

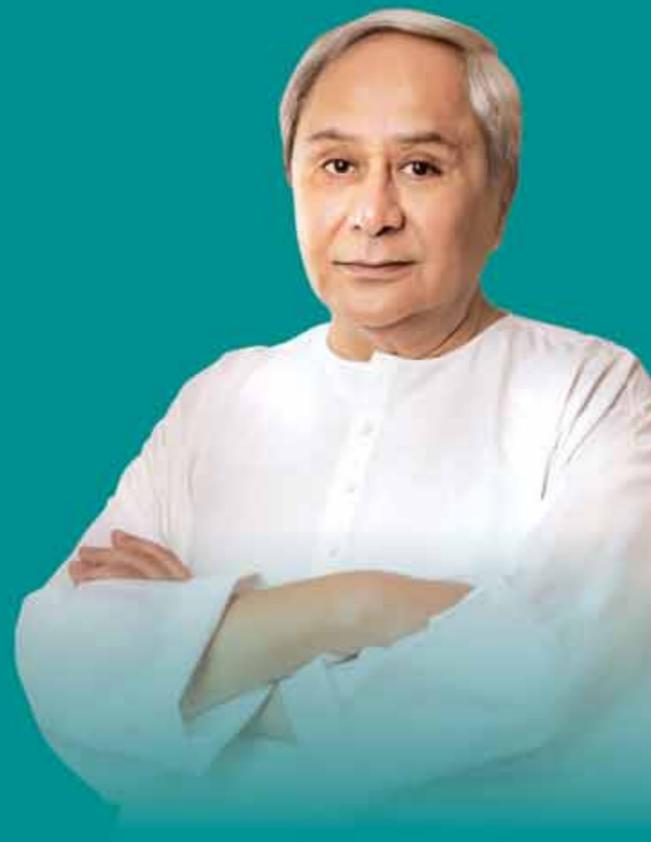


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ଆମ ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି ହିଁ ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧତା

ଉପକୂଳ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସହିତ ସାରା ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ବିଜେଡିର ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧତା :



■ ବିଜୁ ଜନତା ଦଳ ସରକାର ଗଠନର ପ୍ରଥମ ଦିନରେ ହିଁ ବାକି ଥିବା ୨୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା 'କାଳିଆ' ଯୋଜନାର ଦୁଇ କିଛି ୧୦ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ଏକା ଥରକେ ପାଇବେ ■ ୨୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାକୁ ଏକାଥରକେ ମିଳିବ ୨ଟି କିଛିର ୧୦ ହଜାର 'କାଳିଆ' ଟଙ୍କା ■ ଆଗେଇ ଚାଲିବ ଚାଷୀଙ୍କ 'କାଳିଆ' ■ ବିନା ସୁଧରେ ୧ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର କୃଷି ରଣ ■ ଜଳସେଚନର ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ୫୦ ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ■ ଝିଅ ବାହାଘର ପାଇଁ ୨୫ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କାର ସହାୟତା



■ ଚାଲିବ ୧ ଟଙ୍କା ବାଉଳ ଯୋଗାଣ ଯୋଜନା ■ ଜଣେ ବି ଲୋକ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ସୁରକ୍ଷାରୁ ବଞ୍ଚିତ ହେବେ ନାହିଁ ■ ଗରିବ, ଅସହାୟ ଏବଂ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ 'ରାଜ୍ୟ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଯୋଜନା'



■ 'ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତି'ର ମହିଳାଙ୍କୁ ୫ ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ୫୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ଲାଭ ■ ବିନା ସୁଧରେ ମିଳିବ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ରଣ ■ 'ବିଜୁ ସାମ୍ବ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା'ରେ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ୧୦ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସହାୟତା ■ ଝିଅ ବାହାଘର ପାଇଁ ୨୫ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କାର ସହାୟତା



■ ଯୁବକଯୁବତୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୁଷ୍ଠାନରେ ୭୫% ଚାକିରୀ ସୁବିଧା 'ମେକ୍ ଇନ୍ ଓଡ଼ିଶା'ରେ ୩୦ ଲକ୍ଷ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ■ ୧୬.୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଯୁବକଯୁବତୀଙ୍କ ଦକ୍ଷତା ବିକାଶ ■ ଯୁବକଯୁବତୀଙ୍କ ୫ ବର୍ଷରେ ୫୦୦୦ ଉଦ୍ୟୋଗୀ ବିକାଶ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ■ ସବୁ ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ପାଇଁ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଫିସ୍ ଛାଡ଼



■ କେ.ଜି.ରୁ ପି.ଜି. ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବାଳିକା ଶିକ୍ଷା ମାଗଣା ■ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜନଜାତି, ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି, ସଂଖ୍ୟା ଲଘୁ, ପଛୁଆ ବର୍ଗ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ ସମସ୍ତ ବର୍ଗର ଗରିବ ମେଧାବା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ମାଗଣା ଶିକ୍ଷା ■ କଲେଜ, ଯୁନିଭରସିଟି ସବୁଠି ମାଗଣା ଓଲ ପାଇ, ୧କିବି ମାଗଣା ଡାଟା ■ ବିନା ସୁଧରେ ୧୦ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଶିକ୍ଷାରଣ



■ ଗ୍ରାମାଞ୍ଚଳର ସବୁ କଜାଘର ହେବ ପକ୍କାଘର ■ 'ଜାଗା ମିଶନ'ରେ ମିଳିବ ବସ୍ତିବାସିନ୍ଦାଙ୍କୁ ଜମି ଅଧିକାର



■ ୧୫୦୦ ମହିଳା ମସ୍ୱଜୀବା ସ୍ୱୟଂ ସହାୟକ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀଙ୍କୁ ୫୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଲେଖାଏଁ ଆବର୍ତ୍ତନ ପାଣ୍ଠି ■ ମାଛ ଚାଷ ପାଇଁ ହେକ୍ଟର ପିଛା ୯୦,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଲେଖାଏଁ ସହାୟତା ■ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ମସ୍ୱଜୀବା ସମବାୟ ସମିତିକୁ ୨ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ଲେଖାଏଁ ପୁନଃଜୀବନ ସହାୟତା ■ ୫୦୦୦ ମସ୍ୱଜୀବା ପରିବାରକୁ ମାଛଧରା ବାରଣ ସମୟରେ ୭୫୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଲେଖାଏଁ ସହାୟତା ■ ମସ୍ୱଜୀବା ପରିବାରର ମେଧାବା ପିଲାଙ୍କୁ ଛାତ୍ରବୃତ୍ତି



■ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ମିଳିବ ନୂତନ ସ୍ମାର୍ଟ ସାର୍ବଜନୀନ ବିଜୁ ସାମ୍ବ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା ସାମ୍ବ୍ୟ କାର୍ଡ ■ ୩୧୪ ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ନର୍ସି ଏବଂ ଏ.ଏନ୍.ଏମ୍. ଡାଲିମ୍ ସ୍କୁଲ ■ ପୁରଣ ହେବ ସବୁ ପାରାମେଡିକାଲ ପଦବୀ ■ ନୂଆ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ହେବ ନିୟମିତ



■ ପେନ୍ସନ ହେବ ସାର୍ବଜନୀନ ■ ୩୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଅସହାୟ ଅବିବାହିତା ମହିଳା ଏବଂ ୪୫ ବର୍ଷ ବୟସ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବିଧବାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଦକ୍ଷତା ବୃଦ୍ଧି ଡାଲିମ ସହିତ ୧ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସହାୟତା



■ ସମସ୍ତ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କ ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ ଏବଂ ସହାୟତା ପ୍ରଦାନ ■ ଅଫଗଠିତ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ ଏବଂ ସାମାଜିକ ସହାୟତା ପ୍ରଦାନ



■ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି, ଜନଜାତି, ପଛୁଆବର୍ଗ ଓ ସଂଖ୍ୟାଲଘୁ ବର୍ଗର ଯୁବକଯୁବତୀମାନଙ୍କ ଦକ୍ଷତା ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ବାର୍ଷିକ ୨୫ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ପ୍ରୋସ୍ତାହନ ■ ନିଜସ୍ୱ ଉଦ୍ୟୋଗ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ପାଇଁ ସିଡ୍ ମନି ଏବଂ ସକ୍ଷ ସୁଧରେ ରଣ ■ ନୀଳଗିରି ପାଇଁ 'ସତନ୍ତ୍ର ବିକାଶ ପରିଷଦ' ■ ବାରିପଦା ଏବଂ ରାଇରଙ୍ଗପୁରରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା କରାଯିବ ଛତ୍ର ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର



■ 'ବିଜୁ ଏକ୍ସପ୍ରେସ୍ ଷ୍ଟେ' ରାଜ୍ୟର ଉତ୍ତରରୁ ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ଏବଂ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ପଶ୍ଚିମକୁ ସଂଯୋଗ କରିବ ■ କଟକ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମେଟ୍ରୋ ଟ୍ରେନ୍ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ■ ଆଗାମୀ ୫ ବର୍ଷରେ ବିଜୁ ସେରୁ ଯୋଜନାରେ ୭୫୦ ଟି ସେରୁ, ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ସତ୍ୱକ ଯୋଜନାରେ ୨୦୦୦ କିଲୋମିଟରରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ରାସ୍ତା

ନବୀନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ରହିବା ।
ବିଜେଡିକୁ ଭୋଟ୍ ଦେଇ ଜିତାଇବା ।
ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଦୁଇ ବିକାଶ ଧାରା ବଜାୟ ରଖିବା ।



ବିଜୁ ଜନତା ଦଳ



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

One-man army versus Modi & Co: Naveen



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

He was the lone star battler for his party while a host of BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, made a beeline to Odisha for election campaigning. Yet, he kept claiming that his BJD would triumph at the hustings and return to a record fifth time in a row. Naveen Patnaik, despite the summer heat, toured the length and breadth of the State, every day covering about half a dozen places in his campaign trail. Unlike Modi changing his dresses and at times also donning local costumes, the 72-year-old leader stuck to his trademark white pyjama and kurta and chappal during all

public appearances. And he, as is known, had no art of oratory, leave alone theatrically exuberant expressions with hand and facial movements, for which Modi and BJP leaders are famous. He continued with his simple style of reading out written speeches without looking at the audiences. Yet, his fans kept cheering him up with slogans like "Naveen Patnaik, Zindabad". Modi and his brigade shouted the chorus, "Naveenbaba, your time is up", to which he had a rather witty reply, "Modiji, I invite you to my swearing-in ceremony (as Chief Minister after the elections)". The BJP bigwigs repeated at all their rallies that Odisha

would this time have a "double-engine" Government, meaning thereby that the State's people would vote for BJP Governments both at the Centre and in the State. In response, Patnaik kept questioning them, "Tell me, why your 'double-engines' derailed in the recent elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan?" To this, Modi or his associates had no answer obviously.

Patnaik also cornered Modi and his fellow Union Ministers asking why they failed to visit Odisha and sympathise with its people in their times of misery during the natural calamities like cyclones, floods and droughts and why Modi has frequented the State ten times in a month during the election time. This poster also remained unanswered.

Referring to Modi's assertion that Odisha would this time have a BJP Government, Patnaik also questioned, "Who is your Chief Ministerial face in Odisha." And again obviously, there was no answer to this except Dharmendra Pradhan's vague reply, "Each one of Odisha's four and a half crore people is our Chief Minister candidate".

THIRD-PHASE ELECTIONS

Fresh polls in twelve booths recommended



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Following the EVM glitches reported from various places in the State in the third phase of elections on April 23, the State Electoral Officer has recommended for fresh poll in 12 booths.

"We have recommended to the Election Commission of India for re-poll in 12 booths," informed Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Surendra Kumar here on Saturday. The booths where fresh

polls have been proposed are: (1) Booth numbers 62 and 222 at Brahmagiri in Puri district; (2) Booth number 196 in Baramba in Cuttack district; (3) Booth number 183 in Deogarh; (4) Booth number 78 in Satyabadi in Puri; (5) Booth number 85 in Talcher; (6) Booth numbers 90, 100, 137 and 138 in Athagarh; (7) Booth number 127 in Bhubaneswar Central; and (8) Booth number 171 in Ghasipura in Keonjhar district.

'Growth yardsticks: Odisha has turned frontrunner'

BJD QUOTES NITI AAYOG DATA

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJD on Saturday said Odisha has transformed it rapidly and has been moving from the Aspirant Level to a frontrunner Stage in development parameters.

Party spokesperson Sasmith Patra claimed this quoting an article based on the NITI Aayog data, which reveal that the BJP-ruled States like Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are still in the Aspirant Level.

He was reacting to Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's allegation that the Naveen Patnaik Government has failed in all development indexes.

Dr Patra particularly questioned the oft-claimed "Gujarat model" as that State still continues in the Aspirant Level. Having a BJP Government for 15 long years before the recent elections there, Madhya Pradesh has the same result, being marked 'RED', he pointed out.

And Patra said that this is the reality of the 'double engine'

Party spokesperson Sasmith Patra claimed this quoting an article based on the NITI Aayog data, which reveal that the BJP-ruled States like Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are still in the Aspirant Level

of having BJP Governments in a State and at the Centre.

He quoted facts and figures about Odisha's achievements on various fronts showing that it is the best-performing State in several national parameters.

On the strength of statistics, he said that Odisha is the No.1 State in skill development and that in the Mission Shakti there are 70 lakh empowered women and 7 lakh Self-Help Groups.

Odisha has been internationally acclaimed by the United Nations for disaster management and it is now helping other States during natural calamities, Patra pointed

ed out. He also stated that Odisha is a pioneer State on the food security front having its own State food security programme, which covers 25 lakh beneficiaries.

Patra said Odisha's KALIA scheme is a revolutionary one that covers as many as 40 lakh farmers and other partners in agriculture.

Odisha has attracted industrial investments worth Rs 4.5 lakh crore and has turned out to be a major centre for investors' attraction. And Odisha has taken lead in the skill development sector with 9 lakh youths being provided skill development training, he said.

Patra also pointed out that Odisha is a leading State in bringing down the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), which is a highly positive trend in healthcare.

He also stated that Odisha farmers' income has doubled and the State has received the Krishi Karman Award from the Centre four times.

Under the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana, at least 20 lakh houses have been built and over 41,000 km of rural roads have been constructed, he further pointed out.

Two held for duping OLX customers in city

Used to flee with vehicles on pretext of test drive

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a significant breakthrough, the Commissionerate police special squad on Saturday arrested two persons for fleeing with vehicles from unsuspecting owners on the pretext of taking test drives.

According to reports, one Amit Nayak of Khordha, along with a garage owner was stealing vehicles of people in the pretext of test driving.

Nayak would go online marketplace website OLX and find advertisements featuring details of vehicles up for sale. He would then contact the owners, posing as a potential customer, accompanied by the garage owner.

They pretended to take the vehicles for a ride to check their condition and later fled with them.

About 50 two-wheelers were recovered from their possession. Sources reveal that the duo had committed the crimes in Laxmisagar, Nayapalli and Old Town areas of the State capital as well as in Cuttack, Bhanjanagar and Brahmapur.

GRP man dies of sunstroke

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel died of suspected sunstroke here on Friday.

The deceased, identified as 44-year-old Purna Chandra Pradhan, fell unconscious while discharging his duty at then Bhubaneswar railway station. He was rushed to the Capital Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

As per sources, Pradhan was posted here as a constable. Notably, mercury across Odisha has increased at several places after a brief spell due to norwester induced rains.

IN KEONJHAR

'EVM tampering bid' foiled; youth detained

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

Allegations of attempts of EVM tampering were made on Saturday in Keonjhar district that had gone to polls in the third phase on April 23.

As per reports, a youth was detained by workers of a political party late on Friday night while he was roaming suspiciously in front of a strong room containing EVMs in the premises of the Odisha School of Mining Engineering (OSME) here.

As per the allegations, while some BJP workers were keeping an eye on the strong room, where the EVMs of Keonjhar Sadar and Telkoi Assembly constituencies have been kept, in apprehension of EVM tampering, a group of people were seen roaming in a suspicious manner in the college premises. A few other persons were also sitting in a four-wheeler outside the college.

The BJP workers caught hold of a person identified as Ashapradeep Mohanty, who

claims to be an engineer, while others managed to flee the spot. Later, police reached the spot and took the youth into custody for interrogation.

When asked, Keonjhar Sub-Collector Somnath Pradhan refuted the allegations of EVM tampering bid and said, "The man was moving in the college premises, not near the strong room. We have constantly kept an eye on all strong rooms in the district. Nevertheless, we are interrogating the youth in this connection."

Pradhan questions BJD Govt achievements

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday lashed out at BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, saying the latter has turned into a puppet in the hands of Kala Pahada (An aggressor who attacked the Jagannath Temple).

Speaking at a Press conference here, Pradhan said even though Patnaik had a stable Government during his tenure, due to lack of political will, Odisha is languishing at the bottom of the development parameters of infant mortality rate, poverty and malnutrition.

He alleged that in Patnaik's 19-year rule poverty has increased instead of declining. Pradhan alleged that many top BJD leaders and workers are camping in Kendrapada to terrorise the local voters, who, however, would give the BJD a befitting reply. He questioned why Patnaik is not presenting the report card of his Government's 19-year rule to the people and why he is not revealing a vision of his Government for the coming five years.

He said Patnaik nowadays gets irritated hearing two words, Modi and Parivartan. But the people of the State have blessed Modi and this time and there would be a BJP Government in the State.

Shah: Elect BJP Govt for Odisha growth



PNS ■ BARIPADA

The people of the country have resolved to make

Narendra Modi Prime Minister again. But Modi cannot ensure Odisha's development, for which a strong lead-

ership is required. There should be a Chief Minister who can speak the local language, said BJP national president Amit Shah addressing a public meeting at Morada in Mayurbhanj district on Saturday.

Shah urged the people to dethrone the BJD Government for the State's speedy development. A BJP Government would send all those involved in the illegal mining and chit fund scams to jail within 90 days of coming to power in Odisha, he said.

He said if the BJP comes to power in the State, small farmers would be provided loans without interest and pension of Rs 3,000 per month. From kindergarten to PG levels, free education would be provided.

Besides, within two years, all the vacancies in Government posts would be filled up. Youths would be provided loans of Rs 3 lakh at 1-per cent interest, said Shah.

IN KORAPUT

Maoist involved in TDP MLA killing held



PNS ■ KORAPUT

Police on Saturday arrested hardcore Maoist Jayaram

Khilla, who was involved in the assassination of TDP Araku MLA Kidari Sarvevara Rao and former MLA Siberi Soma in Andhra Pradesh.

A resident of Tala Kandapalli village under the Padwa police station, Khilla was also involved in killing of sarpanch Jagannath Khara in Hatibari village and torching of road construction equipments.

The Maoist was booked under several Sections of IPC, UAP and Arms Act.

The accused will be produced in a local court in the sarpanch murder case.

Khilla will be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further interrogation in connection with the killings of two political leaders, police said.

