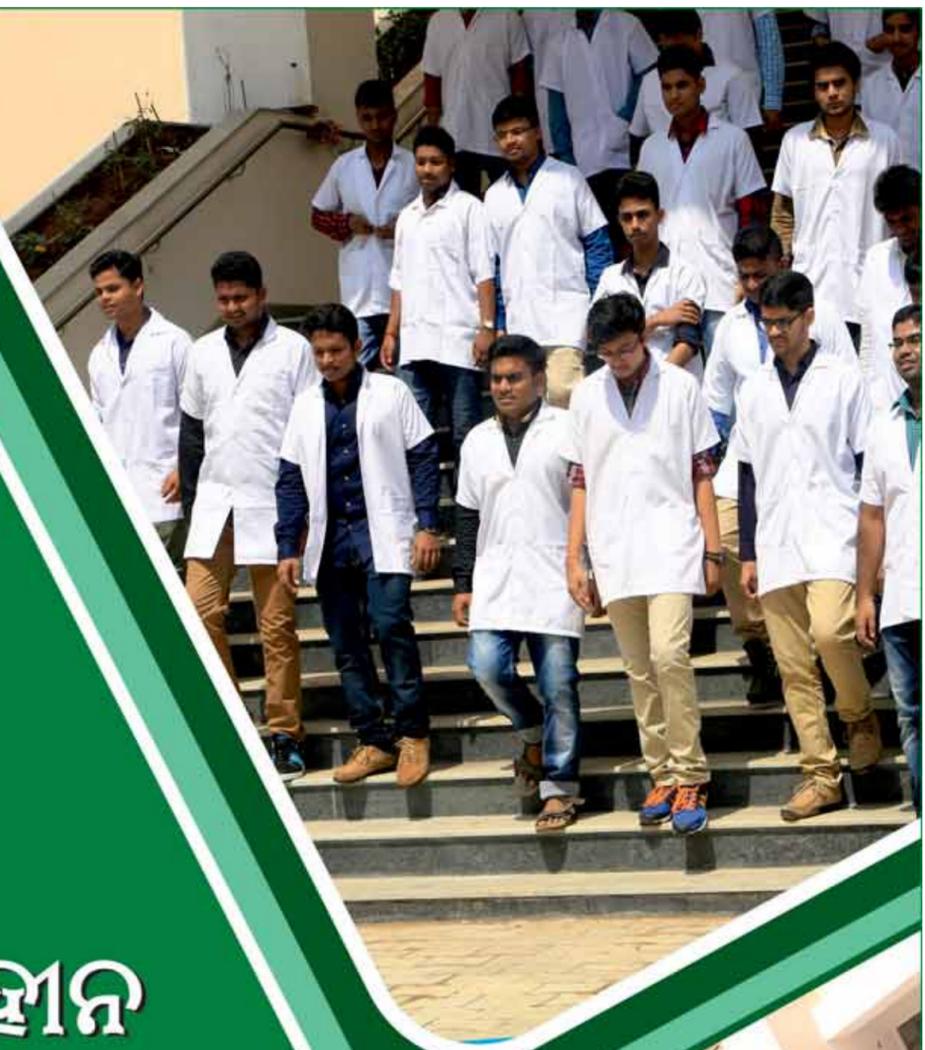
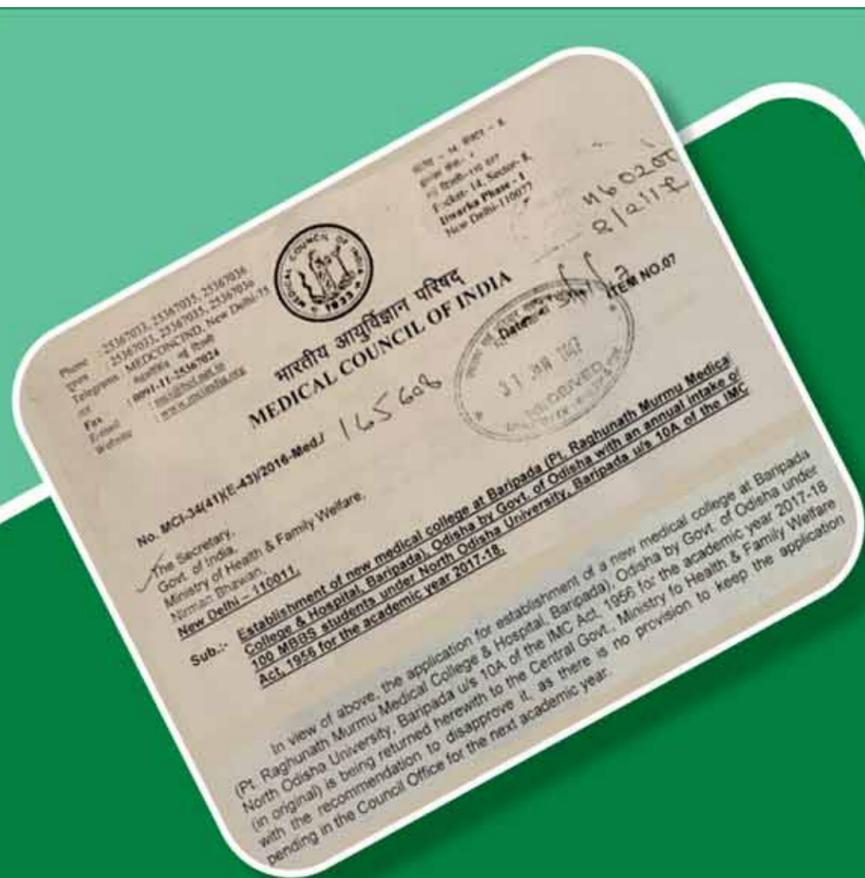




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## ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସ୍ଵାର୍ଥ ନା ନୀତିହୀନ ରାଜନୈତିକ ଚକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ?

କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ବିଜେପି ସରକାର ବାରିପଦା ମେଡିକାଲ କଲେଜର ଅନୁମତି ବନ୍ଦ କଲା । ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର ପାଇଁ ବି ସେଇଆ । ସୁପ୍ରିମ୍ କୋର୍ଟଙ୍କ ‘ଓଭରସାଇଲ୍ କମିଟି’ରୁ ଆମକୁ ନ୍ୟାୟ ମିଳିଲା । କାଳିଆ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଟଙ୍କା ବିଜେପି ରାଜନୈତିକ ଅସହିଷ୍ଣୁତା ଦେଖାଇ ବନ୍ଦ କରିଛି ।

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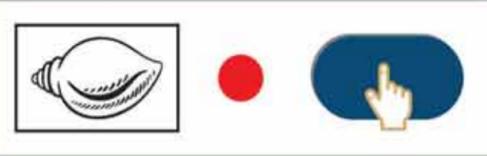
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ନବୀନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ରହିବା ଆମ ହକ୍ ପାଇଁ ଲଢ଼ିବା



ବିଜୁ ଜନତା ଦଳ



‘ଶଙ୍ଖ’ ଚିହ୍ନରେ ଭୋଟ୍ ଦେବା । ଦୁଇଥର । ଥରେ ଏମ୍.ପି.ପାଇଁ । ଥରେ ଏମ୍.ଏଲ୍.ଏ ପାଇଁ ।

ନବୀନ ମୋ ପରିବାର ଶଙ୍ଖ ମୋ ଚିହ୍ନ ।

# RPI urges Naveen to support NDA post poll

State's interest can be protected, says party chief Athawle

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Republican Party of India (RPI) president and Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale has appealed to BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to extend support to the BJP-led NDA for formation of Government at the Centre for a second time after the general elections in the interest of Odisha and its people.

Addressing a Press meet here on Wednesday, Athawale said that the BJD should take



side of the NDA even if it doesn't get a majority at the Centre for the sake of welfare of Odisha. Informing that the RPI has not fielded any candidate in the State, he said that his party cadres are working in support of the BJP in all the 21 Lok Sabha seats and 147 Assembly constituencies.

Athawale also spoke about

the 10-per cent reservation in Government jobs and educational institutions for economically weaker sections of the general category, steps taken to make the Atrocity Prevention Act more stringent and others steps taken for ensuring social justice to people by the Union Government.

# Rajnath again to visit today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit Odisha once more this election month.

According to BJP spokesperson Golak Mohapatra on Wednesday, Singh will hit the election trail in the coastal areas on Thursday (April 25) and address public meetings in Nimapara, Chandbali and Bira.

This will be Singh's second visit to the State for campaigning for the BJP candidates. He had earlier attended public rallies in Mayurbhanj district, Nayagarh and Cuttack Sadar on April 20.

Besides, BJP national president Amit Shah is slated to visit Morada in Mayurbhanj district and Sukinda in Jajpur district to address election rallies on April 27.

# EVM smashing: Case filed against BJP nominee

PURI: A complaint was lodged against BJP Satyabadi MLA candidate Om Prakash Mishra for allegedly vandalising an EVM and thrashing the Presiding Officer at a polling booth at Birakesharpur village under the Satyabadi police station of the district on Tuesday.

