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Patnaik to probe SC 'fixer' claims

Panel to look into 'conspiracy against CJI' charge only, not into sexual harassment allegation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered a probe headed by former SC judge Justice AK Patnaik into allegations made by advocate Utsav Bains that there is a "corporate" conspiracy to frame the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi on charges of sexual misconduct.

A Bench of Justices Arun Misra, RF Nariman and Deepak Gupta also directed Delhi Police, CBI and Intelligence Bureau to cooperate with Justice Patnaik in the probe. On the completion of inquiry, Justice (Retd) Patnaik will file a report in a sealed cover before the court after which the matter will be heard again.

Justice Patnaik was earlier appointed by SC to probe the allegations against former CBI Director Alok Verma.

Anguished over "systematic attack" to malign the judiciary, the Supreme Court said that time has come to send a message to the country that the top court was "not vulnerable" and nobody can "remote control" it either by money or political power. The top court, warned that if such attempts were not stopped the institution "will die".

During the course of the hearing, advocate Utsav Bains, who made the claim about a conspiracy to frame Justice Gogoi, filed an additional affidavit in a sealed cover in the court in support of his claims.

The court - while examining an affidavit by lawyer Utsav Bains - noted that the allegations of "Bench fixing are so serious that it requires investigation".

SC also noted that the probe committee will not go into the issue of sexual harassment allegations against the CJI and the outcome of the Justice Patnaik probe will not affect the in-house inquiry.

Meanwhile, Justice NV Ramana, part of 3-member in-house inquiry panel set up to examine the allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, recused himself from it on Thursday.

The development comes a day after the former apex court woman employee, who levelled the allegations against the CJI, wrote a letter to the panel expressing reservation over the inclusion of Justice Ramana.

Observing that the apex court cannot be run by money or political power, a three-judge special Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said that the day has come for them to rise and tell the country's rich and powerful that they are "playing with fire".

"Do not think that the Supreme Court can be remote controlled by anything on the earth, whether money power or political power," the Bench said. "We are anguished with the way this institution is being treated in the last three-four years and we must say that it will die and it will not survive if this will happen. There is systematic attack, systematic game to malign this great institution," the court said.

The Bench said letters were being written and books were being printed in matters pending in the court and this practice has to be stopped.

"Do the rich and powerful of this country think that they can remote control the Supreme Court," the Bench said.

The hard hitting observations by the Bench came after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said there should be a probe by a special investigation team (SIT) on the allegations levelled by advocate Utsav Singh Bains in his affidavit as he has claimed a larger conspiracy which concerns the administration of justice.

"You (Mehta) are provoking us to speak. We are not inclined to say but now listen. So many things are going on. There are serious allegations that need to be probed. The Supreme Court cannot be run by money power or political power," Justice Mishra said.

"It is an institution of you people and not ours. Judges come and go but if these things will happen then it (institution) will die and it will not survive," the Bench said.

During the hearing on Thursday, the Bench said, "We cannot mention several things. People are trying to manage the court registry by money power. When somebody tries to improve things, he is killed and maligned? We have come to this extent of blackmailing."

Charge against CJI: Justice Indu Malhotra in as Justice Ramana recuses from panel

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Indu Malhotra was on Thursday appointed as a new member of the in-house enquiry panel set up to examine the allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, following the recusal of Justice NV Ramana.

Justice SA Bobde, who is heading the panel and is the senior-most judge after the CJI, has appointed Justice Malhotra to the committee.

Justice Indira Banerjee is also part of the panel.

"I have been given the power to constitute or re-constitute the panel and conduct the inquiry... I have inducted a new member and this will be sent to the full court for approval... We are going to have our first sitting as scheduled on Friday," Justice Bobde told *PTI*.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the crowd during a road show in Varanasi on Thursday PTI

Varanasi echoes with Modi during roadshow

DEPAK K UPRETI ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a massive 7-km roadshow in Varanasi, touching all ancient ghats which have presence of different communities settled from across the country for centuries. Ahead of filing his nomination papers on Friday, the PM sought a second term for himself as party painted the ancient city saffron.

Modi commenced his roadshow by first garlanding the statue of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) founder Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and then proceeded in an open vehicle with thousands of supporters lined-up on both sides raining flower petals on him.

Clad in a saffron kurta, Modi, in a repeat of 2014 roadshow, greeted people with folded hands and incessant waving.

Modi's roadshow meandered through localities like Lanka, Assi Ghat, Sonarpur, Narad Ghat, Madanpura, Gadoliya and concluded at Dashaswamegh Ghat where he performed the famous Ganga Aarti amid sound of "Shankhs" and "Ghantis".

Madanpura is largely a Muslim populated part of the city where the Prime Minister passed through in the evening.

Modi, who will file his nomination papers on Friday at about 11.30 am in the presence of NDA alliance partners, including Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena chief Udhav Thackeray and former Punjab CM Prakash Singh Badal, was accompanied by UP CM Yogi Adityanath, Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Sushma Swaraj, and JP Nadda during the roadshow.

Amid loud shouts of "Modi, Modi", the Prime Minister's cavalcade slowed-down at many places with the PM acknowledging people waving at him from rooftops.

Boats in the Ganga were lighted with Modi's cut-out and display of "Mai Bhi Chowkidar" and BJP's symbol lotus.

CAPSULE

NEED TO BOLSTER 'TECH ASYMMETRY, SAYS IAF

New Delhi: If the Indian Air Force possessed high levels of "technological asymmetry", then it would have been able to inflict heavy damage on Pakistan during the adversary's unsuccessful aerial raid on February 27, according to an IAF report. In the report, the IAF said there was a need for India to bolster its "technological asymmetry" for aerial combat.

AAP manifesto promises full Statehood for national Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With full Statehood as the main poll plank, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday launched its manifesto for general election. With the status, the Delhi Government "will have control over land, law and order, police and control over officials and decision-making," AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said while launching the manefesto.

The manifesto covered a range of issues in 12 areas of education, health, women safety, police reforms, zero corruption, jobs, land and housing, protection from sealing, cleanliness, pollution, transport, and Yamuna rejuvenation.

It also explained how all the other national Capitals have power over local police, appointment and transfer of officials, land and city planning, housing, traffic and transport planning and control over local bodies while Delhi has none of it.

Continued on Page 4

Arsenal storage tunnels to secure regions along China

Indian Army ropes in NHPC to build caverns along LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to boost its defences in the region facing China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Army in collaboration with the public sector National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) will build tunnels or concrete caverns to store ammunition.

Huge bunkers will ensure that the ammunition cannot be destroyed by artillery fire or aerial bombing besides ensuring smooth supply of bombs and bullets to the troops without any hindrance.

The pilot project costing about ₹15 crore for four tunnels has to be completed within two years after the Army and the NHPC signed a MOU here on Thursday. Three of the four tunnels will be built in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh facing China while the fourth will come up in the mountain region of Jammu division.

Each ammunition bunker has the capacity to store more than 200 metric tonnes of ammunition and will also be safe from the vagaries of weather including ammunition getting damaged due to dampness.

Explaining the significance of the project, officials said China already has built similar storage tunnels in the Tibet region. While India also has similar underground caverns in the plain regions of the country, this pilot project, if successful, will pave the way for constructing similar dumps in the inaccessible mountain regions facing China, they said.

Once the project meets all the requirements of the Army, more such storage facilities may come up in Ladakh which has a long border with China besides some sensitive places in Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand and the north-eastern States, they said.

The Army had earlier tried to build such caverns in the mountains of Sikkim but it proved to be expensive and issues like dampness and seepage hampered the project.

Continued on Page 4

Maruti to pull plug on diesel cars from April next year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Thursday announced that it will stop sales of all diesel-engined cars from April 1, 2020. This is the day that Bharat Stage 6 (BS6) emission norms come into force in India and no old Bharat Stage 4 diesel engined vehicles will be allowed to be registered.

"The Supreme Court has made it clear that it will not allow the sale and registration of any BS4 from April 1, 2020", MSI chairman RC Bhargava said explaining the decision.

Some of the company's models like Vitara Brezza and S-Cross currently come with a diesel engine option only.

During the carmakers annual results conference on Thursday, Bhargava said making existing diesel engines BS6 compatible was not technically possible and also the cost of a BS6 diesel option on smaller cars would add at least ₹1 lakh to the existing cost of a diesel car.

Detailed report on P10

Cong ends suspense around Priyanka, picks Ajay Rai against Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kishan, a popular Bhojpuri film star.

Speculation on Priyanka making her electoral debut from Varanasi had been rife for the past few weeks and was fuelled after Congress president Rahul Gandhi, to a question on whether he planned to field his sister against PM Modi, said last week, "I will leave you in suspense. Suspense is not always a bad thing."

Congress on Thursday fielded old-hand Ajay Rai from Varanasi to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ending speculation of a possible electoral duel between Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the PM.

The suspense finally ended with the party nominating Rai, who unsuccessfully contested against Modi in 2014 and finished third after the BJP leader and AAP's Arvind Kejriwal. In 2014, Modi won by a margin of over three lakh votes against Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal.

While Modi got over 5,81,000 votes, Rai managed about 75,000 votes.

The party also fielded Madhusudan Tiwari from Gorakhpur against BJP's Ravi

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Samajwadi Party candidate from Kannauj Dimple Yadav seeks blessings of BSP chief Mayawati during an election campaign rally in Kannauj on Thursday PTI

Suspension of IAS officer who checked PM's copter stayed

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) here on Thursday stayed the order of the Election Commission suspending IAS officer Mohammed Mohsin for checking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's helicopter in Odisha.

The officer from Karnataka cadre, deployed in Odisha as a general observer, was suspended on April 17 for checking Modi's helicopter in Sambalpur in violation of norms for dealing with SPG protectees.

The CAT noted that there was a circular regarding the SPG protectees that they are exempted from certain examinations on certain grounds.

IGIA vigilant to wildlife illegal trade

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to create awareness against wildlife crime, WWF — TRAFFIC (India) has put on display Snow Leopard Panthera uncial, Greater One-Horned Rhino Rhinoceros unicornis; pangolins; Asian Elephant Elephas maximus; and Don't Buy Trouble (which lists prohibited wildlife species for possession or trade in India) at the Customs checkpoint in Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International airport (IGIA) in Delhi.

Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO of WWF-India, said, "Lack of awareness is one of the biggest hurdles in efforts to curtail wildlife trafficking in the air transport sector. These displays will help raise awareness and sensitise both travelers and airport staff about wildlife trafficking."

To educate air travelers on

wildlife crime -poaching and illegal trade, The Indian Customs Department; TRAFFIC and WWF-India are reaching out to travelers passing through IGIA which is considered the busiest airport in the world.

Dr Amandeep Singh, Additional Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, IGI Airport, Terminal-3, Delhi, said, "Illegal wildlife trade has grown to become a very serious crime globally. Here at customs, we recognise this threat to our country's biodiversity and have therefore undertaken this awareness initiative to help enlighten travelers as well as customs officials about the species impacted by illegal wildlife trade. Customs is fully behind the efforts to control wildlife crime in the country."

At a time, when consumer demand for wildlife products is a leading threat facing many wildlife species traffickers rely on existing transport links to smuggle illegal wildlife products to consumers across the world.

Continued on Page 4

Cash seizure: STF grills 4 accused

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Special Task Force (STF) took the four accused including one Congress leader and three suspended policemen on police remand from Thursday morning for interrogation in the case of money being seized from a builder on the grounds of enforcing model code of conduct. As per the sources the investigating officer Kailash Panwar went to District Jail Suddhowala and under his command the four accused were brought to STF premises.

The Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Prakash Chandra Arya was also present at the STF office to take the statements of the suspended policemen for a departmental inquiry.

The STF Additional Superintendent of Police, Swatantra Kumar told *The Pioneer* on Thursday, "All four accused were in the STF premises all day. The investigation is still going on."

SP, Traffic, Prakash Chandra Arya said, "We went there to take statements of the suspended policemen for a departmental inquiry as they misused the power of a government employee."

It is also worth mentioning that on April 29 the bail applications filed by the accused is to be taken up for hearing in district court. Their bail application has earlier been rejected in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate.

As per the sources, STF interrogated all four accused separately in the presence of their advocates. STF is aiming to track the bag which was seized by the policemen on the night of April 4.

It is pertinent to mention here that Congress leader Anupam Sharma, Sub Inspector Dinesh Negi, Constable Himanshu Upadhyay (driver of Garhwal Inspector General (IG) Ajay Rautela) and Manoj Adhikari were arrested by STF on the night of April 16 and were sent to 14 day judicial custody in a case which saw cash seizure by three cops from property dealer Anurodh Panwar under the pretext of checks and seizures for the enforcement of model code of conduct.

U'khand Police placed in top 10 among 24 States

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) has published Status of Policing in India Report-2018 in which Uttarakhand police has been ranked first in disposal of cases by police and courts, and favourability towards women in the police force.

In this report police forces of 24 states have been ranked on the basis of 13 points and among the 24 states Uttarakhand Police have been placed in the top 10 States in overall performance.

Director General (DG) Law and Order Ashok Kumar said, "We are happy that we are being seen as people friendly police and women officers also are accepted here equally. We are proud that Uttarakhand Police is number one in these two aspects. The areas where we are lacking, we will be working on them."

As per the report, Uttarakhand Police have been ranked first in disposal of cases by police and courts. Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh are on second and third positions respectively.

The second aspect in which Uttarakhand got the first rank is favourability towards women in police force.

Haryana and Maharashtra are on second and third positions respectively. Uttarakhand police have also been given second position for being citizen friendly.

Himachal Pradesh and Haryana are on first and third positions respectively, while Punjab has been ranked least citizen friendly among the 24 States.

In the category of violent attitude towards criminals, Uttarakhand Police has been ranked on fifth position (descending order). Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal are on first, second and third positions respectively.

The category in which states were ranked from least crime rates to maximum crime rates, Uttarakhand is on fifth position (descending order).

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jharkhand are on first, second and third positions respectively.

Uttarakhand has been ranked third on the state wise ranking of responses about satisfaction with Police help after having been contacted.

Jharkhand and Kerala are on first and second positions respectively.

70% employment to local youths, a distant dream!

RADHIKA NAGRATH ■ HARIDWAR

Year after year the youths of Haridwar have wondered before casting their vote as to when would the locals get 70 per cent reservation in jobs in industries. This question has been raised by the local youth in the terms of successive governments. Even in the legislative assembly, the same question has elicited many heated discussions and viewpoints on whether the provision made by government of employing locals to 70 per cent of their workforce is valid or not.

Since the formation of the state, the political parties have been assuring employment to atleast 70 per cent local youths in industries set up here but till today the political leaders have been unable to frame any law or policy for the same. When there is no legal framework for such provision, locals getting their share of employment in enterprises set up in estates of the State Infrastructure and Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (SIIDCUL) remains distant possibility. There is no such clause in industrial policy as well which advocates only priority to the local youth. As a result, even after a decade the industries in SIIDCUL have given employment to people from other states in much higher ratio than local youths.

In the name of employment, the local youths are given employment on contractual basis only allege the local youths. Sachin Kumar, a resident of Jwalapur said, "I have been working in powder filling and packing unit for the past eight years but still I am a casual employee and not made permanent on roll staff. Our salary is cut even for non-working Sundays. Many of my seniors who are working for lesser period but are from NCR region have been given promotions and appraisals but there is step motherly treatment with locals."

There are 600 plus industries in SIIDCUL and some in Bhagwanpur, Roorkee, Bahadrabad, Laksar and Haridwar industrial areas. When asked, the chairman of SIIDCUL manufacturers Association of Uttarakhand Harendra Garg said, "There is no such rule implemented for utilising 70 per cent workforce from local area. It was just an advisory but not mandatory. There is hardly any difference in rules applicable on staff and contractual workers. Same labour laws are applicable to both."

For contractual workers and non-technical workers, Rs 8,300 per month and the on-roll staff members up to Rs 15,000 per month is paid. Labour union leader Ashwani Kumar said, "It is totally out of question that 70 per cent reservation must be given to local youths. There is no mandate for that. The labourers have to fight for their rights on their own. The political parties only misguide on this issue."

Maurya presents Governor Awards 2018 in Raj Bhawan

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Governor Baby Rani Maurya presented the Governor Award-2018 for best researcher at Raj Bhawan on Thursday. This year, first, second and third prizes were awarded in science and technology research. Dr Anuj Nehra of UTU was awarded first prize for developing rapid HIV serum testing kit based on Graphene Oxide Polycarbonate Track. This research work also got indo-US patent. Anil Kumar of G B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology got the second prize for the research work in the Alterrnaria Blight disease in Brassica species. Komal of Doon University was awarded third prize for the research work in fuzzy lambda technique.

The Governor announced that two more awards would be added from next year for research work in social sciences and local languages. She said that quality and original research work is biggest standard of prestige of any university. Research work and studies should be done in the universities to resolve the various problems and challenges of society. Promoting the original research work and benefiting the society through research work is motive behind these awards, she said. Maurya further said that in the context of Uttarakhand State, the research work should be focused on economical development of mountainous regions, tourism, disaster management, Yoga, Ayurveda and medicinal herbs.

MeT: Sky to remain clear today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Though gusts of cool wind in Dehradun during the evening brought some relief from the soaring temperatures on Thursday, the people in the provisional state capital and elsewhere in the state might not get much relief from the heat on Friday. The State meteorological centre has forecast a mainly clear to a partly cloudy sky for the state and the city today. Dry weather is to prevail in the state. The maximum and minimum temperatures in Dehradun are expected to be about 36 degree Celsius and 20 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at various places of the state on Thursday were 37.1 degree Celsius and 20.8 degree Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 38 degree Celsius and 22.1 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 24.9 degree Celsius and 12.9 degree Celsius in Mukteshwar and 26.2-degree Celsius and 15.2 degree Celsius respectively in New Tehri.

MCD drive against unauthorised vendors

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After a considerable period of inactivity, the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun has again started a drive to remove the unauthorised vendors encroaching on roads in the provisional state capital. Earlier, during February too the MCD had undertaken a similar campaign to rid the roads of vendors encroaching on public space but the drive failed to have the desired impact.

When asked about it, the mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' said, "Yes it is true that vendors who were fined earlier went back to their place as soon as our staff left. We are unable to keep regular checks in such a big city as MCD lacks resources. However, we have decided to take the help of the police for the task. The unauthorised vendors and shopkeepers who are encroaching on roadsides and the footpath will be fined. Also, we have fewer vendors zone which will be increased after the end of the election model code of conduct."

Meanwhile, the Superintendent of Police (SP) City, Shweta Choubey and SP, Traffic, Prakash Chandra Arya met mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' on Thursday to discuss the issue. Further, a drive was held to remove encroaching vendors from various parts of the city.

MCD land department superintendent Dharmesh Painyuli said, "We have seized around 50 big small carts on the first day of the drive. Around 35 to 40 officials including police personnel participated in the drive. The main areas covered were Dharmpur, Clock Tower, EC Road and Survey Chowk. The drive will be conducted regularly in the city."

Adding further, the SP, City, Shweta Chobey said, "The drive was slow because of the election process but now as the polling is over we will be conducting it regularly. Half of the encroachments on the roads are being done by the unauthorised vendors which creates disorder and other problems on the roads."

SP, Traffic, Prakash Chandra Arya said, "We face problems due to the vendors standing in unauthorised places or on the side of the road and footpaths. Further, we will be helping MCD in this drive."