Cuttack YMCA holds foundation day



Delegates from 5 States join

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Young Men's Christian Association, (YMCA), Cuttack, began celebrating its 125th year of foundation on

Saturday. The celebrations will continue on Sunday.

At a Press meet, Dr Raj Bolobha Mohanty, president, and Debesh Kumar Roul, Board member of YMCA, Cuttack told that Jacob Koshy, vice-president, national council of YMCA, India, is slated to attend as chief guest in the celebration.

Dr Raj Bolobha Mohanty said a special souvenir would be released by Koshy on the occasion.

Delegates from the five States of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and Odisha are participating in the celebrations.

Maharathy granted conditional bail

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a relief for Pipli BJD MLA Pradeep Maharathy, the Bhubaneswar Special Additional District Judge (ADJ) Court-III on Saturday granted him conditional bail.

Maharathy was granted bail on the condition of two surety bonds of Rs 50,000 each. The court also directed him not to influence the witnesses and cooperate with the police in the investigation.

Maharathy was arrested by the Pipli police on April 22 for allegedly leading an attack on members of an Election Flying Squad and a

MAHARATHY WAS GRANTED BAIL ON THE CONDITION OF TWO SURETY BONDS OF RS 50,000 EACH. THE COURT ALSO DIRECTED HIM NOT TO INFLUENCE THE WITNESSES AND COOPERATE WITH THE POLICE IN THE INVESTIGATION

Static Surveillance Team.

A case was registered against him under IPC Sections 307, 341, 353, 332, 147, 148, 149, 171 (b), 186 of IPC and 123 of the Representation of the People's Act.

He was sent to the Jharpada Special Jail after the SDJM rejected his bail plea on April 22.

Earlier on April 24, a special designated court had postponed the hearing on the bail petition of Maharathy to April 27 due to the delay in submission of the case diary and the injury report.

Two persons killed in road mishap in Jagatsinghpur

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Two persons were killed when their motorcycle hit an electric pole near Pallikanta village in the Erasama area on Friday night while they were returning home after attending a political meeting.

The deceased were identified as Hari Khandual of Rasakadapur village and Lalata Lenka of Malapur village under Bhitaraandhari panchayat in Erasama block.

Police said that the duo was returning home after attending

THE DECEASED WERE IDENTIFIED AS HARI KHANDUAL

a political meeting in Balikuda. They were rushed to the Erasama hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries. Later, police registered an accident case and sent the bodies for postmortem.

Rapist of minor gets 7-yr-RI in Baleswar

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Special POCSO Judge here Ajanta Sadangi on Saturday convicted a rape accused sentenced him to seven years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) besides slapping a penalty of Rs 10,000 and in default another 6 months' jail term.

The convict Anil Malik (19) of Armala village under the Remuna police station had committed the offence against a 12-year-old minor of the same village in February 2013 and

The convict Anil Malik (19) of Armala village under the Remuna police station had committed the offence against a 12-year-old minor of the same village in February 2013 and the incident occurred when girl was staying in her maternal uncle's house

when girl was staying in her maternal uncle's house.

He was tried under Sections 457, 376(2)(f) and 4 of Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The convict on February 6, in the absence of her of grandmother, committed the offence. Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Panda said the judgment was pro-had committed the offence against a 12-year-old minor of the same village in February 2013 and

nounced after cross-examining 10 witnesses and on evidence of eleven documents.

MONEY 6
RBI'S NEW ₹20 BANKNOTE
TO BE RELEASED SOON

WORLD 7
US IMPOSES SANCTION ON PAK;
MAY DENY VISAS TO PAKISTANIS

SPORT 8
DC HOST RCB IN IPL
CLASH AT KOTLA

BHUBANESWAR, SUNDAY APRIL 28, 2019; PAGES 8-4 ₹3



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ନବୀନ ଫୋର ପରିବାର
'ଶଙ୍ଖ' ଫୋର ଚିହ୍ନ



ବିଜୁ ଜନତା ଦଳ

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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Cong has given up battle against Modi

It was five years ago that I was in Varanasi for Narendra Modi's roadshow before he filed his nomination for his first Lok Sabha election. It was a spectacular show that very hot April morning, perhaps as exhilarating as the grand assertion of popularity last Thursday afternoon. The pedants can undertake the usual number crunching exercises over which roadshow attracted greater numbers, but that is academic. The point remains that on both occasions, Modi demonstrated his connect with the residents of Varanasi and eastern Uttar Pradesh.

However there was a crucial difference between the flag waving and slogan shouting of April 2014 and the one that was so generously covered by TV last week. In 2014, the commentariat was still sceptical over Modi's debut in Uttar Pradesh. Yes, they conceded, he was popular as a Hindu icon in this most Hindu centre of India, but would he be able to overcome the challenges of caste? More significant, there was the looming presence of the Aam Aadmi Party's Arvind Kejriwal, the hero of the secular brigade and the NGOs. How would the Modi machine fare against the raw and passionate dedication of AAP's earnest and dedicated volunteer army that was so visible in every street corner of Varanasi? In 2014, the Modi magic was still under exacting scrutiny.

The mood was very different last week. The presence of a Prime Minister invariably adds an extra zing to the proceedings, as does the elaborate security bandobast. Moreover, the huge popularity of the candidate, including his ability to swing elections – as he did in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll of 2017 – was no longer in doubt. In 2014, there were still those who imagined that the surging crowds in Varanasi had been bussed in from neighbouring areas. Five years later, the reality of Modi's popularity was not contested.

Yet, in political terms, the Varanasi show of 2019 may be more significant in the context of the 2019 general election. Modi's roadshow last Thursday coincided with the Congress announcement of its candidate to take on Modi. And it wasn't the party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. There are many many good and sensible reasons why the Congress president decided against fielding his sister against the Prime Minister in a symbolic contest. We need not go over them to decide which consideration finally swung the decision. It is the impact of the Congress decision that is far more significant. More than proclaiming that it wasn't worth fighting Modi in Varanasi, the Congress decision was interpreted by its supporters and backers as a formal admission that the 2019 general election was as good as lost. For the past fortnight, reports had been pouring in from all over India – and not least eastern India – that crowds in Modi's meetings continued to be stupendous and full of energy. In a made-in-media age when public meetings all over the country are shown live, there is a natural tendency for attendance in the actual venue to diminish – not least because of the hot weather. In the case of Modi's meetings, however, the attendance never looked like falling.

For very long, a section of the commentariat – firmly attached to the Modi Hattao project – had lived in denial over the PM's continuing status as a super hero... All that can be said after three rounds of voting is that the Congress may have been exposed for lacking the will to fight, but the regional opponents of the BJP have not surrendered. Both the BJD in Odisha and the Trinamool in West Bengal have been exposed to a sustained BJP offensive, and they are fighting to preserve every inch of their turf. Now it is Modi versus the regional parties.

Army on toes to fence out Pak terror

Work in full swing to repair 25-km LoC fence felled by snow as Pak BAT/infiltrators prowl

RAHUL DATTA/MOHT KANDHARI ■ NEW DELHI/JAMMU

FACTOID

- Anti-infiltration fence is down in North Kashmir region, most vulnerable to infiltrations
- The Indian Army has just a fortnight to repair the fence before snow starts melting and terrorists try sneaking in
- Post-Balakot, Pakistan has enhanced its troop deployment along the LoC posing added challenge to the Indian Army

Patrolling along the infiltration routes, especially around damaged fence, has been increased, they said adding the Army this winter did not thin out the troop strength unlike the past.

Elaborating upon the fence aspect, officials said a variety of sensors and other sophisticated surveillance equipment, fitted along the barbed wire fence to keep a watch on the cross LoC movement also suffered damages during snowfall.

Turn to Page 4



CRPF soldiers stand guard outside the DC office during a protest bandh against the failure to arrest the culprits involved in the killing of RSS leader Chandrakant Sharma, his PSO Rajinder Kumar and Parihar brothers in Kishtwar on Saturday PTI

Anger against RSS, BJP netas' killing spills onto Kishtwar streets

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Simmering anger against the killing of BJP and RSS leaders by terrorists spilled on to the streets of Kishtwar on Saturday as thousands of locals, accompanied by women, marched through the deserted streets to give vent to their ire against the delay in punishing the culprits.

Slogan shouting residents ransacked the office of Deputy Commissioner and smashed windowpanes of a few vehicles parked in the office complex. Outside the office premises, angry residents burnt down the effigy of Governor Satya Pal Malik. Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Angrez Singh Rana was not present in the office when it was vandalised.

While agitating against the unjustified delay in any action against the targeted killings, the locals demanded immediate transfer of the Deputy Commissioner and the Kishtwar SSP. Several protesters claimed the district authorities have failed to deliver justice to the members of the aggrieved families.

4 JeM ultras who killed Sangh leader to trigger riot identified

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Jammu & Kashmir Police has named four Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists — Osama Bin Javed, Haroon Abbas Wani, Naveed Mushtaq Shah and Zahid Hussain — for the killing of RSS leader Chandrakant Sharma. It said the four are hiding in Banjwar and Paribagh areas of Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir and are on the lookout for killing more political and religious leaders

with a determined intent to fuel communal violence in the area.

Inputs further suggest that two unidentified terrorists, equipped with AK-47 rifles, are on the prowl in the district.

Naveed Mushtaq Shah, one of the four terrorists, is a former constable of the Jammu & Kashmir Police. The four terrorists are believed to be armed with arms and ammunition.

"These terrorists are hiding in the above mentioned areas after killing of Chandrakant Sharma and his PSO (Personal

Security Officer). This group may attack religious/political leaders in coming days or may attack police party and snatch their weapons," says the J&K Police alert issued on April 24.

The police alert has also named two probable targets, whose names are being withheld by The Pioneer for security reasons. The two suspected targets are identified as a functionary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and a BJP leader of Kishtwar district.

BJP only eyes votes of Odias: Naveen

PM NEVER BOTHERED ABOUT ODISHA DURING DISASTERS

KENDRAPADA DEV MY RESPONSIBILITY, SAYS PATNAIK

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA



when it was reeling under distress, alleged Patnaik.

He pointed out that the Prime Minister visited Bihar on August 26, 2017, when the State faced devastating floods.

The PM also visited Kerala on August 26, 2018, when the State was reeling under massive floods. He went to Andhra Pradesh on October 14, 2014 to assuage feeling of hapless people facing trouble due to floods.

But he never bothered to visit Odisha when the State faced Phailin, Hud Hud and devastating floods, told Patnaik.

Claiming to scale up activities on disaster management, the Chief Minister said that Odisha is now leading on disaster management front and for that reason is lauded by the United Nations.

Heat wave: T'garh hottest at 45 degree

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

There was no respite from the heat wave in the State on Saturday. Titilagarh recorded the highest temperature of the day with 45 degree Celsius.

The heat wave conditions took a few more towns into its grip with a total of 14 places breaching the 40-degree mark.

Heat wave conditions are likely to prevail for next few days

Besides Titilagarh, the other western Odisha towns which experienced blistering heat were Jharsuguda 43.0 degree, Sambalpur 42.7 degree, Sundargarh 42.0 degree, Hirakud 42.0 degree, Bhawanipatna 42.6, Balangir 43.5, Phulbani 41.6, and Sonepur 43.2 degree.

The other stations which also crossed the 40-degree mark were Chandbali (40.7), Angul (42.7), Keonjhar (40.3), Talcher (43.3) and Malkangiri (42.5).

The heat wave conditions are likely to prevail for next few days, said the Regional Office of IMD here.

Campaigning for last-phase polls ends

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The high-voltage campaigning for the fourth-phase elections in the State ended on Saturday. Six Lok Sabha and 41 Assembly seats will go to polls in this round on April 29.

On the last day, the heavyweights of the political parties hit the campaign trail for their party candidates and made last-ditch efforts to woo the voters.

BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik conducted a road show in Pattamundai and several other parts of Kendrapada district.

BJP national president Amit Shah his party's Sankalp Samabesh at Morada in Mayurbhanj district.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan campaigned for the BJP candidates in Basudevpur in Bhadrak district. Union Minister Jual Oram visited Baleswar Sadar to campaign for BJP candidates.

In the fourth phase, Mayurbhanj, Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada

On the last day, the heavyweights of the political parties hit the campaign trail for their party candidates and made last-ditch efforts to woo the voters

and Jagatsinghpur Lok Sabha constituencies and 41 Assembly segments under them will go to polls.

As many as 52 candidates are in the fray for the six Lok Sabha seats while 336 candidates are contesting for the Assembly segments.

A total of 95.14 lakh voters are eligible to cast their votes in 10,792 booths. Out of the total voters, 49.08 lakh are male, 46.05 lakh women and 615 transgenders.

Rath constructions in Puri from Akshaya Tritiya

CHANDAN YATRA PREPARATIONS DISCUSSED

PNS ■ PURI

For the upcoming world famous Rath Yatra in Puri, construction of the chariots will commence from the holy occasion of Akshaya Tritiya on May 7.

Besides, commencement of chariot works, Lord Jagannath and His siblings Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra will start their visit to Narendra pond for Chandan Yatra where the trinity will enjoy boat-riding for 21 long days.

Most of the woods which are used in construction works have also arrived Puri. The repair works in the Gundicha Temple are presently in full swing and will take a few days to complete. The works relating to repairing and other arrangements in the temple are

Besides, commencement of chariot works, Lord Jagannath and His siblings Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra will start their visit to Narendra pond for Chandan Yatra where the trinity will enjoy boat-riding for 21 long days

also underway which were reviewed by chief of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration Pradipta Mohapatra on Friday.

Besides the authorities of line departments, Puri Collector Jyotiprakash Das attended the review meeting held in the temple administrative building.

In the meeting of Niti Sub-Committee, Mohapatra took stock of the preparations for Chandan Yatra of the trinity. Besides, arrangements of construction of three cars, time schedules of Chandan Yatra

were made and discussions were held on the problems of cooks in the temple kitchen. Mohapatra ordered the concerned department to look into the problem. Sources said that some parts of kitchen need repairing.

"All the requisite woods used in car construction have arrived in Puri.

The Niti Sub Committee fixed time schedules of the rituals in Chandan Yatra festival which will also get recommendation of Chhatisa Nijog on April 30 in its meeting," said Mohapatra.

Mohapatra stated that the passage routes of Panchu Mahadev to the Narendra Pond to participate in the Chandan Yatra would be repaired properly to facilitate movement of the five idols during their visit from their respective temples. He said he has talked to the Collector to set right the problems of electric cables hanging on routes so that the movement of palanquins of Panchu Mahadev doesn't face problems.

Ayurvedic college opens at Sri Sri Varsity



PNS ■ ATHAGARH

Sri Sri College of Ayurvedic Science and Research Hospital was inaugurated by Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Samastipur, Bihar Chancellor Dr Prafulla Kumar Mishra at the Sri Sri University in Cuttack on Friday.

The medical college, inaugurated in the presence of CARIHD-CCRAS Director Dr Jayram Hazra and Odisha Ayurveda Seva Sadan President Dr Dinabandhu Maharana,

would not only provide course knowledge and its clinical application but also aims to become a centre of excellence for Ayurveda.

The objective is to impart quality education and meet the country's need for highly qualified teacher clinician and researcher in all disciplines of Ayurveda. It would also create a unique academic and clinical environment where concepts in Ayurveda and the latest findings in science are used for education and research.

The university proposes

to introduce integrated medical facilities and complementary medicine. Research would also be included; and it aims to develop an Ayurveda teaching hospital with a capacity of 300 IPD beds with a 100-seat Ayurveda college gradually.

The services include Kayachikitsa (general medicine), Panchakarma, Shalyatantra (surgery), Swasthavritta (preventive medicine), Shalakyatantra (eye, ENT and dentistry), Prasutitantra (obstetrics); Streeroga (gynaecology) and Kumarabhritya (paediatrics).

Land soon to be identified in Khariar

PNS ■ NUAPADA

Nuapada district Collector N Poma Tudu conducted a meeting with the Executive Officer of Khariar NAC, BDO and the Tehsildar on Friday to discuss about selection of sites for construction of block office and a permanent bus-stand at Khariar.

The land where the block office of Khariar is now running is a disputed land. The administration has decided to shift the office to another place. Likewise, there is no permanent bus-stand at Khariar.

"We had submitted a proposal to the Urban Development Department for construction of a permanent bus-stand at Khariar. The Collector wanted to see the existing one, so we



took her to see the site," said EO Kishore Kumar Sahu.

After visiting the existing bus-stand site, the Collector

directed the Tehsildar to identify a suitable land for the establishment of bus-stand and block office. The EO said that

the Collector also instructed to explore the possibility of transforming the Khariar NAC into a Municipality.

Woman dies in road mishap

Hubby, son critical

PNS ■ ANGUL

Tragedy struck a family here after a woman teacher was crushed to death while her husband and three-year-old son were critically injured after the bike they were travelling on had a collision with a truck near the Nalco CPP on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Jyotirmayee Pradhan (35), who was a teacher at the Nimabali UP School.

Sources said when Jyotirmayee was returning

from the school with her husband and son at around 10 am, a speeding truck hit the bike from behind and ran over the teacher killing her on the spot. The two injured have been admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) for treatment.

In the incident, locals blocked the NH-55 disrupting vehicular movements for a while.

Later, police reached the spot, pacified the mob and sent the body to the DHH for post-mortem. The police also began an investigation into the incident after seizing both the vehicles.

TU leader holds BJD meets in Paradip



PNS ■ PARADIP

BJD leaders organised pachayat-wise workers' meetings in the Paradip Assembly constituency on Saturday.

BJD State secretary and trade union leader Santosh

Kumar Pattnaik organised meetings at Sailo gram panchayat and the nearest revenue villages of Kujang block.

Paradip BJD observer Manindra Guru, Sisir Kumar Das, Bijay Kumar Swain and Sailo GP Sarapanch Mamina Baral were present.

Santosh Pattnaik requested party workers to do hard work to ensure that the BJD gets maximum number of votes and its nominee Sambit Rouray wins the seat by a record margin. Hundreds of locals joined the poll campaign.

Cuttack AIR bags prizes in Iran radio festival



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Of eight categories in which competitions were invited by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting this year, the All India Radio, Cuttack bagged prizes in two categories.

The awards comprised first prize in Edutainment Category

and a second prize in Public Service Announcement Category. In the 14th International Radio Festival and 6th Radio Forum observed to commemorate Iran Radio Day on April 25, the winners from all over the world assembled in Tehran.

Tarunkanti Rout, AD(P) from AIR, Cuttack represent-

ed India. The producer of the edutainment programme "Saiti Rakhiba Meghara Murchhana" is Lalitendu Kanungo, Programme Executive and that of Public Service Announcement programme is Tarunkanti Rout, AD(P) of AIR, Cuttack. The awardees received cash prize apart from mementos and felicitations.