Sources said that Mishra and his associates allegedly thrashed Presiding Officer Sibaram Mohapatra after vandalising the EVM and tried to flee the booth. But some locals managed to overpower Mishra's two associates and handed them over to police.

Besides arresting the duo, police also allegedly recovered a pistol from their possession.

"Om Prakash Mishra and his associates barged into the booth, destroyed the EVMs and beat me up.

They even tried to terrorise people by firing the pistol but failed as it slipped from their hand," the Presiding Officer alleged. PNS

# Maoists loot forest office in Nayagarh

Flee with four guns, seven mobiles



PNS ■ NAYAGARH

Despite police being on high alert for the ongoing general elections, Maoists allegedly looted and vandalised the Banigochha Forest Range office near the Daspalla police station in the district late on Tuesday night.

Sources said seven Red rebels barged into the office and snatched four guns, seven mobile phones and damaged the office

property. "Armed Maoists entered into the village and asked me about guns. When I refused to cooperate, they dragged me into the forest office premises. Later they vandalised the office premises and decamped with four guns," said a Forester.

The department authorities have lodged a complaint in connection with the incident with the Daspalla police.

Daspalla PS IIC Biswajit Routray said a probe has been initiated to ascertain the details about the incident.

In 2008, Maoists had killed 14 people, including 13 policemen, besides injuring 10 others and looted the district armoury after attacking the police training school and the Daspalla PS.

# GRS Mamata reported missing since 2014 polls

Mother seeks support in line of aid given to Sunjukta's family

BIRENDRA SUBUDHI ■ PHULBANI

In the wake of GRS (Gram Rojgar Sevak) Sanjukta Digal being killed by Maoists during the ongoing election process here and her family being compensated immediately, mother of Mamata Naik, a GRS who has been missing since April 7, 2014, while on election duty, has demanded that adequate compensation be paid to her soon.

Mamata was on an election duty to Subalaya Booth No. 210 on April 7, 2014. But she didn't return home after completion of her election duty. Family members searched for her a lot, but in vain. Though Mamata's mother Prabhasini Naik went



to lodge an FIR at the Phulbani police station, the then IIC Umakant Pradhan didn't accept her FIR. She then approached the then Kandhamal district Collector Tirumala Naik and SP KV Singh on April 21, 2014 and again on April 28.

Later, she also wrote to State Commission for Women, RDC, Chief Election

Commissioner, Governor, Chief Minister and Prime Minister about her plight. A Crime Branch order given by the RDC could not also be helpful to her.

After being harassed with no support from any quarter, Prabhasini and other family members of Mamata sat on a strike for 72 days in front of the

Collector's office. Various social organisations backed the family.

The family accused Chakapada BDO Debi Prasad Mohanty for missing of Mamata as he did not report the same to authorities.

"While five years have passed and another election is going to be completed, we don't know whether she is alive or dead. We have not even received her service gratuity. Her father's death has added to my woes. How can I live now," wanted to know the disheartened widow, Prabhasini.

Giving the example of Sanjukta's case, Prabhasini appealed to all concerned authorities to wake up to her plight and provide all support to her immediately.

# Maharathy bail hearing deferred to Apr 27

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A special designated court here on Wednesday deferred the hearing of the bail application of arrested Pipili MLA Pradeep Maharathy in connection with his alleged attack on Election Commission officials on Sunday night.

The next date of hearing was scheduled on April 27. The court deferred the hearing due to the delay in submission of case diary (CD) and injury report by the Investigating Officer (IO).

The IO informed the court that he was busy in election duties. The court asked him to submit the CD and other documents positively by the next date.

Maharathy was arrested for allegedly attacking Election Commission flying squad



Magistrate Rabinarayan Patra and Static Surveillance Team (SST) members at his farmhouse in Pipili area of Puri district. The ruling party legislator has been charged under Sections 307 (Attempt to Murder), 353 (Assault or criminal force to deter public ser-

vant from discharge of his duty), 147 (rioting) and 148 (Rioting, armed with deadly weapon) of IPC.

Following his arrest, Maharathy was sent to Jharpada Special Jail after the Bhubaneswar SDJM rejected his bail petition.

# Man gets 20-yr RI for raping minor in M'ghanj

Two associates get 3-yr jail term

PNS ■ BARIPADA

The Children's Court here on Wednesday sentenced a person to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping a minor girl in the Thakurmunda area of Mayurbhanj district in 2015.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on the convict Bailochan Mahanta (31). He will undergo an additional imprisonment of seven months in the case of nonpayment of the fine amount.

A fine of ₹1,000 each was imposed on the duo and they will have to undergo one month of additional imprisonment in default of payment of the fine

Bailochan's two associates Bailochan Behera and Purusottam Mahanta, who were also involved in the crime, were awarded three years' RI by the court.

A fine of ₹1,000 each was imposed on the duo and they will have to undergo one month of additional imprisonment in default of payment of the fine.

The three had raped the 15-year-old girl in a forest in the Thakurmunda area on September 11, 2015. A police complaint was lodged in this regard on September 12 and the accused were arrested under Section 376 of IPC and relevant sections of POCSO Act. Adjudicating the case, Justice V Sujata pronounced the verdict. As many as 13 witnesses were cross-examined during the trial.

# Ex-Boudh OFDC Accountant gets 2-yr RI

Patra would undergo RI for a period of six months if he fails to pay the fine.

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance Special Judge, Phulbani has sentenced former Boudh OFDC Accountant K Kameswar Patra to two years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹6,000 on him after convicting him in a bribe case.

Patra had been caught red-handed while demanding and accepting an illegal gratification of ₹3,000 from one Madhusudan Mahapatra for release of his pending bills in February 2016. A trial was going on and he was convicted. Patra would undergo RI for a period of six months if he fails to pay the fine.

# 'Repair Madhubabu statue before b'day'

Utkal Sammilani urges Govt

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Utkal Sammilani on Wednesday demanded that the statue of Utkal Gaurab Madhusudan Das, located in front of the Raj Bhawan here, be repaired well before his birth anniversary on April 28.

"The Madhubabu statue has been in a dilapidated state for long. Though the Government had been requested to repair the statue before the death anniversary on February 4,

no step has been taken yet," lamented Sammilani Mancheswar Industrial Estate Branch president Dillip Dashsharma in a statement.

Dashsharma demanded that early steps be taken for repair of the statue as leaders, social workers and members of various organisations, like earlier years, will observe Madhubabu birth anniversary at the Raj Bhawan square on April 28.



# KISHORE VAIGYANIK PROTSAHAN YOJANA DAV CSpur Jyotiraditya Mishra tops in State

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As many as 21 students of DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur here, highest for any individual school of the State, have qualified for the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana including State topper Jyotiraditya Mishra.

The test was conducted by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru under the aegis of Department of Science and Technology.

Apart from Jyotiraditya, who also ranked 14 at the national-level in Class-11 category, Satyapragyan Kar stood fourth in the State.

Similarly in the Class-12 category, Saswat Mohanty of the school bagged second rank in State. A total of 64 students from the State have been enlisted for the final scholarship. The junior scientists shall take direct admission



in the leading institutions of the country with lofty scholarships.

The written examinations were conducted in November last and viva voce in January. The school authorities congratulated the meritorious students and mentor teachers for the remarkable success.

# Modi loses in public conduct; Naveen scores over him



BISWARAJ PATNAIK

On April 22 when most of the coastal Odisha was bracing to vote for the general elections, the so-called musclem MLA of Pipili, Pradeep Maharathy, was picked by police like a street criminal and tossed behind bars after the criminal court rejected his bail appeal. His crime was grave. Maharathy was hosting a big 'dine and drink' party for followers and probably piling up money to be paid as bribe to woo greedy as well as gullible voters.

The Election Commission watchdogs raided his farmhouse but were resisted vio-

lently by his enslaved goons and hoodlums. Most astonishingly, the MLA candidate himself joined the attacking gang and beat up officials and hurled choicest abuses at them.

He did dare commit this grave blunder with gay abandon for he believed the party honchos would appreciate his bravery and hail him as hero and instruct the police to go soft and let him go free.

That did not happen. The Naveen administration never interferes with the police action; it rather encouraged the force to take severe action as per law. Thus, Maharathy is now languishing in jail and wondering if he had ever known the boss well enough.

Incidentally on April 17, Naveen landed in Rourkela after a chopper journey. As was never expected, the EC watch-dog officials swooped in on his helicopter and checked the whole flying machine after routinely frisking the CM and his companions. Naveen remained perfectly cool, composed and extensively coopera-

tive as he knew too well the officials were performing their duty.

These two acts of Naveen's have most certainly elevated his 'statesman image' beyond limits. In contrast, just two days earlier, on April 15, during a whirlwind tour of PM Narendra Modi across Sambalpur, a poll observing officer from the Election Commission got Modi's helicopter checked as per the 'blue-book guidelines'.

Modi became visibly irritated though he did not speak out against the routine move by the thoroughly trained official team headed by a Karnataka-cadre IAS officer.

The EC on hearing this instantly suspended the official and released a press note saying 'no SPG protectee is to be frisked or his transport machine checked for anything, no matter what'. Modi never once condemned the official action against the duty-bound poll official, which would have catapulted his stature to dizzy heights.