It is pertinent to mention here that though the MCD periodically undertakes drives to remove encroachments by vendors and shopkeepers, the problem has not been effectively resolved yet. Observers point out that as soon as the officials leave, the vendors return to the spots they were encroaching earlier. The officials and public representatives are also aware of this but have so far failed to take effective action due to various factors. It remains to be seen whether this time, the drive by the authorities will be able to have a lasting effect.

Nothing impossible if one aims to achieve: Lt Cdr P Swathi

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Lieutenant commander P Swathi, one of the crew members of 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' expedition which saw six women naval officers circumnavigate the globe in an Indian built sail boat said that nothing is impossible if one aims to achieve it.

Talking to The Pioneer while in Dehradun to attend a function recently she shared her experience of the voyage and other aspects. Swathi said, "We were out there at sea and none of us knew how it is going to be for all of us. We started the training and only read about the storms in books. We were told that the sea is much more challenging than it seems, but you cannot imagine how it is unless you step in. There were storms in the sea so huge that sometimes we thought that today is our last day."

She further said, "There is a saying about the ocean that once a sailor sails a boat there is no looking back. It was scary but we decided not to express it in front of the other person so that we keep the motivation up to complete the journey."

Sharing her opinion on fewer women opting for the navy she said, "This is all a mindset, there is nothing like men and women. When we started the journey the first thing we were told to follow was to leave our gender at the door of the institute. Women are active in this field and any other area which looks like a male dominated field. The only thing is the mindset that needs to be changed."

Swathi shared that she wanted to be a doctor but chose the navy as her father wanted one of his daughters to join the armed forces. "I always wanted to be a doctor as they are like god to people. However, my father wanted me to join the army. After my class X for two weeks, I sat in the biology class even after I was enrolled in the maths stream. Then my father came to know and I completed my stream with maths in class XII. Now I feel good to be a part of the navy. I think from every family one child should serve in the armed forces."For the youth she said, "It is we who are capable of supporting ourselves, there is no one else. Parents should support their children in their decisions. Also, the youth today are very dynamic and they should also remember that nothing in this world is very tough to achieve."

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The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

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1.	Mohd. Hanif/ Mohd Anees/ Manoj Kumar Arya/ LBDEH00001410193	Property No. 137, Village Sewla Kalan, Dehradun / April 23, 2019	Oct. 31, 2018 Rs. 7,76,349/-	Dehradun
2.	Joyanti Das / Sahil Das/ LBDEH00003241171	Property No. 000072, Khasra No. 118-K, First Floor, Mauza Danda Kudanewala, Pargana Parwadoon, Dehradun / April 23, 2019	Dec. 04, 2018 / Rs. 27,03,608/-	Dehradun
3.	Anita Dubey / Vinod Kumar Dubey / LBDEH00003238367 / LBDEH00002892118 / LBDEH00002892124 / LBDEH00003729310	Khasra No. 96 K, Aamwala Tarla, Pargana Parwadoon, Dehradun / April 23, 2019	February 11, 2019 / RS. 32,05,371/-	Dehradun

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HC directs petitioner to file contempt petition

Govt lethargy may cause shifting of NIT to outside State

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Pulling up the State Government for its failure to follow the previous order for identifying four potential locations for National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Uttarakhand, the High Court has directed the petitioner to file a contempt petition. The division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice Narayan Singh Dhanik observed that due to the lethargy of the State Government, this prominent institution could be shifted out of the State.

The court pulled up both the Central and State governments on this issue. Earlier, it had directed the State Government to identify four locations out of mountainous and plain regions for building the permanent campus for NIT and inform the court about these potential locations by April 24. However, the State government failed to do so within the given time frame. Hearing the public interest litigation filed against shifting of NIT from Srinagar to Rajasthan, the high court division bench expressed its dissatisfaction and remarked that the issue appeared to have been affected by politics and bureaucracy.

The petitioner in the case had earlier stated that the NIT is situated along a highway in Srinagar due to which a number of students have been involved in road accidents. The institute lacks a permanent campus due to which students registered here are studying at Jaipur in Rajasthan.

Why polluting factories not closed yet, asks HC

DIRECTS STATE TO FILE AFFIDAVIT ON WHY SUCH FACTORIES STILL OPEN AFTER BEING SERVED CLOSURE NOTICES

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The High Court has directed the State to file an affidavit in the court by Monday explaining why the factories served closure notices for causing pollution have not been closed down yet.

The counsel for the Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board (UEPPCB) presented the list of factories in the state to the division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and Narayan Singh Dhanik, informing that notices for closure had been issued to units found generating pollution.

However, the administration, police and electricity department are not cooperating to ensure this action.

Earlier, the State had informed the court that notices had been issued to about 130 polluting factories for closure. Udham Singh Nagar resident Himanshu Chandola had filed a PIL stating that there were about 28 industrial units in the area that were generating dangerous water and air pollution.

This has resulted in fatal diseases to locals and had also rendered the agricultural land unfit for farming.

However, the administration, police and electricity department are not cooperating to ensure this action

Suspended Janata Express resumes

VARIOUS TRAINS TO DOON DELAYED

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Due to the double line construction work between Lucknow and Raibareli, several trains have been arriving considerably late in Dehradun railway station. Upasana Express was seven hours late on Wednesday.

However, as Janata Express which was suspended from April 16 to 24 due to the double line construction work has resumed from Thursday, it is unlikely that the trains will be late because of construction work there anymore.

Station Superintendent of Dehradun Railway station said that two trains- Rapti-Ganga Express Gorakhpur to Dehradun and Allahabad-Dehradun Link Express were late on Thursday.

Station Superintendent Sitaram Sonkar said, "There are several reasons for a train to be late, but the double line construction work between Lucknow and Raibareli is definitely a factor. Janata Express has resumed from Thursday, so it is unlikely that the construction work there will affect train timings any more."

He further added, "Rapti Ganga Express is one and half hour late, ongoing construction work near Lucknow is one of the factors for the delay. Allahabad-Dehradun Link Express is four hours late.

Upasana Express reached seven hours late on Wednesday, because of the double line construction work it is taking a longer route to run.

Actor Anupam Kher clicks a selfie while his wife and BJP candidate Kirron Kher files nomination from Chandigarh in presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and his Haryana counterpart ML Khattar Pioneer photo

Candid Notes

By Gajendra Singh Negi

CODE CATASTROPHE

The model code of conduct (MCC) imposed in the state in view of the ongoing and long drawn out process of Parliamentary elections has given the Babudom of the state a perfect alibi for remaining motionless till May 23 when the results of elections would be declared. These days, the Babus most of whom have perfected the art of maintaining status quo while masquerading as active and concerned bureaucrats have virtually stalled the movement of files in the name of MCC. Interestingly, the officers are seen giving the excuse of model code for seemingly urgent and important works concerning the general public like mending of machines which have gone awry in the government hospitals or road repair works or trivial issues like cleaning of choked drains. One can rest assured that only a minuscule percentage of these Babus have cared to actually flip through the exhaustive MCC document printed by the election commission but when it comes to taking any action they tend to take refuge in the cosy comfort of model code of conduct.

COW CONCERN

Left abandoned by their owners, large numbers of stray animals, particularly those belonging to bovine progeny have virtually laid a siege on the roads of the provisional state capital Dehradun. The office of Municipal Corporation of Dehradun is expressing its inability to catch these animals to the concerned citizens who approach them with complaint of the menace. Their exasperation is understandable as the only shelter home at their disposal is already housing three times more animals than its capacity. The circumstances are such that the people of Dehradun are left with no choice but to bear with this nuisance of stray animals. Interestingly the loud mouthed, belligerent and self confessed saviour of cows appear to have vanished into thin air. The members of the society should find out these elements from within them and prod them to do their bit for providing shelter and feed for the revered bovine progeny forced to occupy streets of the city.

RAWAT'S RHETORIC

There seems to be a method and astute planning in the recent emotional outbursts and utterances of former Chief Minister Harish Rawat on social media platforms. The indomitable leader back in the state after gruelling election campaign in Assam took no time in responding to the ' loser' barb of Chief Minister TSR and said that he still lives in hearts and minds of people even as those who have defeated him in electoral battles have faded away from public memory. Terming electoral reverses as part and parcel of politicians, he took the BJP to task for becoming too arrogant and claimed that people would crush this arrogance soon. Harish Rawat also questioned absence of issue of two year TSR's stint in the state from the BJP's campaign strategy to hammer home the point that saffron party is solely relying on Modi magic in the elections. Those who know Rawat opine that by these statements, the wily leader has made sure to take any adverse outcome in the Nainital- Udham Singh Nagar constituency from where he is contesting in his stride. A victory would further strengthen his position within Congress and in case of defeat he would be able to divert any scrutiny by blaming Modi factor for debacle.

Cong comes in support of terminated 108 employees

Claims that new company CAMP is an NGO supported by RSS and has no experience of operating an important service like 108 emergency ambulance service

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Coming out openly in support of the employees of the 108- emergency ambulance service who have received termination notice from the operating company, the state unit of Congress party has claimed that the new company, Community Action and Motivation Programme (CAMP) which is an NGO supported by Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) has no experience of operating an important service like 108 emergency ambulance service.

The contract of GVK EMRI Company to operate 108 emergency ambulance service is ending on April 30 as the state government had recently handed over the task of operating the 108 ambulance service to CAMP. As the term of its contract is ending on April 30, the GVK- EMRI management has issued letters to the all its employees in which it is mentioned that April 30 would be their last day in service. After receiving this notice the employees of the service are on warpath.

Addressing media persons at Rajiv Bhawan, the headquarters of state unit of Congress party, the Vice President Surya Kant Dhasmana said on Thursday that the state government has recently decided to hand over the operation of the 108 ambulance service from the GVK - EMRI to the CAMPS. He said the company has zero experience of the operating emergency care and it appears that the BJP rules states are accommodating organisations with RSS ideology.

Dhasmana criticised chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat who looks after the health department for ignoring the issue of the more than 700 employees of the ambulance services who after working for more than 10 years are now asked to leave their jobs. "The CM reportedly said that these workers are not government workers so the government cannot do anything for them. I want to ask him; does he seeks votes from only government employees?" Dhasmana said that the Congress party demands that the services of all the workers who were working in the 108 ambulance service should get employment in the new company on the salaries they were receiving. He said that Congress party would hit streets to ensure that the jobs of experienced workers is saved and the 108 ambulance service operates smoothly. The Congress leader claimed that he would meet the chief secretary Utpal Kumar Singh and raise the issue with him.

Launching a scathing attack on the state government for pathetic health services, Dhasmana said that the incidences of women forced to give births on roads, toilets and hospital floor highlights the condition of health service.

Cong leaders on duty in poll bound States

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Congress MLA from Kedarnath Manoj Rawat has been appointed as the observer of Congress party for the high profile Bhopal parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

The constituency is hogging national limelight as senior Congress leader and former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, Digvijay Singh coming out the self imposed electoral sabbatical spanning for a period of ten years is locked in a tough battle against Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur of BJP.

The outspoken Sadhvi out on bail has become the new poster girl of the saffron party and with Digvijay Singh credited with coining term 'saffron terrorism', Bhopal constituency has become cynosure of all eyes.

The Kedarnath MLA would be camping in Bhopal from Friday where he would take part in election management and campaign for the official party candidate.

The outspoken Sadhvi out on bail has become the new poster girl of the saffron party and with Digvijay Singh credited with coining term 'saffron terrorism', Bhopal constituency has become cynosure of all eyes

After the end of polling in Uttarakhand where voting was held in first phase on April 11, many Congress leaders of the Uttarakhand are campaigning for party candidates in different parts of the country. The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh is campaigning in Raibareli parliamentary seat in support of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi. Similarly former PCC President, Kishore Upadhyay and senior Congress leaders Jot Singh Bisht and Rajendra Singh Bhandari are camping in Alwar. Here senior Congress leader Bhanwar Jitendra Singh is in electoral fray. Manglaur MLA, Qazi Nizamuddin who is co in charge of the party in Rajasthan, is campaigning extensively in different parts of the desert state. Deputy leader of Congress legislature party , Karan Mahra and MLAs Adesh Chauhan and Harish Dhami would be campaigning at Amethi where Congress president Rahul Gandhi is taking on a spirited challenge of Smriti Irani of BJP.

Apart from these leaders former chief minister and General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), Harish Rawat is also campaigning in different parts of the country. Rawat who is contesting from Nainital-Udhan Singh Nagar constituency against BJP State president Ajay Bhatt left for Assam immediately after end of voting in Uttarakhand. He was in party in charge of Assam which went to polls on April 23. Rawat campaigned extensively in different constituencies of Assam and is confident of good performance of party in the important north eastern state. Harish Rawat has also campaigned in Chandigarh. Here former union minister Pawan Kumar Bansal of Congress is pitted against sitting Member of Parliament Kirron Kher of BJP.

NMCG DG meets fasting ascetic

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

After receiving assurances from the director general of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Brahmachari Atmabodhanand who has been fasting for 184 days, agreed to defer by one week, the day of him giving up even water. The NMCG DG along with executive director (projects) Ashok Kumar reached Matri Sadan here on Thursday and had a detailed discussion with fasting ascetic Atmabodhanand.

He assured that NMCG directions would be implemented and the issue of hydro power projects on the Ganga would be raised with the government.

Speaking to The Pioneer, founder of Matri Sadan, Swami Shivanand said, that following the assurances received, the date of Atmabodhanand giving up water has been deferred by a week to May 2. If the assurances are not executed by then, he shall refrain from drinking water."

Notably, Atmabodhanand has been on a protest fast since October 24, 2018 and on Thursday, he entered the 184th day of his self restraint.

Mountain Terrain Biking Challenge ends

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The fourth Ultimate Himalayan Mountain Terrain Biking Challenge was won by Parviz Mardani of Iran and Lakshmi Magar of Nepal in the men's and women's categories respectively. In the Indian category, Devender of Himachal Pradesh and Poonam Rana of Uttarakhand won in the men's and women's categories respectively.

Among the international cyclists in the men's category, Kirti Sukprasarat and Parivak Tanlet- both from Thailand came second and third respectively. Among the women, Noviyana of Indonesia and Suratiya Bappa of Thailand came in second and third respectively.

Among the Indian cyclists, Kamlesh Rana of the army and Shiven from Himachal Pradesh came in second and third respectively in the men's category.

The Ultimate Himalayan Mountain Terrain Biking Challenge began from Nainital on April 18 and saw the competing cyclists cover 564 kilometres across eight districts. The participants cycled through Almora, Kausani, Rudrapayag, Tehri and Chinyalisaud before finishing the challenge at Mussoorie on Thursday morning.

The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board additional CEO C Ravishankar said that the aim is to publicise Uttarakhand across the world as a destination for adventure tourism through such activities. The State's geography is ideal for mountain biking which is why the tourism department involved international cyclists in this event.

Allahabad bank marks 155th foundation day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Allahabad Bank recently celebrated its 155th foundation day. The bank's zonal head Seema Narang presided over the programme held on the occasion at the zonal office in Dehradun.

Programmes were also held to mark the occasion in other branches of the bank. A medical camp was held at the Dehradun main branch to provide free basic health check ups to staff and customers of the bank. A blood donation camp was held at the bank's RPMC branch in which the staff and customers both donated blood. Customer meets were held in various branches of the bank in Dehradun wherein customers were informed about new loan schemes and other facilities being offered by the bank. Narang thanked the bank's customers for their continued trust in the bank.

Transport dept to learn from last year's mistakes

Various steps planned to make travelling more convenient for pilgrims

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In order to facilitate smooth transportation throughout the Char Dham Yatra season, the transport department has taken few steps to improve the facilities this year. Various measures have been planned considering the problems faced during the pilgrimage season last year. These include different dates for green card distribution to local and outside vehicles, increase in the number of technical staff and increase in the number of vehicles provided by RTO during Yatra season.

Dehradun Regional Transport Officer Dinesh Chandra Pathoi informed that transport department has taken few steps to improve transportation facilities during this yatra season. He said, "To make sure that pilgrims coming for Char Dham Yatra have affordable and comfortable journey we have taken few steps. Last year there were complaints about people not getting green card soon enough, so this year we have increased our technical staff for this purpose."

He further added, "Secondly, last year some of the local vehicle owners had complained that buses from outside were carrying local pilgrims to Char Dham which was affecting local business. Buses from outside the State not supposed to take passengers from one city to another in the same state. They are contract carriages and are only allowed to bring passengers from outside. For the strict enforcement of this rule on borders, check posts are made specifically so that the passenger list can be verified.

They will also be provided with a hologram that they have to show in Rishikesh at the time of receiving green card. If some vehicle is found with wrong passenger list or taking passengers as a stage carrier in Uttarakhand, they will have to pay challan and their green card will be suspended for this year."

When asked about complaints regarding fewer buses during Yatra season he said, "From May 20 to May 31 or June 5 we are going to increase the number buses on the Yatra route. Out of the 250 to 300 city buses running in the region we are going to take 50 to 100 buses. Also, because at that time summer holidays in schools will be going on, we are going to ask for some school buses too for use on the Yatra route."

'Mission DELHI' launched to save people

Emergency medical service wherein motorbike-borne assistance unit can be quickly summoned for patients

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

When suffering from a heart attack, the first 60 minutes, called as 'golden hour' are decisive. It is only through rapid treatment that further heart damage, or even worse, can be prevented. With an aim to reach out to such people suffering heart attack or chest pain, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Thursday launched 'Mission DELHI', an emergency medical service wherein a motorbike-borne assistance unit can be quickly summoned for the patients.

The pilot project has been launched in a radius of three kilometres around the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the national Capital.

Under Mission DELHI (Delhi Emergency Life Heart-Attack Initiative), a pair of motorcycle-borne trained paramedic nurses would be the first responders for treating heart attack patients.

On getting a call (toll free no. 14430 and 1800111044), the pair would rush to the spot, gather basic information on the patient's medical history, conduct a quick medical examination, take the ECG, and establish a virtual connect with the cardiologists at AIIMS and deliver expert medical advice and treatment, AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria said.

While the emergency treatment is being provided, a CATS ambulance will arrive and take the patient for further treatment. Even as the patient is on way to the hospital, doctors at AIIMS control centre will evaluate the data received from the nurses to establish further course of treatment.

ICMR has signed a memorandum with CATS for this project, ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava said.

AAP manifesto promises full Statehood for national Capital

From Page 1

The manifesto also accused the BJP and the Congress of avoiding the question of full Statehood for Delhi.

The manifesto also mention that even today, the stance of BJP and Congress has not been favourable towards granting full Statehood to Delhi.

Addressing media persons Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that Delhi pay Rs 1.5 lakh crore as income tax to the Centre but in return they give us Rs 325 crore only. "We can get Rs 5000 to 6000 crore more if Delhi become full State," he said.

We could have stopped sealing in 24 hours if it becomes a full State. "Why should we pay so much and get so less in return? What have Delhiites done to the central government to deserve this? The situation is similar to the time before India got Independence."

The ruling AAP in the city is fighting the upcoming Lok Sabha election on the agenda of granting full Statehood to Delhi.

Raising the slogan of 'Poorna Rajya Banao Jhadu ka Button Dabao', the party is busy convincing people to vote for AAP to get full Statehood for Delhi.