Congress president Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who are on the campaign trail for the Lok Sabha polls, met each other at the Kanpur airport and shared a few light-hearted moments on Saturday

Cong has given up battle against Modi

From Page 1

Last Thursday's announcement by the Congress was as good an admission that the 2019 election belonged to Modi. Yes, there was carping comparisons made by Yashwant Sinha that the adulatory crowds were reminiscent of Hitler's rallies and there were angry outbursts directed at Rahul Gandhi for having lost the plot. In the end, they amounted to the same expression of disgust at the leading Opposition party having conceded defeat.

This is not to say that the 2019 vote war is as good as over. The Congress may have been exposed for lacking the will to fight but the regional opponents of the BJP have not surrendered. Both the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha and

the Trinamool in West Bengal have been exposed to a sustained BJP offensive, and they are fighting to preserve every inch of their turf. They have ensured that in the event the NDA and Modi retain power on May 23, they will constitute the real opposition. In other words, the very nature of "national" politics will change unrecognisably.

True, as of now, there are many more rounds of voting left and no one should take the electorate for granted. If there is genuine anti-Modi sentiment, that will be expressed in the vote, regardless of whether or not there is any party to provide leadership. All that can be said after three rounds of voting is that the Congress has given up the battle. Now it is Modi versus the regional parties.

Phase IV campaign for 71 seats ends

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A high-pitched election campaign for the fourth phase, which included a two-day blitzkrieg of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Parliamentary constituency of Varanasi, came to an end on Saturday as 71 Lok Sabha seats go to polls on April 29.

Spread over nine States, five constituencies will vote in Bihar, three in Jharkhand, six in Madhya Pradesh, 17 in Maharashtra, six in Odisha, 13 each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and eight in West Bengal. Kulgam district of Anantnag constituency too will go to polls in this phase.

Though the number of seats is far less than the constituencies that went to polls in each of the first three phases, the fourth phase is important in terms of key constituencies that will witness polling.

INBRIEF

CHARRED WOMAN'S BODY FOUND IN M'BHANJ

Baripada: A woman's partially-burnt body was recovered from a jungle in Mayurbhanj district on Saturday. The half-charred decomposed body was found in the Pahadpur jungle under the Badampahad police limits in Rairangpur. It was suspected that the woman was allegedly raped and then murdered before her body was set afire to eliminate all evidence of the gruesome act. Furthermore, it was also suspected that the crime was committed two or three days earlier. The police launched a probe into the case and called for a forensic team from Baripada to collect samples for further investigation.



KRUSHNA CHANDRA BIRTH ANNIV CELEBRATED

Brahmapur: The 128th birth anniversary of Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati was celebrated here on Friday paying floral tributes at his statue in MKCG Medical College Hospital here. MKCG Medical College Principal Prof Radhamadhav Tripathy, hospital Superintendent Prof Charan Panda, Administrative Officer Sudam Charan Mandal and other paid floral tributes. Similarly, the Manav Adhikar Surakshya Manch, Mohan Sangha, Utkal Smmilani, Soundhik Samaj also celebrated the birth anniversary of the legendary Among others, Abani Gaya, Maguni Nahak, Sabita Behera, Chittaranjan Panda, Bhismacharya Choudhury, Prabhakar Sahu and Laxmikant Rout were present.



KRUSHNA CHANDRA BIRTH ANNIV IN G'PATI

Paralakhemundi: Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati 128th birth anniversary was celebrated here on Friday. On the occasion, Gajapati Collector Anupam Shah, Utkal Sammilani's Purnachandra Mahapatra and others paid floral tributes at his statue at Bazaar Square here. A procession was taken out by the students and teachers of the Saraswati Sishu Mandir under leadership of Headmaster Saroj Kumar Panda. DIPRO Rabi Chandra Nayak, Ramananda Dasji Maharaj, Municipality Executive Engineer Ashok Kumar Rout, Junior Engineer Dr Yushistir, Engineers Madhusmita Das, Dr Venketwar Raman, DSO Prabhakar Tripathy and Tourism Officer Amiya Kumar Sethi also paid tributes.



VEDANTA HOLDS FIRE SAFETY WEEK (PIX)

Bhawanipatna: The Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh unit observed the 76th National Fire Safety Week here from April 15 to 20. Involving more than 1,000 participants that included local students, employees of the unit and other partners, the company carried out several activities through the week to educate the community and stakeholders about the importance of fire safety. Company COO Rakesh Mohan said ensuring the highest measures of safety at the workplace are integral part of Vedanta's 'Zero Harm' policy. Besides, 500 students from three Government schools participated in the practical sessions and over 600 employees and associate partners were educated in firefighting techniques and preventive measures.



ECORSA VOLLEYBALL COURT INAUGURATED (PIX)

Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway (ECOR) General Manager Vidya Bhushan inaugurated the new volleyball court of East Coast Railway Sports Association (ECORSA) inside the Railway Indoor Stadium, Mancheswar here on Friday. On the occasion, a friendly match was organised between GM-12 and AGM-12 team. The GM-12 team led Principal Chief Operations Manager Debaraj Panda defeated the AGM-12 by 2-0 set. Among others, AGM Sudhir Kumar and Principal Chief Commercial Manager and ECoRSA President Ajoy Behera were present. DGM and ECoRSA General Secretary Ashok Kumar Mishra coordinated the programme.



TANVI SANGAM CELEBRATES ANNUAL DAY (PIX)

Talcher: The Ladies Welfare Wing of NTPC Talcher Kaniha 'Tanvi Sangam' celebrated its 31st annual day here on Friday. NTPC GGM Ramesh Babu V appreciated the efforts of club members in doing commendable work in promoting education by running nursery school, Bal Bhavan for promoting extracurricular activities. He added Tanvi Sangam acts as CSR ambassador by involving in various CSR initiatives. He hoped that the club would contribute such good work in future also. Among others, Sangam president Vani V and general secretary Sangamitra Das were present.



Impressive voters' turnout in Pallahara

PNS ■ PALLAHARA

There was an impressive turnout of voters during the third phase of elections held on April 23 in Pallahara.

The fates of candidates now remain locked in the EVMs at the strong room. The counting will be held on May 23 and the results will be declared on the same day.

Now the supporters of the candidates are discussing their vote percentage zone wise. There are five zones in Pallahara constituency. Pallahara block comprises three zones, i.e., 22, 23 and 24 having 27 gram panchayats and Kaniha

has two zones i.e. 8 and 10 having 19 GPs. The total votes polled for the third phase election of Pallahara segment is 1,37,490 out of 1,67,964. In Kanihait is 59,828.

There are three candidates in Dhenkanal LS seat. BJD candidate Mahes Sahu is new face in four Assembly seats under Dhenkanal Parliamentary constituency like Parjang, Kamakshyanagar, Angul and Dhenkanal. But former Rajya Sabha member Rudranarayan Pani, who contested polls on BJP ticket and former Brigadier and Defence Minister KP Singh Deo of Congress are old faces in Dhenkanal.

POLL CODE VIOLATION

May approach court for action against PM, Shah: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday said it may approach courts seeking action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah over their alleged repeated model code violations. A Congress-led delegation of Opposition parties also approached the Election Commission alleging display of party name only under the BJP symbol on EVMs during a mock poll in West Bengal's Barrackpore constituency. The poll panel, however, maintained that the same insignia was used for the party in 2014 Lok Sabha polls too.



Opposition leader Dinesh Trivedi addresses the media as Derek O'Brien and Manu Singhvi look on after meeting with EC in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

Senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi alleged that the two leaders have "cheated" on the issue of level playing field for all parties during elections and questioned the "silence of mega policeman" Election Commission.

"We have a right to approach the courts seeking action over model code violations... We can exercise that option... The mega policeman has turned a blind eye," Singhvi said at AICC briefing. Taking a jibe at Election Commission, he called it "Election Omission" and wondered whether Modi and Shah are outside the ambit of the model code of conduct, which he dubbed as "Modi code of conduct".

He claimed that the two leaders have violated the poll code broadly under three categories: polarisation of votes,

invoking armed forces in campaigns and taking out rallies on election day. "The EC has taken action against several leaders for violating the poll code based on our complaints. We appreciate that. Since the precedent has been set, why not take action against Modi and Shah," he said.

A delegation of opposition parties comprising senior Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Ahmed Patel and Trinamool Congress' Dinesh Trivedi and Derek O'Brien met Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora over the issue and demanded that either all such EVMs be removed from the remaining phases of elections or names of other parties be added too.

The EVMs display the party symbols, name of the candidates and their photographs. "On EVMs, letters 'BJP' are vis-

ible under the party's symbol. No other party's name is there. Either remove all machines which mention BJP clearly or all other parties' name should be added in all such machines. Till then the use of these machines has to be totally stopped in the elections," Singhvi told the reporters after meeting the CEC.

Former Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi, who is also a

sitting MP from Barrackpore, said this was a "clear fraud on the people" and an attempt to "hack the EVMs". He also showed purported photographs of the EVM where the party symbol of Lotus included the words BJP.

"The commissioning of EVMs was going on in my constituency on Friday. We saw the name of BJP clearly written under its Lotus symbol. My party people pointed this out and we requested the returning officer to stop the commissioning. We approached the state election body also. But the CEO could not take a decision saying elections are already going on," he said.

Election Commission, in a letter to the chief electoral officer of West Bengal, said that it has received a complaint regarding use of party's name in ballot and that the same symbol was used by the BJP in the 2014 elections. "There is nothing to suggest that it reflects the name of the party," the EC letter said.

AAP leader files complaint against Modi for exceeding ₹70-lakh limit

New Delhi: For his part, senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh has filed a complaint with the Election Commission (EC) against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allegedly exceeding the expenditure limit of ₹70 lakh for his road-

show in Varanasi. In a letter to the election officer of Varanasi, Singh has claimed that a total expenditure of ₹1.27 crore was incurred to take out the roadshow on Thursday. He has also given the break-up.

Rahul, Priyanka engage in sibling banter



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst hectic electioneering, sibling banter was on full display on Saturday giving some lighter moments to one and all.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who are on the campaign trail for the Lok Sabha polls, met each other at the Kanpur airport in Uttar Pradesh and shared a few light-hearted moments.

Posting a video of their meeting on Facebook, Rahul Gandhi wrote: "Was nice meeting Priyanka at Kanpur Airport! We're headed to different meetings in UP!"

"Let me tell you what it means to be a good brother. What it means is that I am doing these massive long flights and I am going in a little helicopter squeezed up. And she is doing short flights and going in a big helicopter," he says in the video, with Priyanka Gandhi laughing and saying "that is not true". But, I love her, the Congress chief added.

The two also posed for photographs with pilots and the airport ground staff. While Rahul Gandhi was in Raebareli and Amethi on Saturday, Congress general secretary in charge Uttar Pradesh (East) Priyanka Gandhi was in Unnao and Barabanki.

Seven armed forces veterans join BJP



Seven veteran officers join Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in presence of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seven veterans, including two former Deputy chiefs of Army staff, joined the BJP on Saturday in the presence of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Welcoming them into the party, Sitharaman said the presence of such senior ex-servicemen who have served the nation benefits the BJP.

"They can guide on policies on nation security and nation building," she told reporters here.

The new entrants into the party included Lt Gen JBS Yadav and Lt Gen SK Patyal, ex deputy chiefs of the army staff. Former director general of military intelligence Lt General R N Singh, former director general of army's information services and IT Lt General Sunit Kumar and Lt General Nitin Kohli, who served as the signal officer-in-chief at the Army headquarters also joined the party.

Colonel R K Tripathi and Wing Commander Navneet Magon, a former Air

Force medical services doctor, also joined the BJP.

"Ex soldiers, too, want to serve the country. We may have retired but we are not tired," Yadav told reporters here. He said the country is in "safe and able hands" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Every man has the right to political freedom. Our country is at a crucial stage and it is developing very fast. It is time for retired soldiers like us to work for the country and participate in the political process," he added.

Patyal said, "To us, the nation is above our personal interests. Our Prime Minister and his ministers have taken great measures in their tenure. Two defence corridors have been established, there is a focus on the manufacture of arms and a major push was given to DRDO, to ordinance factory board and to the private industry. The vision of the Prime Minister in dealing with internal and external security challenges has also been extraordinary."

MEA urges citizens to avoid 'non-essential' travel to Lanka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry on Saturday finally issued an advisory asking citizens not to undertake non-essential travel to Sri Lanka in view of the recent wave of bombings in which over 250 people were killed.

This, after senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel questioned the Centre for not having issued advisory to citizens post the terror attacks. "It appears from media reports that India has sent multiple advance warnings of impending terror attack to the Sri Lankan Government. If so then why no travel advisory was issued for Indian citizens travelling to Sri Lanka prior to the attacks? Precious lives could have been saved," he tweeted. The Pioneer had on Friday pointed to the non-issuance of any advisory by the Centre.

In the advisory, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said those requiring to undertake emergency travels can contact the High



Commission of India in Colombo, the Assistant High Commission in Kandy as well as Consulates in Hambantota and Jaffna for any assistance.

"In view of the prevailing security situation in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of terror attacks on April 21,

Indian nationals intending to travel to Sri Lanka are advised not to undertake non-essential travel," it said.

"In case of those undertaking essential/emergency travels, they can contact the High Commission of India in Colombo or the Assistant High Commission in Kandy / Consulates in Hambantota and Jaffna in case of requirement of any assistance," the MEA added.

The MEA said Sri Lanka has beefed up security in the country but a nation-wide emergency including night time curfew has been in place which may affect travel within Sri Lanka.

Nine suicide bombers carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three churches and three luxury hotels on the Easter Sunday, killing 253 people. The Islamic State claimed the attacks, but the Government has blamed local Islamist extremist group National Thowheeth Jamath (NTJ).

DEFAMATION CASE — Bihar Court asks Rahul to appear on May 20

Patna: A court here on Saturday directed Congress president Rahul Gandhi to appear in person next month in connection with a defamation suit filed against him by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Shashikant Roy passed the order taking cognizance of the allegations made by the deputy chief minister, who had taken exception to Gandhi's remark "all thieves have the surname Modi" at a political rally.

The Congress president had made the remarks in Kollur district of Karnataka seeking to underscore the alleged laxity of the Narendra Modi government in pursuing corruption cases against diamondaire Nirav Modi and former IPL commissioner Lalit Modi, both of whom have fled the country.

On Friday, the Bihar deputy CM appeared before the court alleging that since he shared the same surname, he felt humiliated and ridiculed by the Congress chief's remark and that was tantamount to defamation.

Roy, while transferring the matter for further hearing to the court of Additional CJM Kumar Gunjan, directed Gandhi to appear in person on the next date of hearing on May 20. PTI

Delhi court summons Tharoor over 'scorpion' remark on PM

New Delhi: A court here on Saturday summoned Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on June 7 on a complaint over his remarks that an unnamed RSS leader had compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "a scorpion sitting on a Shivalinga".

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal was hearing a criminal defamation complaint filed against Tharoor by Delhi BJP leader Rajeev Babbar, who has said his religious sentiments were hurt by the Congress leader's statement.

Tharoor had claimed in October last year that an unnamed RSS leader had compared Prime Minister Modi to "a scorpion sitting on a Shivalinga". He had termed it as an extraordinarily striking metaphor.

The complaint says, "I am a devotee of Lord Shiva... However, the accused



(Tharoor) completely disregarded the sentiments of crores of Shiva devotees, (and) made the statement which hurt the sentiments of all Lord Shiva devotees, both in India and outside the country."

"The complainant's religious sentiments were hurt and the accused deliberately did this malicious act, intending to outrage the religious feelings of Lord Shiva devotees by insulting their religious belief," it adds.

The complaint also describes Tharoor's statement as an "intolerable abuse" and

"absolute vilification" of the faith of millions of people.

The complaint was filed under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), relating to defamation.

As Tharoor's comments at the Bangalore Literature Festival last year drew condemnation, the MP tweeted saying the remarks were not made by him and were in the public domain for six years.

In his speech at the festival, Tharoor had said "...There is an extraordinarily striking metaphor expressed by an unnamed RSS source to a journalist which I quote, in which they express their frustration with their inability to curb Mr Modi.

"The man says Modi is like a scorpion sitting on a Shivalinga. You cannot remove him with a hand and you cannot hit it with a chappal either," he had said. PTI

'Foolishness' of DeMo, 'Gabbar Singh Tax' not done by anyone in 70 yrs: Rahul

Raebareli/Amethi (UP): Hitting back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accusing the Congress of doing "nothing" while in power, party president Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday nobody had committed the "foolishness" of demonetisation and the "Gabbar Singh Tax" in the last 70 years.

Addressing rallies in Raebareli and Amethi constituencies of Uttar Pradesh, Gandhi also assured the people that implementing the mini-

mum income guarantee scheme, Nyay, was possible.

"In the past 70 years, the foolishness of demonetisation and Gabbar Singh Tax (Gandhi's coinage for the goods and services tax or the GST) was not done by anyone," he said at a rally in Uncharhar town of Raebareli district, where United Progressive Alliance chairperson and his mother, Sonia Gandhi, is seeking reelection.

The Congress chief's remarks come against the back-

drop Modi repeatedly holding the grand old party responsible for all the "ills" since the country got independence.

"The 'chowkidar' (watchman) has done 'chori' (theft) of factories and employment of people of Raebareli and Amethi," Rahul Gandhi said.

"Where are Anil Ambani, Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya, Lalit Modi — in jail or outside?" he asked. Rahul Gandhi also accused Modi of not wanting to fill 22 lakh vacant Government posts. PTI

Modi didn't visit single village in Varanasi: Priyanka

Unnao/Barabanki: Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi filed his nomination seeking re-election from Varanasi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday accused him of not visiting a single village there.

"The Prime Minister travels across the globe, undertakes boat rides in Varanasi, but he has not visited the villages in his parliamentary constituency," she said during a roadshow in favour of Congress' Unnao candidate Annu Tandon.

"The prime minister should at least visit a village in his constituency, speak to the



people and try to understand the reality," she said.

Similar remarks by Priyanka Gandhi earlier had fuelled speculation that she may contest against PM Modi

from Varanasi, but the party Thursday fielded Ajay Rai from the seat, ending the possibility of a face off between the two.

Before embarking on the roadshow in Unnao, the

Congress general secretary for Uttar Pradesh east garlanded a statue of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

During the campaign, she spoke to people as her supporters showered her with flower petals.

As the roadshow reached Bade Chauraha, some BJP workers tried to disrupt it by waving black handkerchiefs at her. They raised slogans in favour of Modi.

Retaliating, Congress workers also raised slogans. Sensing trouble, police intervened and pushed BJP supporters back. Priyanka Gandhi claimed

the prime minister has no time for the poor and that "his government is anti-people and anti-farmer".

"I am touring UP for the past two months... Farmers have complained of stray animals. They are in debt... Women feel unsafe," she claimed.

Priyanka Gandhi alleged that the BJP government's policies benefitted only a handful of industrialists.