## HITTING THE BULL'S EYE

Modi seemed to have agreed with the wrong move by the EC. What is not made clear is that during elections, the 'bluebook' is to be followed in absolute letter and spirit unlike in ordinary times, no matter how colossally dignified or important the character be.

The suspension came after the poll body sent a one-man enquiry team to Odisha to investigate the matter. According to the EC order, the official, Mohammed Mohsin, deputed as a special observer, had not acted in conformity with the EC's instructions. Educated and sensible citizens have not taken well Modi's complete silence on the matter.

They say even if the checking or frisking acts were wrong, the PM should have displayed strength of character by ignoring the observer's act. Modi did not utter a word of appreciation or disapproval.

Interestingly, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

has been ruthless in his criticism for inspection of Modi's helicopter, which has sparked quite a big deal of public criticism, especially when a video of CM Naveen Patnaik is making round on social media showing him cooperating with the EC officials while being frisked and his flying machine being raided.

This episode has hit the headlines. Instead of using power and being boastful, Patnaik is seen extending all cooperation to the EC surveillance team inspecting his chopper. Around the same time, Dharmendra is seen ranting and raging in mad fury over the matter, calling the poll officials' names.

"This raid on PM's chopper should have been used to demonstrate that the law is equal for everybody," says Quraishi, who was India's Chief Election Commissioner between July 2010 and June 2012. Quraishi has termed the

suspension of the officer for searching Modi's helicopter in Odisha as frighteningly 'unfortunate'.

He also says the incident has gone waste as a missed opportunity. The same could have easily restored the image of both the PM and the EC as both these institutions have been under the public scanner for quite some time.

The PM is known for repeatedly violating the model code and the EC religiously overlooking it. In one simple stroke, the intense criticism against them would have come crumbling down. Unfortunately, both chose the wrong course perhaps because ill fate was in store for them.

Meanwhile, at briefings for the following phases of polling, EC officials have been repeatedly asked to provide a copy of the instruction under which the observing official was suspended.

The EC officials have responded saying the instruction was part of the overall manual issued by the poll panel

from time to time. However, there has been no clarity yet as to whether the instruction barred search of the PM's convoy or the aircraft.

The 2019 general elections do appear so complex as making forecasts has become nearly impossible. Master sephologists have either been grumbling or keeping mouths shut as analysis of the people's psyche has become the most difficult proposition.

Pulse reading shows bizarre trends and patterns. One pollster says the NDA will grab 310 while another gives only 172.

Odisha remains mystical as always. Grandmasters have gone haywire in mind and projected weird figures. One says the BJP will grab 15 Lok Sabha seats while some other agencies indicate 16 seats guaranteed for the BJD.

and strong.

There is a great deal of rumour about the BJP not investing much money in Odisha to back candidates as there is no CM face available yet and the local cadres have not been formed as yet. Furthermore, some of the known big leaders have been conspiring and plotting against colleagues in fear of losing importance.

All said and analysed, the BJD is still in the lead no matter of the talk of a strong BJP undercurrent and a Modi wave. The masses seem to be incredibly Naveen-soaked. The Congress and the BJP will jointly have to be content with, at the most, five LS seats, one and four, respectively. If the BJP manages 30 Assembly seats, it has reason to celebrate. The Congress is a distant contender to rejoice with 10 seats if at all fortune smiles on it. Poll masters say, "It's very difficult to say how Naveen wins so easily!"

(The writer is a core member of Transparency International, Odisha)

OPINION 8 R&D KEY TO INDIA'S STATUS

WORLD 12 TRUMP THREATENS SC FIGHT AGAINST IMPEACHMENT

SPORT 15 BARCA EDGE CLOSER TO LA L LIGA TITLE

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LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING: PRIYANKA 13 VIVACITY

କୃଷକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ 'କାଳିଆ'

'କାଳିଆ' ଯୋଜନାରେ ଚାଷୀଙ୍କୁ ମିଳିବ ବର୍ଷକୁ ୧୦ ହଜାର ଏବଂ ଭୂମିହୀନ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କୁ ୧୨ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା । ପିଲାଙ୍କ ଉଚ୍ଚ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ବୈଷୟିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ 'କାଳିଆ ଛାତ୍ରବୃତ୍ତି' । ବିନା ସୁଧରେ ମିଳିବ ୧ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ରଣ । 'ଆମ ଝିଅ' ଯୋଜନାରେ ଝିଅ ବାହାଘର ପାଇଁ ୨୫ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା । ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟ ସମୟରେ ସର୍ବନିମ୍ନ ସହାୟକ ମୂଲ୍ୟ ଉପରେ ସତନ୍ତ୍ର ସହାୟତା ।



ବିଜୁ ଜନତା ଦଳ

ସମଗ୍ର କୃଷକ ସମଗ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶା



'ଶଙ୍କ' ଚିହ୍ନରେ ଭୋଟ୍ ଦେବା । ଦୁଇଥର । ଥରେ ଏମ୍.ପି.ପାଇଁ । ଥରେ ଏମ୍.ଏଲ୍.ଏ ପାଇଁ ।

SC ropes in CBI, IB, police

Agencies asked to unravel alleged conspiracy against CJI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court 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



The court says 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 said if fixers continue to work and manipulate the judiciary as claimed, neither this institution nor any of "us" will survive

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 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

The Bench also clarified that there is no connection 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.

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 sent 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?"

Patkura polls scheduled on May 19

BHUBANESWAR:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday announced a fresh schedule for elections for the Patkura Assembly constituency in Kendrapada district. As per the ECI's notification, the polling will be held on May 19, the date for seventh and final phase of the ongoing elections in the country.

While the last date for filing of nominations is May 1, the final date for withdrawing candidature is May 4. The polling process will take between 7 am and 6 pm on May 19.

The results will be declared on May 23 along with those of the elections in the country.

Notably, the earlier schedule of the elections to the Patkura constituency was countermanded following the death of its incumbent MLA and BJD candidate Bed Prakash Agarwal. PNS

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.

Yes I send Modi gifts but won't give votes, says Didi

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 Prime Minister saying how during his regime the two major scams had taken place in the name of Jandhan and demonetisation.

She said, "Notebandi and Jandhan were two scams that happened during Modi's rule" paving way for huge amount of black money that went to the saffron coffer. "With that black money they have been fighting elections, buying votes," she said warning, "When we will come to power will definitely get them probed."

She said, "If someone mistakes political courtesy for something else then one is living in a fool's paradise because we in Bengal will give them sweets but not votes."

Reacting to Banerjee's remarks a senior Marxist leader promptly said, "Didi will probe Modi the way he has probed the chit fund for the past five years."

Odisha sees 71.61% turnout in 3rd phase

Keonjhar highest at 78.16%; BBSR lowest at 59.60%

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State registered a total voting percentage of 71.61 per cent in the third phase elections held in six Lok Sabha (LS) and 42 Assembly constituencies (AC) on Tuesday.

The final figures are marginally lower than the 72.7 per cent poll turnout in 2014, according to the data released by the Election Commission of India. (ECI)

As per the final poll figures, Keonjhar recorded the highest turnout of 78.16 per cent. In

2014, the constituency recorded the highest poll turnout of 80.4 per cent.

Sambalpur LS recorded 76.38 per cent turnout against a turnout of 75.87 per cent in 2014. The constituency recorded marginally higher turnout this time. Similarly, Bhubaneswar LS has posted a marginal higher voting in 2019 with a turnout rate of 59.60 per cent against 58.38 per cent in 2014.

However, Dhenkanal recorded a lower turnout in 2019 as 74.98 per cent voters exercised their franchise against 76.43 per cent in 2014. Similarly, Cuttack saw a lower turnout of 69.65 per cent against 71.35 per cent in 2014. The temple town Puri recorded lower turnout of 72.53 per cent against 74 per cent in 2014.

Temperature to rise sharply in State

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State is set to experience a sharp rise in the day temperature from Thursday with some places likely to record it between 43 and 45 degree Celsius, the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) of the SOA University here said on Wednesday.

"Mathematical models indicate that day temperature would continue to rise in the State from Thursday," said CEC director SC Sahu. The rise in day temperature is likely to continue till April 30 after which it will dip but some stations may report high temperature ranging between 39 and 43 degree on May 1 and 2, he said.

The probability of severe and widespread thunder squall (Kalbaisakhi) is very low between April 25 and May 1, Sahu said adding as per preliminary analysis there was likelihood of cloudy sky with light to moderate rainfall in southern Odisha districts from May 2 night.

The cyclonic storm forming in the south-west Bay of Bengal may come closer to south Andhra Pradesh coast on May 1 and moderate to heavy rainfall was likely in south Odisha subsequently. Models indicate that the cyclonic storm may move along the coast towards south Odisha coast by May 4, he said.

I invite Modiji to attend my swearing-in: Naveen

BJD chief replies to PM's claim of end of his rule

PNS ■ BALESWAR

BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday "cordially invited" Narendra Modi to his new Ministry's swearing-in ceremony after the declaration of the results of the current elections on May 23.