Arsenal storage tunnels to secure regions along China

From Page 1

Since the NHPC has the expertise to construct such tunnels in tough terrain, the Army started negotiations last year for the pilot project and the proposal by the company was cost effective and met all operational parameters of the force, they said.

Underground storage in the tunnels will provide improved safety, easier camouflage from enemy observation and satellite imagery and protection from enemy strikes.

Also, the tunnels will be built in the folds of the mountain thereby providing safety and security from the weather and enemy bombing. Moreover, as the conditions in the caverns are monitored and controlled, it ensures better safety of sensitive ammunition minimising accidental explosions. These cavern store bullets, anti-tank rockets and surface to air missiles.

Man held for killing mother, brother in Dwarka

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 56-year-old man was arrested by the Delhi Police on Thursday for allegedly killing his mother and younger brother after stabbing them multiple times in Dwarka's Bindapur area.

The incident occurred on Tuesday evening. Police said the duo brothers were unemployed and used to fight over petty issues after consuming alcohol.

The accused has been identified as Sunil Arora, a resident of Vishwash Park near Delhi's Uttam Nagar area. While, the deceased have been identified as, mother, Lata Arora (75) and brother Rajender.

According to a senior police official, one complainant Naresh Singh, a resident of Vishwash Park, Uttam Nagar, stated that when he was standing near street number 5 on Tuesday around 8.45 pm, his neighbour Rajender came there, who had some stab injuries and was bleeding, and was asking for help.

"Naresh further stated that Rajender told him that his elder brother Sunil had stabbed him and his mother. When Singh, along with his friends, went to Rajender's building, his elder brother Sunil was standing there with a knife in his hand and threatened us after saying that it is a family issue and do not come in between us. Thereafter, Sunil stabbed Rajender and dragged him to his flat," said the senior police official.

"Later, one Amit Kumar Maurya, the neighbour of the deceased, called police and informed them about the incident. While Naresh had stopped two police men when they noticed them passing through the area and took them to the spot," said the senior police official.

"The victims were rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where Rajender was declared brought dead. Later, his mother Lata Arora succumbed to her injuries during the treatment," said the senior police official.

"A case under Section 302 (murder) has been registered and the accused has been arrested. One knife, one broken wooden bat and bend scissor were recovered from the house," said the police official privy to investigation.

Kirron Kher files nomination

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

BJP candidate and outgoing MP from Chandigarh, Kirron Kher has a total of Rs 30.8 crore as movable and immovable assets .

As per the poll affidavit filed by the actor turned politician on Thursday, she has movable assets worth Rs 16,97,29,375 and immovable assets amounting to Rs 13,91,40,760. Her spouse, noted actor Anupam Kher's movable assets have been pegged at Rs 14.86 crore.

The 66 years old Kher was accompanied by her husband Anupam Kher, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and Chandigarh BJP chief Sanjay Tandon while filing her nomination.

Kher has declared 16 kg jewellery worth nearly Rs 4.64 crore, owns a Mercedes Benz worth over Rs 61 lakh and has a total of cash in hand and fixed deposits of Rs 10.54 crore. The BJP candidate has revealed that her loan liabilities stood at Rs 25 lakh.

In financial year 2017-18, her income was Rs 84,75,480 as per the tax return she filed. In 2016-17, her annual income was Rs 3.09 crore, stated Kher's affidavit.

Before, filing her nomination, she along with her husband Anupam Kher, Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat and Chandigarh BJP chief Sanjay Tandon also held a roadshow in the city.

While she was enrolled as a voter in Mumbai north west parliamentary constituency in Maharashtra in 2014 polls, she is now enrolled as a voter in Chandigarh parliamentary seat.

She did her MA (English Literature) from Department of English, Panjab University in 1973. Kher defeated Pawan Kumar Bansal in 2014 polls while riding high on Modi wave and lapping up the anti-incumbency votes against Congress but she is locked in a tough triangular battle in Chandigarh this time.

Seeking a mandate for the second term, she is once again pitted against Congress' nominee and former four-time MP Pawan Kumar Bansal while the Aam Aadmi Party's candidate is former Minister Harmohan Dhawan.

In 2014, Kher had registered a victory with a margin of more than 69000 votes from her main rival Congress' Bansal.

Chandigarh, which has nearly 6.3 lakh voters, will vote on May 19 to decide its representative.

ANUPAM HAILS MODI

Noted Bollywood actor Anupam Kher on Thursday said that the opposition's agenda is only to remove Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the office.

"The opposition of does not talk about its blueprint or vision for the country," he said while talking to a section of media here.Exuding confidence in Modi's leadership, Anupam said that under the Prime Minister, the country is moving forward.

He said that there is a difference between a doer and criticizer… Everybody wants a doer in this era, he added.

Apple crop suffers heavy damage in HP due to hailstorm

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Horticulture department of Himachal Pradesh on Thursday said that apple crop has suffered a huge damage in different areas of the state in the last few days due to hailstorm.

All the development blocks of Shimla district, Ani development block of Kullu district and Karsog, Seraj, Gohar and Sundernagar the development blocks of Mandi district have suffered heavy losses, a spokesman of the Horticulture Department said.

He said instructions have been issued to the Regional Officers to take stock of the estimate of the damage caused by recent hailstorm. They have been asked to assess the loss along with the officials of Revenue department and send a detailed report to the Directorate of Horticulture department soon.

The department has advised the horticulturists covered under the weather-based crop insurance scheme to register their complaints or inform regarding the loss caused by the hailstorm to the Agricultural Insurance Company of India on toll-free number 1800-103-0061 so that they one of their representative could also be included in assessing the loss.

The department has already directed the insurance company to assess the damage caused by the hailstorm.

'BJD to play big role in Govt formation at Centre'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday reiterated his assessment that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) would play an important role in formation of the next Government at the Centre as no national party would emerge as absolute majority winner after the current general elections.

Addressing a series of public meetings during his poll campaign for the BJD in Mayurbhanj and Jagatsinghpur districts, Patnaik asserted that the BJD has done very well in the last three phases of the elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assembly and would repeat its winning spree in the final round of polls on April 29.

In Mayurbhanj, Patnaik alleged that a Central Minister from Odisha had worked against establishment of the Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital at Baripada.

Due to his Government's efforts, however, the hospital has become a reality though the Centre contributed only 20 per cent of its expenditure against the State's contribution of 80 per cent.

(Patnaik had earlier during his Baleswar campaigning also accused the Union Minister from Odisha of being a stumbling block in the setting up of the medical college and hospital at Baleswar)

During his tour of tribals-dominated Mayurbhanj district, Patnaik also slammed the Centre for totally ignoring the district in the matter of building a railway network.

Discontent in Punjab BJP after announcement of candidates

MONIKA MALIK ■
CHANDIGARH

When the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took time to announce candidates for the three seats it contests in alliance with SAD in Punjab, it was thought that the saffron party was exercising due diligence. But, the simmering discontentment within the party indicates that all is not well with the choice of the candidates.

On all three seats, the murmurs if dissent is being heard which is expected to turn into boisterous voices against the party affecting BJP's poll prospects in Punjab.

Announcing the candidates on Tuesday, the party has dropped its lone sitting MP and the Union Minister Vijay Sampla and replaced him with a sitting legislator. For crucial seats of Amritsar and Gurdaspur, the party has "paradropped" Union Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Hardeep Puri and Bollywood action star Sunny Deol, respectively, as its candidates.

With this, the ticket aspirants and hopefuls has apparently raised a banner of revolt against the party. Sampla had described the denial of ticket to him as "cow slaughter" while Amritsar's local Sikh face Rajinder Mohan Singh Chhina is conspicuous by his absence from party events in the constituency.

Protesting against Hoshiarpur ticket to Phagwara MLA Som Parkash, state BJP's SC Morcha general secretary Sheetal Angural has resigned from the party and accused party chief Shwet Malik of "selling" Sampla's ticket for Rs 11 crore.

In Gurdaspur, the two ticket aspirants — former MP Vinod Khanna's widon Kavita Khanna and Mumbai-based businessman Swaran Salaria — are openly expressing their resentment to bring in an "outsider" to contest elections.

Both Kavita Khanna and Salaria had convened a meeting of their respective supporters following which they would disclose their next move.

It has been learnt that the two leaders are also considering the option of contesting as independents from Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency and give a tough fight to BJP's nominee.

Salaria, who had lost 2017 byelection to Congress' Sunil Jakhar, maintained that he would make public his decision regarding his future course of action by holding a press conference on Saturday.

While terming Sunny Deol's candidature from Gurdaspur as "betrayal", Kavita Khanna made it clear that she was weighing all options.

"I, along with Vinod Khanna, had worked for the people of the Gurdaspur constituency for 20 years...I have faith in God. Life is a journey. I have worked here for 20 years. When Vinod ji was unwell, I used to meet people of the constituency. People wanted me as their MP," she had stated.

Confident of getting the ticket, Kavita Khanna had been meeting people and the party workers in Gurdaspur for the past several weeks.

In fact, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Gurdaspur rally in January, had recalled Vinod Khanna's efforts for developing the area.

But, the BJP decided to play its trump card of fielding a celebrity on a weak seat. In Gurdaspu too, BJP fielded Vinod Khanna to break the Congress' winning spree. Bollywood's yesteryears' superstar had won the seat in 1998, 1999, 2004 and also in 2014, and was popularly known as 'sardar of bridges' for connecting remote villages in his constituency.

IGIA vigilant to wildlife illegal trade

From Page 1

"Misuse of the aviation system by smugglers to evade customs and other enforcement agencies is a major concern. Meanwhile, both international and domestic airline passengers are sometimes unaware about the illegality of buying certain wildlife products and the grave conservation impact of their actions on various species in the wild," said a WWF official.

Manish Kumar, IRS, Commissioner of Customs, IGI Airport, said, "Stamping out wildlife crime and smuggling is a high priority objective for Indian Customs. At the IGI Airport, we are constantly on alert against any attempts to smuggle wildlife contrabands. We appreciate the efforts undertaken by TRAFFIC and WWF-India for engaging in initiatives that will help to curtail smuggling of wildlife products and derivatives."

Dr Saket Badola, Head of TRAFFIC's India office, said, "This is the first time TRAFFIC has partnered with Customs at Delhi's IGI airport and we hope this partnership can be extended to other airports in the country."

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

प्रबन्ध निदेशक, गढ़वाल मण्डल विकास निगम लि०, 74/1 राजपुर रोड, देहरादून की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्न कार्यों हेतु सम्बन्धित कार्य में दक्ष एवं अनुभवी फर्मों से मुहर बन्द निविदायें दिनांक 02.05.2019 को अपराहन 3.00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है जो उसी दिन अपराहन 3.30 बजे निविदा समिति द्वारा निविदा दाताओं की उपस्थिति में खोली जायेंगी। निविदा की धरोहर राशि अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पक्ष में एफ०डी०आर०/सी०डी०आर० के रूप में बन्धक होनी चाहिये। निविदा की वैधता 3 माह, कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 7 दिन होगी। निविदा प्रपत्र, निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व तक प्रत्येक कार्य दिवस में कार्यालय से प्राप्त किये जा सकते है।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर राशि (रु० में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (जी०एस०टी० अतिरिक्त)
1	श्री केदारनाथ धाम यात्रा मार्ग पर स्थित कैम्प लिन्चोली में 10 बैडेड क्षमता के 20 न० पी०वी०सी० टेन्ट्स की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापना का कार्य।	44,000.00	2000.00
2	श्री केदारनाथ धाम यात्रा मार्ग पर स्थित बेस कैम्प परिसर में 10 बैडेड क्षमता के 20 न० पी०वी०सी० टेन्ट्स की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापना का कार्य।	44,000.00	2000.00
3	श्री केदारनाथ धाम स्थित सुमेरू टैंट कालोनी में 10 बैडेड क्षमता के 20 न० पी०वी०सी० टेन्ट्स की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापना का कार्य।	44,000.00	2000.00

कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण, नियम व शर्तें किसी भी कार्य दिवस में कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती है।

GMVN
महाप्रबन्धक (पर्यटन)

Bathinda will punish Harsimrat for her arrogance: Punjab CM

PNS ■ BATHINDA

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday said the people of Bathinda would punish Harsimrat Badal for her arrogance and the widespread sacrilege cases under the Badal rule.

Harsimrat had completely betrayed Punjab and its people by her total failure to support the state in its various confrontations against the central government, in which herself was a union minister, said the Chief Minister, adding that Bathinda will teach her a lesson.

Addressing a press conference here, soon after accompanying Congress candidate from Bathinda, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, to the DC office for filing his nomination papers, he exuded confidence of a complete sweep by the Congress in Punjab in these Lok Sabha elections,

Finance Minister Manpreet Badal also accompanied the Chief Minister, along with Warring and other senior Congress leaders, who were also present at the press conference.

The Chief Minister said the people of the state had not forgotten Bargari or Kotkapura, which were a brazen attempt by the Badals to create communal tension.

Prakash Singh Badal had no business intervening in the Bargari investigation, and the Election Commission crossed its line in shifting out a key SIT officer probing the incident, said the Chief Minister, adding that people have not forgotten what the Badals did and were aware of their efforts to create a communal divide in the state. "How can people forget beadbi," he quipped.

They (the Badals) will face the consequences of their actions, he warned, recalling that the courts had put Badal behind the bars even during his previous tenure.

He had full faith in the law and the judiciary, said Captain Amarinder, adding that the law will take its own course.

"We have to cleanse Punjab of the Badals," he declared, adding that he planned to spend two days in Bathinda, the constituency of Harsimrat, and two in Ferozepur, where her husband and SAD president Sukhbir Badal is contesting, to campaign against them. He said he would expose the lies of the Badals on drugs and other issues, and would ensure that the people are not misled by their fabrications.

Asked to comment on Pratap Singh Bajwa's remarks against the Congress high command's decision to pin responsibility for electoral performance on ministers and MLAs of the party in Punjab, Amarinder said while victory or defeat was the responsibility of the entire party, senior leaders had to be held more accountable.

He warned that senior leaders found trying to sabotage the prospects of any candidate would have to face the consequences of their actions.

US agencies to visit India to unravel Thowheed

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The US State Department and a host of officials from American covert agencies are set to make a beeline to India to get first-hand account and perspectives on the National Thowheed Jamat (NTJ) that executed the deadliest attack in the region in the last one decade by hitting luxury hotels and churches in Sri Lanka on Sunday.

The move comes as the US State Department was caught unaware despite the NTJ twitter handle following at least six officials of the US State department officials but could not get an assessment on the outfit's nefarious agenda even as India provided actionable inputs to Colombo two weeks before the bombings. The NTJ handle followed a total of 28 handles.

Interestingly, the security architecture of the servers of NTJ's online services is also based in the US which also hosts the servers of Pakistan-based terror groups Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayyaba as also the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

According to the inputs provided by India over two weeks before the serial suicide bombings, the NTJ was planning to target five-star hotels and churches following which the Sri Lankan police issued an alert to various police units but could not prevent the attacks.

As per the inputs with the Indian agencies, the NTJ had first tried to hit the Indian embassy in Colombo on April 4 but after finding the security tight enough, the outfit tried to target the US embassy on April 11 but to no avail. Following the failures, the NTJ decided to target the luxury hotels and the churches on April 21.

Post-26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the who's who of American intelligence and investigation agencies had travelled to Mumbai to question Mohammad Ajmal Kasab, the lone terrorists nabbed in the case.

However, the NIA team had returned empty-handed from the US that had visited the US in 2009 to quiz David Coleman Headley, one of the conspirators of the Mumbai terror attacks.

The NTJ clearly posed itself as an anti-democracy organization and posted radical religious posts on itsTwitter handle with a follower base of around 3,000 people.

No travel advisory to Indians in Lanka by Doval's NSCC

New Delhi: While India provided actionable inputs to the Sri Lankan Government days ahead of the serial suicide bombings in capital Colombo, the National Security Council Secretariat headed by the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval did not bother to ensure issuance of a travel advisory to Indians against visiting luxury hotels and churches in the island nation. Had the travel advisory been issued in time, the precious lives of about a dozen Indians killed in the attacks could have been saved. The failure has been brushed under the carpet and even an enquiry has not been ordered till far for the lapse. ***PNS***

IN SHORT

ARMY STARTS PROCESS TO INDUCT WOMEN AS JAWANS

New Delhi: In the first step of its kind, the Army on Thursday began the process to induct women as jawans or soldiers in the military police, nearly two years after Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat said women will be recruited as jawans. The Army started the online registration for recruitment in the Corps of military and the last date for filing application has been fixed as June 8.

RAPE CASE: SAD SEEKS EC'S INTERVENTION

New Delhi: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Thursday urged the Election Commission (EC) to direct the Punjab Police to take prompt action against a school board member accused of raping a minor girl. In a complaint submitted to the EC, the SAD urged the poll panel to get the issue probed by a senior police officer keeping in view the seriousness of the charges.

New Delhi: Having been banned by the EC from holding public rallies for 48 hours over his derogatory remarks against Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Himachal Pradesh BJP chief Satpal Satti has been issued another notice by the poll body on why action should not be taken against him for making "derogatory" and "inciting" remarks against his political opponents.

SC DIRECTS EC TO ACT ON COMPLAINT OF TMC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Election Commission to take action on a complaint by TMC candidate Mahua Moitra against BJP leader Mahadev Sarkar for allegedly making sexually coloured remarks. A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi directed the EC to pass a reasoned order forthwith.

SC IRKED OVER ASSAM'S RESPONSE ON FOREIGNERS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court got irked on Thursday over unsatisfactory response of the Assam Government on deportation and conditional release of illegal foreigners and cautioned the State's Chief Secretary, saying that it would issue a contempt notice against him.

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY DISCUSSED

3-day Navy commanders' meet ends

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A tension prevails between India and Pakistan post Pulwama attack and the three Armed Forces are now on full alert to meet any situation, functional reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving operational efficiency formed the core of discussions during the three-day Navy commanders' conference which ended here on Thursday.

The conference assumed greater significance in the backdrop of Pulwama-associated events that have brought country's defence under sharper focus and provided the higher naval leadership a forum to discuss the emerging challenges in the maritime domain and fine tune the strategies for responding to the evolving geo-strategic environment, officials said here.

Forty Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed on February 14 in Pulwama in a suicide attack. The IAF carried out air strikes on Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) training camp in Balakot, Pakistan on February 26. Pakistan retaliated the next day and tried to conduct air strikes against military installations of India in Rajouri sector.

Inaugurating the conclave, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman complimented the Indian Navy for maintaining a high operational tempo and its ability to not only safeguard India's interest in the maritime domain but also coerce an adversary into submission as was evident during the recent standoff.

During the interaction, the Defence Minister reviewed the combat readiness, pace of modernisation and progress of various acquisition and infrastructure related cases. While praising the Indian Navy's foreign cooperation efforts to support the Navies in the region, she urged the Naval Commanders to optimally utilise available resources to build a strong Navy that is ready and vigilant to counter any challenge that may emerge in the maritime domain.

Chairing the conference, Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba addressed the Commanders on various important issues pertaining to operational readiness, capability enhancement, maintenance, op logistics, infrastructure development and human resource management.

Functional Reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving Operational efficiency' and 'Optimal Manning' formed the core of discussions towards finalising the long term road map of the Navy.