The Congress general secretary also held a roadshow in Barabanki and offered prayers at Dewa Sharif, the shrine of Sufi saint Haji Waris Ali. PTI

AIIMS to give Modicare in non-PMJAY States

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Residents of States like Odisha and Rajasthan, which have refused to be part of the Central health flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Swasthya Yojana (PMJAY), can avail health insurance benefits provided by their respective States at the AIIMS like institutes in their region.

"We want that all the patients coming to the AIIMS should get better health benefits. Of course, patients of those States which are enrolled with the PMJAY will get benefits under the health insurance scheme while those which have refused to be part of the Central health programme, can get reimbursement under their respective health insurance schemes," said a senior official from the Ministry.



The Ministry has shot off a letter to the Director of all the six AIIMS — Rishikesh, Bhopal, Patna, Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar and Raipur — to get themselves empanelled under the concerned health insurance schemes of the respective State Governments. Currently these six institutes are fully functional and are pro-

viding OPD and IPD facilities. "Earlier, the Ministry had advised all new AIIMS to on-board and get empanelled under the PMJAY scheme. They have also been advised to immediately put in place a facilitation counter with Arogya mitras for identification and registration of the PMJAY beneficiaries, if not already

done. While in Delhi, Bhubaneswar and Jodhpur new AIIMS have already started operating, their home states are yet to join the scheme.

"The AIIMS in these two states have been asked to register themselves with the respective State health insurance schemes," said the official.

Odisha has started its own Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana that will provide ₹5 lakh annual health cover to 70 per cent of the State's population. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had rejected the central scheme claiming that the state's healthcare scheme covers many more people than Ayushman Bharat and provides ₹7 lakh to women as opposed to the central programme's ₹5 lakh.

Similarly, Rajasthan is implementing Bhamashah

Health Insurance Scheme since 2015 covering about 92 lakh families, belonging to National Food Security Act and "Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana" providing a benefit cover to each family.

Telangana also chose not to implement the healthcare scheme, saying that the state's own flagship healthcare scheme Aarogyasri covers 70 per cent of the state's population while Ayushman Bharat will only benefit 80 lakh people.

Last year on September 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the ambitious healthcare scheme 'Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The PMJAY is a programme providing annual health cover of ₹5 lakh for 10.74 crore families.

Plea seeks restrictions on media from publishing allegations against CJI

New Delhi: A voluntary organisation has filed a plea in the Delhi High Court asking it to restrain the media from publishing the allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi by a former Supreme Court employee.

The petition, which is likely to come up for hearing on April 29, sought immediate restriction on the media from further telecasting or publishing the allegations till conclusion of the three-judge panel's enquiry.

The plea, filed by NGO Anti-Corruption Council of India, said publication of allegations against the CJI directly hits the Indian judicial system.

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Besides electronic and print media, the plea sought directions for social media platforms.

The petition has arrayed as parties the Ministries of Law and Justice and Information and Broadcasting, the Delhi Government, the Press Council of India and the Delhi Police

Commissioner. Directions have been sought for WhatsApp, Google, YouTube and LinkedIn Corporation and news website Scroll.In.

The allegations levelled by the former woman employee of the Supreme Court are being enquired into by a three-judge panel of the apex court which held its first proceeding on Friday.

The plea alleged it suspects involvement of "anti-national elements" in this act and if publication of these allegations is not restricted, "people will lose faith in the Indian judicial system", and the "vast damage" caused to the nation and its people would be "irreparable". PTI

Air India server down globally 155 flights delayed for more than 5 hours

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of Air India passengers had a harrowing time at airports across the world on Saturday as its 155 flights were delayed due to the shutdown of its check-in software for more than five hours due to a technical snag.

The national carrier's chairman and managing director (CMD) Ashwani Lohani said the passenger service system (PSS) software, which looks after check-in, baggage and reservation, did not work from 3.30 am to 8.45 am on Saturday.

During this time period, thousands of Air India passengers were stranded at airports globally as the airline staff was unable to issue a boarding pass to them. Air India's PSS is owned and managed by Atlanta-based SITA company. Lohani said that "till 10 am total 85 flights were delayed" because of PSS shutdown. "Because of the 85 flights that have been delayed, a ripple effect will take place throughout the day," he said, adding that a "few flights will also be cancelled because of this delay".

Later in the day, the airline's spokesperson clarified that a total of 155 flights would be delayed for an average duration of two hours till 8.30 pm.

The average number of flights that Air India group, which also includes subsidiaries



Alliance Air and Air India Express, flies daily is around 674. It is mostly the domestic flights that have been affected the most due to the software shutdown, Lohani clarified.

"International departures will not be facing much problems... There will be delay in one or two international flights. One Delhi-Shanghai flight is getting delayed by about 1.5 hours. The flights that are departing for Europe are largely running on time," he said.

About affected passengers, the CMD said the airline is trying its best to inform them

through social media and its call centre. "But as the magnitude is so big, it is possible that our call centre is not able to handle the volume," he said.

The passengers who will miss their flights will be given hotel accommodations or they will be rescheduled in a different flight of Air India or of another airline, he said.

Lohani said that SITA is currently looking into what caused the shutdown. "They are checking if it was because of virus or for any other reason. They are still searching for the root cause," he said.

No other Indian airline apart from Air India uses SITA's PSS software. When asked if SITA would be compensating the airline for disruption in its operations, the CMD replied that "we will have to take a look into it".

SITA regretted the inconvenience caused and said it had experienced a complex system issue during server maintenance early morning which resulted in operational disruption to flights.

"We have now fully restored services at all airports where Air India were affected. Our priority remains, as always, to ensure

a stable system where customers can conduct business efficiently and effectively, and we are undertaking a full investigation to understand the root cause and prevent a recurrence," SITA said in a statement to PTI.

Many passengers vented their ire on social media on Saturday morning. A Dr Sonal Saxena tweeted at 7.20 am, "Utter chaos. Air India systems not working at Delhi since 3 am. All flights grounded and delayed. No checkins and boarding."

When asked why passengers were not informed about flight delays through SMS or social media during the shutdown, the Air India CMD said, "Whenever any other system does not function properly, we use PSS to get contact information of passengers and then contact them. But when our PSS itself has stopped working, there is no way we can inform them."

A similar incident took place on June 23 last year when a technical glitch in the airline's check-in software delayed 25 of its flights across India. The airline had tweeted on June 23, "Due to unexpepected network connectivity issues at SITA #Atlanta #Datacenter, which had a #worldwide impact, 25 flights were delayed from 1210 hrs to 1510 hrs on #Airindia network. Operations are normal now (sic)."

About 200 US companies seeking to move from China to India: USISPF

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

About 200 American companies are seeking to move their manufacturing base from China to India post the general elections, a top US-based advocacy group has said, observing that there is a fantastic opportunity with firms looking at alternatives to the Communist giant.

The US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum's (USISPF) President Mukesh Agni said that the companies are talking to them about how to set up an alternative to China by investing in India.

Agni said USISPF's recommendation to the new Government would be to accelerate the reforms and bring transparency in the decision-making process.

"I think that's critical. We would advise to bring more transparency in the process and to make it more consultative because in the last 12 to 18 months, we are seeing US companies look at some of the decisions being made, either e-commerce or data localisation, as more domestic-oriented than global," he told PTI in an interview.

In his reply to what the agenda of the new Indian Government should be to attract investment, Agni suggested that New Delhi needs to accelerate reforms, be more transparent in the process and engage more. "We need to understand how we can attract those companies. And that means all the way from land issues to customs issues to being part of the global supply chain. Those are critical issues. There's a whole plethora of reforms that need to go further down, and I think that is also going to create a lot of jobs," he said.

He said Mark Linscott, the former Assistant US Trade



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"We need to understand how we can attract those companies. And that means all the way from land issues to customs issues to being part of the global supply chain. Those are critical issues. There's a whole plethora of reforms that need to go further down, and I think that is also going to create a lot of jobs," he said

"One recommendation, which I strongly believe is going to help India is that we should now start thinking of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the US," Agni said

"We plan to have the document ready by the time elections are over as part of recommendation," he said

Representative for South and Central Asian Affairs, is working with USISPF member companies to come up with a recommendation as to what India needs to do to enhance its exports and work up from that perspective.

"One recommendation, which I strongly believe is going to help India is that we should now start thinking of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the US," Agni said. "I think if India is concerned about cheap goods coming from China, an FTA will eliminate that need. You can put barriers to Chinese goods and still have the US Providing access to the Indian market and Indian companies having more access to the US market, and issues like GSP would diminish," he said.

Agni said they have formed a high-level manufacturing council within the member companies, led by John Kern,

Senior Vice President of Supply Chain Operations at Cisco who are putting a document together detailing what India needs to do to turn it into a manufacturing hub. "We plan to have the document ready by the time elections are over as part of recommendation," he said.

"What they're saying is we want a backup strategy to start manufacturing in India. There are small-small issues, which can slow them down. And at the moment most of them are waiting for elections to be over. But there's a large deluge of companies keen to not only manufacture in India but also who want to go after the domestic market," he said.

On the amount of investment these companies would bring to India, he said the number in question is substantial. "If you look at, our member companies in the last four years have invested over USD 50 billion," he added.

Jaypee Infratech lenders to vote on Suraksha offer next week: Sources



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lenders of debt-ridden Jaypee Infratech will put to vote on April 30 the offer of Mumbai-based Suraksha Realty for acquiring the realty firm, sources said.

A meeting of Committee of Creditors (CoC) was held on Friday to consider the revised offers of both NBCC Ltd and Suraksha group to acquire Jaypee Infratech and complete over 20,000 housing units in various projects in Noida.

According to a source, the CoC decided not to consider NBCC's bid as it found the offer to be conditional and subject to approvals from various Government departments.

The source said that lenders will on April 30 vote on the resolution plan submitted by the Suraksha Realty-led consortium. There will be no CoC meeting as was scheduled earlier, the source added.

The offer of NBCC, a public sector unit under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, put some other conditions as well.

In the meeting Friday, NBCC representatives sought some time to take approvals from different government departments, sources added.

Under the insolvency law, conditional bids are not

allowed. NBCC had submitted its revised bid on April 24 and offered to give lenders ₹5,000 crore worth land parcels as against the earlier offer of land worth ₹3,000 crore. But it was offering only 950 acres of land as against 1,450 acres earlier.

Suraksha group has also made an offer of land worth ₹5,000 crore.

NBCC offered lenders the Yamuna Expressway that connects Noida to Agra in Uttar Pradesh in both its earlier and revised bids.

Meanwhile, business conglomerate Adani Group had also expressed interest to bid for Jaypee Infratech. However, lenders are unlikely to seek Adani's offer until this round of insolvency proceedings gets completed.

Last week, crisis-hit Jaypee Group's promoters made a fresh attempt to retain control over its arm Jaypee Infratech by seeking the support of homebuyers for its debt resolution plan under the IBC.

Jaypee Group Chairman Manoj Gaur had apologised to thousands of distressed homebuyers and promised to infuse ₹2,000 crore to complete apartments over the next four years. The group had submitted a ₹10,000-crore plan before lenders in April 2018 as well, but the same was not accepted.

RBI's new ₹20 banknote to be released soon

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Saturday that it will shortly issue ₹20 denomination banknotes, in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) series, bearing the signature of the central bank's governor Shaktikanta Das. These are different in size and design compared to the notes issued earlier.

The central bank has already issued new look currency notes in the denominations of ₹10, ₹50, ₹100, and ₹200, besides introducing ₹200 and ₹2,000 bank notes.

"The ₹20 note will be greenish-yellow in colour. The new banknote has a motif of Ellora Caves on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage," a statement by the RBI said.

According to the RBI data bank, there were 4.92 billion pieces of ₹20 note in circulation as on March 31, 2016. The



number more than doubled to about 10 billion pieces by March 2018.

All the banknotes in the denomination of ₹20 issued by the RBI in the earlier series will continue to be legal tender, it clarified. The note has other designs, geometric patterns aligning with the overall colour scheme, both at the obverse and reverse. The dimension of the new ₹20 note will be 63 mm x 129 mm, the statement said.

Agencies

Swiggy delivers over 1.5 million orders a month on cycles

New Delhi: Swiggy, domestic online food ordering and delivery platform, on Saturday said it delivers over 1.5 million orders every month on mechanical cycles. It has a fleet of over 1.7 lakh delivery partners in more than 120 cities.

"A couple of years back we initiated concerted efforts to make deliveries more sustainable for the environment. With close to 10,000 delivery partners on cycles each day, we have found that in some cities the average travel time for a delivery partner on cycles is lesser than bikes," Srivats TS, Vice-President, Marketing, Swiggy, said in a statement.

"With the future heading towards more eco-friendly modes of transport, cycle and EV logistics will be the next game changer in food-tech and Swiggy wants to be at the forefront of driving that change," Srivats said.

Twenty per cent of these Swiggy delivery partners are present in tier 2 and tier 3 cities like Surat, Belgaum, Guwahati and Lucknow, the statement said. IANS

India's data storing call comes with risk: Zuckerberg

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

India's data localisation demands are understandable but allowing it for one nation can trigger a demand from countries which are much more authoritarian and can misuse the citizens' data, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said.

In a conversation with historian and author Yuval Noah Harari on Friday, Zuckerberg said the motives and intents behind storing data locally matter the most.

"I think that... the motives matter and certainly, I don't think that either of us would consider India to be an authoritarian country," Zuckerberg responded to a question why it is safe to store the data about Indian citizens in the US and not in India when they're openly saying they care only about themselves.

"The intent matters, right. And I think countries can come at this with open values and still conclude that something like that could be helpful. But I think one of the things that you need to be very careful about is that if you set that precedent you're making it very easy for other countries that don't have open values and that are much more authoritarian and want the data not to be able to surveil them and find dissidents and lock them up," Zuckerberg emphasised.

In an earlier earnings call, Zuckerberg noted.



with investors, he said that Facebook won't store sensitive data in countries where it might be improperly accessed.

"More countries following the approach of authoritarian regimes adopting strict data localisation policies where governments can more easily access people's data, and I'm highly concerned about that future," he noted.

"Our stance on data localisation is a risk. That is, if we get blocked in a major country, that will hurt our community and our business. But our principles on data localisation aren't new and this has always been a risk," the Facebook CEO added.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines say that all digital payment firms like Google Pay, WhatsApp and others must store data locally for their businesses.

"The idea is to identify when people are standing up networks of fake accounts that are not behaving in a way that normal people would, to be able to weed those out and work with law enforcement and election commissions and folks all around the world and the intelligence community to be able to coordinate and be able to deal with that effectively," Zuckerberg noted.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
FIRST CORRIGENDUM
The name of work for TENDER No-25.8.597.DSL.SSB (R) earlier printed as "Provision of supply and maintenance of indoor well developed ornamental flower pots, Qty-2745 nos. at DEMU-Shed, Shakurbasti, Diesel Training Centre, Shakurbasti and Heritage Steam Shed, Rewari and development of other plantation activities at Heritage Steam Shed, Rewari for a period of one year" shall be read as "Provision of supply and maintenance of indoor well developed ornamental flower pots, Qty-2745 nos. per month on hire basis at DEMU-Shed, Shakurbasti, Diesel Training Centre, Shakurbasti and Heritage Steam Shed, Rewari and development of other plantation activities at Heritage Steam Shed, Rewari for a period of one year".
1244/2019
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WESTERN RAILWAY
BULK ADVERTISING RIGHTS

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	WORK AND LOCATION	First Year Reserve Price ₹	Approx. cost of work ₹ (excluding taxes etc.)	EMD ₹
1	CA11-NFR-OOH-WP-19-3 dated 24.04.2019	Bulk Advertising Rights of Wall Painting from Churchgate to Virar Stations for a period of 5 year	25,74,495/-	1,36,77,622/-	2,73,600/-
2	CA11-NFR-OOH-DDRtoBA-19-4 dated 24.04.2019	Bulk advertising rights at circulating area of or at Dadar, Matunga Road, Mahim and Bandra station for display of advertisements on existing hoarding structures by dismantling or modifying, repairing, strengthening & painting of existing structures as well as erection & display of new hoarding structures, for a period of five years.	1,91,40,000/-	10,16,85,839/-	20,33,800/-

Sr. No. : 1. Date & Time of closing of online submission: Up to 15.00 hrs on 16.05.2019. Date & Time of Opening of e-tender: At 15.30 hrs on 16.05.2019. Sr. No. : 2. Date & Time of closing of online submission: Up to 15.00 hrs on 17.05.2019. Date & Time of Opening of e-tender: At 15.30 hrs on 17.05.2019. Note : Please visit our website www.irps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.
Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly Follow us on: Twitter.com/WesternRly

LOST & FOUND
M/s. Vikash Motors No. 10, (Laxmanpatti Madin & Mrs. Prayagshi Pata No. 10, Vikash Motors, Bhoirpada, New Delhi-110075) have lost my "Blindness Letter and Receipts 1, date 25/09/2009 receipt no. 00655/0069 amount 7,30,000/-, 2, date 19/04/2010 receipt no. 00084/010 amount 7,48,575/-, 3, date 01/07/2010 receipt no. 00189/0170 amount 2,59,198/-, 4, date 30/06/2010 receipt no. 00027/00810 amount 1,39,351/-, 5, date 07/02/2010 receipt no. 0015/0010 amount 1,00,000/-, 6, date 25/10/2011 receipt no. 00135/1011 amount 2,29,732/-, 7, date 31/10/2011 receipt no. 00195/1011 amount 13,44,31/-, 8, date 25/06/2012 receipt no. 00039/0012 amount 2,73,791/-, 9, date 21/11/2012 receipt no. 00021/111 amount 7,21,101/-, 10, date 21/02/2013 receipt no. 00209/0313 amount 10,47,000/-, 11, date 03/03/2013 receipt no. 00031/0051 amount 2,23,284/-, 12, date 31/08/2013 receipt no. 00232/0013 amount 7,87,572/-, 13, date 31/08/2013 receipt no. 00080/0113 amount 8,53,537/-, 14, date 20/09/2012 receipt no. 00063/0100 amount 16,42,005/-, 15, date 04/01/2019 receipt no. 00011 amount 7,000/- issued by IIT for the Department No. CLN114 at IIT Capital Goods, Moh. Nagar, Shyva Mang. Delhi. If found please contact at 9670561071

PUBLIC NOTICE
"TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN" Our employee Mr Brijesh Sharma, R/o- 42, Gazipur Village, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi has willfully not returned to the service for the past one year and despite our repeated reminders he has not turned up. His person dealing with them will do so at their own risk.
Nand Kishore Malhotra & Co.
4777, Hauz Qazi, Delhi-06
Ph., 23214175



Suresh Sharma, Director-in-charge, NSD, Bipin Kumar, Centre Director, Sikkim Theatre Training Centre (NSD) and Dr Abhilash Pillai, Associate Professor & Centre In-charge (NSD) addressed a Press conference on 4th Spring Theatre Festival (STF), to be held in Delhi on April 30. The authorities have briefed about the festival and journey till now

WESTERN RAILWAY
SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Const./Field/W.Rly, 8th floor, Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai-400 020 invites offer through e-tender portal www.irps.gov.in through single packet system for the following tender: Tender Notice No. : Dy.CS&TE/C&T/328. Name of work with its location "Design, Supply, Installation, Programming, Testing & Commissioning of New Electronic Interlocking (EI) system, Supply, Installation & commissioning of MSDACs, Trenching and laying/jointing of various S&T cables, Foundation, Erection of signals & Loc boxes, Fixing of point machines, Track circuiting work and various other Indoor & Outdoor Signalling works at NIYD station in connection with work of DFCB, BCT division, Western Railway." Approx NIT cost of the work : ₹ 75264386/- EMD, in favour of : ₹ 526300/- e-Bid Submission closing on : 23.05.2019 at 15.00 hrs. e-Bid opening date : 23.05.2019 at 15.30 hrs. For detailed tender conditions, please visit www.irps.gov.in
Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly 19

Name Change
1. Anjali Tewari Kulkarni (Name before Marriage-Anjali Tewari) D/o Uday Kedarnath Tewari and wife of Vijay Digambar Kulkarni R/o E-107, lower ground floor, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048, after my marriage has been using both names namely "Anjali Tewari Kulkarni and Anjali Kulkarni.I confirm Anjali Tewari Kulkarni as my name for all future purposes. Anjali Kulkarni & Anjali Tewari Kulkarni is one and same person

CENTRAL RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NOTICE FOR DISCONTINUATION OF NIT IN NEWSPAPER
All the Stores Tenders issued from the office of the Principal Chief Materials Manager, Central Railway, CSMT, Mumbai and from all the offices of Depots/ Divisional Stores officers under PCMM Central Railway are published on Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) website www.irps.gov.in only Notice of tender invitation will not be published in Newspaper any more. The website address on which the tenders are published and documents are available for participating in E-tender is www.irps.gov.in 108
Security Helpline 182

WESTERN RAILWAY
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Notice for Discontinuation of Tender Invitation through print media
"All the Stores Tenders issued from the office of Principal Chief Material Manager, Western Railway, Churchgate, Mumbai and from all the offices of Depots / Divisional Stores Officers under PCMM Western Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) website www.irps.gov.in only. Therefore, henceforth Notice of Tender invitation will not be published in News paper. The website address on which the tenders are published and documents are available for participating in E-tender is www.irps.gov.in, which is also linked with Western Railway website"
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US imposes sanction on Pak; may deny visas to Pakistanis

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has imposed sanctions on Pakistan after Islamabad refused to take back its citizen deportees and visa over-stayers from America, warning that it may withhold visas of Pakistanis beginning from its senior officials.