This was Patnaik's seemingly cool reply to Modi's apparently boastful assertion on Tuesday at his last campaigning speech in the State in

Baleswar that Patnaik's days as the Chief Minister are over and he (Modi) would visit Odisha next when the BJP forms Government in the State after this election.

And this was Patnaik's first direct remark against Modi, who, he said, visited Odisha time and again in the election season to seek votes.

Addressing a public meeting at Jaleswar in Baleswar district, Patnaik said, "After the third-phase polling, the mood of the voters showed that the BJD has already secured a majority. I humbly invite him (Modi) to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the (new)



BJD Government as a guest."

He stated that the BJP leaders are only shedding crocodile tears during election season. "The Prime Minister did not come to Odisha in the time of its miseries. He did not have time then. Now since elections are underway, he is frequenting the State, Patnaik said."

Speaking about the Centre's share in construction of the Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital at Baleswar, he said the State spent ₹10,000 crore for the institution while the Central Government gave only ₹100 crore. He further alleged that a

Central Minister from Odisha had been opposing the medical college. But the State Government made it possible after taking permission from the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee, he added.

"The Swabhimani Odias of the soil of Fakir Mohan Senapati will give a befitting reply to such dirty politics," Patnaik expected.

He appealed to the people to cast their votes in favour of BJD Baleswar MP candidate Rabindra Kumar Jena and local MLA nominee Ananta Das in the fourth phase elections on April 29.

# EVM, VVPAT snags hit polling in S'pur

Poll delayed in many booths

**NIMAI CHARAN SAHU**  
SAMBALPUR

EVM and VVPAT machines came in a big way in higher poll rate on Tuesday. In the first hour, most of the EVMs stopped functioning; so also there were snags in VVPATs, adding to the worries of the polling personnel.

of the voters. Even some people were seen returning from this particular booth as they were unable to stand in the queue in the scorching sun. "I have stood for more than an hour in the booth. The line is also very small here. But slow EVM can't disperse people quickly," said a former OAS officer in both no. 103. His ailing wife and many others standing in the line also expressed their displeasure over slow functioning of EVM.

At the hours many people and particularly ladies in large numbers were seen standing in queue in all booths. But EVMs forced many to return home, as was seen. The election remained violence free all over the district except very few and minor incidents.

In Sambalpur town, some

people opposed entry of outsiders inside booths, and prompt police action managed the situation. However, the voters' turnout in the district stood at 64 percent.

At the same time, it was 58 per cent in Kuchinda, 78 in Rengali, 54 in Sambalpur and 65 in Rairakhol. Snag in EVM and unbearable heat is said to be reason behind the low polling in the district.

In booth no 83 of Deogarh coming under the Sambalpur Parliamentary seat, re-polling has been ordered by the CEO due to technical snag in EVM, sources said.

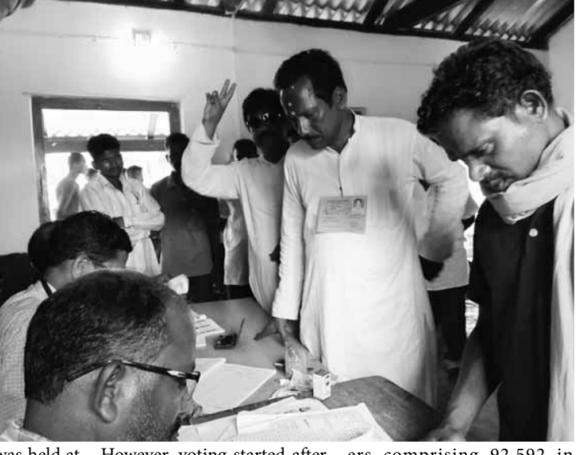
"This time police deployment was very tight all over the district resulting in the polls going incident free in all constituencies," SP Sanjeev Arora said.

# Pallahara posts highest 81.18% voting

**PNS ■ PALLAHARA**

The Pallahara Assembly segment under the Dhenkanal Lok Sabha constituency registered the highest polling of 81.18 % in the third phase of polls held on Tuesday, informed the ERO-cum-Sub Collector, Pallahara.

Voting increased due to the campaigning held by heavy weight leaders of the BJP and the BJD, according to analysts. Voting was held at 239 booths in the constituency for which equal number of Presiding Officers and 1,195 polling officers, 329 police officers and 259 vehicles were engaged. Polling was delayed in 10 to 15 booths due to technical problems in EVMs.



However, voting started after about one hour as faulty EVMs were replaced by new ones. BJD LS candidate Mahesh Sahu and Assembly candidate Mukesh Pal cast their votes at in Dimiria and Balipasi booths, respectively.

There were 1, 67, 964 voters comprising 92,592 in Pallahara block and 75,372 voters in Kaniha block were enrolled for voting.

After reports came from all booths, the total voting of the constituency was registered at 81.18 per cent, said the ERO.

# 72% voting in Talcher despite heat

**PNS ■ TALCHER**

The third phase of elections for the Dhenkanal Lok Sabha and Talcher Assembly seats were held peacefully in Talcher. There were as many as 199 booths.

Due to some faults of EVM in some booths, the voters felt uneasy by standing in queue for hours. The voting time was extended for that reason and the voting ended by 10.30 pm.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and his wife cast their votes at the Deulbeda UP School. BJD MLA candidate Braja Kishore Pradhan cast his vote in at the Handidhuan UPSchool. BJP MLA candidate Kalandi Samal cast his vote at the Santhapada School and Congress nominee



Due to some faults of EVM in some booths, the voters felt uneasy by standing in queue for hours

Suresh Chandra Behera cast his vote at the Ghantapada School.

Female and male voters were standing in long queues to vote from 7 am in front of the several booths because of the heat wave in the locality. But due to the faults of EVM at 173 booths under the Talcher Municipality, booth 71 of Kandhabereni Panchayat and booth 33 in Jarada panchayat, polls started at least one hour late.

The voters' turnout percentage in the constituency was 72.49 whereas the voting percentage was very less in Talcher Municipal area, only 51.54 per cent.

# 2 scribes in Assembly poll fray in JSpur Nrusingha, Birabar known for social works too

**PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR**

Two journalists are contesting ongoing Assembly elections as Indian Citizens' Party candidate from two different constituencies under the Jagatsinghpur Parliamentary constituency.

While Nrusingha Charan Barik is contesting from the Jagatsinghpur Assembly seat, Birabara Dalei is in the fray for Erasama-Balikuda segment. Both the constituencies will go to polls on May 29.

"Journalism is closely related to politics. I can serve people in a better way if elected," said Nrusingha Charan Barik.

Barik started his journalism career in 1990. After working with many Odia dailies and periodicals, he is working with the Press News Service (PNS), a news agency.

He had unsuccessfully contested polls from Tirtol Assembly seat in 2004 on a

Janata Party ticket and ZP elections from Zone 2 under Kujanga block as a Samajwadi Party candidate in 2009.

A social worker, Barik is associated with the Utkal Khadi Mandal and Survodya Andolan.

"Everyone has the right to enter politics and contest elections. Thus, my entry is quite natural," informed scribe Birabar Dalei

Earlier, Dalei had unsuccessfully contested from the erstwhile Balikuda Assembly seat in 2,000 and again in 2004.

Dalei, 53, had launched his journalism career in 1993 and is currently reporting for the Nayabati and Samparka Barta.

Besides, he is the district president of the Ambedkar Lohia Bichar Mancha, Milk Farmers' Federation Jagatsinghpur, Upakula Banchao Andolana and a few other organisations.

# Ambapua over-bridge turns deathtrap

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

The new over-bridge at Ambapua Chhak, inaugurated a month before beginning of the election process by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has turned to be a deathtrap, thanks to the apathetic attitude of the concerned Government officers.

By now, many accidents have occurred on the over-bridge due to potholes and water stagnation for which common people fear to move on it.

Though Government officers are commuting daily on the bridge, yet they have closed eyes to repair the patches.



Locals have now demanded that precautionary measures like repair of potholes,

water discharge system and putting of traffic posts are taken soon to prevent accidents

otherwise it would take precious lives in coming days.

**By now, many accidents have occurred on the over-bridge due to potholes and water stagnation for which common people fear to move on it**

# JSPL completes rail order delivery RECORD 4 MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) has announced that it has completed delivery of the first-ever order to supply rails to the Indian Railways. In July 2018, the JSPL bagged 20 per cent of the ₹2,500 crore global tender by the Railways to supply long rails.

The JSPL, only company technically qualified for the tender, was to supply 97,400 tonne of rails over a period of one year. It started dispatching the first consignments of rails

on August 15, 2018 and completed delivery of total quantities on April 22, 2019, almost four months ahead of schedule.

JSPL joint MD Naushad Akhter Ansari said, "We are proud to have contributed to Government's Make-In-India initiatives and complete such a challenging project far ahead of schedule."