In keeping with the Navy's ethos of harnessing niche technologies, concrete plans to incorporate 'Big Data Analytics' and 'Artificial Intelligence' for solutions in the domains of naval combat, convergence of networks, information, logistics, administration and equipment health monitoring for sustained operation were also discussed.

The next edition of Naval Commanders' Conference is scheduled in October or November this year.

Forces Tribunal directs Govt to reply in 3 weeks regarding Vice-Admiral's plea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two days after Vice Admiral Bimal Verma approached the Armed Forces Tribunal again challenging the selection of his junior Karambir Singh as the next Navy chief, the Tribunal on Thursday directed the Central Government to submit its response within three weeks. The new Navy chief takes over on May 31 after incumbent Admiral Sunil Lanba retires that day. Verma in his plea had sought a stay on the Government order on March 23 appointing Singh as the next Navy chief.

Verma, now heading the strategically important Andaman and Nicobar Command, had earlier withdrawn his plea on April 8 after the Tribunal asked him to first exhaust all other ways including seeking redress from the Navy through a statutory complaint. The officer, however, again appealed to the Tribunal on Tuesday. His daughter Rhea Verma and Ankur Chibber are representing Verma in the legal battle. Incidentally, Verma, younger brother of former Navy Chief Nirmal Verma, had filed the statutory complaint on April 10. The petitioner retires in November.

During the proceedings here on Thursday, the centre sought four weeks times regarding the appeal filed by Verma on April 23 and the matter will now come up for hearing again on May 20, Verma's daughter Rhea said. She also said the central government has to positively decide on the complaint by May 15.

In the latest petition filed in the Tribunal on Tuesday, Verma had sought that the government order on March 23 to appoint Karambir Singh as the next Navy Chief instead of him be stayed.

The petition filed by his daughter Rhea Verma said "Call for confidential reports of the applicant and Vice Admiral Karambir… examine them to see whether any irrelevant and extraneous considerations were placed to reject applicant's case and if so, to expunge the extraneous considerations and direct the competent authority to re-examine the case," the plea said.

The plea said the Vice Admiral had filed a statutory complaint before the Defence Ministry for not being appointed the next Navy Chief despite being the senior most and asked it to decide the matter urgently within ten days. "The complaint is still pending with the competent authority and hence this original application (petition)," the plea said.

In a communication dated March 23, he had stated that the government has "illegally" and in a "wrongful" manner appointed his junior Karambir Singh as the next Navy chief.

Verma had stated that he felt that the respondents (government) had illegally and in a wrongful manner used the two letters of Severe Displeasure, which were issued to him in 2005 and 2007, to deny him the post of the Navy chief.

The two letters were issued to Verma on October 28, 2005, and June 20, 2007, and he was promoted to the rank of Commodore and Rear Admiral afterwards, thereby taking away the sting of the said letters.

Verma also said "it is imperative that the Armed Forces court apply the 'Wednesbury rule' and consider whether relevant facts are not considered and irrelevant facts were considered by the respondents before passing the impugned letter."

The Naval headquarters forwarded the name of Verma along with Vice Admiral Karambir Singh and Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar, the Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief Western Naval Command and Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla, the Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief Southern Naval Command, to head the Navy. Verma retires in November end.

It is the second time in the current NDA regime that the seniority tradition was overlooked. In the first case in 2016, Bipin Rawat was appointed the Army Chief superseding the senior most officer Lt General Pravin Bakshi.

Bumper foodgrain output expected this kharif season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Indian Meteorological Department forecasting "near normal" monsoon this year, the Agriculture Ministry on Thursday set its target for foodgrain production during kharif season 2019-20 at 147.9 million tonnes (MT), with rice output pegged at 102 MT. These targets are higher when compared to the actual kharif output for 2018-19, which is 142.24 MT, as per the second advance estimates.

The Ministry also expects the production during the 2019-20 rabi season to be tentatively around 143.2 MT. At the National Conference on Agriculture, officials said rice production would touch the 102 MT-mark this kharif season, while maize production would be around 21.3 MT.

The production of bumper foodgrain output expected this kharif season, cereals will be about 35.8 MT, while that of pulses would be around 10.1 MT. The output of jowar, bajra and ragi will be 2.1 MT, 9.5 MT and 2.3 MT, respectively. Also, total oil seeds production is likely to be 25.84 MT and the sugarcane output is expected to be 385.50 MT, the Ministry said. Cotton output is estimated to be 35.75 million bales (each of 170 kg).

Ex-Army chief appointed Indian envoy to Seychelles

New Delhi: Former Army chief Dalbir Singh Suhag has been appointed as India's next high commissioner to Seychelles, a country which is of strategic importance to India in the Indian Ocean region.

"He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," the Ministry of External Affairs said while making the announcement. General (retired) Suhag was the Army chief from July 31, 2014, to December 31, 2016. He was also part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka in 1987.

His appointment as Indian High Commissioner to Seychelles comes amid deepening military ties between India and the island nation.

India is developing Assumption Island in Seychelles as a naval base to expand its footprint in the strategically-key region where China has been trying to enhance its military presence.

An agreement to develop the island was inked in 2015 between India and Seychelles.

In June last year, Seychelles President Danny Faure visited India during which both countries agreed to work together on the Assumption Island project. Before his visit to India, there were reports from the island nation that it was cancelling the pact with New Delhi. ***PTI***

Candidates will have to advertise criminal records from poll expenses: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has made it clear that candidates will have to bear the cost of advertising their criminal antecedents in TV and newspapers as it comes in the category of 'poll expenses'. The poll panel has made it compulsory for candidates contesting elections to advertise their criminal antecedents in TV and newspapers at least thrice during electioneering.

Though directions in this regard were issued on October 10, 2018, the rule is being used for the first time in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

EC officials said political parties have been informed that candidates will have to bear the cost of the advertisement from their poll expenses. Some parties had approached the poll panel urging it to allow the advertisement expenditure be borne by them and not the candidates.

The parties too will have to advertise the criminal records of the candidates they have fielded. The expenditure of advertisement by the parties will be borne by them.

This means that candidates and parties contesting the elections will have to publicise their criminal records at least on three different dates in widely circulated newspapers and popular TV channels during the campaign period.

Candidates who do not have records have to mention that. The candidates will now have to fill up an amended form (number 26). They will have to inform parties about their antecedents such as cases in which they have been convicted and cases pending against them.

The parties, the EC said, will be "obliged" to put the information about the candidates on their websites. The EC direction of October, 2018 was silent on whether the candidates will have to pay from their pocket for the publicity.

Parties which fail to comply, face the prospects of getting their recognition withdrawn or suspended. Candidates have to submit clippings of their declaration published in papers and parties have to submit details about the number of such candidates in a state.

While there is a ceiling on expenditure of candidates, the parties have no such limit. Candidates in Lok Sabha polls can spend up to ₹70 lakh.

All registered political parties have to submit a statement of their election expenditure to the election commission within 90 days of the completion of the Lok Sabha elections.

All candidates are required to submit their expenditure statement to the poll panel within 30 days of the completion of the elections.

CBI calls TDP leader for questioning in bank fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has called former Union Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader YS Chowdary for questioning in connection with a bank fraud case. He has been asked to appear on Friday at the agency's office at Bengaluru.

"I can confirm that I do not have any connection, knowledge or acquaintance with the company referred or its affairs at any point time. I will be taking appropriate steps in the matter," Chowdary asserted.

The CBI had registered a case against electrical equipment manufacturer Best and Crompton Engineering Projects Limited for allegedly cheating Andhra Bank to the tune of ₹71 crore in 2017. In its FIR against the Chennai-based company and its five directors, including Managing Director Kakulamarri Srinivas Kalyan Rao, the CBI has slapped charges under Indian Penal Code sections pertaining to criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery among others and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, they added.

1 hour a day: WHO issues guidelines for under-5 kids' screen time

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Watching television or videos or even playing games on mobiles should not be more than an hour at a go for kids under 5, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said, concerned at the inactivity fueling a rise in the numbers of obese or overweight children worldwide.

Toddlers are most vulnerable to screens. The WHO in its first of its guidelines for the parents said that infants aged 18 months and younger should not be exposed to any digital media.

Obesity in young age can lead to premature death from heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and some forms of cancer. Also, shorter sleep duration has been associated with more TV viewing and time spent playing computer games, said the global health agency in its guidelines released recently to its member states.

It noted that under-fives should also be physically active and get adequate sleep to help develop good lifelong habits and prevent obesity and other diseases in later life.

"What we are cautioning on is over-use of those electronic screen times with young children," WHO expert Dr. Fiona Bull said in a statement here.

The WHO said children between one and four years old should spend at least three hours in a variety of physical activities spread throughout the day. "Infants under one should interact in floor-based play and avoid all screens," it said as it noted that being inactive is fueling a rise in the numbers of obese or overweight people worldwide.

"Preventing these deaths needs to start in very early life," Bull said.

One in three adults today are overweight or obese, and one in four adults does not do enough physical activity, she said. "In this age group of under 5s, it is currently 40 million children around the world (who) are overweight. Of that (figure) 50 per cent are in Africa and the southeast Asia region," Bull said. That translates into 5.9 per cent of children globally.

Noting that early childhood is a period of rapid physical and cognitive development during which habits are formed and family lifestyle routines are adaptable, the WHO said, "sedentary behaviors, whether riding motorized transport rather than walking or cycling, sitting at a desk in school, watching TV or playing inactive screen-based games are increasingly prevalent and associated with poor health outcomes."

Chronic insufficient sleep in children has been associated with increased excessive fat accumulation as measured by body mass index (BMI), it said.

MAMATA ON KURTA REMARK

'PM using my civility for political gain'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

While articles as innocuous as "chuninda Kurta" and "Bangali Mithai" threatening to upset Mamata Banerjee's minority applecart, the Bengal Chief Minister on Thursday took initiative to control damage done by Narendra Modi's off-the-cuff remark on how "Didi occasionally sends him chuninda Kurta and Bangali Mithai."

In an apparent bid to establish her political difference with Modi more than ever before, the Chief Minister on Thursday mounted a no-holds-barred attack on the Prime Minister saying courtesy was the last thing that would appear in his dictionary.

"I sent him kurta and sweets as I regularly do to the other politicians irrespective of their political identity. But that is a part of my courtesy and here this man is trying to make use of that to gain political points," Banerjee told a huge rally at Durgapur adding "I send such gifts during the Durga Pujas which represents my culture and upbringing."

The Prime Minister had in an interview to film star Akshay Kumar said that "though this may cause some political flutter I must concede that Mamata Didi often sends me choicest kurta mostly selected by her personally. In fact after learning that I had liked the sweets sent to me by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, she did the same by regularly sending me some delicious Bangali Mithai."

A subsequent statement by Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh tended to rub salt in injury when he claimed "I have no problems in sending gifts. Even I have a good personal relationship with the Chief Minister. I appreciate her gesture when she calls me up to inquire after my health whenever I am unwell."

The Prime Ministerial interview was televised on Wednesday causing an immediate reaction in the ruling Trinamool Congress circle even as Banerjee's nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee said "had such gifts been sent to him why he did not make it public earlier and why is he telling it now."

Banerjee who earlier said that she would "send gifts to him but not allow him to take votes," on Thursday increased her decibel level following reports that the Left Front the earlier 'custodians' of the minority votes in the State had gone to town (read villages) raising questions on the "setting (read adjustment) between Didibhai and Modibhai."

This even as Bengal CPI(M) secretary and party politburo member Suryokanto Mishra said "the Prime Minister has finally spilled the bin exposing the real chemistry between the two sides. We have been for long been telling how the two sides were working on an adjustment basis which first started in 2001 when Mamata Banerjee sent a bouquet to Modi when he became the Chief Minister of Gujarat."

The Left leaders like Sujan Chakrabarty also demanded to know from the Prime Minister as to "reveal what more she has been sending to you," or "whether she has gifted you her right hand Mukul Roy, and many other leaders of the TMC and whether she has gifted you away the entire TMC in Tripura to win power there."

In an apparent bid to control damage and to establish her claim as the true champion of the minority cause — that constitutes about 30 percent vote in the State, Banerjee said.

Upping the ante the Chief Minister reminded how the Prime Minister had "promised 2 crore jobs per year but ended up taking away 3 crores in five years of his rule. Most of such jobs were lost during the demonetisation which in itself is a big scam and will be probed when we come to power."

LS polls will see end of those chanting Namo, Namo: Maya

Kannauj (UP): The ongoing Lok Sabha election will see the end of those chanting "Namo, Namo", BSP supremo Mayawati said on Thursday, while SP chief Akhilesh Yadav expressed confidence that the SP-BSP-RLD alliance will give a new Prime Minister to the country.

Both the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers were addressing a joint poll rally here, along with Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) president Ajit Singh, in favour of Dimple Yadav, the joint candidate of the opposition alliance from Kannauj.

Dimple, the sitting Samajwadi Party (SP) MP and the wife of Akhilesh Yadav, is seeking re-election from this parliamentary seat.

"This election will see the end of those chanting 'Namo, Namo' and pave the way for those who shout Jai Bheem. Seeing your response, it appears that you are going to ensure the victory of the alliance candidates," Mayawati told the crowd.

Yadav called Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "prachar mantri", or minister for publicity, and claimed that the SP-BSP-RLD combine in Uttar Pradesh will give the country a new PM.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his wife and party candidate Dimple Yadav (R) present a memento to BSP supremo Mayawati during an election campaign rally ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in Kannauj on Thursday PTI

"Last time he came as a 'chaiwala' (tea seller) and you tasted his tea. This time he has come as a chowkidar (watchman)," he mocked Modi.

"This alliance will give a new prime minister to the country and we will make a new Bharat," the SP chief said.

He added that the opposition alliance is aimed at ensuring social justice and taking forward the ideals of B R Ambedkar, Ram Manohar Lohia, Kanshi Ram and Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Criticising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government over demonetisation, Yadav said, "Has demonetisation eradicated corruption? Where is the black money? They have made the country hollow with their policies."

Earlier, his wife Dimple claimed that the BJP was conspiring to deprive the backward classes and Dalits of education and employment.

Playing the caste card to the hilt, Mayawati reminded the electorate that the Congress did not implement the Mandal Commission report.

She also said when the Congress was in power, it did not give Bharat Ratna to Ambedkar. ***PTI***

Woman forced to drink acid after voting for Cong

PNS ■ KOLKATA

In a gruesome incident relating to post poll-violence, a homemaker was allegedly forced to gulp down acid by her in-laws. Her fault: she had voted for Congress Party. The incident took place on Tuesday at Mohanpur village in Murshidabad parliamentary constituency and came to light on Thursday.

Makhan Biwi, the victim was fighting for her life in hospital, son Rafzal said. "My mother was pulled back home by her hair after she emerged from inside the booth. I tried to protect her but my father, grandfather and uncles locked me inside a room. From there I saw them forcing apart her mouth and pouring acid in it."

The boy and his sister were also beaten up for trying to intervene, he said adding her mother had allegedly voted for the Congress which was not liked by his family which backed the TMC. Murhsidabad had already seen one poll-related death and three near-fatal injuries on Tuesday with alleged TMC goons stabbing to death a Congress worker. In other incidents three TMC workers were grievously injured in attack mounted by the CPI(M) and Congress.

Akhilesh, Maya, Cong cannot keep country safe: Amit Shah

Ghazipur/Unnao (UP): BJP president Amit Shah on Thursday claimed Opposition leaders cannot look after the country's security.

Addressing a rally in Ghazipur constituency of Uttar Pradesh, he alleged BSP supremo Mayawati and her Samajwadi Party and Congress counterparts, Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi, respectively, were upset with the Balakot air strikes.

"These 'mahamilavati' people talk about the country. Akhilesh, Mayawati and Congress cannot keep the country safe," he said.

Shah said the BJP cannot do "ilu-ilu" with terrorists, an apparent reference to the popular short form of 'I love you'.

"Though terrorists of Pakistan were killed (in the Balakot air strikes), there was an atmosphere of mourning in the offices of 'Bua' (Mayawati), 'Bhatija' (Akhilesh) and 'Rahul baba'," he said.

"I could not find out as to why they were so sad. Why were they moving about with long faces? Were those terrorists their maternal or paternal cousins?" he said.

The BJP chief asserted his party cannot play with the security of the country.

"If a bullet is fired from there (Pakistan), a bomb will be sent from here (India)... Eent ka jawaab patthar se diya jayega (If someone throws bricks, will respond by throwing rocks)," he said. Shah alleged the Congress want to break the nation with the "tukde-tukde" gang.

Pointing to the promise of scrapping sedition law in the Congress manifesto, the BJP leader claimed the move is to prevent those raising "anti-national" slogans from going to jails. Union Minister and sitting MP Manoj Sinha is seeking re-election from the Ghazipur seat.

The BJP president also alleged that Purvanchal lagged behind under the Congress governments, and came on the right track of progress after the BJP came to power.

Attacking the previous UPA government, he said the ten years when "mauni baba" (apparent reference to former PM Manmohan Singh) was at the helm, soldiers were beheaded and the government took no action.

"This is not happening anymore... Terror strikes took place and the Modi government carried out air strikes... The martyrdom of our soldiers was avenged with surgical strikes," he said.

Taking a dig at Rahul Gandhi's "silence" over NC leader Omar Abdullah's "separate PM" remarks, Shah said, "Rahul Gandhi does not speak a word on Omar Abdullah as he fears that if he does, voters will go away."

Omar had recently suggested separate prime minister for Kashmir.

Addressing another meeting in Unnao for party nominee Sakshi Maharaj, the senior BJP leader said the Yogi Adityanath-led state government has been successful at checking "gunda" (hooligans) elements. ***PTI***

PM did 'injustice' with people in last 5 years: Rahul

Jalore/Ajmer/Kota: Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of doing "injustice" to the people of the country in the last five years, saying the 'acche din ayenge' slogan has now been replaced by 'chowkidar chor hai'.

He said there will be only one 'Hindustan' where justice will be done when the Congress is voted to power.

During the day, Gandhi addressed election rallies at Jalore, Ajmer and Kota in Rajasthan.

"If rich people are not jailed for not paying off loans then farmers too will not be jailed. If lakhs and crores are given to them then the same will be given to farmers, labourers, tribals, Dalits and small traders. There will be no injustice in Hindustan. The country will not be divided in two Hindustans. There will be one Hindustan where justice will be done," the Congress president said at a rally in Jalore.

"PM Narendra Modi did injustice with people of the country in the last five years. Demonetisation and GST were ways to rob poor, labourers, small traders of their money, NYAY scheme will benefit them," he alleged.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi waves at the crowd as Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot look on during a rally for the Lok Sabha polls at Bandanwara in Ajmer district on Thursday PTI

He said the Congress government will listen to people's 'mann ki baat' and run according to them.

"Five years ago, there was a slogan 'acche din ayenge' (good days will come). Now people say 'chowkidar chor hai' (watchman is a thief) everywhere in the country," he said.

Addressing a gathering in Ajmer, Gandhi said, "On one side there is Narendra Modi who speaks lies one after the other wherever he goes and on the other side, there is truth. Depositing Rs 15 lakh in bank accounts, two crore jobs every year, reasonable price for farmers' crops were all lies."

He said the Congress had done brainstorming with eminent economists for minimum income guarantee 'Nyay' scheme to deposit Rs 72,000 annually in individual bank accounts of 25 crore poor people.