The State Department on Friday said that consular operations in Pakistan remain "unchanged" as of now but as a result of such a sanction mentioned in a Federal Register notification dated April 22, the US may withhold visas of Pakistanis beginning with its senior officials.

Pakistan is the latest to join the list of 10 nations that have been imposed with sanctions under a US law according to which countries refusing to take back deportees and visa over-stayers will be denied American visas.

Notably eight of these countries have been slapped with such visa sanctions under the Trump administration. Two

of them Ghana and Pakistan have been included in the list this year.

The other countries include Guyana in 2001, the Gambia in 2016, Cambodia, Eritrea, Guinea, and Sierra Leone in 2017, Burma and Laos in 2018.

Under Section 243 (d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Secretary of State is required to discontinue granting immigration or non-immigrant visas to a nation upon receiving notice from the Homeland Security Secretary that the country has denied or is unreasonably delaying accepting a citizen, subject, national or resident of that country.

The State Department tried to downplay the impact of the sanctions on Pakistan.

"Consular operations in Pakistan remain unchanged," a State Department Spokesperson told PTI when asked about the federal register notification.

"This is a bilateral issue of ongoing discussion between the US and Pakistani govern-

ments and we are not going to get into the specifics at this time," the spokesperson added.

Former Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Hussain Haqqani, feels that this will make things difficult for Pakistanis.

"This measure will create hardship for Pakistanis who want or need to travel to the US and could have been avoided if Pakistani authorities had not ignored American requests to respect their legal requirements for deportation," Haqqani told PTI, days after the federal register notification.

He said that Pakistan's refusal to accept its citizen deported from the US is not new.

"Pakistan's refusal to accept every Pakistani citizen deported from the US is not new. It seems that the US is no longer willing to overlook a wide range of official Pakistani behaviour. Bonhomie has been replaced by sanctions and restrictions based on Islamabad's policy decisions," Haqqani said.

Sudanese protesters demand civilian rule in talks with Army

AP ■ KHARTOUM (SUDAN)

The organisers of the protests that drove Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir from power said they had met Saturday with the ruling military council for talks on forming a transitional government.

The protesters had agreed to resume talks with the military on Wednesday, after a temporary break. The announcement to set up a joint committee to tackle political disputes was followed by the resignation of three members of the military council, whom the opposition had accused of being too close to al-Bashir.

The protesters fear the army, dominated by al-Bashir appointees, will cling to power or select one of its own to succeed him. They also fear Islamists and other factions close to the deposed leader, who is now jailed in the capital, Khartoum, will be granted a role in the transition.

US asks citizens to reconsider travel to Lanka after bombings

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States has advised its citizens to reconsider their travel to Sri Lanka in view of the massive Easter Sunday bombings that killed over 250 people including Americans. The State Department raised the travel risk to Level 3 in a travel advisory issued Friday.

The State Department has also ordered the departure of all school-age family members of US government employees in kindergarten through 12th grade. It also authorised the voluntary departure of non-emergency US government employees and family members.

"Terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Sri Lanka. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets, shopping malls, government facilities, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, parks, major sporting and cultural events,

educational institutions, airports, hospitals, and other public areas," the State Department said. The US government has limited ability to provide emergency services to US citizens in Sri Lanka due to the security environment, it said.

The US has four levels of travel advisories. Level 1 means exercise normal precaution, Level 2 is exercise increased caution, Level 3 is reconsider travel and Level Four advises Americans not to travel at all.

Meanwhile, FBI Director Christopher Wray said that he has sent a team of officials to Sri Lanka to assist in the investigation.

"The FBI has sent personnel over to assist in the investigation, to work with our partners over there. I do think it's a reminder that the terrorist threat isn't yesterday's news, isn't yesterday's problem, isn't gone," Wray said in response to a question as the Council on Foreign Relations think-tank. "I sometimes think people

in this country and in other parts of the world have started to get maybe a little blasé or a little complacent about it. And it's a pretty chilling reminder that the threat is real," he said.

This, Wray said, also shows that folks can radicalise in a virtual way, which is a bigger and bigger problem.

"People talk about ISIS and the fall of the caliphate, absolutely true. On the other hand we worry very much about what is in effect a virtual caliphate where terrorist organisations can organise in a way that don't require the same kind of physical infrastructure."

"The other thing we see... A problem that people need to be very aware of, is you always hear this phrase about connecting the dots in the terrorist arena, but a lot of the terrorist plots of today are more compact, involving fewer people, less complicated attacks, shorter period of time, which means fewer dots to connect in the first place," the FBI Director said.

GLOBE TROTTER

MUSHARRAF WILL RETURN TO PAK ON MAY 1: LAWYER
Islamabad: Pakistan's former military dictator Pervez Musharraf, who is facing high treason case, is likely to return to the country on May 1, his lawyer said on Saturday. A special court indicted General (ret'd) Musharraf, 75, for high treason in March 2014. He left for Dubai in 2016 to "seek medical treatment" and has not returned since.

17 DEAD IN EAST UKRAINE COAL MINE BLAST
Kiev: The death toll from a coal mine blast in a separatist eastern region of Ukraine rose to 17 on Saturday, rebel authorities said. The gas blast on Thursday ripped through the mine in Yurievka village in the self-proclaimed republic of Lugansk, which broke away from Kiev in 2014 and is run by Moscow-backed rebels.

CHINA POLICE SMASH \$30M FAKE LEGO RING
Beijing: Chinese police have dismantled a ring accused of manufacturing some \$30 million worth of counterfeit Lego sold across the country, authorities said.

Trump tells NRA he's withdrawing from arms trade treaty

AP ■ INDIANAPOLIS

In a largely symbolic gesture to a group that helped him win the White House, President Donald Trump said Friday he is pulling the US back from an international agreement on the arms trade, telling the National Rifle Association the treaty is "badly misguided."

Trump made the announcement at the NRA's annual convention, where he vowed to fight for gun rights and implored members of the nation's largest pro-gun group — struggling to maintain its influence — to rally behind his re-election bid.

"It's under assault," he said of the constitutional right to bear arms. "But not while we're here." With pro-gun legislation largely stalled in Congress and few deliverables during Trump's term so far, the president told the group that he would be revoking the United States' status as a signatory of the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty, which regulates the multibillion-dollar

global arms trade in conventional weapons, from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships.

President Barack Obama signed the pact, which has long been opposed by the NRA, in 2013. But it has never been ratified by US lawmakers.

"Under my administration, we will never surrender American sovereignty to anyone," Trump said, before signing a document on stage directing the Senate to halt the ratification process.

"We will never allow foreign diplomats to trample on your Second Amendment freedom." "I hope you're happy," he told the group, then appeared surprised by the cheers. "I'm impressed," he said.

"I didn't think too many of you would really know what it is." His move against the treaty came as Trump sought to excite an organization that was pivotal to his victory in 2016 but, three years later, is limping toward the next election divided and diminished.

India-Pak ties remain only problem for peace in the region: Imran Khan

PTI ■ BEIJING

Pakistan's relationship with India remains the "only problem" for peace and stability in the region, Prime Minister Imran Khan has said and expressed hope of establishing a "civilised relationship" with New Delhi after the Lok Sabha elections are over.

Unless there is peace and stability in the region, economic prosperity is difficult for Pakistan, and that is what right now the Pakistan government is working on, Khan who is in China to take part in the 2nd Belt and Road Forum, (BRF) said while addressing China International Cultural Communication Centre here on Friday.

Khan said Pakistan hopes that the political solution in Afghanistan will succeed and the war-ravaged country attains stability.

"Whatever happens in Afghanistan affects Pakistan's bordering areas. So we are working for a peaceful region.



We have decent relationship with Iran and we are trying to strengthen them," he was quoted as saying by state-run APP news agency.

"The only problem right now is our relationship with India. But we are hoping that after the Indian elections, we will again hope to have a civilized relationship with India too," he said.

Since his arrival here on April 25 to take part in the BRF meeting which concluded on Saturday, the Cricketer-turned-politician refrained from

speaking on India-Pakistan ties which in the last two months have experienced severe strains following the February 14 Pulwama terror attack carried out by the Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e Mohammed which killed 40 CRPF personnel.

His emphasis during the visit appears to be firming up more projects for the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of China's ambitious trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Jihadist attacks kill 22 Syria pro-regime fighters: monitor

AFP ■ BEIRUT

Attacks by two jihadist groups killed at least 22 Syrian government troops and militiamen in the northern province of Aleppo early on Saturday, a war monitor said.

Thirty others were wounded in the assaults by Al-Qaeda's former Syria branch, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), and its ally Hurras al-Deen, which remains affiliated to the global jihadist network, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The attacks in the southern and southwestern countryside of Aleppo province were launched shortly after midnight and triggered clashes that continued until dawn, Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said.

He said the fighting subsided after Russian aircraft struck jihadist positions in the area, prompting the fighters to pull back.

BRI should follow global norms and benefit all: Xi Jinping

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday said that the Belt and Road Initiative should benefit all around the world and deliver common development by following the established international norms.

Addressing a roundtable meeting of the 37 heads of states and governments who attended the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF), which would close on Saturday, Mr. Xi again stressed that the trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) would focus on common development of all the participating countries and their people.

"We must implement the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits to see that all voices are heard, all reached their full potential and all stand to benefit," the Chinese President said.

The BRI must be open, clean and green and follow

high standards, people centred sustainable approach, he said, adding that it should be aligned to the United Nations' sustainable development agenda.

"Align our cooperation with universally accepted rules, standards and best practices and pursue social and economic progress and environmental protection in a balanced way. The BRI should be beneficial to all and deliver common development," Mr. Xi said.

Those attended the BRF meeting included Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and heads of several Asian, African and Latin American countries besides heads of the UN and the IMF. India and the US skipped the meeting.

India, which boycotted the first BRF meeting held in 2017 over its objections to the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), skipped its second edition for the same reasons.

Moscow 'thinking' of simplifying nationality process for all Ukraine: Putin

AFP ■ BEIJING

Moscow is "thinking" of making it easier for all Ukrainians to obtain Russian citizenship, President Vladimir Putin said Saturday, after it earlier moved to grant passports in the country's separatist east, causing uproar in Kiev.

"We are actually thinking about providing citizenship in a simplified order to all citizens of Ukraine, not only residents of the Lugansk and Donetsk republics," Putin told the press during his visit to Beijing, referring to the unrecognised separatist republics governed by Moscow-backed rebels.

This week Putin signed a decree allowing people living in the breakaway regions to receive a Russian passport within three months of applying for one.

The conflict between the Ukrainian Government and breakaway rebels began after Moscow annexed Kiev's Crimea peninsula in 2014. The war has claimed some 13,000 lives.

The latest declaration sparked more condemnation in Kiev.

"Russia wants further escalation and chaos in Ukraine and therefore continues to complicate the rules of the game," Dmytro Kuleba, Kiev's permanent representative to the Council of Europe, wrote on Twitter.

Putin's decree came just days after Ukraine elected comedian Volodymyr Zelensky as president. The actor, due to be inaugurated by early June, called for more international sanctions against Russia in response.

"This is another clear confirmation for the world of Russia's real role as an aggressor state, waging war against Ukraine," his press service said in a statement this week.

Zelensky — a political novice — has pledged to "reboot" peace talks with the separatists that also involve Russia and the West.

Putin has not congratulated Zelensky on his election win but said he is ready to talk with

a new Ukrainian leadership.

On Saturday, he said he wanted to "understand" Zelensky's position on the conflict.

The Russian leader said Moscow will meet all "social responsibilities to our new citizens of Russia."

After they receive a Russian passport, residents of eastern Ukraine will be eligible for "social payments, pensions and their increase, everything will be fulfilled," he said.

Such payments would not strain the Russian budget, he added, saying it is "theoretically possible" for residents in the separatist territories to receive both a Russian and Ukrainian pension.

"These people still live under bullets and have shells explode sometimes in their gardens," Putin said.

The EU condemned Moscow's passport scheme, calling it a fresh assault on Ukraine's sovereignty and saying Russia sought to "destabilise" Ukraine after its presidential election.

Police: 3 children shot as Oklahoma police fire at suspect

AP ■ HUGO (OKLAHOMA)

Three children were wounded in a police shooting Friday in Oklahoma when an officer fired at a man in a truck who was suspected of robbing a restaurant earlier in the month, according to state investigators.

Brook Arbeitman, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, said gunfire broke out when detectives with the Hugo Police Department in southeastern Oklahoma were trying to approach the suspect, 21-year-old William Devaughn Smith. She said Smith is suspected in an April 11 armed robbery at a Pizza Hut in Hugo, which is near the Texas state line.

The three injured children and a fourth child were all in the truck with Smith, Arbeitman said. The bureau initially said two children were shot but later learned a third

child was also struck. Officials did not immediately release the names, ages or conditions of the children.

Smith was treated and released at a hospital in Paris, Texas, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Hugo.

Paris Police Chief Bob Hundle said he did not know the details of what happened in Hugo but that his officers took Smith into custody so that he could be booked at the Lamar County, Texas, jail on a warrant for aggravated robbery.

What prompted the shooting is unclear, Arbeitman said. She said investigators weren't sure if Smith fired at police. It wasn't immediately clear if he was armed.

A post on the Hugo police Facebook page says that on the day of the Pizza Hut robbery, a man entered the back entrance of the restaurant, pressed an object to the back of an employee and demanded money.

Pak suspends polio drive after security threats to workers

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government has suspended the anti-polio drive and post-campaign evaluation following the increasing number of attacks on polio workers in different parts of the country.

The countrywide campaign to administer anti-polio drops to 39 million children under five years of age was launched on Monday and Friday was the last day following which the evaluation of the drive was to take place.

However, the campaign, involving 260,000 polio workers, ran into trouble after reports that several children were taken to hospital as they fell sick after being administered the anti-polio vaccine in some areas of Peshawar.

Following the reports, unidentified gunmen shot dead security personnel escorting a team of polio workers in different incidents in northwest Pakistan.

In another incident, a female polio worker was killed

and another injured in Chaman area in Balochistan.

Baber bin Atta, focal person to PM Imran Khan on polio eradication, clarified that the vaccine was safe and anti-polio elements were spreading rumours on social media to scare parents.

The National Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) for polio issued a letter asking all the provinces to stop the campaign and prevent further damage.

"The uncertain and threatening situation for the front line polio workers has emerged and we need to save the programme from a further major damage," said the letter issued by the EOC.

Pakistan is one of the three countries where polio is still endemic. The campaign aimed to provide anti-polio medicine to children in all four provinces as well as Pakistan occupied Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

For the first time in the history of Pakistan, the government has suspended the post-

campaign evaluation, called Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS).

The LQAS is used by the World Health Organisation as new sampling methodology to document status of anti-polio coverage and areas of weak coverage with statistical reliability.

The EOC in a separate letter addressed to all the provinces conveyed apprehension about increasing attacks on polio workers, directing them to suspend LQAS activities, the Dawn reported.

"It has been decided by the National EOC that no post campaign evaluation (LQAS) will be conducted anywhere in the country," the letter said.

It further stated that it has been unanimously decided by the national technical team and Global Polio Eradication Initiative (SPEI) partners to call off the catch-up activities of April National Immunisation Day campaign across the country with immediate effect, the report said.

IED blast kills 3 security personnel in Pakistan

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

The death toll in the IED blast at a check post in northwest Pakistan on Saturday rose to three after one of the two injured security personnel succumbed to his injuries in a hospital, sources said.

The explosives, which were planted close to the check post in Sheva tehsil of North

Aaziristan District bordering Afghanistan, went off when the levies personnel reported for duty, eye witnesses said.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister K P K Mehmud Khan strongly condemned the blast, saying that the resolve of the government against terrorism can not be suppressed through such acts of cowardice.

Heavy rain lashes Mozambique after Cyclone Kenneth; 5 dead

AP ■ PEMBA (MOZAMBIQUE)

Heavy rains lashed northern Mozambique on Saturday in the wake of Cyclone Kenneth as aid groups warned of possible flooding and mudslides in the days ahead.

At least five people were killed, the government said. Mozambique's disaster authorities said one person was killed in Pemba city and another in hard-hit Macomia district, while residents on Ibo island said two people died there. Details on the fifth death were not immediately available.