Recently, the Railways also ordered an additional quantity of about 30,000 tonnes of rails which comes under the same global tender. **PNS**

# INBRIEF

## NROS CELEBRATE UTKAL DIWAS IN BAHRAIN



**Bhubaneswar:** Non-resident Odias (NROs) in Bahrain under the banner Bahrain Odia Samaj celebrated the Utkal Diwas on April 1. Various cultural programmes were held based on Odia culture and tradition. Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb and former Indian Ambassador Lalit Mansingh attended the event as guests. Many eminent persons from Odisha and Bahrain including Ministry of Labour and Social Development Director Ahmed Al-Haiki, Mohammad Dadabhai and ambassadors of Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Nepal, Sri Lanka attended the programme. Samaj founder Arun Kumar Praharaj coordinated the event.

## DHAMRA PORT BAGS EXCEED GOLD AWARD



**Dhamra:** The Dhamra Port Company Limited (DPCL) has won the EKDKN's Exceed Gold Award 2018 under "Environment Preservation Category" for their outstanding achievements in the areas of biodiversity conservation, environment and waste management activities. The trophy and certificate was awarded by New Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal at EKDKN Exceed Awards presentation ceremony in New Delhi.

## ZIQITZA HOLDS AWARENESS ACTIVITIES FOR WORKERS

**Bhubaneswar:** In an endeavour to improve healthcare systems for pregnant women in the State, the Ziqitza Healthcare Ltd (ZHL) has been organising awareness activities for ASHA workers across the State. The ZHL is operating 108 and 102 ambulance service in partnership with State Government. 102 Ambulance is a critical component of the system and assists the ASHA workers in transferring pregnant women and infants to hospital in time free of cost. ZHL State head Sabyasachi Biswal said this initiative would enhance the coordination between the ASHA workers and ambulance call centre.

# Youth killed in beer parlour in Subarnapur

**Accused surrenders; confesses to crime**

**PNS ■ SONEPUR**

Youth was hacked to death over a financial dispute in a beer parlour in Binka of Subarnapur district on Wednesday

The deceased was identified as 28-year-old Dushmant Kisan, a resident of Kuchinda in Kurda under the Lahunipada police station of Sundargarh and employed at Binka Fire Station.

Kisan had taken a loan of ₹2 lakh from one Tiku Asgar (32) of Chamarpada in Binka and was not repaying the amount for the last two years.

Asgar was repeatedly asking Kisan for the money, but the latter was not returning it. Therefore, Asgar summoned him to a beer parlour and killed him by hacking him with a machete.

Later, the accused surrendered before the Binka police and confessed to the crime. The police have arrested Asgar and sent Dushmant's body for post-mortem.

# Road built on farmland of Ex-Parala MLA CS, DM served legal notice



**PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI**

The family of former Paralakhemundi MLA Trinath Sahu has served a legal notice on the Chief Secretary, Gajapati district Collector, Paralakhemundi Tehsildar, Works Executive Engineer and the Kapilas Infra, a contractor agency, over forcible construction of a road on their agricultural land.

On April 17, we requested the district Collector to stop the road work. But the Collector is yet to stop the work.

Hence, we served legal notice on all concerned," said Sahu's daughter Meenakshi and two sons, Kuna and Manoj.

Stating that a large patch of farmland has already been encroached and damaged due to construction and digging of earth, they threatened to file a case and approach court of law if justice is not availed to them by the authorities soon.

# Nine MLAs, 10 MPs in fray in Punjab

**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.

# Kids born blind in Nuapada hamlet

**VILLAGERS CLUELESS; ADMIN NOT AWARE**

**AJIT PANDA ■ NUAPADA**

The world is a place of darkness for the children who have taken birth in the last two years in Malpada hamlet of Kulingamal village in Boden block of Nuapada district.

Women who are now pregnant here are afraid, because they apprehend that the children they are carrying may come to this world with blindness.

"We don't know why such thing has happened to the children of our hamlet in last two years. Is our village under a curse?", ask the villagers.

Narendra Majhi and Ramesh Kata have two sons each and one in each family is blind. Two other children born last year in the family of Thabira Bharasagar and Pabitra Kata are also born blind.

Not only this, three others born last year are physically-handicapped. The villagers here are unable to take this as nor-



mal, but they are clueless. Malpada hamlet is located one and a half km from the main village Kulingamal, which is 10 km from the Community Health Center at Boden. The

DHH at Nuapada is 90 km from the village. "We have never consulted doctors; however, the Anganwadi Worker in our village is aware of this," say the parents.

The Anganwadi Worker says she has reported about this to the higher authorities. However, the CDMO of Nuapada says that she has not been informed about this. Now,

it is to be seen what step the health administration is taking after being informed by the media about the disabilities among the children in the village.

# 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 has been 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 slike 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

# 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



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%)

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

### 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 ISSUED 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 (IJCPC). 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

**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.

Investigation under PMLA activities in the adjacent TAMIL Nadu leased land 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.

# 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.

In its 20-page report submitted to the apex court bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi on the film titled 'PM Narendra Modi', the poll panel said that the biopic "produces a political environment where an individual acquired cult status" and its public screening during the period when model code of conduct is in operation would favour a particular political party.

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."

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-

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."

However, Justice Mishra tried to pacify Bains and said that what Justice Nariman meant 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.

# 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 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 Kashmiris 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 Ujjiyarpur 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 Ujjiyarpur 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 Ujjiyarpur.

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 the 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 Anandheri police station a few days ago based on a complaint filed by Nitesh Tiwary (27), general secretary of Anandheri 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 Bhusan Kumar, responding to a question on Shah's reported remarks on "Modi ji ki vayu 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 Bhusan 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.

# 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



# Phase IV: Spotlight on personalities in UP

FIANS ■ 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, Misrikkh, Unnao, Farukhabad, Etawah, Kanpur, Akbarpur, Jalaun, Jhansi and Hamirpur.

Among these Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Misrikkh, 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 eighth consecutive times, she will have a lot to thank the BSP for her win.

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

The 13 seats are Kannauj, Shahjahanpur, Lakhimpur, Hardoi, Misrikkh, Unnao, Farukhabad, Etawah, Kanpur, Akbarpur, Jalaun, Jhansi and Hamirpur

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

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-

ier for Congress candidate and former union Minister Shri Prakash Jaiswal.

In Etawah, the BJP has fielded its MP from Agra, Ram Shankar Katehria. This has again left the cadres upset. The denial of ticket to sitting MP Ashok Dohre, who is now the Congress candidate on the same seat, is another factor that is troubling the BJP.

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.

Enthused 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.

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 his 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**

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.

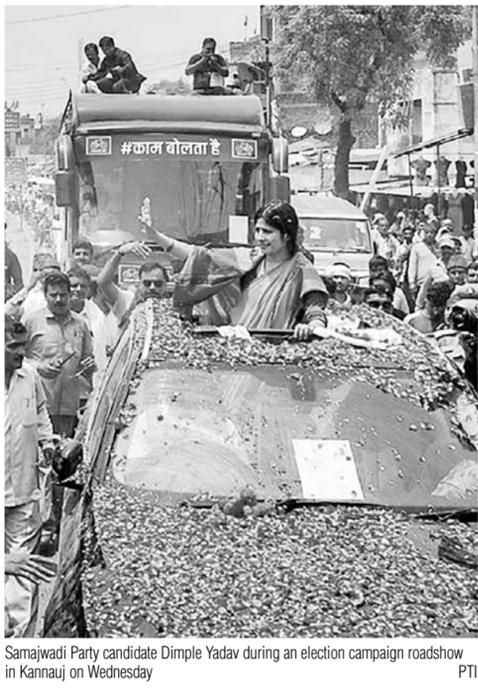
In the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, the alliance of the SP, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal has shunned it.

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.

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



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

**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. **PTI**

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



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

"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

# Pak terrorist trained by 26/11 mastermind Lakhvi arrested

**PTI ■ SRINAGAR**

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 Muzaffargarh. 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 in Rawalpindi, officials said. The initial arms training to the Pakistani terrorist was also given by Lakhvi, who along with six others has been charged by the Pakistani authorities with planning and

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.