The Congress president said that people of the country heard 'Mann ki Baat' in the past five years but the Congress' think-tank has done 'kaam ki Baat' by formulating the NYAY scheme.

"I want to thank Modi Ji for opening bank accounts. I am going to deposit money of NYAY scheme in the same accounts. The money will be deposited directly in bank accounts of women of the families," he said at an election rally in Kota.

Gandhi stressed that the money deposited through the NYAY scheme will move the wheels of the economy and create job opportunities for the youth.

He said the Congress government, if voted to power, will fill 22 lakh government jobs in one year, separate budget for farmers, reservation for women in state assemblies, Parliament and in Government jobs. He alleged that the prime minister is "protecting 15 rich people", including Mehul Choksi, Anil Ambani, Lalit Modi and Nirav Modi, who took bank loans worth several crore and did not pay back. ***PTI***

TMC announces candidates for Assembly bypolls

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced the names of three party leaders to contest in the Assembly by-elections from Bhatpara, Habibpur and Islampur seats.

While former minister Madan Mitra will contest from Bhatpara, Amal Kisku will file nomination from Habibpur. Another former Minister Abdul Karim Chowdhury will contest from Islampur seat, Banerjee said.

The by-polls to the four assembly seats necessitated after resignations of sitting MLAs who are contesting the Lok Sabha elections will be held on May 19, the date for the last phase of election to the Lok Sabha.

Banerjee also extended support for Gorkha Janmukti Morcha(GJM) leader Binay Tamang in Darjeeling assembly seat, which was vacated by Amar Singh Rai who is contesting from Darjeeling Lok Sabha constituency as a joint GJM-TMC candidate.

Congress supporters hold cut-outs of Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi during a rally in Mumbai on Thursday AP

CAT stays suspension of IAS officer who checked PM Modi's helicopter

Bengaluru: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) here on Thursday stayed the order of the Election Commission suspending IAS officer Mohammed Mohsin for checking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's helicopter in Odisha.

The officer from Karnataka cadre, deployed in Odisha as a general observer, was suspended on April 17 for checking Modi's helicopter in Odisha's Sambalpur in violation of norms for dealing with SPG protectees and sent back to the state.

The CAT maintained that during an election process while reasonable assurances of protection and security must be made available to SPG protectees, it cannot be said "they are eligible for anything and everything."

Mohsin had tried to check some luggage in the convoy of the Prime Minister and the EC order had said he had acted in violation of existing instructions of the commission.

In its order, the CAT, which adjudicates disputes involving central government employees, noted that there was a circular regarding the SPG protectees that they are exempted from certain examinations on certain grounds.

It also said:"We will not go into the SPG protectees guidelines as per the bluebook right now but the rule of law must prevail."

The tribunal also took note of the submission of the applicant's counsel who pointed out that there were news about heavy packages unloaded from prime minister's cavalcade being taken away in other vehicle.

"It has been laid down that SPG protectees are exempted from checking. He should have known the instruction being an observer. The reason for suspension is dereliction of duty," a source in the EC had said following suspension.

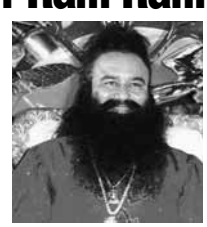
After the incident, Mohsin was attached to the Sambalpur headquarters and subsequently sent back to Karnataka where he was attached with state chief electoral officer. ***PTI***

Their chief Ram Rahim in jail, Dera followers yet to decide who to vote for

Sirsa (Haryana): Since the self-styled godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim was sentenced to life imprisonment in January for killing a journalist, followers of his Dera Sacha Sauda have been lying low at the sprawling 800-acre campus outside Sirsa in Haryana.

The followers say they are also unsure about who to support in this election.

The Dera has been an important vote bank for parties for over a decade. In 2007, it had formed a political affairs wing which decided which political party or politician it will support.



During the 2007 Punjab Assembly election, it supported the Congress.

In 2014 general election, the Dera openly supported the BJP.

But after the sentencing of their flamboyant but controversial chief, the Dera and its political affairs wing became dysfunctional, locals and followers said.

This, however, has not stopped political parties, including the BJP and the INLD, from saying they will not refrain from seeking support of the once-influential Dera Sacha Sauda.

BJP leader and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has said he was not averse to Dera support in Lok Sabha election, and defended his stance, saying it is a political party's "right to seek votes in an election".

INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala too has said his party will seek the Dera's support.

Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar has ruled that option out. Jakhar said, "We shall not compromise with Sirsa Dera for the election after sacrilege (incidents) have been traced to it."

That political parties have made their stance clear may not have a bearing on the Dera followers, who say they are clueless.

"There used to be public meetings and then a decision was taken. It used to be of course not binding but suggestive in nature. But this time, everyone is clueless about who will the Dera support," said Chinder Kaur, whose family has been the sect's supporter for decades.

A Dera functionary, who did not wish to be identified, said, "Guru ji never told us who to vote for."

"It was the political affairs wing of the Dera to which political parties used to reach out and then public meetings were held with followers and a decision was taken," the functionary said.

Several Dera followers, who did not wish to come on record, said the political affairs wing is almost redundant and hence the followers will have to make their individual choices.

"It is not just the political affairs wing but everything about Dera has come to a standstill. The manufacturing plants for aloe vera products, bottled water, car batteries and confectionery items are shut," said Babita Gautam, who lives near the Dera campus.

Gautam said many people have been rendered jobless because of the closure of the Dera units. "So whom to vote for is still a question in our neighbourhood."

In August 2017, a special CBI court sentenced the 50-year-old Ram Rahim to 20 years of imprisonment for raping two female followers.

His conviction in the 2002 case triggered widespread violence, arson and police firing. Thousands of Dera followers rampaged through parts of Haryana. Over 40 people died.

Though the Dera has tumbled since then, Ram Rahim's followers and those who had a stake in his business live in large numbers in Sirsa and surrounding districts. It is yet to be seen how they react in the polls.

Polling in Haryana, which has 10 Lok Sabha constituencies, will be held on May 12. ***PTI***

2 Hizbul terrorists killed in Anantnag

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces early Thursday morning neutralised two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, including an under graduate, pursuing course in Physiotherapy, in Bagender Mohalla of Bijbehara in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Security forces suffered no collateral damage in the clinical operation, launched in the thickly populated area after receiving a specific intelligence input about the presence of armed terrorists in the area.

Since one of the terrorists neutralised in the gun fight was a resident of Bijbehara, sporadic protests were reported in the area at several places.

The security forces exercised restraint to contain the law and order situation.

Police spokesman said, "security forces on Thursday morning recovered two dead bodies from the hide out after the encounter was called off in the area". One of the terrorist was identified as Safder Amin Bhat, a ninth class drop out, resident of village Zirpara in Bijbehara. He was active in the area since May 2017, police spokesman said.

Another terrorist, according to police was identified as Burhan Ahmad Ganie alias Saifullah.

After completing his class 12, Burhan was pursuing a graduate course in Physiotherapy. He is a resident of Malipora Hablish, Kulgam, at present residing in SK Colony of Anantnag. He was active in the area since June 2018.

Police also recovered one AK rifle and one SLR from their hideout.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up along the 300 km long Jammu-Srinagar National Highway ahead of the shifting of the Durbar move offices from April 27.

Due to strict security related restrictions, the state government has chalked out a comprehensive schedule of movement of durbar move employees to ensure their hassle free travel.

To prevent any attack on the movement of the vehicles elaborate security arrangements would remain in place.

In the wake of regular suspension of traffic on account of land sliding on the National Highway the state government has already made parallel arrangements across different district headquarters to meet any contingency.

Due to security restrictions on the highway the state government has also appealed to the state govt employees to remain alert and respond to the situation appropriately.

IN BARMER'S LAST BORDER VILLAGE

Farmers mortgage jewellery to feed their cattle

Barmer: Hajeeb Ali, 70, had to mortgage his wife's jewellery to feed fodder to his beloved cattle in Bandasar, a last village in Barmer Lok Sabha constituency along the international border with Pakistan. Ali is not alone in his village, a Muslim-dominated area.

There are many in Bandasar who are facing acute difficulties for a long time to arrange fodder in Barmer, which has no pasture land for cattle.

Shortage of fodder is a major poll issue in the Thar district Lok Sabha constituency.

Ali says in every election, candidates of political parties come to the village to seek votes, but after winning polls, they never return.

A drought is a bad time for cattle as their source of food dries up, even if they are abandoned and allowed to roam freely by farmers.

In Bandasar and 150 villages nearby, small and big — such as Munabav, Ramsar, Bhigusi, Gagaria, Bhajpar, Derasar and Bikusar, when there is no rain, farmers have to look for other things, including working under MGNREGA and going to Ahmedabad, around 500 kilometers from Bandasar, in search of work to feed both family and cattle.

Ali has 28 cows and calves. But, he said, he and his wife, who considered them as a part of their family, worry every two-three days as to how to arrange fodder instead of feeding their children as arrangement of their food cost them much less than what cattle eat.

He says he has around 100 acre land in Bandasar, but it is lying useless as he cannot use it because of the drought-situation.

"I had to mortgage 170 grams of gold jewellery of my wife to arrange money for fodder for my cattle. I and my wife consider cattle like our family. Our cattle is everything to us.

"Government should find a permanent solution to this problem existing across the Thar desert area," Ali said.

When there is rain, pasture land is easily available for cattle, Subha Momin, another villager, said.

Ramesh Chand, a former sarpanch of the nearby border village of Gatra, said the Rajasthan government used to run fodder camps where cattle food was available at subsidised rates for farmers, but for the last three years, no such camp has been organised.

Chand also said that farmers having not more than 12 acres of land would only be covered by the scheme, and because of this, most farmers, who have desert land ranging from 40 to 100 acres, are deprived of state-run programmes.

There are around 300 small and big villages in Barmer Lok Sabha constituency, falling within a 50-70 -km radius from the international border.

Government has constructed concrete wells to store rain water, but this is only useful when there is good amount of rainfall.

Due to water scarcity in the desert area, people have to shell out Rs 2,000 to 3,000 to buy 2,500 litres of water which is used for both family members and cattle.

"Not only Barmer, the entire Thar desert area of Rajasthan has been facing water scarcity. But government is doing nothing. Being far-reach areas, candidates come only for campaigning, and once elections are over, nobody comes to these villages," says Changa, who goes by his first name.

Apart from shortage of fodder and water scarcity, health is also an issue in those villages where no hospital facility has been set up by authorities.

Desar village, 50 km from the international border, has a population of 6,000 persons, but it and its nearby areas do not have any health facility.

Nawaj Ali, a villager, says when a person has fever, he or his family has to spend around Rs 1,000 on the transportation to reach the city area of Barmer to get medical treatment.

"In case of emergency, we have to rush patients to a health facility located at Barmer's city point to get him or her medical treatment, and this situation is a brisk business for transporters," he said. Barmer goes to polls on April 29. ***PTI***

Giriraj booked for violating model code of conduct

Begusarai (Bihar): Union Minister Giriraj Singh was on Thursday booked for violating model code of conduct by making controversial remarks against the Muslim community at a rally here a day ago where BJP national president Amit Shah, among others, was present.

According to District Magistrate, Begusarai, Rahul Kumar, the FIR was lodged at Town police station under relevant sections of the Representation of People Act and the Indian Penal Code taking suo motu cognizance of the "controversial" remarks made by Singh at Wednesdays rally.

Besides Shah, the rally was attended by a number of other BJP leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi. Singh is contesting from Begusarai Lok Sabha as the NDA candidate and he is engaged in a three-cornered fight with CPIs Kanhaiya Kumar and RJDs Tanveer Hassan.

Video footage of Singhs brief address at the rally was telecast on news channels wherein he can be heard saying, "I would like to say, Giriraj Singh's ancestors died and were cremated. You need a yard of land even after you die, for burial of your mortal remains. If you say you cannot chant Vande Mataram, this nation will never forget you".

"There are many people who are trying to spread communal passions. We will not allow that to happen anywhere in Bihar including Begusarai. The RJD candidate in Darbhanga recently said he had problems with reciting Vande Mataram", Singh said referring to Abdul Bari Siddiqui's comments on Sunday last.

"In Begusarai too, many can be seen spewing venom wearing bade 'bhai ka kurta and chhote bhai ka pyjama", he said referring to the long shirts and short trousers that are usually associated with devout muslims. ***PTI***

Amid fresh dissidence, HDK meets Cong leaders

Bengaluru: With dissidence in ruling coalition partner Congress surfacing again, Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Thursday took stock of the situation with his deputy G Parameshwara and senior Minister DK Shivakumar.

During the meeting, the Congress-JD(S) coalition leaders are said to havediscussed about the threat by rebel Congress MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi to quit the party along with other legislators with him, and its implications on the Government.

The meeting also came in the backdrop of the BJP predicting the fall of the coalition Government after the Lok Sabha election results are declared on May 23.

Emerging out of the meeting with Chief Minister, who has taken a break after busy campaigning for about a month, Parameshwara ruled out any threat to the coalition Government.

"We have discussed politics also, but we also have information that there are no such developments (threatening the Government)," the Congress leader told reporters.

"we don't have any apprehension about the collapse of the government as being claimed by the BJP," he said.

The government isstable, he asserted, adding they held discussions with the chief minister about facing drought situation in parts of the state.

Speculation about the longevity of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government in Karnataka has again come to the fore after the second and final phase of Lok Sabha polls in the state on Tuesday, with state BJP chief B S Yeddyurappa predicting its collapse after the election results.

There are talks within political circles that any adverse results for the coalition in the Lok Sabha polls will have its implications on the stability of the state government.

The Congress and JDS, which stitched an alliance after contesting the assembly elections separately last year, had an understanding for the Parliamentary polls despite resentment amongthe grass root workers and leaders of both the parties.

Adding to this was the threat by Jarkiholi, who has been hobnobbing with the BJP for some time now and threatening he alongwith other MLAs would resign from Congress soon.

His public posturing has caused fear among the ruling coalition leaders as itcould trigger the number game in the assembly.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress President Dinesh Gundu rao, however expressed hopethat Jarkiholi would think with "good sense" and not quit. Rao also warned of adverse consequence by believing in BJP.

"Congress has not done any injustice to him (Jarkiholi), party has always stood by him, he is five-timeMLA from the party and has been a Minister.

"He too may not haveany negative opinion against the party and is giving somestatements due to some reasons, this is my feeling," he added. Rao, however, ruled out any talks with him and said May 23 Lok Sabha pollresults will put an end to every thing. ***PTI***

BJP is not politicising soldiers' valour, says Nirmala Sitharaman

Mumbai: Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday denied Opposition's allegation that the BJP was politicising security forces' valour to seek votes, saying her party was only talking about the "political will" necessary to combat terror.

"Who is politicising the (valour of) security forces? We haven't done it," she said, speaking to reporters here.

The UPA government led by Manmohan Singh lacked the political will to combat terrorism which was evident after the 26/11 Mumbai attack, the BJP leader said.

The Narendra Modi government took "decisive" steps and showed "political will" to combat terror, which was seen in the 2016 surgical strike and Balakot air strike in February in the aftermath of Uri and Pulwama attacks, respectively, Sitharaman said.

"The Congress feels hesitant to talk about political will, hence it thinks we are politicising (the valour of soldiers)," she said.

"We are not politicising the valour, but talking about the political leadership's will to take action which is not politicisation," the defence minister said.

She also attacked the Congress over its poll promise to review the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, saying it would be difficult for the Army to operate in a state such as Jammu and Kashmir in its absence.

"For AFSPA to be removed, changes have to be brought on the ground first through programmes. Till that time, it cannot be removed," the minister said. Sitharaman also hit out at Opposition for questioning the Balakot air strike or seeking the proof of the surgical strike.

She felt "sad", she said, adding that Pakistan would like Opposition's language.

To a question, Sitharaman said due procedure was followed in negotiating the Rafale deal. There was no need to change the defence procurement policy in the context of the deal, which the Congress is criticising for alleged irregularities, she added. ***PTI***

Bengaluru under security blanket after blasts in Lanka

Bengaluru: In the wake of the terror attacks in Sri Lanka, the police here on Thursday stepped up security and initiated elaborate measures to prevent such an incident.

In addition, the police have decided to set up ananti-terrorist cell in the city and have written to Karnataka Government in this regard.

As part of the measures, the police convened a meeting with head of variousinstitutions, religious places and commercial establishment with a footfall of more than 500.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, city police commissioner T Suneel Kumarsaid he has instructed deputy commissioners to gather information on religious places where lots of people congregate.

The deputy commissioners, in turn, have been directed to instruct the managers of malls and hotels. Further, the commissioner decided to hold a meeting with the trustees, board members and managers of religious institutions and commercial places. ***PTI***

Those trying to tinker with Art 370 are playing with fire: Abdullah

Srinagar: National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said those who are trying to repeal articles 370 and 35-A of the Constitution, which guarantee special status to Jammu & Kashmir, are playing with fire.

"The need of the hour is to douse these flames and not to add fuel to the fire," Abdullah said, addressing a poll campaign rally at Devsar in Kulgam district.

The forme Chief Minister asserted that no one can subdue Kashmiris.

"History bears the testimony to the fact that no one was able to enslave Kashmiris. We have fought Mughals, Pathans and other despotic regimes and never let anyone subdue us.

"New Delhi will have our respect, only if they respect the people of this State. No one should dare tinker with our self esteem for the Kashmiris have always responded to the brickbats thrown at them with determination," he said.

Cautioning the people against forces inimical to the state's special status, Abdullah said the forces which have been inimical to the state's special status come in different hues and colors trying to destroy it.

"Kashmiris, however, have never allowed such forces to succeed in their nefarious designs; today the situation is no different. Today we see the BJP-RSS cheekily taking vows to destroy the identity and integrity of our State," he said.

He added that articles 370 and 35-A protect the state natives rights to jobs, land holdings and scholarships.

"Any move to scuttle the articles will have far reaching consequences on the people of the state. So it is imperative for the the people across the state, in particular the people of south Kashmir to vote. Every vote you cast will set the recourse of our State for the next half a decade," he added.

The former chief minister said the people of Kashmir can tackle their problems only through ballots and not guns.

"The problem cannot be resolved by using guns or pelting stones. It is only through the use of vote that the people of Kashmir can find a way forward.

"The gun culture has only added to the miseries of the people and made us susceptible to the machinations of those who are inimical to our identity. The people have to forge unity and come in large numbers to vote in order to save the identity, integrity, pluralistic visage and special constitutional status of our state," he said. ***PTI***

India had shared actionable inputs with Sri Lanka before blasts, says Rajnath

Mumbai: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has said Indian authorities shared "actionable" intelligence with Sri Lanka before the serial blasts rocked the neighbouring country.

Nearly 360 people were killed in the Easter Sunday bombings in the island nation."Desired and actionable inputs were shared with the authorities in Sri Lanka prior to the blasts. But unfortunately, they (plotters) succeeded," Singh told PTI.

Asked if Sri Lanka failed to act on those inputs, he said it is not a question of blaming that country's Government for it.

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

However, the NTJ has not claimed responsibility for the attacks.