Nearly 3,500 homes in parts of northernmost Cabo Delgado province were partially or fully destroyed, with electricity cut and at least one key bridge collapsed.

The entire area is a scene of vast destruction," Daw Mohamed, humanitarian director with the aid group CARE, said in a statement after assessing Maconia district on Saturday morning. People need shelter, food and water, he said.

Cyclone Kenneth arrived late Thursday, just six weeks after Cyclone Idai ripped into central Mozambique and killed more than 600 people. This was the first time in recorded his-

tory that the southern African nation has been hit by two cyclones in one season, again raising concerns about climate change.

Kenneth, packing the power of a Category 4 hurricane, tore into a region that had never seen such a fierce storm during the age of satellite observation. Its remnants could dump twice as much rain as Idai did last month, the UN World Program has said.

Aid groups warned that flooding remained a danger after Kenneth, just as flooding caused most of the deaths after Idai. Some forecasts warned of

as much as 250 millimeters (9 inches) of torrential rain, or about a quarter of the average annual rainfall for the region.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported heavy damage to Cabo Delgado province, with the communities of Macomia, Quissanga and Mocimboa da Praia of highest concern.

Communications remained challenging in some areas as authorities and aid groups scrambled to assess the damage, especially in more far-flung communities in the largely rural region.

RTCL LIMITED
CIN No.: L16003UP1994PLC016225
Regd. Office: Mandhana Bithoor Road, Village Choudharipur, Bithoor, Kanpur- 209201
Corporate Office: 69/26, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007
Website: www.rtclimited.in E-mail: rgc.secretarial@gmail.com

NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, 30th May, 2019 at 03:30 P.M. inter-alia to consider and take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the year ended 31st March, 2019.

This Information is also available on the Company's website at www.rtclimited.in and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com.

Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed from Monday 01st April, 2019 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges.

For RTCL Limited
Sd/-
(Vishal Saxena)
Company Secretary

Place: Delhi
Date: 26.04.2019

LEADERBOARD

RUNS	611	David Warner (SRH)
WICKETS	23	Kagiso Rabada (DC)
6S	568	IT TAKES A MAMMOTH EFFORT TO LIFT THE TEAM WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR BEST PLAYERS UNAVAILABLE
4S	1262	— STEPHEN FLEMING



ଲୋକସଭା ଓ ବିଧାନସଭା ସବୁଠି ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ଜନମତ । ସବୁଠି ନବୀନ ସବୁଠି 'ଶଙ୍ଖ'

ବିଜୁ ଜନତା ଦଳ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କ ବଳ

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

RASHID'S LATE CAMEO LIFTS SUNRISERS

Khan adds 18 runs in the final over to help SRH post 160-8 after middle order collapse

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Manish Pandey hit a quick half-century before Sunrisers Hyderabad witnessed a middle-order collapse to be restricted to 160 for eight against Rajasthan Royals here on Saturday.

Sent into bat, Sunrisers got off to a good start even after the early dismissal of skipper Kane Williamson (13) with David Warner and Manish Pandey sharing 75 runs off just 50 balls for the second wicket before losing the plot after the halfway stage.

Nicely placed 103 for one after 12 overs, Sunrisers lost their



next seven wickets for just 44 runs before Rashid Khan (17 not out off 8) played a short cameo towards the end to take the visitors to the 160-run mark.

Sunrisers lost Williamson early, cleaned up by Shreyas Gopal (2/30) with a googly in the fourth over.

Warner and Pandey then joined hands and played aggressively to stabilise the Sunrisers innings.

While Pandey was the aggressor of the two, Warner played the second fiddle.

Pandey reached his fifty in 27 balls with the help of eight fours but just when the partnership was looking threatening, a brilliant catch by Rajasthan skipper Steve Smith sent Warner packing.

Warner backed away a long way and tried to slap an Oshane

Thomas (2/28) short delivery over extra cover but didn't time the shot perfectly and Smith ran back and dived full length to his right to hold on to a beautiful catch.

Warner's innings was a struggle as he scored 37 off 32 balls but failed to hit a single boundary.

Pandey continued his aggressive instinct and lofted Gopal over extra cover for an exquisite boundary. But the leg-spinner hand the last laugh as he dismissed Pandey in the very next ball, brilliantly caught by Sanju Samson as Sunrisers slumped to 121 for three after 15 overs.

Pandey made a fine 61 off 36 balls with the help of nine boundaries.

Vijay Shankar (8) too perished cheaply, caught by Jaydev Unadkat off Varun Aaron (2/36) in the next over as the batsman went for a big shot.

Wickets kept on tumbling for Sunrisers after a fine first wicket stand between Warner and Pandey. The next to depart was Deepak Hooda for a duck caught one-handed off his own bowling by Unadkat (2/26) in the next over.

But Rashid took the onus on himself and garnered 18 runs off Aaron's final over to take Sunrisers to a respectable total.

DC EYE PLAYOFF BERTH AGAINST KOHLI AT KOTLA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rishabh Pant and his ways, unconventional to the core and which have fuelled Delhi Capitals' rare title charge, will on Sunday confront Virat Kohli and, ironically, in a city where he learned the ABC of cricket.

There has been no looking back since Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore arrested a long losing streak on April 19 in Kolkata.

RCB will enter the Feroz Shah Kotla, a very familiar place for their captain Kohli, on the back of a three-match winning run. But the visitors will still have to play out of their skins to stop Ricky Ponting and Sourav Ganguly's rampaging outfit.

A win will ensure that Delhi, who are currently in the third spot behind Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians, reach the cut-off limit of 16 points needed for a playoff berth.

Delhi's performance at home has been woeful but

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2

DC VS RCB

NEW DELHI

SUNDAY | 4:00 PM

HEAD TO HEAD

M 22

DC 7

RCB 14

opens Prithvi Shaw and Shikhar Dhawan laid the foundation with a 72-run stand which was followed by a blistering unbeaten 73-run knock by young Pant.

With Dhawan and Shaw at the top and the likes of Iyer, Pant and Colin Ingram to follow, Delhi would start as a confident batting unit.

In the bowling department, Delhi rely heavily on Kagiso Rabada although they have variety in medium pacer Ishant Sharma, seamer Chris Morris and spinners Sandeep Lamichhane, Amit Mishra and Axar Patel.

For RCB, the likes of AB de Villiers, Kohli and Marcus Stoinis will look to capitalise on Delhi's inconsistent record at home.

However, their bowling remains a worry. RCB were dealt a huge blow when newly recruited Dale Steyn, who was brought in to replace the injured Nathan Coulter Nile, was ruled out of the IPL due to shoulder inflammation.

IPL play-offs likely to have 7.30 PM start

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The timings of IPL play-offs beginning May 7 are likely to be preponed by 30 minutes to ensure matches don't stretch past midnight, as seen in a few games this season.

"We have spoken to the broadcasters and most likely, the play-offs will have a 7.30 PM start instead of 8 PM," a BCCI official said after a COA meeting on Saturday.

Games going beyond midnight has attracted criticism from fans while experts like former England captain Michael Vaughan have slammed over rate of teams in the competition.

Four captains including Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane Ravichandran Ashwin and Virat Kohli have been fined ₹ 12 lakh each for maintaining a slow over rate.

In the 2018 edition, the play-offs had a 7 PM start.

Qualifier 1 of IPL 2019 will be played in Chennai on May 7, Eliminator and Qualifier 2 in Vizag on May 8 and 10 while the final will be held in Hyderabad on May 12.

Match After MI test for KKR

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Mumbai Indians will look to seal a playoff berth when they face an out-of-sorts Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens on Sunday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma roared back to form with his first half-century of the season as Mumbai Indians crushed MS Dhoni-less Chennai Super Kings by 46 runs, their biggest defeat at home on Saturday.

One win away from assuring their last-four berth, Mumbai Indians will look forward to take on their 'bunny' Kolkata Knight Riders — against whom they have an eight-match winning streak in a 18-5 head-to-head record. The last time KKR had won against MI was four years ago.

With three matches left in the league stage, the two teams clash for the first time this season on Sunday, with the return leg slated for May 5.

KKR are in the midst of a six-match losing streak and seemed to have lost the plot completely.

Karthik led from the front with a career-best 97 not out to set a challenging 176 target for Rajasthan Royals in the last match as they looked to snap their losing streak but their pacers came a cropper and the visitors secured a thrilling three-wicket win.

Starting at elimination, KKR would hope for their batting and bowling to click as a unit with just three matches to go.

At the moment nothing is going in favour of the Shah Rukh Khan-owned franchise, something that reminds of their disastrous show in 2009 when the team had lost nine in a row, in a 10-match winless run.

This will be KKR's last home match of the season and the team will look to win it for the fans who have come in huge numbers and packed the stadium in every match.

Mumbai Indians, on the other hand, will look at captain Rohit to give them a flying start.

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2

KKR VS MI

KOLKATA

SUNDAY | 8:00 PM

HEAD TO HEAD

M 23

KKR 5

MI 18



Russell hungry to smash sixes in WC

PTI ■ KOLKATA

High on his rampaging form in the IPL, West Indies hard-hitting batsman Andre Russell on Saturday said he is "hungry to smash sixes" in the upcoming World Cup, beginning May 30 in UK.

Russell, who last played an ODI in July 2018, has been named in West Indies' 15-man preliminary squad and he is looking forward to continue his IPL form at the mega-event.

He has score 406 runs in 10 innings at a startling strike rate of 209.27 for the Kolkata Knight Riders in the ongoing IPL.

"I'm so hungry to represent the West Indies and to smash sixes. I want to do what I've been doing here and score hundreds," the KKR star player, who averages 28 in 52 ODIs and has taken 65 wickets said.

Russell last featured in an ODI for the West Indies nearly a year ago during Bangladesh's three-match tour of the Caribbean. He played just one game before pulling out of the series with a knee injury.

Russell however said he was not surprised at his selection.

"I wasn't surprised to be a part of the World Cup squad. I've been doing well. I've been back and forth with the selectors and coaches back home.

"I wasn't really focusing on the World Cup. I was just focusing on KKR, making sure that I did my best here."



Top two shuttlers clash for Asia title

AFF ■ SHANGHAI

The two best badminton players in the world will battle it out in Sunday's final of the Asia Championships when titleholder Kento Momota faces Shi Yuqi.

The women's decider in the Chinese city of Wuhan is another Japan versus China showdown with Akane Yamaguchi taking on He Bingjiao.

The men's clash is a repeat of last year's World Championships final, when Japan's top-ranked Momota defeated Shi.

World number one Momota eased through his semi-final with a comprehensive 21-18, 21-8 victory over Vietnam's unseeded veteran Nguyen Tien Minh on Saturday.

Shi, China's world number two, saw off Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen 22-20, 21-18 in the men's other semi-final.

In the women's draw, Japan's third-seeded Akane Yamaguchi stunned top seed Chen Yufei 15-21, 21-16, 21-17 to book her place against Chen's fellow Chinese He.

The fifth-seeded He won her all-Chinese semi-final against unseeded Cai Yanyan 8-21, 21-12, 21-17.



GURPREET, SUNIL SETTLE FOR SILVER

PTI ■ XI'AN

India's Gurpreet Singh and Sunil Kumar settled for a Silver medal each in their respective Greco-Roman categories at the Asian Wrestling Championships here on Saturday.

On the penultimate day of the competition, India's Greco-Roman wrestlers have already done better than the last edition, where they had won a couple of Bronze medals through Rajender Kumar (55kg) and Harpreet Singh (82kg).

While Gurpreet and Sunil finished on second position, Prem missed out on a Bronze medal on the fifth day of the tournament.

Gurpreet had to be satisfied with a Silver after being handed a 0-8 defeat by Hyeonwoo Kim of Korea in the final of 77kg category.

In 87kg, Sunil Kumar stormed into the final after prevailing over Azamat Kustubayev of Kazakhstan 6-6 in a victory by fall verdict in his semifinal bout.

But just like Gurpreet, Sunil too failed to clinch the top spot as he went down in the title clash to Iran's Hossein Ahmad Nouri, the reigning Asian Games Gold medallist.

"I wish I were a little bit more aggressive. That could have changed the colour of the medal. I will strive to train harder and do



Abhishek Verma shoots Gold, secures Olympic quota

PTI ■ BEIJING

Leading the final from beginning to end, Abhishek Verma secured India's fifth Olympic quota place in shooting, winning the 10m air pistol Gold medal at the ISSF World Cup here on Saturday.

Shooting in his maiden International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup final, the lawyer-turned-shooter led the field throughout the men's 10m air pistol event to clinch the top spot with a total score of 242.7.

Russia's Artem Chernousov took Silver with a total of 240.4 points in the eight-man final. Korea's Seungwoo Han finished with a Bronze after shooting 220.0 in the final.

The Indians have sealed five quota places for the Tokyo Olympics so far with young Saurabh Chaudhary clinching one in 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi earlier this year. With this, India have clinched both

better in the upcoming tournaments," said Sunil after the final.

Prem, who was another Indian wrestler in contention for a medal after he made it to the Bronze-medal play-off in the 130kg class, could not finish on the podium.

He lost to Kazakhstan's Damir Kuzembayev by fall in a third-fourth place fight.

The Greco-Roman wrestling will continue on the final day of this tournament with Gyanender (60kg), Ravinder (67kg), Yogesh (72kg), Harpreet Singh (82kg) and Hardeep Singh (97kg) vying for top honours.



medallist and world number two Artem Chernousov of Russia as well as experienced campaigners and multiple ISSF medallists like Oleh Omelchuk of Ukraine and Uleh Dikec of Turkey among others.

Verma, however, remained unfazed and pulled off a comfortable victory in the end.

In the day's other events, Manu Bhaker was the best-placed Indian shooter after the precision stage of the women's 25m pistol qualifications round. She shot 291 to be four points behind the leader in 14th spot while Asian Games champion Ravi Sarnobat's effort of 288 put her in 29th place. Chinki Yadav shot 284 to lie in 57th spot.

All three Indians in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event also comfortably sailed through their elimination round and will shoot the qualifying round on Sunday, which is also the concluding day of competitions.

On Friday, Rajasthan's 17-year-old teenager Divyansh Singh Panwar on Friday secured India's fourth Olympic quota place by winning silver in 10m air rifle event.

agenda

the pioneer

There's nobody on this earth who can tell you that what you're feeling is wrong. They can tell you it's different to what they're feeling — Zoe Saldana



FROM THE INSIDE

Attaining true human unity

When we see the light of God in every human being, we truly realise unity. It then becomes easy for us to love all

2



4

Fighting our own demons

Unless we make an effort to correct ourself from the base level, our habit tendencies may spring up repeatedly

Had the DMK leader Muthuvel Karunanidhi been more broadminded, GK Moopnar, the founder of the Tamil Maanila Congress, would have been the Prime Minister of India in 1996, with the latter being the clear choice of all major Opposition parties, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

How a Tamil failed to become PM

The Tamils are known for their passion towards everything that is Dravidian, a term inculcated in them by the British, the colonial masters of modern India. Much has been written about Dravidian nationalism and politics by historians, especially Indologists. The concept of Tamil as a different and distinct entity was brought into the subcontinent by Robert Caldwell, an Irish evangelist who came to India in 1838 as a missionary. Caldwell was intelligent enough to understand that he could proselytise the Hindus only through Tamil, the native language. He learnt the local language and propagated the message that Tamil was not a part of the Indian system of languages that included Hindi and Sanskrit.

A missionary proposing a thesis, which was given instant approval by the then British Government, facilitated in convincing the gullible population that they were Dravidians, who were driven away from the fertile Gangetic plain by the Aryan invaders from the West. Though it was proved by genetic scientists, molecular biologists, and literary figures through scientific research that the Aryan-Dravidian division was bunkum and there was no scientific basis for the Aryan invasion theory, the Dravidian fanatics refused to see the writing on the wall and still go by their belief that they are Dravidians and do not have anything to do with the great Indian culture. They described the scientific investigation carried out by the international team of researchers drawn out from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, and the Estonian Biocentre in Tartu, Estonia, as a handiwork of the Sangh Parivar! This intransigent attitude among the Dravidian politicians has cost the Tamils big.

The selfishness of a Dravidian politician from the State cost Tamil Nadu a Prime Minister. Had the DMK leader Muthuvel Karunanidhi been more broadminded, GK Moopnar — the founder of the Tamil Maanila Congress (a breakaway faction of the Congress) — would have been the Prime Minister of India in 1996. Moopnar, a landlord from Thanjavur, was a close confidante of late K Kamaraj, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu as well as the president of the Indian National Congress. Like his mentor, Moopnar preferred to be a kingmaker than a king.

The 1996 General Elections ended in a split verdict with no political formation getting absolute majority. The

Tamil Maanila Congress-DMK-CPI alliance had swept the 39 seats in the State, obliterating the AIADMK. Interestingly, the Tamil Maanila Congress was formed by Moopnar by revolting against the then Congress president PV Narasimha Rao over the latter's decision to forge an alliance with the AIADMK for the 1996 elections. Voters in Tamil Nadu were upset over the influence wielded by the 'Mannargudi mafia' led by VK Sasikala, Jayalalithaa's aide, at Veda Nilayam in Chennai. The Sasikala family, which included her nephew TTV Dhinakaran, had become a law unto themselves and the level of corruption reached sky high.

Despite Moopnar's word of caution, Narasimha Rao chose to go with Jayalalithaa's AIADMK in the General Elections and thus the rebellion in the Congress. The people of Tamil Nadu had been disenchanted as well as fed up with Karunanidhi because of the massive corrupt practices under his regime, and hence voted for MG Ramachandran in 1977. When MGR died in 1987, Karunanidhi was elected because there was no other option before the electorate. But the DMK Government led by Karunanidhi was dismissed by the Centre in 1991 because of the free run enjoyed by the LTTE in the State.

When Moopnar formed the Tamil Maanila Congress, Karunanidhi did not waste a second and forged an alliance with the new political outfit. People in Tamil Nadu had respect for Moopnar despite his image as a benevolent landlord and a man who enjoyed all good things in life. It was Moopnar's public image and the push given by film actor Rajinikanth that led to the obliteration of the AIADMK in the 1996 Assembly Elections. The AIADMK could win just four seats, with Jayalalithaa getting defeated from the Bargur constituency.

Sources close to Moopnar said Cho Ramaswamy, Tamil Nadu's greatest political commentator and thinker, had suggested the former not to align with Karunanidhi and asked him to contest independently in the next elections. But Moopnar, who was bowled over by Karunanidhi, joined the DMK camp. While the DMK romped home with 173 seats, the Tamil Maanila Congress won nine of the 41 it had contested. In the Lok Sabha Elections, that were held simultaneously, the DMK-led front won all 39 seats from the State. The Tamil Maanila Congress walked away with the 20 seats it had contested, while the DMK won all 17 from where it had



IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY, MATTERS OF DISCRETION, IK GUJRAL WROTE ABOUT HOW KARUNANIDHI, WITH THE HELP OF HIS NEPHEW MURASOLI MARAN, THE THEN INDUSTRIES MINISTER, PERSUADED LALU PRASAD YADAV TO BACK HIM (GUJRAL) FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PM

fielded the party candidates.