# 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-91/11, 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 : [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele 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. 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: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-25946700, 25946710  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/2128/OD/19

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, Amrapali 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 'Pakian Villas' Situated At Sector 128, Jaypee Greens Wish Town, Noida (UP)	1. 9-Sep-18 2. 15-Apr-19 3. Rs. 39,82,740/- 4. Rs. 53,70,808/- 5. Rs. 52,00,000/- 6. Rs. 80,65,000/-
2. Mrs. Seema Kumari W/O Mr. Ajay Kumar A-302, Plot No. 11/2, Amrapali Vaishali Apartments, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-122002, U.P.	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. 4. Rs. 2,75,81,209/- 5. Rs. 2,80,00,000/-
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 Lease Hold Flat No. 201 On The Second Floor In Madison Tower Having A Total Super Area Measuring 1,7,64 Sq.Mtrs. (1738.88 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 Concentered Residential Tower, Measuring 30.19 Sq. Mts. (324.97 Sq. Ft.) Approximate In The Multi Storeyed Residential Complex Nri City Apartments Within "Omnia 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 Underlying 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. 18-Apr-19 3. Rs. 4. Rs. 1,07,27,357,871/- 5. Rs. 1,50,00,000/-
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 Chakkard, Dstic, Bawana, Delhi-110071	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Property Bearing No. A-4/13, 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/-
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 Chakkard, Dstic, 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. 1,180,608/- 4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
3. Mrs. Kamala Kumari Khaitan W/O Kamal Kumar Khaitan R/O A-4/13, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right consist of - Bedroom-1, Drawing / Dining-1, Kitchen, 2-Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq. ft. or 83.61 sq mtrs on Plot No - G.K -4/14/5, GyanKhand -IV, Indrapuram Ghaziabad - U.P. 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 (According to sale Deed): East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Per Sale Deed North: As Per Sale Deed South: As Per Sale Deed	1. 2-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 1,180,608/- 4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
4. M/S Rashee Constructions Through Its Partner House No. L-95, Sector-2, Near Bada Gole Chakkard, Dstic, 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. Ipinnder Singh R/O 607, Sarapvya Vihar Apartments, Sarapvya Vihar, New Delhi 110016 Also At: Mrs. Nilofar Singh W/O Mr. Ipinnder Singh F-9033, Okhla Industrial Area Phase -1 New Delhi-110020 Also At: Mrs. Nilofar Singh W/O Mr. Ipinnder Singh H.No-503, Second Floor, Block-E, G.K-2 New Delhi 110048	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/-
2. Mr. Harman Singh S/O Mr. Ipinnder Singh R/O 607, Sarapvya Apartments, Sarapvya Vihar New Delhi 110016 Also At: Mr. Harman Singh S/O Mr. Ipinnder Singh H.No-503, Second Floor, Block-E, G.K-2 New Delhi 110048	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right consist of - Bedroom-1, Drawing / Dining-1, Kitchen, 2-Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq. ft. or 83.61 sq mtrs on Plot No - G.K -4/14/5, GyanKhand -IV, Indrapuram Ghaziabad - U.P. 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 (According to sale Deed): East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Per Sale Deed North: As Per Sale Deed South: As Per Sale Deed	1. 2-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 1,180,608/- 4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
3. M/S Nitex Overseas Through Its proprietor Mrs. Nilofar Singh, F-9033, Okhla Industrial Area Phase -1 New Delhi-110020 Also At: M/S Nitex Overseas Office at 287, Sant Nagar, East Of Kailash, New Delhi 110065	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right consist of - Bedroom-1, Drawing / Dining-1, Kitchen, 2-Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq. ft. or 83.61 sq mtrs on Plot No - G.K -4/14/5, GyanKhand -IV, Indrapuram Ghaziabad - U.P. 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 (According to sale Deed): East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Per Sale Deed North: As Per Sale Deed South: As Per Sale Deed	1. 2-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 1,180,608/- 4. Rs. 2,396,980/-

PAPER WITH PASSION

## 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 *netā* 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 politically 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 Prasoon 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 spiteful 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.

# 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-

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-sensing 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 manufacturers' 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)

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 IN NEHRU'S  
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 ”

## 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



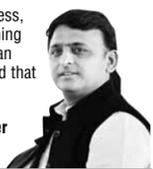
US efforts to boycott the sale of Iran's oil won't get them anywhere. We will export our oil as much as we need and we intend.

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

### 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,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that he felt "a sense of responsibility." But by fielding Pragya Singh Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon blasts case who is out on bail, the BJP has shown to the world that this election, the party will brashly play the Hindutva card.

One wonders how the BJP has remained non-chalant about the Supreme Court's recommendation

to Parliament to enact a "strong law" which would direct political parties to revoke the nominations of candidates against whom "heinous and grievous" charges have been framed. In India, there are many lawmakers who hold criminal charges. Their place is not in State Assemblies or Parliament.

The Modi-led BJP Government has failed to deliver on almost all of its major elec-



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 ₹3720 (₹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 the 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



MOÏN 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 stated 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 economical 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)



FOREIGN EYE



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)

# 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 Nigam 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 to an email ID created specifically for applications from Jet employees, and these profiles will be considered on priority for any of the open roles across verticals.

Low's India — the technology products and solutions centre for ₹71.3 billion Low's Companies — has also offered to recruit employees from the IT division of Jet Airways.

"We at Low's India welcome any employee of the IT division of Jet Airways to apply for technology positions with us. 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 tax' return on quarterly basis in a simplified form.

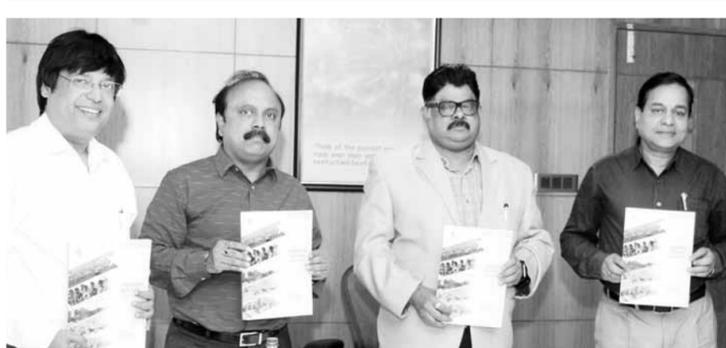
So far, businesses opting for composition scheme had to file tax returns every quarter in GSTR-4 which ran into around seven pages.

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/ kidnapped 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) Fax: No.011-24368639 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

**S.H.O P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi** Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl named **Rinki Kumari, D/o Tri Bhawan Thakur, R/o H.No. A-103, Sainik Enclave, Baia 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 Hawai 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) Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax : 011-24368639

**SHO P.S. Ranhola, Delhi** Ph. No.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

### 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 has 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) Ph.: 011-24368639

**SHO PS, Nihal Vihar, Delhi,** 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 G-40, 1st Floor, Mansarovar 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, 1st 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/ kidnapped 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: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639

**SHO P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi Outer Distt., Delhi** Ph. No. 011-25946700, 25946710

### HDFC BANK

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

LEGAL CELL

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. Indrajeet Singh 3. M/s Gadgets And Gizmos Through Its Proprietor Mrs. Chandrawati Singh 4. Mrs. 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, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad. 2. B-5G, 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. Bounded As Under - North : Open, East : Flat No. C-47, South : Passage, West : Open

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 monies 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 the line 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 Natpurur 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 Provas 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 Maitra S/o. Late P.C. Moitra and Mrs. Bharati Maitra 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 Maitra is relinquishing her share in f/o. Mr. Partho Maitra 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)  
C/o. GAMBHIR & JURISTS  
304, Park View Plaza, LSC-3, Sec-6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 Ph:8805022053

### 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 POC SO 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 POC SO 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

# Sensex rebounds 490 points

close at 39,054.68. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 150.20 points, or 1.30%, to 11,726.15.

In the Sensex pack, HCL Tech spurted 3.40%, followed by ONGC, IndusInd Bank, Yes Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC, RIL, Bajaj Finance, SBI, HDFC Bank and TCS.

On the other hand, Tata Motors, Hero MotoCorp, Coal India, PowerGrid, Maruti, Axis Bank and NTPC fell up to 3.33%.

"Despite mixed signals from global markets, and worries domestically on growth and elections, Indian markets rallied almost 1.3%. After three straight days of losses in the Nifty, the headline index delivered strong gains led by financials and tech, while autos continued to drag.

"Cement behemoth

Ultratech was the biggest gainer on the Nifty with a 5.6% gain after it surprised the analyst community with better than expected results, especially after a weak show by ACC," said Sunil Sharma, chief investment officer at Sanctum Wealth Management.

Aditya Birla Group firm UltraTech Cement on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,014.19 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31.

Sectorally, BSE oil and gas, telecom and energy indices gained the most, rising up to 2.32%. Banking, finance and IT indices too ended in the green.

The auto index was the only loser, dropping 0.29%.

In the broader markets, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices advanced up to 4.33%.

## USFDA retains OAI status for Indoco's Goa plant

New Delhi (PTI): Drug firm Indoco Remedies on Wednesday said the US health regulator had retained Official Action Indicated status for its Goa plant and may impact approval of pending applications from this facility.

"The US Food and Drug Administration retains the Official Action Indicated status for Goa plant-I (finished dosages facility) of Indoco Remedies Ltd," the company said in a BSE filing. The facility was inspected by the USFDA in January 2019. "We are in the process of sending our responses to the regulators, as and when the commitments given in response to Form 483 observations are fulfilled. We believe that this OAI status will not impact our current commercial supplies to USA," it added.

# Rupee falls by 24 paise on strong dollar demand

The rupee on Wednesday declined by 24 paise to close at 69.86 against the US currency, weighed down by a strong dollar sentiment and high demand for the greenback from importers.

The domestic currency dropped to more than four-month low of 69.97 in the day trade in line with losses in other Asian currencies against the dollar after positive US economic data.

Foreign fund inflows and strong gains in equity markets helped the domestic currency reverse some of the losses before close.

"The broader US dollar is trading strong today, with most Asian currencies weaker against the greenback, which gained after strong US housing data dampened concerns about an economic slowdown in the world's largest economy.

"Oil prices fell marginally today but still remained at elevated levels. Rising crude and strong ICE Dollar Index have been the prime reasons for domestic currency's weakness," V K Sharma, Head PCG & Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities, said.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex), the rupee opened sharply lower at 69.80



and further fell to a four-month low of 69.97, the lowest level since December 3, 2018, against the dollar. Intra-day, the unit touched a high of 69.75.