According to officials, intelligence inputs about a possible terror attack in Sri Lanka, targeting the Indian High Commission, were shared by Indian agencies with their counterparts in the island nation earlier this month after the National Investigation Agency completed its probe into an ISIS-inspired module planning to kill prominent leaders in south India.

The inputs were sent through diplomatic channels to Sri Lanka after a thorough investigation pertaining to the ISIS case in Coimbatore was carried out by the NIA, which has filed a charge sheet against seven people. During investigation, the probe team had stumbled upon videos of NTJ leader Zahran Hashim, which was indicative of a terror attack on the Indian High Commission in Colombo. ***PTI***

LS polls over, Cong, BJP in Karna now focus on Assembly bypolls

Bengaluru: With polls ending for all 28 LoK Sabha constituencies in Karnataka, Congress and BJP turned their focus on Thursday on finalising candidates for Chincholi and Kundgol assembly constituencies for the May 19 by-elections.

BJP held its core committee meeting under theleadership of State chief BS Yeddyurappa to finalise itscandidates for both the assembly segments.

Pradesh Congress President Dinesh Gundu Rao too held meetings to discuss the preparations for the by-election and selection of candidates.

Congress and JD(S) have decided to go to polls together by fielding a consensus candidate from the grand old party, as both seats were held by it.

The outcome of by-polls along with Lok Sabha resultsis crucial for the ruling Congress-JD(S) alliance as it would have a bearing on the longevity of the coalition Government, triggering the number game in the Assembly.

Bypoll to Chincholi was necessitated as Umesh Jadhav quit as Congress MLA and joined the BJP to contest Lok Sabha pollsfrom Gulbarga, while Kundgol seat fell vacant following thedeath of MLA and Minister C S Shivalli.

The last date to file nomination is on April 29.

Speaking to reporters after the core committee meeting Yeddyurappa said, "We have recommended one name each for boththe constituencies to Delhi (party central leadership) afterdiscussion.

It will be finalised tomorrow and from Delhi the candidates will be announced. We will win both the seats andwe are making all preparations."

"We also discussed prospects of Lok Sabha polls. According to our leaders and feed back received from various places we will win minimum 22 seats (out of 28). We have thatconfidence. We may win even more," he added. ***PTI***

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Name of the work **"Repair / restoration of existing dust control system in Iron Ore Handling Plant"** Estimated cost : Rs. 1,99,37,378/-. Last date & time of submission of bid : dt. 13.05.2019 up to 17:15 Hrs. Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in / eprocure/app.
Executive Engineer (O)
PPT/PR/22/2019-20, Dt.25.04.2019

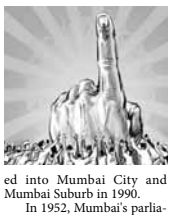
Mumbai: An electoral battleground for many political stalwarts

Mumbai: From Dalit icon Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar to noted Communist leader Sripad Dange, many a political stalwart have tried their luck in parliamentary elections from Mumbai.

There have also been surprises like when firebrand trade union leader George Fernandes trounced Congress heavyweight S K Patil from the Mumbai South Lok Sabha constituency in 1967.

Before delimitation in 2008, the city district had three Lok Sabha constituencies - Mumbai South, South Central and North Central.

Mumbai district was divided into Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburb in 1990.



In 1952, Mumbai's parliamentary constituencies were Mumbai South, Mumbai North and Mumbai Suburbs. While in 1957, there were Mumbai City South, Mumbai Central and Mumbai North.

In 1962, the Lok Sabha seats were Mumbai City South, Mumbai City South Central and Mumbai City North Central (SC).

Ambedkar, who was the law minister in the Jawaharlal Nehru government formed after independence, contested as the candidate of the Scheduled Caste Federation (SCF) from Mumbai North in 1952.

However, the chief Constitution-maker was defeated by Congress candidate Narayan Kajrolkar. Kajrolkar had bagged 1,38,137 votes, while Ambedkar polled 1,23,576 votes.

In 1957, Defence Minister V K Krishna Menon of the Congress won from Mumbai North.

While Dange, a founding member of the Communist Party of India (CPI), was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mumbai Central in 1957, Fernandes emerged as a "giant killer" in 1967 by defeating Congress's Patil from Mumbai South.

Another interesting feature is that in 1971, Shiv Sena leader Manohar Joshi contested from Mumbai North Central but lost to R D Bhandare of the Congress.

In 1984, Joshi, who later went on to become the first Shiv Sena Chief Minister of Maharashtra, unsuccessfully contested as the BJP nominee against Sharad Dighe of the Congress from Mumbai North Central.

Another top Sena leader, Wamanrao Mahadik, had contested on a BJP ticket from Mumbai South Central in 1984.

Communist and socialist leaders have left their deep imprint on the political landscape of the financial capital of the country, which was once home to a large number of textile mills.

Communist stalwart Ahilya Rangnekar was elected from Mumbai North Central in 1977 and Pramila Dandavate, the wife of former Union minister Madhu Dandavate, had made it to the Lok Sabha from the same constituency in 1980.

In 1984, trade unionist Datta Samant was elected to the Lower House of Parliament from Mumbai South-Central as an independent.

The metropolis now has half a dozen Lok Sabha seats — Mumbai North, Mumbai North-West, Mumbai North-East, Mumbai North-Central, Mumbai South-Central and Mumbai South — which go to the polls on April 29. ***PTI***

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ravi Kumar** S/o Kamal Kumar R/o N-55, Raghubir Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 270/15 u/s 308/411 IPC P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ravi Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it have been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ravi Kumar** absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ravi Kumar** accused of FIR No. 270/15 u/s 308/411 IPC is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.06.2019.**

By Order: Sh. Manoj Kumar
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 292, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2171/OD/19

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PAPER WITH PASSION

New face of terror

Attacks on faith shrines are increasing in South Asia, according to a report. Are we identifying the right sources?

The terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, the largest in the history of South Asia, are a reminder of how militant groups are now sparking up new hotspots where they had no influence before. And they are doing them on a visually soul less scale, like attacking faith shrines, to attract global shock and awe besides working up least expected touch points in the Philippines, Indonesia, New Zealand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. That also explains why the Islamic State (IS) chose the relatively calmer Sri Lanka to imprint its signature despite having an operative base in neighbouring Maldives. Besides, most of South and Southeast Asia are multi-cultural and eclectic societies, which may not host the idea of a monolithic socio-religious identity but where divisions can be fomented by playing on latent communal fears and insecurities. The mosque attacks in Christchurch or the church blasts in Sri Lanka are the manifestations of a global trend of an increasing pattern of hitting at faith shrines in South Asia, a sort of theatre for the new-age crusades, according to the University of Maryland's Global Terrorism Database. The study shows that the region alone accounts for about 24 per cent of all terror strikes on places of worship worldwide between 2000 and 2017. Of the total 1,909 terror attacks on religious institutions globally, 458 incidents have been recorded in the South Asian region, which comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. After Pakistan and Afghanistan, India is reportedly the third-most affected country in the region with 63 terror attacks on religious shrines.

Clearly the IS, which is increasingly under fire in its old strongholds and almost floundering in both Iraq and Syria, has some funding and the digital infrastructural network to rebuild its relevance. So it is spreading to virgin areas, setting off new counter-polarities easily and keeping its need for a global *jihad* alive. As usual, operatives are using online propaganda to radicalise disaffected youth in Europe, recruiting from waning organisations like the Taliban in Afghanistan and Boko Haram in Nigeria and looking for places that have a security vacuum. Sri Lanka fits the bill perfectly on this count because post the decimation of the Tamil militants, the island nation has by and large been peaceful, developed itself as a booming tourist economy and risen on the world map of top beach hotspots. The casualties would be high in such a porous set-up. The surprise element was such that till two days after the blasts happened, nobody had talked about simmering tensions between Sinhala Buddhists and Muslims, which were inherent but never explosive enough. You could say they were contained flashpoints that militant organisations are now linking to stage a new global conflict. If we look at Southeast Asia, then Thailand and the Philippines have had long-standing conflicts along territorial and religious lines. In Indonesia, the Aceh province and Papua island have been in conflict with Jakarta while Bali continues to hold off fundamentalism. Myanmar is riven by issues of ethnicity, territory and religion as the purging of Rohingya Muslims, which sparked an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and further deepened divisions, has shown. Sadly, these attacks have also set up polarised contexts that have further fuelled hate speech and increasingly led to an assertion of identity through new faith shrines. As hate speeches encourage the intolerance of otherness, becoming the new normal, and the attendant fake news factory rapidly unleashes a communication war, the terrorists get a swell of divided sentiments to play upon. As for the States, they are left with little option but to crack down, somewhat at the cost of existing religious freedoms. But curbing terror is just one facet, there is a new face of terror emerging in 2019, one that is not confined to the Middle East but to the former Soviet republics. In 2017, at least 8,500 fighters from former Soviet republics had flocked to Syria and Iraq to join the IS and are now being deployed, given their ease with some European languages, to newer areas. In short, the only way to kill rapidly mutating terror is to be prepared for the unexpected. Till governments form an alliance to think two steps ahead, terror will continue to be the worst scourge of human history.

Don't talk and drive

Drinking while driving is dangerous but using your smartphone while driving is a fast-growing killer

A study by the World Health Organisation (WHO) says in no uncertain terms that those people who use a mobile phone while driving, even with hand-free aids, are four times more likely to have an accident than those who do not. This report emerged on the day when footage went viral of a Delhi resident, who was driving an SUV, running over his three-year-old nephew because he was distracted by his mobile phone. Across the country people are being killed and injured everyday because car drivers cannot get off their mobile phones in an utter desperate need to stay connected. And are you innocent yourself? Chances are that even you, dear readers, have used a mobile phone while driving. Everyone, car drivers, motorcycle drivers, auto-rickshaw drivers and even rickshaw pullers and pedestrians are on their phones while on public roads, thinking matters need to be attended to immediately than wait. Mobile phones are clearly making matters worse on Indian roads that are downright dangerous with over 150,000 fatalities reported every year.

This at a time when the government is trying to mandate additional safety features in cars and is cracking down on riders, who are not wearing helmets, or car drivers and passengers not using seatbelts. From the middle of this year, new and improved braking systems will become mandatory on motorcycles and cars. Vehicles will additionally be required to have driver and front passenger airbags as well as reversing sensors. All this in the name of safety, but Indian car and motorcycles owners readily play chicken with their lives by using their mobile phones, driving their cars with one hand or cradling phones on their necks. The death of a three-year old is shocking but is it enough to wean people away from a dangerous addiction? The traffic authorities across the country will need to crack down on mobile phone usage with punitive fines and suspensions of driving privileges. However, car makers are now installing several innovative hands-free connected systems on their models but the WHO report also argues that these are only slightly safer. Human beings, particularly the male of the species, are not really wired to multi-task and talking on the phone, even through a hands-free device, could be extremely distracting. And god forbid, if you have an argument and get into a bad mood while on a call, you will almost certainly take your frustration out on the road. The bigger question, therefore, is if a call is worth taking a risk on the move? Simply pull over if you have to.

Imported *jihad*

Muslim assertiveness is not new in Sri Lanka. But for the first time, the community has turned against Christians. The provocation seems to be imposed rather than indigenous

PRIYADARSHI **DUTTA**

Sri Lanka is no stranger to violence — a complete generation underwent the ordeals of the Tamil-Sinhala Civil War (1976-2009). But the serial blasts that bloodied the Easter celebrations in the island last Sunday were on a different plane. Its roots seem to puzzle those who had studied the history of Sri Lanka.

Tamil insurgency was an outgrowth of bad blood between the two ethnic communities *viz*, Tamil and Sinhala, in post-colonial Sri Lanka (then called Ceylon). These two communities, unequal in size and inhabiting different geographical zones of the island, once viewed themselves as co-founders of the island's civilisation. For one complete century between the Colebrooke-Cameron Reforms (1829-32) — which gave colonial Ceylon a legislative council — and the Donoughmore Commission (1931), when territorial elections were introduced, the relationship between the Tamils and Sinhalese deteriorated sharply.

The Tamils, though in a numerical minority, could previously take a much-relaxed view as long as their representation in the Council was the same as the Sinhalese. But as political reforms progressed in the crown colony, relationships worsened under the shadow of Sinhala majoritarianism. The Tamils were the makers of modern Ceylon. But they found themselves falling from the frying pan to the fire after Ceylon gained independence.

Between 1951 and 1976, one finds Tamils trying to fashion various political responses to the Sinhala clout. Then finally came the Vaddukoddai Resolution (May 14, 1976), which pitched for an independent "Tamil Eelam", an expression first used in modern time as early as 1923 by Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam (1853-1924). The uncrowned king of Ceylonese Tamil civilian politics *viz*, SJV Chelvanayakam (1898-1977), exhorted the Tamil youth to take up arms to resist Sinhalese hegemony.

An independent Tamil Eelam was, thus, not the brainchild of either the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), or the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) or People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE). But a resolution passed by those politicians who had tried to handle the issue by Constitutional means for far too long without any success. The situation erupted into a bloody, messy and cruel civil war that lasted for three decades. It ended in May 2009 with the defeat of the LTTE by the Sri Lankan Army, accompanied by the carnage of Tamils caught in the crossfire.

The Easter bloodbath, on the other hand, does not seem to be an outgrowth of natural politics. It was directed against Christians (regardless of ethnicity) and foreigners, who stay in plush hotels like Shangri-La, Cinnamon Grand and Kingsbury in Colombo. The blasts coincided with the US-Sri Lanka Naval exercise off the Hambantota Port, owned by China on a 99-year lease.

The Sri Lankan Government found the blasts to be the handiwork of Islamic radicals, and the Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the bombings. Both Christians and Muslims are small minorities and do not hope to play an independent role in the overall politics of the island. They do not have a history of turning against one another as a group either.

The Muslims, who have a dominant presence in eastern districts like Batticaloa and Trincomalee, could still foster some territorial ambitions. But Christians, who are to be found both among Sinhalese and Tamils besides Burghese (who are Anglo-Indians in Sri Lanka), can at best manage to influence politics as part of some group.

Various Prime Ministers and Presidents of Sri Lanka, right from DS Senanayake to Mahinda Rajapaksa, have had a Christian family background. Christian presence in Sri Lanka goes back to Portuguese invasions in the 16th century. Various Sinhalese (Buddhists) and Tamil (Hindus) had converted to Christianity. But as the Donoughmore Commission (1931) recommended franchise base on territory, many of those leading families re-converted to Buddhism to ingratiate themselves to the masses. They are generally referred to as "Donoughmore Buddhists."

Interestingly, it was such families, who remained at the helm of Sri Lankan politics but it was not before Ranasinghe Premadasa (1924-1993), a genuine Buddhist, who became the Sri Lankan President, that they held an official post. However, such re-converted families were never shy of using Buddhism as a state policy to marginalise the Tamils.

Those who remained Christians (amongst Sinhalese and Burghese) felt political power passing away from their hands. In January 1962, there was a "Christian *coup d'etat*", popularly called "Operation Holdfast", to overthrow the democratically-elected Government of the then Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. The top brass of the Army, Navy and police involved in it were Christians, and pained that Bandaranaike was advancing the policies of her slain husband SWRD Banadaranaike which related to the aggressive "Buddhitisation" of Sri Lanka. But the attempt was exposed and neutralised.

During the Civil War, the Christians settled down on the respective side of the ethnic divide. While the Sinhalese Christians tried to prove their Sinhalese credentials, the Tamil Christians were active in the LTTE. Young women from Tamil Christian families were the first to volunteer for LTTE's woman brigade. This was because they were comparatively free from the conservatism of Hindu families. The Muslims, though they were Tamil-speaking, did not join the LTTE. They eventually came to be at the receiving end of the LTTE's policies. In the Kattankudy mosque massacre, 147 Muslim men and boys were killed on August 3, 1990, by the LTTE.

The Muslims, though Tamil-speaking, did not consider themselves as part of the Tamil nation. Way back in 1885, a debate arose when Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan (1851-1930), in a speech to the Ceylon Legislative Council, had tried to prove that Tamil Muslims were descendants of low-class Tamil Hindus, who had converted to Islam. The Muslim community (then called Moors in Ceylon) was enraged and argued that they were descendants of Arab traders, who settled down in the island centuries ago and gradually adopted Tamil while forgetting Arabic.

Muslim assertiveness is not new in Sri Lanka. Way back in 1915, there were Candy riots between Sinhalese (Buddhists) and Muslims. Last year in March 2018, there were similar clashes between Sinhalese and Muslims. Religious places of each community were attacked by the other. But this is the first time in historical memory that Muslims have turned against the Christians. The provocation seems to be imported rather than indigenous. The terror attacks rather seem to be part of the global *jihad* or more particularly, retaliation for Christchurch mosque attack on March 15. In recent years, missionary activities by Christians and Muslims are on the rise in the island. These terror attacks, though a grave security risk, might not indicate any shift in the politics of Sri Lanka. But it is a signal that *Jihad bi-al Qital* has appeared on the shores of the palm-fringed island.

(The writer is an independent researcher. The views expressed herein are his personal)

SOUNDBITE

Imran Khan is a friend of mine. But the kind of divisive politics that is going on (over nationalism with reference to Pakistan) is dangerous.

TMC candidate
—Moon Moon Sen

I have been in the industry for over two decades. No one is going to keep giving me work because I am Salman Khan's brother.

Actor
—Arbaaz Khan

The Chinese military sent warships (Taiwan) in accordance with the law to identify the French ship and warn it to sail away from Chinese waters.

Chinese spokesman
—Ren Guoqiang

I don't think the time has come to even rethink on AFSPA. However, the Army has been taking adequate precautions to protect human rights.

Army Chief
—Bipin Rawat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A leader's character

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Who's the bigger star?" (April 25). During the hour-long non-political interview of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by actor Akshay Kumar, where the former showcased his personal life — right from his childhood days, to his struggles and his relationship with political rivals like Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee and Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, his love for mangoes — was candid and made an interesting listen.

There is not an iota of doubt that the rise of Modi from being a *chaiwala* to becoming the Chief Minister of Gujarat and subsequently the Prime Minister was a long arduous journey. Otherwise, Modi would have been an Army man or a *sanyasi*. This only reveals that he never dreamt to reach such high positions. The Prime Minister rounded off the interview on a bright note by saying that he would always be focussed on responsibilities — whether in or out of power — which is a positive trait very few leaders possess.

KR Srinivasan
Secunderabad

Let's face some home truths

This refers to the article, "No outsiders in Kerala" (April 23) by Kumar Chellappan. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) never came anywhere close to a victory in any seat in any general election except in the 2014 election when its candidate in the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency secured 32.3 per cent of the votes polled. He came second. It is true parties encourage tactical voting to maximise their seat shares when in serious contention for power. Here, the BJP could hardly plead lack of knowledge about such tactics. Who doesn't know about the covert ploy of political parties for vote-banks to defeat the Left candidates in some constituencies?

Lord Ayyappa temple, tucked in the dense forests of Sabari Hills, had become a cherished destination of pilgrims across the country under the regimes of the LDF and UDF. The High Court of Kerala imposed a ban on the entry of young women into the temple in 1991. That order was enforced scrupulously without even preferring an appeal in the Supreme Court. Later, some RSS

pracharaks approached the apex court with the pretext of pursuing lofty goals of gender equality and freedom to worship. However, sensing a 'golden opportunity' in the order of the Constitution Bench that lifted the ban on women entry, the right-wing took an unapologetic U-turn to discredit the verdict. These were skilful political jockeys unconnected to the faith.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Time will heal

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Terror returns" (April 23). Churches and luxury hotels in and around Colombo were targetted during Easter Sunday. The bomb attacks must be condemned in the strongest terms. This was, perhaps, the biggest terrorist attack in Sri Lanka since the cessation of Civil war. The bloodshed would certainly have an adverse impact on trade and tourism in the island nation. It is baffling that the island nation did not take warnings about a possible terror attack seriously enough.