"Moopnar was the real hero of that election," reminisces S Rameshan, the then Chennai bureau chief of the United News of India. With no party getting absolute majority at the Centre, efforts were on to find a suitable candidate for the Prime Minister's post. The first name that cropped up was that of Jyoti Basu, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal. Though Basu's name was accepted by all major political outfits in the Opposition as well as the Congress, his own partymen, particularly Prakash Karat, got the proposal spiked. Basu said later that the decision of the CPI(M) not to accept the proposal was a "Himalayan blunder". Later events proved that the veteran Marxist was on the dot. Harkishan Singh Surjeet — the then CPI(M) boss, who was behind the 'Basu for Prime Minister' campaign — was disappointed and suggested Moopnar's name for the top job.

"Moopnar's name was acceptable to all major parties in the Opposition, except to Karunanidhi. Even 10, Janpath Road, had expressed happiness over his name because of his close ties with the Nehru-Gandhi clan. But Karunanidhi remained non-committal as well as incommunicado throughout the time when Moopnar's name was under consideration," said N Kalyanasundaram, chronicler of Tamil Nadu politics.

Rameshan said there was anticipation in Tamil Nadu's political circles about the possibility of Moopnar becoming the first Tamil to get the top chair in the country. "We do not know what happened in Delhi, the centre of all political drama. When I spoke to him over the phone, Moopnar assured me that he would call me first to tell me the news. But the phone call did not materialise. When I asked him later about it, he just smiled and changed the topic," said Rameshan.

A close aide of Moopnar, who was a prominent Congress leader, also substantiated what Kalyanasundaram said. The latter was seen in Tamil Nadu as the conscience keeper of Moopnar. Another Congress heavyweight, who is contesting this election as a party candidate, also said it was Karunanidhi's indifference that cost Moopnar the top job. The Congress leader told *The Pioneer* that while Moopnar's name was being discussed, Karunanidhi was lobbying with Chandrababu Naidu for pushing HD Deve Gowda (who did not figure in the discussion) as the Prime Minister. "Even P Chidambaram changed tact and started lobbying for Gowda's name," he said.

Moopnar's name was proposed again after the fall of Deve Gowda. At that time also, Karunanidhi played a strange game of indifference and this resulted in Moopnar losing it to make it to the then 7, Race Course Road residence of the Indian Prime Minister.

Interestingly, IK Gujral, who succeeded Gowda as the Prime Minister on April 21, 1997, wrote in his autobiography, *Matters of Discretion*, about a meeting he had with Chidambaram on April 17. "I asked him (Chidambaram) if Moopnar was an aspirant for the Prime Minister's office. Here I suspect that Chidambaram was not so candid. He told me that he had talked to Moopnar, but being a cautious person, he did not really make any clear statement."

Gujral also wrote that in spite of losing the vote of confidence in Parliament on April 11, 1997, Gowda tried in vain to regain the prime ministership by ensuring discord among "high-profile individuals such as Ram Vilas Paswan, SR Bommai, and Sharad Yadav". He also wrote about how Karunanidhi, with the help of his nephew Murasoli Maran, the then Industries Minister, persuaded Lalul Prasad Yadav to back him (Gujral) for the office of the PM. "This proves that Karunanidhi had played spoilsport on both the occasions (prior to the election of Gowda as well as after his fall) to derail Moopnar's dreams," said the senior Congress leader.

Moopnar's friendship with Karunanidhi did not last long afterwards. "He was disappointed but did not show it in the open. Though the DMK-Tamil Maanila Congress alliance continued in the 1998 election, the fire in Moopnar was missing. Since then, he kept away from Karunanidhi and the DMK," said Moopnar's aide.

Gujral said the relationship between Chidambaram and Moopnar was no longer close or intimate. "The growing rift between the two leaders had been brought to my notice the previous day by Jayanthi Natarajan, a former Congresswoman, who too had joined the TMC," wrote Gujral. Gujral listed a lot of details in his memoir, which substantiate the charges made by MGR and Jayalalithaa that the grand old man of Tamil Nadu was cunningly corrupt. "We had appointed M Kalaivanam, an IAS officer, as the Chairman of the Chennai Port Trust purely on the basis of merit. On November 7, Karunanidhi sent his Law Minister Aladi Aruna to meet me, ostensibly to ensure the enforcement of the Supreme Court award regarding the

Kaveri river water dispute (basically between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka). But the real motive was to seek a change in appointment of the Chennai Port Trust Chairman. I explained to Aruna that it would be highly embarrassing for the Government to revise such an order within a matter of days... Karunanidhi, to my surprise, then approached Chandrababu Naidu to persuade me to change my decision," Gujral wrote in his book.

The same day saw Karunanidhi issuing a press statement threatening that the DMK would withdraw its ministers from the United Front Government. "The reasons given pertained to the Central Government's handling of the Kaveri river dispute and a vague charge that the Centre is unhelpful. Jayanthi Natarajan (Minister of State for Civil Aviation) felt that the Chennai Port Trust had a lot of patronage, both financial and political, and Karunanidhi wanted to keep it under his control," Gujral further stated.

Tamil Nadu is agog with news of the shipping and logistics companies owned by one of the many wives of Karunanidhi. There was nothing surprising in his fight with the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2004 for the Ministry of Shipping and Surface Transport, which was initially allocated to K Chandrasekhar Rao. Maybe because Rao had no ships of his own, the Telangana strongman was willing to settle for the Labour Ministry and did not utter a single word against the move to shift the Shipping Ministry to TR Baalu, a Karunanidhi supporter.

The DMK wants the Centre to bestow the nation's top civilian award, Bharat Ratna, to Karunanidhi. The powers that be may just glance across *Matters of Discretion* before taking a decision. What happened later was interesting. Moopnar joined hands with Jayalalithaa for the 2001 Assembly Elections while Chidambaram floated the Congress Jananayaga Peravai and fought as part of the NDA! The AIADMK-Tamil Maanila Congress alliance swept the election. Moopnar, too, had his own problems. His name was dragged into the Indian Bank scam in which one of his confidantes played a major role. The man is reported to have swindled the bank to thousands of crores of rupees because he was holding the portfolio of finance, which upset the patron of arts from Thanjavur. Moopnar, whose health deteriorated since he was cold-shouldered by Karunanidhi in 1996, did not live for long. He breathed his last on August 31, 2001, at the age of 70, as the unsung hero of Tamil Nadu politics.

HOW TO ATTAIN HUMAN UNITY

When we see the light of God in every being, we truly realise unity. It then becomes easy for us to love everyone because we see our own self in each being, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH

Many noble-hearted souls have been calling for human unity. This trend has gained momentum over the past few decades. Yet, despite the popular growth in movements for unity, we still find conflict and discord in the world. Speeches and conferences are motivated by high ideals. They inspire the participants to turn their attention to the goal of oneness. But unity comes about only at the personal level, when each one experiences it for one's self. When we merge in God and see the light of God in every being, we have truly realised unity. It then becomes easy for us to love all, because we see our own self in each being. If we truly wish to achieve human oneness, we must first experience it ourselves. Just imagine what a beautiful world we would have if every person saw God's light in every other form of creation. We could then exclaim as Sant Darshan Singh did in one of his exquisite verses: "I have learned to cherish all creation as my own; your message of love is the very meaning of my life."

There would be an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. Gentleness would flow from our lips. Tenderness would exude from our actions. Sweetness would pour from our eyes. All who came within our ambit would feel serenity and joy. If anyone has been lucky enough to have spent some time in the company of great spiritual teachers, he or she would have felt a tremendous love and peace in their company. Any time we go to spiritual adepts with a troubled heart, we feel that our pain has been relieved and our burdens lifted. They speak to us lovingly, they embrace us affectionately, and they care for us from the depths of their heart and soul. The world and its troubles disappear when we are in their presence. We feel as if we are living in moments of eternity. Time stands still, and our difficulties vanish. This is the result of being in the company of someone who has merged with God and who loves all creation as if they were a part of one large family. What they have attained is possible for each of us to attain. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we felt this love and harmony radiating from everyone we met?

The world was meant to be a garden of Eden and a haven of bliss. To attain such a paradise on earth, each of us has to make a contribution. Peace and unity begin within each one of us. We cannot expect others to radiate harmony and oneness if we ourselves are not prepared to see their fruition in our own lives. Each of us must do our own small part to bring about the fulfillment of this noble dream. We can attain this condition by the process of meditation that leads to self-knowledge and God-realisation.

When we begin to have love for all, a transformation occurs within us. Our whole behaviour towards others changes. We become non-violent in all our dealings. We begin to have understanding and compassion towards the idiosyncrasies and habits of others. We stop criticising people in our minds. First, we realise that they are bound by the shrouds of ignorance and illusion of this world. We know that deep within them is the soul, a part of God, that it is only their mind and their state of spiritual ignorance that causes them to behave the way they do. Secondly, we are so steeped in God's love and the bliss which permeates us that we do not want to be distracted from that rapturous state by petty thoughts of others. We are so far removed from the trifles that people become involved in that we do not recognise them.

Criticising others in our thoughts only pulls us away from the state of happiness that union with God brings. Since our thoughts



WHEN UNITY IS ATTAINED, THE DIVISIONS THAT SEPARATE HUMAN BEINGS FROM ONE ANOTHER WILL FALL AWAY. AS SANT DARSHAN SINGH SAID: 'YOUR TIPLERS ARE DIVIDED BY TEMPLE AND MOSQUE; REMOVE THE BARRIERS THAT SEPARATE THEM, CUPBEARER'

will be filled with divine love of God, our words will become sweet and loving. We will not say anything unkind to anyone. People who come within our sphere will find only words of love and kindness. Even if some short word escapes our lips accidentally, we will feel the pain we cause someone else and will immediately apologise and set the relationship right. We will become sensitive to the hearts of others and will wish them no harm. Finally, we will never do anything to physically harm anyone. We will not become violent with anyone. We will even have regard for the life of animals. This is why people who are serious about treading the path God-wards become vegetarians. They do not wish to take the life of any other creature, because they see God's light shining within all creation.

When this unity is attained, the divisions that separate human beings from one another will fall away. As Sant Darshan Singh once prayed in a verse: "Your tiplers are divided by temple and mosque; remove the barriers that separate them, Cupbearer."

Whether we pray in a temple or a mosque, we will all realise that each person, irrespective of the religion into which he or she was born, is praying to one God. We will recognise

that God is one, whether he is called God, Allah, Jehovah, Wahiguru, Parmatma, the Oversoul, the creative power of the universe, or by any other name. We will see unity in the diversity of life. It will not matter to us whether someone is Hindu or Muslim, Sikh or Jain, Christian or Jewish, Buddhist or Parsi. We will recognise God's light in each being, whether their outer skin is black, white, or tan. We will know that God resides in every person, whether born in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, North America, or South America. We will realise that the same light of God is in each of them. We will appreciate the differences caused by tradition and cultures, but realise there is unity in all living beings.

Peace and unity are assured when we achieve the union of our soul with God. If we feel that this is a goal we would like to accomplish in the remaining years of our life, there is a way to make it a reality. We owe our gratitude to the great spiritual teachers who have given us the tools and technique to reach this goal. Let us take advantage of the golden opportunity, for we will not only be helping our own selves and our loved ones, but we will transform the world into one of peace and unity.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDENSOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

RETIRED HURT



Retired hurt is a popular expression that is used in cricket to describe the predicament of a batsman, who while batting gets injured in the process and has to leave the field not to return. When his score card is read, it is mentioned against his name: 'Retired hurt', while against other batsman, it says how they got out. In politics, however, it can have different connotations, largely explaining the agony of not getting a party nomination to fight elections. We are witnessing plenty of such instances these days where persons ranging from septuagenarians to nonagenarians are being shown the door from parties they considered their own. It is only natural that they would feel hurt, more so when they think they must be around till eternity. This brings us to another question: Should not the politicians think they need to retire after having played a long innings? Cricketers like Sachin Tendulkar, the God of cricket in India, decided to hang up his boots when most of his admirers thought he still had plenty of cricket left in him. And, mind you, he had a huge fan following. That is what legendary cricketers from Sunil Gavaskar to Steve Waugh and many others have done. Hang up their boots voluntarily before one is made to do so unceremoniously. However, this is not to suggest that whatever happened was right, particularly the way it was done. But there is a basic philosophical issue involved which our ancient Indian thought explained rather succinctly. It is said that there are four stages in life based on age. These are called the four *ashrams*, which are Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, and Sanyas — meaning the student life, family life, retired life, and renunciation, respectively. How well these stages fit into the cases being discussed here may not be easy to evaluate, but their implications are rather clear. That one must on his own volition think of calling it a day before it is too late. There are valid reasons for this. The first being that no one is going to be around for all times to come and it is better if this realisation sets in at the right time, rather than being forced to experience it. The Pauranic story of King Yayati, who desired everlasting youth, is a case in point. He longed for it, got it also by the wish of God. But he later realised that there is no end to this longing, this lust for pleasure and power. One must understand this reality. The other reason is that what will happen to this world if everyone craves for such desires and also gets them? Will it not lead to utter chaos? Moreover, what about the next generation? Is it not the duty of the previous generation to move out of the way of the future generations on their own, lest they are pushed by the wayside? Why do people go wrong in assessing when it's time to say goodbye to your profession and let others take on the mantle? A big question that can only be answered by reflection. Looking inwards to realise that this world is a temporary abode where people come and go. Everything has a life that comes to an end. More importantly, this world also has a life. So live till you live, but let others live too. The golden rule is retire gracefully or else you get retired hurt.

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In the verse #18.65 of the *Gita*, Lord Krishna states, "Develop my consciousness, become my devotee, make sacrifice for me, and offer obeisance to me." It may appear to a casual reader that God is imposing Himself on us. Earlier in the verse #18.62, Lord Krishna had stated, "In all respects take shelter of Him (meaning Himself) only." Is God really forcing us to accept Him? No, God will never do that. Remember that we have free will to desire and decide. This is intrinsic to all souls, which we all are, being parts of God. Therefore, in the verse #18.63, Lord Krishna had told Arjuna, "This knowledge (of the *Gita*) — the secret of all secrets has been told by me for you. After reflecting on it holistically, do the way as you wish."

To understand God's motive, we must go to the second part of the verses 18.62 and 18.65. In the verse #18.62, God promises, "By His mercy, you will achieve supreme peace and the eternal abode." Similarly, in the verse #18.65, Lord Krishna states, "You will attain me only. This I truly promise to you, because you are dear to me." We have to focus on the second part of the verses to understand God's motive in whatever He has stated.

Is God forcing us to accept him?

There is no compulsion whatsoever; we have to decide for ourselves. If we do decide the way Arjuna did, there will be many gains for us, such as supreme peace, Vaikuntha, and God Himself, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

He asks us to take His shelter because by doing so, there will be many gains for us, which are extraordinary like supreme peace, Vaikuntha and God Himself. God is making such offers because all of us are dear to Him.

To bring further clarity to the matter, let me refer you to the verse # 5.29 in which Lord Krishna declares Himself to be the friend of all living entities. Again, in the verse #9.29, Lord Krishna has stated, "I am similarly inclined towards all beings. However, those who worship me with devotion are entitled for superior gains."

Does it appear unfair? Let me tell a story of an employee of a large company. He was one of many in his department. However, what made him special was the extreme care with which he did everything. He did his work just as



an owner of the company would do, ie treating the company as his own, though he was only an employee. He had a deep desire to excel and climb up the corporate ladder. He was simply not interested in doing the minimum required of him. Sure enough, he was noticed by the management of the company. He was promoted several times over the years. Such promotions gave him many benefits, both pecuniary and status-wise.

Though the simile is not exact but the message is clear, ie if you do something out of ordinary, you will benefit by that. There are two levels in the God's system, which has been put in place. Those who do not wish to follow God's instructions are dealt with strictly according to the *karmaphala* principle, ie what you reap you sow. God's position is somewhat similar to that of

an owner of a business. All employees have been assigned certain duties, and they are supposed to fulfill them. The owner cannot force them to do something extra. For that they have to agree. That is exactly God's position also. If you voluntarily decide to follow His instructions, there will be many gains, as mentioned earlier, which otherwise are not available.

The cosmic design is perfect. We have many options to choose from. However, most people choose to live very ordinary lives. They limit themselves to the basics of eating, sleeping, mating, and defending, which is animal-like existence, though in human bodies. God expects us to take advantage of our human births and apply ourselves for higher gains. As God has clarified in the verse #18.63, there is no compulsion whatsoever; we have to decide. And if we do decide the way Arjuna did (18.73), we will benefit in all sorts of ways. Yes, God is much pleased if someone seeks higher gains and is ready to apply himself. After all, God is the real father, mother to us. Our relationship with God is one of love; there is no place for compulsion.

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Mourners gather for funeral prayers for fighters killed by warplanes of Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter's forces on April 24 in Tripoli

AP

Libya crisis: Game of brinkmanship

The American U-turn — Donald Trump terming General Haftar's role as significant in fighting terrorism and securing Libya's oil resources — has surprised the global community. The EU leaders still hope that the US will reconsider Trump's surprise expression of support to Haftar

Libya has witnessed eight years of chaos and disaster since the arrival of the Arab Spring and the assassination of its longest serving ruler Muammar Gaddafi on October 20, 2011, during the Battle of Sirte by rebels.

Since then the situation in the country has deteriorated heralding internecine battle for control of power with different warring factions raising their heads from time to time. Over the years the situation has been such that today no one knows who is fighting, shattering peace and tranquility of the country.

According to Libyan observers, it is sheer greed for power that is driving rival groups, goons and mercenaries to kill their own people. It is fast becoming a graveyard of empires.

The crux of the Libyan quagmire is that there is absence of a centralised authority that can have command and control over the entire country. Today the main fight is between the Government led by Field Marshal Khalifa Belqasim Haftar based in central and eastern Libya, spear-headed by his Libyan National Army (LNA), and the Government of National Accord (GNA), an interim Government for Libya, headed by Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj, constituted under the terms of the Libya Political Agreement, a UN initiative signed on December 17, 2017.

On April 4, when UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres landed in Tripoli to take part in a peace conference that would have finally made the groundwork for much delayed elections in the war-torn country, the city witnessed devastating attacks by General Haftar.

The latest round of crisis that just started is centred around General Haftar's sud-

den offensive to occupy Tripoli and to dethrone the UN-backed Government of Sarraj.

However, Libya analysts and global peace coordinators have commented that Haftar's timing of the assault is not only defeating his purpose, but has boomeranged. It is not the right moment to showcase his strength in front of the UN Secretary General. Because of massive bombings and ground fight by General Haftar's LNA, Guterres had to cancel the conference.

Meanwhile, the 55-member African Union Congress (AUC) has just convened an emergency summit in Egypt to address the current situations in both Sudan and Libya.

