the women have maintained their consistent domination to put India on top of the standings ahead of the semifinals of the Asian Boxing Championships here on Thursday. Thirteen of the country's boxers — seven men and six women — are assured of at least Bronze medals after advancing to the last-four stage of the marquee continental championship. The performance has placed India ahead of powerhouses Kazakhstan (seven men and four women) and China (two men and eight women).



The men in medal rounds are Deepak Singh (49kg), Amit Panghal (52kg), Kavinder Bisht (56kg), Shiva Thapa (60kg), Ashish (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg) & Satish Kumar (+91kg). Nikhat Zareen (51kg), Manisha (54kg), Sonia Chahal (57kg), L Sarita Devi (60kg), Simranjit Kaur (64kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) make up India's representation in the women's semifinals. Wednesday is rest day in the tournament, being held simultaneously for men and women for the first time. "So far we have done exceptionally well but now comes the big test. All these semifinals are being treated as finals," India's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.

The best performance by men was in 2009, which led to seven medals in India's kitty, including one Gold. The best by women was back in 2005 in Taiwan when India finished overall champions with 11 medals, seven of them Gold. The Indian juggernaut has been unstoppable so far and national coach C A Kuttappa said rediscovering the aggressive streak has been vital to the success. "It's good to be cautious when you are faced with a tough opponent but overall it is better if you make a statement from the word go. That's what we have succeeded in doing consistently here," he said.

## Sathiyam lone survivor at Worlds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

G Sathiyam was the lone survivor at the 2019 ITTF World Championships as the Indian edged past Christian Plelea of Romania 11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6 in a round of 64 match in Budapest. The world No 28 will meet Hugo Calderano of Brazil, ranked No 7, in the round of 32 later on Wednesday. Sharath Kamal, on the other hand, was woefully out of sorts against Tomislav Pucar of Croatia when he went down 9-11, 10-12, 11-8, 4-11, 9-11 in the round of 64. The Indian, ranked No 36, failed to come to grips against the world No 58, who had a better control over the match and Sharath. Manav Thakkar, who had



made the main draw cut, failed to go past Austrian Robert Gardos despite a very good fight. The young Indian paddler lost 13-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-3, 2-11, 10-12, 6-11 in the round of 128. Both Manika Batra and Suthirtha Mukherjee ended their world championships campaign, bowing out in

round of 64 Tuesday night. Taipei's Szu-Yu Chen beat Manika 11-2, 11-8, 7-11, 11-7, 11-9 as the world No 24 needed mere 34 minutes against the world No 56 Indian. In contrast, Suthirtha managed to take two games of her rival before losing to Puerto Rican Adriana Diaz 11-4, 8-11, 11-7, 5-11, 3-11, 9-11.

## AMIT SETTLES FOR SILVER, BRONZE FOR AWARE

PTI ■ XI'AN

Amit Dhankar clinched a Silver medal while Commonwealth Games champion Rahul Aware won a Bronze as Indian men's freestyle wrestlers continued their impressive performance at the Asian Wrestling Championships here on Wednesday. Amit, who won Gold in 66kg in the 2013 edition, settled for a Silver in the men's 74kg freestyle event after losing to Daniyar Kaisanov of Kazakhstan 0-5 in the final. Aware, who won a 57kg Gold at the CWG in Gold Coast, produced a dominant display to beat Jincheol Kim 9-2 in the men's 61kg freestyle Bronze medal play-off.



The 27-year-old Indian lost to Behnam Eshagh Ehsanpoor of Iran in the quarterfinals in a Victory by Fall verdict. But since Ehsanpoor reached the final, Aware was up against Siripong Jumpakam in the repechage round which he won 12-1 in a Victory by Technical Superiority.

## Sindhu, Saina enter 2nd round, Srikanth exits

PTI ■ WUHAN

Top Indian shuttlers P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal notched up contrasting wins to enter the second round but Kidambi Srikanth suffered a shock defeat in the Asia Badminton Championship here on Wednesday. Olympic and world championship Silver-medallist Sindhu eased past Takahashi Sayaka of Japan in straight games. Sindhu looked in command from the beginning and registered a thumping 21-14, 21-7 victory in just 28 minutes. The fourth-seeded Indian will next face Choirunnisa of Indonesia. World number nine Saina had to work hard to get the better of China's Han Yue. The seventh seeded Indian came back strongly to pull off a thrilling 12-21, 21-11, 21-17 win after conceding the first game. She will next square off against Kim Ga Eun of South Korea.