Some of the blasts took place in places of worship. This goes to show, once again, that terror has no respect for religion. Terrorism can be battled only through coordinated efforts by the international community by sharing intelligence, choking financial support of terrorists and greater collaboration of preventive measures are reliable strategies. Simultaneously, the investigation into the blasts should be speeded up.

Ramesh G Jethwani
Bengaluru

Dikshit is worthy

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "The three-way split" (April 24). In the ongoing extremely vituperative political cauldron, the electorate must be desperate to find a sane and sober personality who is endearing.

The one reason why one can heave a sigh of relief is former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit is the Congress' candidate from North East for the Lok Sabha election. Dikshit still sports a suave, down-to-earth demeanour that ought to have far greater appeal than what she had earlier.

If the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal sends impressions of being a maverick, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has the ever voluble Prime Minister, who still continues with the 2014 rhetoric but with improved spelling and syntax. This time, Delhi must be longing for the return of the genial and maternal figure.

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRSTCOLUMN

A new vehicle for real estate growth

As India makes a foray into a new investment model, its success will depend on an efficient regulatory system that can ensure best interests of all

RK **ARORA**

One may not be aware but Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) sway our life consistently. From the place where we live, to where we work, REITs surround us. A great many people don't have the time or resources to buy or manage large-scale income-producing real estate. But the good news is that REITs allow us to own a share of the kind of real estate that would have otherwise been financially out of reach. How? These are mutual funds-like institutions that enable individuals to purchase/sell REITs on open stock trades.

Benefits of investing in REITs: Global capital allocation towards REITs is increasing exponentially. In a major signoff, investors have started taking fancy to Indian real estate — the sector has garnered a whopping ₹8,000 crore in the last fortnight alone. This comprises the ₹3,200 crore QIP by DLF and the Blackstone-Embassy combine, raising ₹4,750 crore in India's first ever REIT offering. Private equity players have invested close to $53 billion since 2008 in India's real estate story. For investors, the chance to own a share of valuable real estate has meant income as well as diversification for their investment portfolios.

To qualify as a REIT, an entity must have a bulk of its assets and income connected to real estate investments. It must also distribute at least 90 per cent of its taxable income as dividends to shareholders. As a result of these necessities, REITs give a one-of-a-kind mix of all-out return that sits among stocks and bonds. By comparison, equity returns have mainly come due to capital admiration. Fixed income returns have been more dependent on income or coupons. An extraordinary blend of development and required investor payouts that REITs give may be appealing to add up to return financial specialists with a pay centre. Alongside their extraordinary, income-oriented attributes, REITs may likewise help diversify a portfolio and lower the overall risk. In addition to strong historical performance, it is believed that going forward, opportunities for real estate investors will keep coming. The current REIT cycle has been a bit lengthy but long and persistent economic cycles are common in real estate. Given the nature, rising loan fees are worth considering. In these periods, REITs have really been extensively increasingly adaptable, completely beating fixed pay after some time.

Success of first REIT and impact on real estate: REITs in India are expected to provide people with an opportunity to invest in fixed income securities, which also provide long-term capital appreciation. Due to limited investment opportunities, savings made by such investors are usually channelised into gold and housing, which are unproductive assets. As an investment, REITs are expected to convert such capital into productive assets. Additionally, they open to little financial specialists a field (for example, lease creating land resources) that was until now the syndication of extensive financial specialists. Since REITs have to distribute 90 per cent of the income back to shareholders, the returns are higher than the stock market. It will help developers improve their debt-equity balance and assist in the growth of a more stable and mature market. REITs, being pure equity capital, will also provide developers with institutional capital to sell their assets and utilise funds for further development or paring of bank debt. With access to public markets for IPOs not being a short to medium term option for developers in India, this option is all the more attractive.

The real estate sector is strongly associated with infrastructure and is fundamental to its growth. Given its capital-intensive nature and the limited options available to developers as well as owners for raising funds, REITs offer a way forward. In general terms, a REIT is an investment vehicle that owns and operates real estate-related assets and allows investors to earn income produced through ownership of commercial real estate without actually having to buy an asset. Typically, the income-producing real estate assets possessed by a REIT incorporate office buildings, shopping malls, apartments, warehouses and mortgaged property. REITs were first introduced in the US in the early 1960s and have since been adopted as a preferred investment mode across the world. Over the years, they have constructively changed the way the real estate market operates, benefitting investors and developers.

Thus, the success of REITs in any country depends on its capability to customise rules and regulations governing REITs in such a way that they fit into individual markets. The support of governing authorities to ensure a less restrictive REIT regime and favourable tax transparency status is a critical factor in the development of a vibrant REIT sector in a new market. To conclude, India has the entire gradient to witness a successful REIT regime in the long-term. All that is required is an efficient regulatory system framed that can ensure the best interest of the investor, the market and economy, while also making the instrument attractive in terms of greater yield and less risk to entice domestic and foreign investors.

(The writer is Chairman of a real estate development firm)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

AS PER THE HIGH COMMAND'S DECISION, MINISTERS IN PUNJAB, WHO DO NOT ENSURE VICTORY FOR THE CONGRESS, WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CABINET.
—PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER
CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH

I WELCOME THE HIGH COMMAND'S DECISION. BUT, IN THE END, IT IS THE STATE LEADERSHIP THAT MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.
—SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER
PARTAP SINGH BAJWA

Roots of Islamophobia

Anti-Muslim sentiment has become a tool for populist politicians to describe Muslims as the 'other' and the ones to blame for the economic or cultural decline of a Western country

NADEEM **PARACHA**

On March 15, when a horrendous attack by a White Australian supremacist left 50 Muslims dead in a mosque in New Zealand, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, fired a series of tweets against Islamophobia. Interestingly, in Pakistan, the tweets received some rather mixed responses. Many accused him of exhibiting "outright hypocrisy" while others were more tongue-in-cheek in their response, pointing out that it was ironic that a Prime Minister of a country, where religious and sectarian minorities are constantly attacked by radical Islamist outfits, should be lamenting the state of Islamophobia in the West.

Indeed, there is always much irony in Muslim states that overtly criticise Islamophobia while doing precious little to address the persecution of minority faiths or sects in their own realms. Therefore, a prominent Muslim (or for that matter, any Muslim) should be very careful in his/her criticism of Islamophobia. If their laments are to be taken seriously, without sounding so obviously contradictory, then they should be well-informed about the inherent contradictions that these laments carry. The wording of their criticism should, thus, be a more measured exercise.

Prime Minister Khan should have observed how Pakistan's military establishment has been wording its responses in this context. Ever since 2015 — when the military initiated a widespread operation against militant outfits — it condemns violence against Muslims elsewhere but always attaches a reminder to it that Pakistan has fought a vicious war against religious terrorism and won. This somewhat neutralises the contradictions that emerge when a country, with a history of sectarian bloodshed and violence against minorities, wags a finger at a country guilty of exhibiting Islamophobia. Because when this question does arise, it is countered by the reminder that Pakistan is actually doing something about it.

But Prime Minister Khan went slightly off the rails in his tweeted outrage against Islamophobia. He failed to balance his critique by confessing that Pakistan, too, has a problem of religiously-motivated violence but one that it is trying to address seriously.

But when he was in Opposition, Khan and his party had actually opposed any serious action against religious militancy. Yet, it is also true that the complex reality of being in power is gradually transforming his views. So one now expects him to be a bit more aware when commenting on the violence unleashed by White supremacists against Muslims.

But what really is Islamophobia? This question needs to be answered in a more thorough manner, especially by the Muslims themselves if they are to critique it without sounding contradictory. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, Islamophobia is an "intense dislike or fear of Islam." In an article in the October 2015 issue of *The Atlantic*, Tanya Basu wrote that the term was derived by the French word, "Islamophobie." It was first coined by French author Alain Quellien in 1910 to criticise the behaviour of French colonial administrators towards their Muslim subjects.

In her essay for the March 2006 issue of the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, LP Sheridan wrote that the term's first known usage in English appeared some 90 years later in 1991. It then made its way into the Oxford English Dictionary in 1997. This suggests that Islamophobia, as it is understood today, is a recent development. Professor Emeritus Bichara Khader, in his essay for the 2016 anthology, *The Search for Europe*, wrote that Islamophobia in Europe and the US is often linked to migrants from Muslim countries that are seen as a threat to Western culture and security.

He questioned this assumption by adding that migration was not an issue at all in the West till the early 1970s, after thousands of Muslims from South Asia, South East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa began arriving in various European cities from the 1950s onward. They were looking for work and higher wages. Khader wrote that as post-war economies boomed in Europe, these migrants were seen as being vital contributors to this boom. He added that it was only when the economies of Europe began to recede — especially after the 1973 oil crisis — the term "migration problem" came into play.

Yet, it was never linked to a "Muslim problem" as it is today. Khader said that during the turmoil of the 1970s and 1980s — which saw riots involving migrants and locals, especially in France and England — these were explained as "race riots" and also included migrants from the Caribbean islands and non-Muslim Indians. The reasons were economic.

Neo-fascist outfits accused their Governments of allowing non-white migrants to steal "white jobs." It really wasn't a clash of cultures as such. Or not yet. According to Khader, till the early 1980s, Muslim migrants were not very public or exhibitionistic about their faith. For example, they were happy with a few basement mosques.

> RECENTLY, PRIME MINISTER KHAN WENT SLIGHTLY OFF THE RAILS IN HIS TWEETED OUTRAGE AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA. HE FAILED TO BALANCE HIS CRITIQUE BY CONFESSING THAT PAKISTAN, TOO, HAS A PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUSLY-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE BUT ONE THAT IT IS TRYING TO ADDRESS SERIOUSLY

Once settled, Muslim migrants began to marry women from their own countries and then brought them to Europe — even though it wasn't uncommon for some to marry European women as well. Khader wrote that most of the women who came as wives, were from rural and semi-rural areas of Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Egypt among others. This development changed the settlers' attitude towards their religion and cultural values. Whereas once they were fine with their small 'basement mosques', now they began to demand proper mosques.

The change in behaviour attracted preachers, who began to set up shop in various European cities. They were particularly appealing to second generation migrants, especially from families who had failed to be fully integrated by European integration policies. Khader wrote that, as the presence of veiled women and mosques grew, this is when the 'migration problem' began to be seen as a 'Muslim problem', triggering Islamophobia.

Authors such as Khader and George Morgan in (Muslims and Moral Panic in the West) agree that the more outward exhibition of 'Muslimness' in the West did contribute in the making of the above- mentioned scenario. Nevertheless, they are of the view that Islamophobia is still largely a construct of populist right-wing parties.

Khader wrote that there are 23 million Muslims in Europe. This means they are just five per cent of Europe's total population. Thus, Islamophobia has become a tool for populist politicians to describe Muslims as the 'other' and the ones to blame for the economic or cultural decline of a Western country.

(Courtesy: The Dawn)

Establish the rule of law

Without getting into the nitty-gritty of the allegations against the CJI, it is imperative that an impartial hearing, based on settled principles, be held. However, by not providing for just representation of women in the enquiry committee, the court has undermined the POSH Act

ANJU **KAPUR**

On April 19, a complaint of sexual harassment against the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi (CJI) was sent to the Residence(s) of 22 judges of the Supreme Court of India, along with an affidavit and other supporting evidence. The complainant had asked for the constitution of an inquiry committee of senior retired judges to investigate and adjudicate on the serious allegations of sexual harassment.

Under the Indian law, complaint(s) of sexual harassment at the workplace are required to be addressed in accordance with the procedure, as established under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act). The Act mandates that every organisation — with more than 10 employees — must set up an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), comprising at least four members and 50 per cent of them should be women. Further, it also states that the presiding officer of the ICC should also be a woman.

Thus, the spirit of the POSH Act lies in providing women greater representation in the inquiry committee and in including an external member on the board to ensure transparency and fairness.

The Supreme Court has constituted an ICC and also framed The Gender Sensitisation & Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations 2013, to investigate the complaints of sexual harassment.

However, in gross violation of the procedure as established by the law and in absolute negation of the 'rule of law', the Supreme Court on April 20, held a *suo moto* hearing of the complaint. The Bench comprised three male judges, presided by the CJI himself.

On acute criticism by various lawyers and Bar Association(s) of the *suo moto* hearing held by the apex court, on April 23, a special Bench comprising three male judges issued notice to a lawyer, Utsav Bains, who claimed that a man had approached him to file a false case of sexual harassment against the CJI. However, no investigation was instituted to examine the veracity of the complaint of sexual harassment.

Then in a series of surprises, the top court constituted a new Bench on April 23, comprising two male and a female Supreme Court judges to examine the complaint of sexual harassment against the CJI. This Bench issued notice to the complainant on April 24 and directed her to appear before the Bench on April 26, that is today.

In setting up a predominantly male Bench, headed by a male judge (even though there are three sitting women judges at the Supreme Court) the court has side-stepped and corroded the sanctity of the predominantly women-led ICC.

Undoubtedly and inherently, a reason exists for POSH to insist on a committee led by a woman with them being in majority. This, to provide an environment conducive for a woman to speak freely and fearlessly about a sexual assault on her physical body. Presence of women members in majority can ease, facilitate and enable them to speak about incidents that outraged their soul.

It is fearsome and intimidating for them to express about unwanted physical contact by men in authority before strange men. Ask any woman — no matter how rich or powerful, educated or illiterate — whether they would be able to explain the gory and graphic details of the violence committed before strange men.

To facilitate, enable and create a conducive environment — where victims are encouraged to speak freely in the presence of other women — POSH insists on this specific composition which must necessarily be strictly and scrupulously adhered. Any breach would only further perpetuate injustice.

In not providing more representation to women in the committee and by not including an external member, the Supreme Court has undermined the sanctity of the POSH Act.

The apex court has been the torch-bearer of women's right to equality and safe spaces. The court itself laid down the Visakha Guidelines in 1997 to protect women against sexual harassment and abuse at workplace. Even thereafter, it took almost 15 years for the POSH law to be enacted.

The POSH Act is unique. This progressive and welfare legislation cannot be permitted to be undermined lest Indian women lose their right to safe work places.

Without getting into the merits of the allegations levelled against the CJI, it is imperative that a fair and impartial hearing of the matter be conducted that is based on the settled principles and the procedure established by the law. This is a *sine qua non* for upholding the rule of law.

Looking at the gravity of the complaint at hand and in keeping with the spirit and objectives of the POSH Act, the Supreme Court must lead by example and ensure that the presiding officer and majority of the members of the inquiry committee are women. Further, the board must include external member/members as well.

It is incumbent on all citizens of India, especially women, to voice their concern on side-stepping of the women-led complaints committee in a matter of sexual harassment.

If we choose to remain quiet on this grave violation of principles of natural justice and the procedure established by the law, it will send the Indian women back to decades. The spirit and sanctity of the POSH Act must be fiercely protected, preserved and prevented from being reduced to a mockery.

(The writer is an advocate)

FOREIGN EYE

WHEN HUNGER STRIKES...

The main reasons for people needing emergency food are benefits which consistently fail to cover the cost of living, and delays or changes to benefits being paid. The charity believes ending the five-week wait for a first universal credit payment should be the government's first priority to help create a future without food banks. That is surely correct, and a simple change to make.

(The Independent editorial)

the pioneer
DEHRADUN | FRIDAY | APRIL 26, 2019

Maruti to stop diesel vehicle sales from April 1, 2020

New Bharat Stage 6 emission norms will make small diesel engines unaffordable, says Chairman RC Bhargava

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest carmaker Maruti-Suzuki today clearly announced that they will stop sales of all diesel-engined cars from April 1, 2020. This is the day that Bharat Stage 6 (BS6) emission norms come into force in India and no old Bharat Stage 4 diesel engined vehicles will be allowed to be registered. During the carmakers annual results conference, Chairman R C Bhargava made this unequivocal statement about diesels and announced that this would apply to all Maruti-Suzuki products includings hatchbacks, sedans, SUV's and commercial vehicles. Bhargava said that this was because making existing diesel engines BS6 compatible was not technically possible and new engines and costs for a BS6 diesel option on smaller cars would add at least ₹1 lakh to the existing cost of a diesel car. He felt that alongside factors such as higher cost and the fact that diesel vehicles will be deregistered in the National capital Region within ten years, a plan which might be implemented nationwide and with diesel prices rising, the demand for diesel vehicles would collapse. "The Supreme Court has made it clear that it will not allow the sale and registration of any BS4 from April 1, 2020", Bhargava said explaining this decision.

This had a negative impact on the Maruti's share price which crashed after this announcement after having climbed earlier after the company beat investor expectations with a relatively positive result. This is because 23 per cent of Maruti's sales are of diesel vehicles, almost all are of the 1.3 litre diesel engine that Maruti licenses from Fiat, and the company recently announced a new 1.5 litre diesel engine for the Ciaz sedan. Bhargava however said that the company continued to work on hybrid vehicles and while no 'strong hybrids' will be launched in the coming year, Maruti-Suzuki continues to work on the technology for a potential future launch. Bhargava expressed negativity on the possibility of more electric vehicles being launched in the small car space given costs and without a comprehensive study on commodities and carbon costs.

Unit sales for the year climbed to 1,862,449 units including exports, a growth of 4.7 per cent and thus net sales stood at ₹83,026.5 crore a growth of 6.3 per cent. However with foreign exchange volatility and rising commodity prices, net profit declined 2.9 per cent to ₹7500 crore, and thus the company only declared a dividend of ₹80 per share. One other reason for declining profitability were the increase in customer discounts which rose from ₹15,849 per vehicle on average in 2017-18 to ₹18,277 per vehicle in 2018-19. The company also said that while the last few quarters have been weak, sales in the fourth quarter declining 0.7 per cent over the previous year this was in line with most pre-election years in India. That said, Maruti-Suzuki expected sales to grow between 4-8 per cent in Fiscal Year 2020.

Internet users in India to rise by 40% by 2023: McKinsey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With data costs falling by 95 per cent since 2013, India will see internet users rise by about 40 per cent and number of smartphones to double by 2023, McKinsey said in a report.

It also expects core digital sectors to jump two-fold to $355-435 billion by 2025.

The report 'Digital India — Technology to Transform a Connection Nation' by McKinsey Global Institute said the country is one of the largest and fastest-growing markets for digital consumers, with 560 million internet subscribers in 2018, second only to China.

Indian mobile data users consume 8.3 gigabits (GB) of data each month on average, compared with 5.5 GB for mobile users in China and 8-8.5 GB in advanced digital economy of South Korea. Indians have 1.2 billion mobile phone subscriptions and downloaded more apps — 12.3 billion in 2018 — than residents of any other country except China.

"Our analysis of 17 mature and emerging economies finds India is digitising faster than any other country in the study, save Indonesia — and there is plenty of room to grow: just over 40 per cent of the populace has an internet subscription," it said.