The current chair of the African Union, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the President of Egypt, who hosted the conference, asked the leaders to develop a coherent regional response to the crisis in Libya, warning against a slide into chaos. The African Union's Libya "troika", which includes Egypt, Rwanda and South Africa, urged all parties to act with restraint and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid.

When Haftar's LNA started the combat mission in the beginning of this month, the American official position was that it is opposed to the military offensive of the warlord. US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo asked Haftar's forces to return to status quo ante positions. Thus officially, the US, along with Italy and Britain, has had a very clear position: There is no military solution possible in Libya, and a UN-backed negotiations process should begin to end the impasse.

But what has surprised the international community is that a few days later Trump personally spoke to Haftar and reversed America's stand. He praised Haftar's significant role

in fighting terrorism and securing Libya's oil resources.

This has widely confused and divided the policy makers across party lines in the US. Besides, the EU leaders are still hoping that Trump's surprise expression of support can be reconsidered.

The UN and Britain have seen Haftar as an immediate aggressor in the Libyan conflict. His sudden attack on the UN-backed Government in Tripoli is not widely appreciated as it has led to the death of more than 300 people so far and dashed all the hopes of a fresh solution in Libya.

As smoke and dust plumes covers the capital city of Tripoli, one can imagine how badly the dogfight has begun among the rival groups.

The way ahead for Libya is to settle for a unity Government based at Tripoli. But much before this, majority of the rebel groups need to be tackled. Equally important is to neutralise jihadis, else chances are they will keep on appearing on Libya scene to disrupt peace.

These terror elements will help escalate the crisis as their strongholds are fast disappearing across the war zones mainly in Syria and Iraq. Already, both Yemen and Libya are sheltering them and offering them adequate spaces to operate and destabilise any peace efforts undertaken by international agencies as well as by their backers in the region and abroad. Henceforth, to help Libya limp back to peace and tranquillity, the regional powers, the global players and all international organisations must strive first to install an all-comprehensive federal Government in Tripoli and empower it to fight the jihadis in all pockets.

Precisely, Haftar needs to cooperate with his rebels, including the Tripoli-based

Government and make his regional allies understand that peace is possible only through the UN. He should not expose his weakness and power greed to an extent so as to make himself a nincompoop in one of the worst hit North African nation wherein he has demonstrated a bit of stability in large swathes of areas.

However, he should not forget that most of his allies in Libya are all waiting for their pound of flesh, instead of supporting him for future stability of the country.

What has encouraged Haftar is his seizure of the large parts of South Libya early this year. The Southerners gave a warm welcome to the LNA as they were tired of ethnic rife, constant tribal warfare and emerging threats from the militants of neighbouring Chad and Sudan. Thus they thought the arrival of Haftar would give them peace and stability.

But grabbing the entire West would not be easy for Haftar like it was for the South. The militias belonging to Misrata have vowed to prevent any advance of the LNA. Even the Misratans had the record of ousting the ISIS from their region in 2016. Around the same time, Haftar worked months to align with the disgruntled people who have long been frustrated with the Tripoli-based Government.

However, it may not be easy for him to convince them to overthrow the UN-backed Government overnight.

In fact, his last hope is the ultra-conservative Madkhalis, who are now aligned with the Tripoli Government. He recently met King Salman of Saudi Arabia, who has a soft corner for the Madkhalis based in his country. With this, Haftar must have developed an understanding that the same Madkhalis in Tripoli may come out in full support of his LNA.

Finally, Haftar faces an imminent danger of losing acquired territories in the East as he has deployed his entire LNA in battling the West.

Today, while looking at the political vulnerability of North Africa, particularly Sudan where people have overthrown nearly three decades of Omar al-Bashir's rule, political optimists in Libya should be extremely cautious as it has multiple factions fighting for power. Broadly, crisis in Sudan simply shows that commoners are angry, frustrated and disillusioned with the power elites. But the pertinent question here is: Can there be a guarantee of political stability immediately after the exit of a long serving autocrat who has hardly left behind a successor? Thus, Sudan heads for a political vacuum and leaves behind large space for the old cronies of Bashir. This smacks danger both for the civil society and for the incoming rulers who have just taken over to prevent chaos in the country.

Compared to Sudan, Libya is entirely a different political ball game. But then as both nations are contiguous, chances are that trouble in one country might spill into the other.

It is the historic Arab Spring that has brought people to the heart of political discourse in larger parts of West Asia and North Africa where in mostly autocrats or family dynasties rule for decades.

Common people have felt empowered and a sense of change has swept through all these nations. It is indeed all about the strong influence of information and communication technology that has made the Arab Spring possible, and ignited the Arab youth, the "centre of change" in the backyards of their age-old dictatorial regimes.

Though the signs of change has started to appear vivid, the



MAKHAN SAIKIA

Arab Spring has failed to bring "revolution" in true sense of the term anywhere.

Such historic upheavals can rightly be recounted through what Noam Chomsky conveyed in these words, "In the entry on propaganda in the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences in 1933, Harold Lasswell explained that we must not succumb to democratic dogmatism about men being the best judges of their own interests."

But then, people must ensure that decisions are taken by farsighted leaders on their behalf. What worries the global community is that in Sudan, people have taken law and order into their hands after suffering decades under the Bashir regime. And in Libya, sadly, there is acute shortage of farsighted leaders who could be trusted by the people.

It is complicating the game in Libya and pushing once-a-very-stable country into nowhere. Haftar, a general who is fast ageing (now 75 years), must realise how long he could hold on to the opportunists who are now with him for vested interests.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

PERSPECTIVE

Sudanese bent on civilian rule

The Sudanese Professionals Association, which led months of protests that eventually forced Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir — one of Africa's longest-ruling leaders — from power says its revolution is far from over. The umbrella group of unions succeeded where war and sanctions failed — in ending President Omar al-Bashir's three-decade rule. This week the protesters scored another victory by forcing three figures seen as too close to the ousted regime to resign from the military council that assumed power after overthrowing al-Bashir on April 11.

On April 27, the organisers of the protests met with the ruling military council for talks on forming a transitional government.

The protesters had agreed to resume talks with the military on Wednesday, after a temporary break.

The protesters fear the Army, dominated by al-Bashir appointees, will cling to power or select one of its own to succeed him. They also fear Islamists and other factions close to the deposed leader, who is now jailed in the capital, Khartoum, will be granted a role in the transition.

The Sudanese Professionals Association is demanding a civilian government. They have proposed that a sovereign council, which would include "limited" Army representation, hand over full

powers to civilians during a four-year transitional period.

Army leaders have called for a two-year transition during which the generals would retain sovereign power and give only executive authorities to civilians.

The military also agreed on Wednesday to recognise the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change, a coalition of Opposition groups led by the Sudanese Professionals Association, as the uprising's only legitimate representative, in a move widely seen as a victory for the protesters.

The council has met with a wide range of political parties about the transition, including those formerly close to al-Bashir. Shams al-Deen al-Kabashi, the spokesman for the council, said late Friday that it had completed a review of proposals. He didn't elaborate.

The Opposition has meanwhile vowed to continue protests, centered on a sit-in outside the military headquarters in Khartoum.

The Umma party of former Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi, a leading Opposition figure, said the protesters will not break up the sit-in until a full transfer of power to civilians.

The Sudanese Professionals Association says around 100 people were killed by security forces since December, when a failing economy and a spike in the prices sparked protests. AP



Sudanese protesters rally in the capital Khartoum on April 26

AP



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you need to pay close attention to your emotions. Better not to avoid any decision related to your health, like getting a test done or surgery. Seek opinions to get key information that you need in moving ahead with decision-making. Make sure you have positive thinking and balanced behaviour. Work wise, things will go well. Chances of promotion are indicated. Don't hesitate to negotiate for what you are worth. Use your abilities to harness your thoughts and conquering your fears for everyone's good. Those looking for a new job may find one. With regard to love life, you are aware of the existing issues. And the best part is you are not letting it disturb your relation. In case it does, make changes to sort out differences. It is a good time to start a new relationship.
Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week your health will be overshadowed by worry, anxiety, and stress. Even a minor health challenge will make you feel low. Your psychological state is bothering you; you need to stop worrying about the future and think what needs to be done now. Draw upon your inner strength to maintain your flexibility. On the career front, things will be going good for you. This is the time when issues related to your interaction with others will come to an end. A certain compromise will create a harmonious environment. With regard to your love life, this week, you will be inspired and motivated about your relationship with your partner. Those who are single, the start of a new love relationship is indicated. Make yourself available for love, whichever way possible.
Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 19

You will enjoy good health this week. In case you are facing any health issues, be caring and loving towards your body. Women with strong feminine energy — may be your wife, mother, or friend — will help you heal. Maintain a positive attitude and trust the universe's healing energy. Even if you are healthy, continue to take care of yourself. This is a crucial period on the career front. You will be excited about taking up a new project. This will maximise your potential in the long term. Those looking for a new position, be assured it will be yours. Your romantic life is likely to go well. It is time to embrace change and take a long-term view of your future. It is recommended that you have a conversation with your partner. Singles should take some time out for their personal life.
Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Sunday



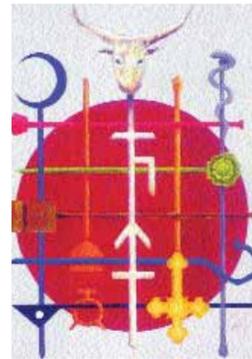
TAURUS April 20-May 20

Being in control of your emotions will be beneficial. It is crucial that you treat your body with care and compassion. If you face any health issues, consult a doctor and trust them completely. An older male who could be your doctor, father or a relative will help you deal with health matters or motivate you to follow a fitness plan. You should have the determination to achieve your goals. Others may try to limit your capabilities, but you will overcome any opposition. Some of you will undertake a new project. Those looking for jobs may face competition. Those in a relationship, do not hesitate to speak your mind to your partner; this will help you in strengthening your relationship. Those who are having issues must stand firm on their ground as there can be no compromise.
Lucky number 10
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You will have an inflexible approach toward health matters. View your method of dealing with health issues because chances are you are resistant to changing your ways for the better. All is well on the work front. Opportunities will be coming your way. Throughout the week, you will be full of inspiration, but you need to work as well to get the result. Forget the failures in the past; look ahead for a promising and bright future. Those looking for employment are likely to get the desired position. On the relationship front, those who are committed will find a deeper spiritual meaning with their partner. Those who are single should first consider where you are going before starting a new relationship. You should be careful as you have the tendency to become carefree; this will put you in an adverse situation.
Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will receive good news related to your health and will feel extremely well at this time. If you were suffering from an illness, you are likely to recover soon. You will feel optimistic about your future. On the career front, things are not that great. You need to stay calm and reassess your situation and what you are expecting from your job. Chances are that you might achieve your goal. Still, you should consult a trusted friend or a career counsellor, as it will help you get a new perspective on your current situation. Love life seems to be confusing as you are questioning whether or not to stay in the relationship. The decision will affect your present and your future. Singles, this may not be a good time to get into a relationship.
Lucky number 24
Lucky colour Parrot green
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

You will have all the positive energy to take good care of yourself and elevate your health. You should be open to new ideas for growth and development. Try to get a fresh perspective on life and be open to any kind of healing. At work, a situation may arise when you are about to complete a project/task, but at the last moment, you face a setback. Trust yourself, as you have the inner resources to overcome difficulties. Your hidden enemies will oppose you, therefore, be strong. If you are thinking about whether you will be removed from a project or your job, then you need to expect the worst. It is an apt time to renew your love life. Express yourself to your partner and see how it strengthens your relationship. Singles, before you enter a new relationship, be sure of what you want and proceed.
Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You will be disciplined when it comes to health. You are likely to have self-control in managing your health. Those who are suffering from an ailment, plan a health regime which suits your body. You are going to have full control over your emotional energies, so enjoy this time. On the career front, you will trust yourself and your abilities. Those who are unhappy with their current position can expect a bright future as new opportunities are likely to come your way. Those seeking jobs may find one. In romance, you are likely to face some challenges. You should convey your feelings to your partner and if possible, spend some time apart. When difficult times are over, you can make the important decision of whether to continue or not. This decision will affect your future as well. Singles should not rush into a relationship.
Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Health-wise, your biggest payoff lies in routine. You need to follow the basic health regime to get your health right. Make slow and steady progress. You have to take up responsibility and take charge of a situation. You have it in you to be thorough and deal with issues successfully. You may face a dilemma at work or in your workplace, which demands action or decision. Before you go ahead with your decision, analyse all available information as it is of great importance. Your own value system may be challenged. If that is the case, stay true to yourself. You may need to choose right looking upon long-term benefits. With regard to your love life, this is a good time. Those who are committed will move to the next level. You are likely to have a peaceful love life. Overall, you will be content and so will be others around you.
Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you will experience an upswing in terms of your health. With positive health comes happiness in other aspects of life as well. You will realise that you have come a full circle, whether it is in career or relationships. To continue this feeling, contribute to the world with what you have now. Things are not that perfect at your workplace. Practise active listening to ensure that you and your co-workers know each other perfectly. Some of you may feel disconnected as you are unsure of your destination. You need to let go of your mental blocks or negativity. Be calm and let your inner voice guide you. You are at that point of time in your relationship where you need to decide whether or not to stay with your beloved or move on. The decision will surely affect your future.
Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will have quite a strong vitality this week. Advancing the level of your fitness regime will fetch you great results. You will be able to tackle any health issue that arises at this time and mental energies are in control. Career-wise, you will be able to achieve quite a lot in a short time. Even in the time of difficulties, you will be active and sustain your creative vision. You will be focussed on your goals while being friendly to those around you. Ensure that you don't burn yourself with your over-ambitious attitude. A female will be helpful in your current situation at work. Relationship wise, it is time for you to keep your balance. Pay attention to your ideas and your partner's as well. This approach will put you in harmony with your partner. Singles may find someone special.
Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Off-white
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you are likely to neglect your physical as well as emotional health. It is highly recommended to change this pattern and think about healthy lifestyle options. It is important to take rest and regain your physical, mental, and spiritual energies. You need to become negative, which you need to get over to deal with health challenges. This week, your work-related goals or a certain project will be accomplished. With this, you will be weighed down by the responsibilities that come with it. To ease down, you can delegate the work and apply some time management ideas and take time out for some relaxation. This week is an excellent time for love. You are about to enter a loving phase. Those who are committed will find their relationship go to higher levels. Singles, this is the time to go out and mingle.
Lucky number 25
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Tuesday

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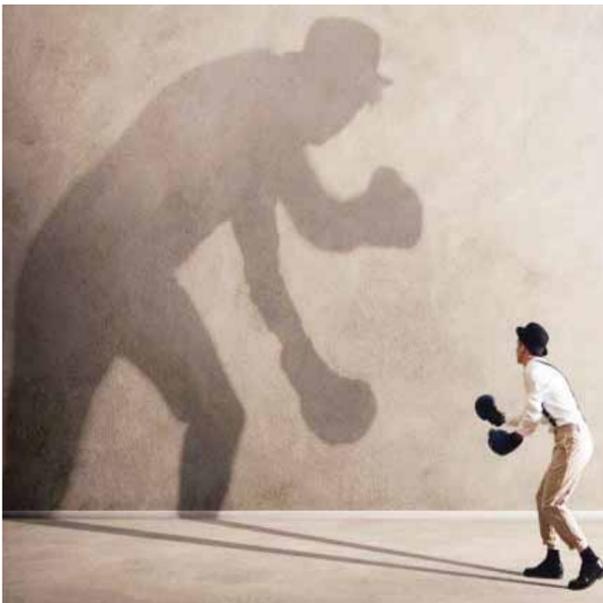


ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Habit tendencies may cost us dear

Picking up threads from the previous issue, it comes out that the young man had the tendency to conduct in 'my way or the highway' spirit. With the Sun placed adverse to Saturn, he carried a strong sense of insecurity. That made him habitually doubt elders' intent. He was witness to his father being often roughed up by his grandfather. Those unpalatable memories impacted his mind and psyche badly, which brought in a sense of fear that he may have to go through similar experiences at the hands of his father. So, unmindfully, they often get into conflicting situations. Even more so because, caught up in his delusory perception, coming as it may with the Sun opposite mischievous Neptune, he is not open to explore others' point of view, no matter how sensible they be. Unless you look at a view point with an open mind, how would you weigh its worth? In fact, he can't digest even experiential advisories, if that would be at variance with his own perception. That didn't let him relate well with his parents. The young man didn't realise that the world doesn't necessary move to

one's asking. Even to fulfil aspirational urges, one needs to work in a team spirit with those around. You can't elicit their support without caring for their sensibilities and concerns. Unconditional parental patronage too would require due respect from the children, particularly when you are grown up. Remember, how you relate to the self and those around will define the quality of life you become due for. The person didn't open up during his first few meetings. Having heard about me from someone who benefited through my advice and counsel, he sought my guidance, but with a suspicious mind. He came looking for the prospects of a long-drawn legal dispute he was faced with. In fact, it was almost a lost case. After astrological reading, he was told that after two years, things may turn to his advantage when he may have negotiated settlement at his terms. As luck would have had it, unexpectedly, it so happened, which made him develop faith in me. Thereafter, he shared his concerns. First, he was shown his mirror image — indwelling potential as well as inherent habit tendencies. He listened



very carefully and therefore, the advisories got registered well in his mind, which selectively he could, as benevolent Jupiter extended its aspect on mind-signifying Moon. He was then counselled on how to improve his relationship. He was also given a meditation process to resolve and get over negative implications of unwanted thought-seeds parked in the inner realms of his mind. He followed the advice in right earnest and sincerely pursued the process suggested. Over a period of time, with little flip flops in between, he could mend fences with his parents. I don't know whether his concern for securing parental legacy made it all the more important to follow the instructions in all seriousness, or that he really wished to improve himself, only time ahead may show. Not much later, his habit tendencies were once again in full play at a place he could call shots in his own right. His egotistical control-freak nature literally made his associates crazy, leaving no scope for looking for a middle ground. He wanted things done at his own exclusive terms. He forgot that life can't be conducted just in a demanding mode. Others' concerns too need to be taken care of. The workforce, seeing no

hope for improvement, lost interest and the work came to a grinding halt. In the process, the person's huge sum of money got stuck, but then his habit tendencies made him do that. He, thus, became a victim of his own making. He is worried how to secure his investment. After spoiling the whole game plan, he is now trying to work out ways and means to ensure recovery of his money, even partly, over a period of time. Not to justify the other side, the situation could have been handled better to the satisfaction of all. Together, they could have made the project a great success within no time, evidently to the benefit of all. To sum up, unless a person makes a wilful effort to correct oneself from the base level, habit tendencies may spring into action again and again. Remember, the effort is not intended to just checkmate fault lines; it may rather help coming out with your best. Following which, you may not have to face similar music ever. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025. Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273. Email: pioneerqueries@bharatastro.com Website: www.bharatastro.com