The domestic currency finally settled at 69.86 per dollar, down 24 paise over its previous closing. On Tuesday, the rupee had appreciated by 5 paise to close at 69.62 against the US dollar.

Global benchmark Brent crude declined by 0.20 per cent to \$74.36 per barrel.

The BSE Sensex soared to a high of 39,095.35 at the fag-end of the session. It finally settled 489.80 points or 1.27 per cent, higher at 39,054.68.

The broader NSE Nifty too climbed 150.20 points, or 1.30 per cent, to close at 11,726.15. It hit an intra-day high of 11,740.85.

The dollar index, which

## 342 start-ups have got angel tax exemption since February

New Delhi (PTI): With the Commerce and Industry Ministry taking steps to support budding entrepreneurs, as many as 342 start-ups have received intimation regarding exemption from angel tax since February, an official said. Giving a major relief to budding entrepreneurs, the government in February relaxed the definition of start-ups and allowed them to avail full angel tax concession on investments of up to ₹25 crore.

"The ministry is taking all steps to promote and strengthen the start-up ecosystem in the country. A total of 381 start-ups gave undertaking that they should be exempted from angel tax and out of that, 342 have received intimation from CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes)," the government official said.

## UltraTech Cement Q4 net profit at ₹1,014 cr

New Delhi (PTI) Aditya Birla Group firm UltraTech Cement on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,014.19 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31. The company had posted a net profit of ₹446.13 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, UltraTech Cement said in a BSE filing. The company's total income stood at ₹11,031.27 crore during the quarter under review. It was ₹9,401.39 crore in the corresponding period previous fiscal.

Meanwhile, UltraTech informed that its result for the quarter and the financial year ended March 31, "are not comparable with the previous period" due to merger of Binani Cements into the company, which has now been named as UltraTech

Nathdwara Cements. Its total expense in the fourth quarter of 2018-19 came at ₹9,554.43 crore.

"Domestic sales volume jumped 16 per cent over Q4FY18. The clinker capacity and cement grinding facility at Manavar, Madhya Pradesh have stabilised with the clinker capacity operating at 100 per cent utilisation. Variables cost were up 3 per cent over Q4FY18 on account of higher fuel prices and impact of rupee depreciation," the company said.

For the 2018-19 financial year, UltraTech Cements net profit stood at ₹2,431.59. It was ₹2,224.46 crore in FY 2016-17. Its total income was at ₹37,817.27 crore in 2018-19, as against ₹32,461.02 crore in the previous fiscal.

### NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11,601.50	11,740.85	11,578.85	11,726.15	150.20
ULTRATECH	4,156.30	4,432.00	4,110.50	4,432.00	233.75
BPLCL	340.1	349.9	340.1	348.95	12.6
HCLTECH	1,109.00	1,142.10	1,096.85	1,141.05	39.05
INDUSINDBK	1,667.00	1,705.00	1,661.10	1,704.00	52.65
ONGC	165.7	165.7	165.7	168.35	4.6
IOC	151	151.45	150.45	153.55	4.15
HDFC	1,943.90	1,985.00	1,933.25	1,984.70	50
YESBANK	233	240.4	231.2	238.55	5.85
INFRAEIL	297	303.5	291	301	7
BAJAJFINSV	7,490.00	7,672.50	7,475.55	7,667.45	172.4
BHARTIARTL	316.5	326.3	315.6	323.75	7.25
ZEE	410.5	419	405.15	417.65	8.5
GAIL	341.1	348	339.7	346.5	7.05
RELIANCE	1,370.30	1,394.80	1,366.25	1,389.50	25.65
SBIN	305.85	311.95	303.6	310.75	5.5
BAJFINANCE	3,035.00	3,099.00	3,032.00	3,089.40	54.35
GRASIM	867.5	887	849.6	884.95	15.5
TATATEL	1,128.00	1,152.00	1,125.55	1,149.00	19.45
TECHM	807	820	806	818	10.5
HDFCBANK	2,250.00	2,283.90	2,247.05	2,280.95	35.65
JSWSTEEL	289.25	293	286.4	292.4	4.1
ICICIBANK	397.1	402.65	393.45	401.6	5.1
ASIANPAINT	1,436.00	1,459.40	1,431.00	1,449.30	18.3
ITC	303.4	307.2	298.5	307.2	3.8
EICHERMOT	20,400.00	20,580.00	20,140.00	20,550.00	235.1
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,035.00	3,082.85	3,025.20	3,073.95	34.8
DREDDY	2,835.00	2,875.00	2,813.10	2,853.70	31.55
INFY	728.2	737.9	724	735	6.8
LT	1,353.00	1,363.45	1,350.00	1,359.00	10.8
IBULHSGFIN	749.7	761.95	736.55	750	5.8
UPL	942.75	951	941.1	950	7.25
WIPRO	292.05	294.3	290.2	293.15	2.05
KOTAKBANK	2,158.00	2,195.00	2,156.10	2,168.00	13.55
ACC	1,355.00	1,370.00	1,339.65	1,363.75	8.4
HINDUNILVR	1,746.00	1,755.00	1,735.00	1,754.90	10.7
M&M	668	669.2	662.25	669	3.25
ADANIAPORTS	377.4	394	386.1	392	1.1
SUNPHARMA	469.1	470	462.5	469.85	1.3
TATASTEEL	526.9	527.85	517.5	524.1	0.75
VEDL	174.95	176	171.05	175	0.2
HINDALCO	200.4	201.4	197.2	200.5	0.15
NTPC	133.65	134.45	132.3	133.7	0.05
AXISBANK	754.7	755.7	738.35	750.9	-2.35
BRITANNIA	2,988.00	2,997.55	2,952.05	2,977.00	-14
POWERGRID	193.1	194.65	190.05	192	-1
CIPLA	561.4	564.5	553.2	558.7	-3
COALINDIA	256	258.3	253.4	254	-1.5
MARUTI	7,065.00	7,101.95	6,910.00	6,994.35	-54.55
HEROMOTOCO	2,650.00	2,661.60	2,582.15	2,615.90	-22.15
TATAMOTORS	231.65	232.95	217.6	224.25	-7.4

### BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
IT	1,355.60	1,363.20	1,350.75	1,360.35
TATAMOTORS	233	233.05	217.95	223.7
RELIANCE	1,370.00	1,394.60	1,366.35	1,390.00
YESBANK	233	240.2	231.45	239.15
MARUTI	7,052.00	7,103.75	6,908.40	7,024.35
PCJEWELLER	128.5	138	127.95	133.1
IBREALEST	108.5	117.7	107.1	116.35
RECAPITAL	145.5	159.57	139.65	155.35
IBULHSGFIN	748.8	761.9	739	748.8
SPICEJET	127	128.5	124.55	126.25
ULTRATECH	4,150.80	4,436.75	4,116.20	4,396.45
JETAIRWAYS	171.2	178.6	167.6	171.25
INFY*	727.5	737.8	724.25	736.4
STRTECH	215.05	217	192.25	193.35
TCS	2,157.70	2,195.00	2,155.40	2,185.45
ONGC	165.15	170.3	165.15	168.7
TATASTEEL	527.85	527.85	513.2	525.3
SBIN	307	311.85	303.6	310.7
DHFL	140.5	146.15	140.5	144.7
ACC	1,629.70	1,629.70	1,570.85	1,606.90
SAIL	54.6	57	54.05	56.4
DMART	1,292.00	1,362.00	1,291.55	1,332.45
HDFCBANK	2,253.90	2,282.85	2,247.00	2,279.50
BAJFINANCE	3,048.90	3,100.00	3,032.00	3,092.00
INDUSINDBK	1,678.00	1,705.65	1,656.00	1,701.15
ICICIBANK	396.5	402.25	393	401.25
NTPC	133.95	134.26	132.35	133.8
COALINDIA	256.95	258.2	253.5	254.2
AXISBANK	755	755.1	738.5	752.6
INDIGO	1,484.85	1,490.00	1,440.00	1,472.30
WIPRO	292.05	294.1	290.30	293.1
BRITANNIA	2,985.00	2,993.10	2,963.05	2,976.25
KOTAKBANK	1,353.95	1,372.55	1,340.50	1,370.00
HINDPETRO	254.9	269.9	254.9	268.35
ASHOKLEY	92.45	92.45	90.55	91.2
PNB	88.1	89	86.85	88.4
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,025.00	3,080.00	3,009.00	3,076.25
LUPIN	839	867.2	835.95	864.5
ITC	303	307.2	298.7	306.45
DLF	172	177	171.2	176.2
RELFNRA	118.5	122.45	115.8	120.95
JINDALSTEEL	175.1	176.45	169.1	172.15
BATAINDIA	1,450.00	1,466.00	1,442.00	1,461.90
TATAELSI	955	957.6	927	930.3
TATAGLOBAL	204	211.55	200.5	208.9
SUNPHARMA	469.05	470	462.7	469.15
HCLTECH	1,101.00	1,145.45	1,099.95	1,140.50
HJEWELLER	348	349.55	326.9	332.85
TECHM	805.05	819.9	805.05	818.6
JUSTDIAL	566	580.6	560.7	573.35
KAMBAROTAO	124.1	125.45	122.8	125.1
HEROMOTOCO	2,637.10	2,657.00	2,586.45	2,623.00
IDCFIRSTB	52.1	52.35	51.5	52.05
BHARTIARTL	318.4	326.25	315.75	324.5
HEG	1,840.00	1,842.65	1,767.80	1,792.45
M&MFIN	425	436.6	425	433.2
VEDL	175.15	175.95	171.15	174.85
NITTECH	1,304.25	1,314.00	1,299.25	1,310.50
HDFC	1,949.00	1,988.85	1,934.10	1,979.15
RNAM	192.45	211.15	191	208.3
ZEE	410.05	419.4	405.35	417.95
HINDUNILVR	1,745.00	1,759.80	1,734.05	1,752.75
CONCOR	510	510	497.5	503.25
TITAN	1,124.00	1,152.45	1,124.00	1,147.55
BPL	319.15	349.45	339.15	348.5
GRAPHITE	420	423.65	406.25	408.65
TATAMTRDVR	113.25	113.25	104.75	108
CHOLAFIN	1,425.00	1,439.50	1,377.20	1,424.25
ASIANPAINT	1,435.00	1,458.45	1,433.65	1,449.15
BANDHANBNK	581.05	606.85	580.05	603.6
ADANIPOWER	52	53	51.15	52.65
IOC	151.1	154.3	150.9	153.8
AMBUJACEM	223.8	226	216.5	224.4
BAJAJFINSV	7,485.00	7,680.00	7,478.20	7,647.35
DREDDY	2,829.40	2,865.00	2,813.10	2,855.35
M&M	670	670	662	668
IDEA	17.1	17.7	17.05	17.2
JISULALEQS	58	59.5	57.25	59.15
RECLTD	147.35	151.5	146.8	150.6
BEML	910	921.55	903	906.7
INDIACEM	101	106.1	99.3	105.7
RPOWER	7.71	7.86	7.31	7.74
QUESS	686.6	715	685.2	689.45
TATAPOWER	685	687.75	674	677.5
CENTURYTEX	918	931	886.1	923.6
ABB	1,468.50	1,503.50	1,464.90	1,484.45
INFIBEAM	43.95	47.45	43.8	46.7
CANBK	274.95	274.95	268	273.4
EICHERMOT	20,350.00	20,595.65	20,175.70	20,546.40
JSWSTEEL	288	293.4	286.5	292.5
SUZLON	7.37	7.47	7.05	7.27
GMRFINRA	17.5	17.65	17.35	17.4
BLISSGVS	170.1	176.8	168.1	170.35
GRASIM	863.8	886	850.1	880.95
RAJESHXPO	720.5	742</		