In men's singles, fifth seed Srikanth lost to Indonesia's Shesar Hirhutavito in 16-21, 20-22 in a match that lasted 44 minutes. Sameer Verma notched up a hard-fought 21-13, 17-21, 21-18 victory over Sakai Kazumasa of Japan. It was end of the road for the men's doubles pair of M R Arjun and Ramchandran Shlok, who went down 18-21, 15-21 to the duo of He Jiting and Tan Qiang. In the women's doubles event India's campaign came to end as all three pairs lost their matches. Meghana Jakkampudi and Poorvisha S Ram lost 21-13, 21-16 to the Thai pair followed by Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh going down 21-13, 12-21, 21-12. Aparna Balan-Sruthi K were ousted after a 12-21, 10-21 loss in just 25 minutes to the unseeded Singaporean pairing of Jin Yujia and Sugiarto and Barkah Yulifra.

## 'I'm in a hole', admits Zverev after Barcelona shock

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Alexander Zverev has admitted he is at a loss to explain his dip in form after the world number three was beaten by lucky loser Nicolas Jarry in the second round of the Barcelona Open on Tuesday. Zverev spurned a match point at 6-5 and then a 3-0 lead in the final-set tie-break before going down 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) to Jarry, ranked 81st in the world. The German had taken a late wildcard in Barcelona in search of both matches and form after a string of surprise defeats. "I just play bad, it's not a secret," Zverev said afterwards. "The tennis was very low-level. Most of the points that I won were unforced errors by him. I'm in a hole and I don't know how to get out of it." Jarry had even lost in qualifying to Spain's Marcel Granollers but, after being given a reprieve, knocked out the same opponent in the first round to set up a meeting with Zverev, long-considered a



future star of the men's game. The Chilean upset both Marin Cilic in Shanghai and Dominic Thiem in Hamburg last year but this was the biggest victory of his career and another setback for Zverev, with just over a month to go before the start of the French Open. Jarry, meanwhile, will face either Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov or veteran Spaniard Fernando Verdasco in the third round on Thursday, with Japan's Kei Nishikori now the highest ranked seed left in the bottom half.

## Petkovic sets up duel with Kerber



AFP ■ STUTTGART

World number five Kerber was granted a bye to the second round after Simona Halep withdrew from the tournament with an injury, and will now face her friend and compatriot in an all-German duel on Thursday. "I will send Angie a SMS or two this evening," said Petkovic after beating Tormo 6-3, 6-4. "Usually, the loser has to buy the other one dinner," she added. In the other ties Belgium's Greet Minnens sprung a surprise when she beat Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova, ranked 159 places above her, to set up a second round meeting with world number three Petra Kvitova. Laura Siegemund became the third German to reach the second round when she beat Ukrainian Lesia Tsurenko, while Anna-Lena Friedsam went down fighting in two sets against Dutch sixth seed Kiki Bertens. Earlier in the day, Elise Mertens of Belgium was knocked out by Russia's Darya Kasatkina, and Anastasiya Sevastova overcame fellow Latvian Jelena Ostapenko in a rollercoaster battle over three sets.

## ANKITA STUNS FORMER US OPEN CHAMP STOSUR

PTI ■ ANNING

India's top women's singles player Ankita Raina shocked former US Open champion Samantha Stosur for the biggest win of her career, progressing to the second round of Kunming Open here on Wednesday. The Indian, an Asian Games Bronze medallist, shocked the fancied Australian 7-5, 2-6, 6-5 in a gruelling two hours and fifty minutes battle at the WTA 125K event. This is the second time the two faced off, with Stosur winning their last encounter in straight sets. The 26-year-old Indian struggled to hold her and managed only three aces throughout the match compared to Stosur, who smashed seven aces. However, the world No 77 made more errors — 18 double faults — compared to Ankita's six. She will face Kai-Lin Zhang of China in the second round.