**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 tenderors 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 Bodh Ghat, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 26-A, dated 13.04.2019 has been registered at Police Station Kashmere 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. Kashmere 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 Madlub, 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)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph.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 PS. 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  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph. No.: 011-25947225, 25949470  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No. 7065036127  
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: US denies providing intelligence**  
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**

**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**  
**Trump threatens SC fight against impeachment**

**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**

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

**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**

**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 Chakiri 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 proviso 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	4934287/- (As on Apr 12, 2019)	29,15,000 (Rupees twenty nine lacs and fifteen thousand only)	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 Shirram Automall India Ltd. (URL Link - "https://eauctions.samill.in"). The Mortgagee/ 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 Shirram 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 Shirram 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 : Symb0009048 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 01.02.2019 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 Kalyaso 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:** Sadiq, 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 PS. 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 having any information about this missing/ kidnapped boy please inform the undersigned.

SHO  
PS, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi,  
Ph.: 011-27811415, 27811738  
DP/200/ON/19

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

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction) III Western Railway, Churugate, 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 3" line and work of 3" 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/WesternRly12](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly12)

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

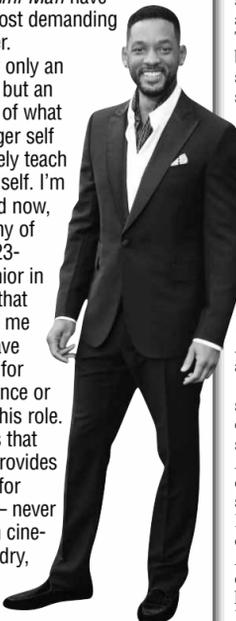


Actress PARINEETI CHOPRA has been roped in for the Hindi remake of the American film The Girl On The Train. She has called it a "thrilling ride." She wrote on social media — "Hopping onto this thrilling ride! Excited to be a part of The Girl On The Train official Hindi remake. The psychological thriller 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 this 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-smeared 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 type-cast 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.)

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

# 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 BEREC, among others.

DEGEF is a premiere non-profit organisation founded on April 15, 2015, which has been working to enable an energy revolution by serving the international community in the disciplines of power, petroleum, gas, coal, nuclear and renewable energy sector, with the motto—'Energy for All'.

The conference witnessed an 'Open House Multilateral Dialogue' on need for energy revolution between representatives of various countries including Nigeria, South Korea, Cameroon and Canada



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 Vidut 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, Trans India Law Associates, the legal adviser to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was the knowledge partner of the conference.

# 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**

footwear, coir and jute products, horticulture, print and packaging technologies, sports goods, food processing machines/equipment, food and beverages, Ayurveda, yoga, herbal products and cosmetics, health care services, educational institutions, hospitality and tourism industry along with participation from the media and entertainment industry. The business visitors to the exhibition would include importers and exporters, wholesalers, local and regional buyers, among others.

Those who wish to participate in the exhibition can pay the participation fee of \$300 per square meters for the equipped shell stands. The exhibitors can order additional equipment and furniture from the exhibitor manual. The catalogue and tariff for extra display stands, renting extra showcases, tables, chairs, and other accessories are available on request with the organisers.



# 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 on 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.

# 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 dhatu* to *rakta dhatu* (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



treat jaundice or bile disorders. The herb is beneficial in skin disorders and also improves the metabolism.

**TRIPHALA:** The mixture of *amla*, *bibhitaki* and *haritaki* helps in regularising metabolism and bowel movements. It



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



good bowel movements. In addition to soothing the digestive system, aloe vera also fights stress and strengthens the immune system.

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.

**NOTE:** Please do not self-medicate with herbs. For treatment of liver problems, please consult a doctor.

**GUDUCHI:** This herb is known for its detoxifying and blood cleansing properties. Ayurvedic herbal medicines prepared for liver problems

(The views expressed are personal. Dr Partap Chauhan is an author, public speaker and a Ayurvedacharya).

# 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 Pushendra 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 Makhlanlal 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 during 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'.

**ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟ ବେଳେ, ନବୀନ ଠିଆ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସାଥୀରେ**

**ବାତ୍ୟାରୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରାୟ ୯୦୦ ବାତ୍ୟା ଆଶ୍ରୟସ୍ଥଳୀ ।**

**ସୁନାମି, ବାତ୍ୟା, ଭୂମିକମ୍ପ, ବଜ୍ରପାତ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ତ୍ୱରିତ ପ୍ରାକ୍ ସୂଚନା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିବାରେ ଆମେ ଦେଶରେ ପ୍ରଥମ ।**

**ଆମ ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟ ପରିଚାଳନା ବିଶ୍ୱସ୍ତରୀୟ ।**

**‘ଶଙ୍ଖ’ ଚିହ୍ନରେ ଭୋଟ୍ ଦେବା । ଦୁଇଥର ।**

**ଥରେ ଏମ୍.ପି.ପାଇଁ । ଥରେ ଏମ୍.ଏଲ୍.ଏ ପାଇଁ ।**

**ନବୀନ ମୋର ପରିବାର ଶଙ୍ଖ ମୋର ଚିହ୍ନ ।**



# 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 without 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.

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 edges closer to the 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.

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.

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 (1700 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 off 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 finished 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 Yashaswani Singh Deswal's 10th place finish in the women's 10m Air Pistol was the best Indian performance.

# 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).

Nikhath 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 Pletea 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

# 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.

# '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

Angelique Kerber will face compatriot Andrea Petkovic in the second round of this week's WTA tournament in Stuttgart, after Petkovic beat Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo in straight sets on Tuesday.

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.

# Sindhu, Saina enter 2nd round, Srikanth exits

PTI ■ WUHAN

Top Indian shuttlers P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal topped out 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 Hiren Rhustavito 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.



LEADERBOARD

Table with 2 columns: Statistic (Runs, Wickets, 6s, 4s) and Value (574, 23, 530, 1179) along with player names (David Warner, Kagiso Rabada) and a note about away games.



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Up Next

KKR seek turnaround

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.

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 Piyus 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

A B 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.



35 balls, De Villiers, smashed Shami for three sixes, plundering 18 runs in the penultimate over.

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 in 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), Pritivhi Shaw, Shreyas Iyer, Shikhar Dhawan.

"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 everything 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.

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 didn'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

IAN S ■ 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.. U r 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."