While a Government push has helped digitise the economy, private sector firms such as Reliance Jio has helped bring down data costs by more than 95 per cent since 2013, it said, adding the cost of one gigabyte fell from 9.8 per cent of per capita monthly GDP in 2013 (roughly $12.45) to 0.37 per cent in 2017 (the equivalent of a few cents).

"Private-sector innovation has helped bring internet-enabled services to millions of consumers and made online usage more accessible. For example, Reliance Jio's strategy of bundling virtually free smartphones with subscriptions to its mobile service has spurred innovation and competitive pricing across the sector," the report said.

As a result, monthly mobile data consumption per user is growing at 152 per cent annually — more than twice the rates in the United States and China. Average fixed-line download speed quadrupled between 2014 and 2017.

"India will increase the number of internet users by about 40 per cent to between 750 million and 800 million and double the number of smartphones to between 650 million and 700 million by 2023," it said, adding the potential for India's internet subscriber base could reach 835 million by 2023.

McKinsey said India's internet user base has grown rapidly in recent years, propelled by the decreasing cost and increasing availability of smartphones and high-speed connectivity, and is now one of the largest in the world.

The average Indian social media user spends 17 hours on the platforms each week, more than social media users in China and the United States.

The share of Indian adults with at least one digital financial account has more than doubled since 2011, to 80 per cent, thanks in large part to the more than 332 million people who opened mobile phone–based accounts under the Government's Jan-Dhan Yojana — a mass financial-inclusion programme.

"By many measures, India is on its way to becoming a digitally advanced nation," McKinsey said. "Just over 40 per cent of the populace has an internet subscription, but India is already home to one of the world's largest and most rapidly growing bases of digital consumers. It is digitising activities at a faster pace than many mature and emerging economies."

India's core digital sectors, comprising of IT-BPM, digital communication services and electronics manufacturing, accounted for about $170 billion — or 7 per cent — of GDP in 2017–18.

Business Corner

The 29.27 km long Utraitia-Shrirajnagar second line, which is a part of the sanctioned work of Utraitia-Raebareli (65.60 KM) doubling project of Lucknow Division of Northern Railway, was commissioned on Wednesday. The commissioning was following the awarding of clearance, after the inspection of this railway line under the leadership of Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, SK Pathak. The other experts present during the inspection were Director/Personnel (RVNL), Ajay Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager/Lucknow, Satish Kumar and Principal Executive Director (RVNL), Surendra Kumar

On the occasion of HUDCO's 49th Foundation Day, M Ravi Kanth, CMD HUDCO shared the highlights of HUDCO's performance over the last financial year. G Parthasarthy, IFS, & President of India Habitat Centre, the Guest of Honor, congratulated HUDCO on being a consistently profitable company and successfully delivering the company's mandate. Special publications were released on this occasion. Awards for outstanding performances were given to stakeholder, agencies, as well as HUDCO employees

Bank credit grows by 14.19%; deposits by 10.60%: RBI data

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bank credit rose by 14.19 percent to ₹96.45 lakh crore while deposits grew 10.60 percent to ₹125.30 lakh crore in the first fortnight ended on April 12, according to recent RBI data.

In the year ago fortnight, deposits were at ₹113.29 lakh crore and advances stood at ₹84.46 lakh crore.

In the fiscal ended March 2019, bank credit had risen by 13.24 percent and deposits grew by 10.03 percent. This was the second consecutive double-digits credit growth after the same had declined to 4.54 percent in FY17 at ₹78.41 lakh crore, which was the lowest since 1963, the RBI data said.

On a year-on-year basis, non-food bank credit increased by 13.2 percent in February 2019 as compared with an increase of 9.8 percent in the year-ago period.

Loans to the services sector almost doubled with a 23.7 percent growth in February compared to 14.2 percent in the same month last year.

Advances to agriculture and allied activities increased by 7.5 percent in February compared to an increase of 9 percent in February 2018.

Credit to the industry rose by 5.6 percent in February, up from an increase of 1 percent in February 2018.

Credit to the infrastructure, chemical and chemical products, and all engineering sectors accelerated. However, credit growth to basic metal & metal products, textiles, and food processing decelerated/contracted.

Personal loans rose 16.7 percent in February down from 20.4 percent in February 2018, the RBI said.

Ghosn wins bail in Japan but banned from seeing wife

AFP ■ TOKYO

Former Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn emerged from his Tokyo detention centre in the late hours of on Thursday after accepting bail of $4.5 million under strict conditions including restrictions on seeing his wife.

The 65-year-old tycoon faces four charges of financial misconduct ranging from concealing part of his salary from shareholders to syphoning off Nissan funds for his personal use.

His case has captivated Japan and the business community with its multiple twists and turns, as well as shone a spotlight on the Japanese justice system which critics say is overly harsh.

Ghosn exited the Kosuge Detention Centre in northern Tokyo around 10:30pm (1330 GMT) after spending 21 days answering questions from authorities over allegations he creamed off $5 million in Nissan funds for personal ends.

Unlike his previous departure when he was dressed bizarrely in a Japanese workman's outfit with cap and facemask, Ghosn this time strode confidently out dressed in a dark suit without tie.

Under the conditions of his bail, Ghosn must stay in Japan and must live in a court-appointed residence with cameras to monitor his movements amid fears he might try to destroy evidence.

His lead defence lawyer Junichiro Hironaka said the conditions also included an "approval system" to see his wife Carole, whom prosecutors believe has made contact with people involved in the case.

"If the court approves it, she will be able to meet him," he said. Ghosn denies all the charges, with a spokesperson for the executive saying on Monday he would "vigorously defend himself against these baseless accusations and fully expects to be vindicated".

The spokesperson said Ghosn was being detained "under cruel and unjust conditions, in violation of his human rights, in an effort by prosecutors to coerce a confession from him".

On Monday, he was hit with what experts have described as the most serious charges yet as prosecutors accused him of syphoning off $5 million of Nissan cash transferred from the company to a dealership in Oman. He also faces two charges of deferring some $80 million of his salary and hiding this in official documents to shareholders, and seeking to shift personal investment losses to the firm during the 2008 financial crisis.

A Nissan spokesman said in a statement that the company's "internal investigation has uncovered substantial evidence of blatantly unethical conduct".

"Further discoveries related to Ghosn's misconduct continue to emerge," he added. This was the second time Ghosn has been granted bail after posting $9 million in March to win his freedom.

Last time he left the detention centre, he was dressed in a cap, face mask and workman's uniform in an apparent attempt to evade dozens of journalists from around the world hoping to snap a picture of the fallen tycoon.

The bizarre stunt was cooked up by one of his lawyers, Takashi Takano, who later apologised for "tainting" the reputation of his client, who usually appears in public in sharp suits.

Ghosn was preparing to hold a much-anticipated news conference to "tell the truth" about his case but he was re-arrested shortly beforehand to face questioning about the alleged $5 million embezzlement.

Clearly aware he was about to return to custody, Ghosn pre-recorded a video in which he accused "backstabbing" Nissan executives of a "plot" against him, as they feared closer ties with French partner Renault.

Unless re-arrested over further allegations, Ghosn will be free to organise his defence ahead of a possible trial that is likely to take months to prepare. Hironaka has told reporters that a trial as early as the autumn was "not possible for various reasons".

His lawyers have demanded he be tried separately from Nissan, which also faces charges for submitting the suspect financial documents, and have voiced fears he will not receive a fair trial.

The dramatic case has thrown international attention onto the Japanese justice system, derided by critics as "hostage justice" as it allows prolonged detention and relies heavily on suspects' confessions.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused, **Deepak** S/o Babu Lal, R/o D-225/C, Block-D, J.J. Colony, Madi Pur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.296/13 u/s 33/58/52(2) Excise Act, PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi**, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Deepak**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Deepak**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Deepak**, Under the **FIR No. 296/13 u/s 33/58/52(2) Excise Act, PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi**, is required to appear before the court on or before **10.07.2019**.

By order
Sh. Manoj Kumar,
MM, Room No. 292, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts,
Delhi

DP/2170/OD/19

Govt extends deadline for firms to submit photo, other details about registered offices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Companies have been given more time to furnish photographs and location details of their registered offices to the Corporate Affairs Ministry, with the deadline being extended to June 15.

In February, the Ministry notified a new electronic form ACTIVE-1 (Active Company Tagging Identities and Verification). It was part of larger efforts to curb shell companies, suspected to be used as conduits for illicit fund flows.

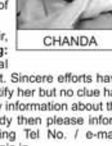
The deadline for submitting the form with requisite details was April 25. It is applicable for companies incorporated on or before December 31, 2017.

The ministry has now extended the deadline till June 15. In case of non-submission of the form within the deadline, companies concerned would have to pay a late fee of Rs 10,000, according to a notification issued on Thursday.

Among other details, a company has to provide the photograph of its registered office with at least one director or key managerial personnel who is signing the form.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION OF UIP (LADY)

General public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Chanda w/o Raghbir** R/o Unknown was found at Kumhar Colony, Vikas Nagar, Delhi in the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi on 02.04.2019. In this regard, a case **DD No. 72A dated 03.04.2019 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.** The description of the unidentified lady is as under.



CHANDA

Age: 70 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Cream Yellow colour Suit-Purpal Salwar & Black Plastics Shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the address and family of unidentified lady then please inform P.S. Ranhola, New Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Ranhola, Delhi
Ph. 011-28363001

DP/2140/OD/19

HDFC BANK
We understand your world

Department For Special Operations
IInd Floor, Indian Express Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Ltd.**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a **Demand Notice Dated 28.05.2018** calling upon the borrower(s) **M/S. Inox Tubes Pvt Ltd.** (Borrower), a Pvt Ltd Company through its Directors **Mr Hannawant Raj Doshi & Mr Sanjay Kumar Doshi** and Mortgagor(s) /Guarantors(s) **1) Mr Hannawant Raj Doshi 2) Mr Sanjay Kumar Doshi & 4) Mrs Manju Doshi** to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand Notice being **Rs. 4,09,14,185.98 (Rupees Four Crores Nine Lakhs Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five & Paise Ninety Eight Only) as on 30.04.2018 and interest thereon w.e.f 01.05.2018** together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days of the receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)/Mortgagors(s), having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagors(s) and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **25th day of April, 2019 at Delhi.** The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagors(s), in particular, and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **HDFC Bank Ltd.**, for an amount of **Rs. 4,09,14,185.98 (Rupees Four Crores Nine Lacs Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five & Paise Ninety Eight Only) as on 30.04.2018 and interest thereon w.e.f 01.05.2018** as aforesaid together with expenses and charges etc. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

S.No	Address of the Property/ Assets Details	Name of Owner
1	Residential Flat No 11, 2nd Floor, Block A, Bijli Apartments, Situated at Plot No 12, Jamail Bagh, G T Karnal Road, Delhi 110033, measuring 1630 sq feets and bounded as : East : Entry, West : Others Flat, North : Open below, South : Road	Mr Hannawant Raj Doshi & Ms Manju Doshi

Place: Delhi
Date : 25.04.2019

Authorised Officer
HDFC Bank Ltd.

बिहार सरकार

भवन निर्माण विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
संरचना प्रमण्डल संख्या–3 भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना–23,
ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के ज्ञापांक–49 अनु0 दिनांक 26.02.2019 के द्वारा निर्गत ई–निविदा जिसका पी0आर0 संख्या–18361 (BCD) वर्ष 2018–19 दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है निर्गत शुद्धि पत्र में निम्नलिखित संशोधन किया जाता है:–

कार्य का नामः– विश्वेश्वरैया भवन पटना का जीर्णोद्धार एवं पुर्न विकास कार्य।

क्रमांक	विवरण	पूर्व मे निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	नये संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	प्री बीड मिटिंग की तिथि समय एवं स्थान	(1) दिनांक 10.04.2019 मुख्य अभियंता (पटना) भवन निर्माण विभाग पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में 16.00 बजे।	दिनांक 15.05.2019 मुख्य अभियंता (पटना) भवन निर्माण विभाग पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में 16.00 बजे।
1	परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री (डाउनलोड) की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 30.03.2019 से दिनांक 26.04.2019 को अपराह्न 15.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 04.05.2019 से दिनांक 27.05.2019 को अपराह्न 15.00 बजे
2	निविदा प्राप्ति (अपलोड) करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 27.04.2019 को 15.00 बजे	दिनांक 28.05.2019 को 15.00 बजे
3	निविदा (तकनीकी बीड) खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 30.04.2019 को 15.30 बजे	दिनांक 30.05.2019 को 15.30 बजे
4	निविदा (वित्तीय बीड) खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	विभागीय निविदा समीति द्वारा तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के उपरांत	विभागीय निविदा समीति द्वारा तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के उपरात

शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
संरचना प्रमंडल संख्या–03, भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना।
पटना–23

PR. No. 000479(B.C.D) 2019-20

Realme 2 Pro launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Realme launch Realme 2 Pro at Amity University in Noida. Realme 2 Pro, a mid-range segment smartphone, owing to its 'Max Power, Max Style' proposition. The device carries a formidable Snapdragon 660 AIE processor and comes in three variants; 4 GB RAM + 64 GB ROM at ₹13,990, 6GB RAM + 64 GB ROM at ₹15,990 and 8GB RAM + 128GB ROM at ₹17,990.

IT MIN WRITES TO WHATSAPP OVER REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE VIDEOS

New Delhi: The IT Ministry Thursday wrote to WhatsApp over a recent report which claimed that the platform is being used to share child sexual abuse videos, and has asked the Facebook-owned company to take steps to prevent such misuse. *PTI*

India's crude oil production drops 4% in FY19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's crude oil production fell over 4 per cent in the financial year 2018-19 after aging fields of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) missed the target, official data showed Thursday.

India produced 34.2 million tonne of crude oil in the fiscal year ended March 31, down from 35.7 million tonne in the previous year, according to data released by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas here.

ONGC output dropped to 21 million tonne from 22.25 million tonne in 2017-18, while OIL saw a 2.5 per cent dip to 3.3 million tonne.

Fields in the private sector saw a production drop of nearly 2 per cent to 9.8 million tonne mainly because of lower output at Cairn India's Rajasthan oilfields.

ONGC production was lower due to technical issues at its Mumbai and Neelam Heera fields in the Arabian Sea and less than the production at Santhal and Balol fields in Gujarat.

During March, the country's total crude oil production fell to 2.85 million tonne from 3.04 million tonne in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal year.

Natural gas production, however, edged up to 32.9 billion cubic metre (BCM) in 2018-19, from 32.6 BCM in the previous year as ONGC produced 5.3 per cent more gas at 24.67 BCM.

Higher production by ONGC made up for a nearly 14 per cent drop in output from private sector fields at 5.47 BCM.

This was a result of shutting down of two more wells at Reliance Industries' eastern offshore D1-D3 gas fields in the flagging KG-D6 block, the ministry statement said.

Indian refineries produced 2 per cent higher fuel and other petroleum products at 257.2 million tonne in 2018-19 on a better showing by state-owned firms.

the pioneer
DEHRADUN | FRIDAY | APRIL 26, 2019

Dish TV forays into OTT segment with Watcho

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dish TV on Thursday forayed into online Video on Demand segment by launching OTT (over-the-top) platform 'Watcho', and expects to have 10 million user-base within a year, said a top company official.

Essel Group's DTH arm is targeting the young millenial across the country, and as per its strategy it will offer short format contents, which are economically viable along with user-generated platforms in languages such as Hindi, Kannada and Telugu.

Besides, the company has also plans to add contents on its platform in other regional languages, including Bhojpuri and Gujarati, to expand in the OTT market.

The company will provide OTT service to its existing DTH subscribers of Dish TV and D2H brands, which are estimated to be around 23 million, free as of now.

The OTT platform will synergise with the existing DTH platform as this would help to control churning rates and benefit the customers, who now prefer to consume entertainment contents on the go, Dish TV India executive director & group CEO Anil Dua said.

"It would help us to grow the basic platform with its active base much more strongly because it would block one more exit route. This is meant to strengthen the existing platform rater than creating a new platform," Dua told PTI.

The move will also help Dish TV to have presence in both the mediums — the traditional DTH and fast growing online streaming market.

"We aim to reach over 10 million users in the first year itself," Dua said, adding that the company was also looking to have a preferred network partner for its OTT platform.

Watcho will offer over 1,000 hours of library content, including movies and short films. Its subscribers can also enjoy their favourite TV shows and popular drama series through live or catch-up TV.

According to a Boston consulting group report, Indian OTT market is rapidly growing and has potentials to reach USD 5 billion by 2023, helped by access to affordable data, mobile penetration into rural markets etc.

The number of players in the Indian OTT market had grown from 9 in 2012 to 32 players in 2018.

Rural India will play a big role in OTT consumption as 48 per cent of India's Internet users (about 650 million by 2023) are expected to be from this area, the report said.

Major players in the domestic OTT market are Netflix, Amazon Prime, ALT Balaji, Sony Liv, Eros Now and Hotstar.

TRAI pulls up Dish TV India

New Delhi: Telecom regulator TRAI has directed Dish TV India to comply with the provisions of the new framework for broadcasting and cable TV services, acting on consumer complaints pertaining to the operators' specific offering and grievance redressal helpline. TRAI, which has promised strict action against those cable TV and direct-to-home (DTH) players who are found violating its new tariff order and regulatory regime, had earlier this week also pulled up Bharti Telemedia on similar grounds.

As per complaints, the DTH operator "is forcefully offering a bouquet of free-to-air channels with no choice to subscribers and without their consent", the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which is also the broadcast regulator, said in a directive on its website. **PTI**

Stocks succumb to late sell-off; rupee, oil prices weigh

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks surrendered early gains to end sharply lower on Thursday as boiling crude prices and a depreciating rupee kept investor sentiment at a low ebb amid expiry of derivatives contracts.

Auto, metal, energy and financial stocks witnessed robust selling on concerns over valuation and earnings, traders said. On the global front, crude oil prices surged past the USD 75 per barrel mark, sparking concerns over growth and macroeconomic stability.

After starting on a positive note, the indices succumbed to a sudden sell-off in the last half-hour of trade amid expiry of April futures and options contracts.

The BSE Sensex slumped 323.82 points, or 0.83%, to close at 38,730.86, while the broader NSE Nifty declined 84.35 points, or 0.72%, to 11,641.80.

Maruti Suzuki tumbled 2.23 per cent after the country's largest car maker reported a 4.6% decline in net profit to ₹1,795.6 crore for the March quarter. Other losers in the Sensex pack included Tata Steel, Vedanta, SBI, Coal India, Tata Motors, Sun Pharma, HUL, RIL, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, M&M, Kotak Bank and Infosys, falling up to 2.89%.

Bharti Airtel, TCS and Bajaj Auto were the only gainers, spurting up to 1.06%.

Domestic markets made new highs during the month but could not sustain there due to profit-booking at higher levels, analysts said.

"Crude remained in focus as Brent oil rose above USD 75 per barrel for the first time in 2019 due to suspension of Russian crude to Europe over quality concerns. Higher oil prices can have a negative impact on the current account deficit (CAD), the rupee, inflation and does not augur well for the domestic markets.

"General elections will keep the markets buzzing in the near term. However, the major factor that will decide the direction of the market is Q4FY19 earnings. A revival in earnings will help the markets sustain the current valuation," said Hemang Jani, head of advisory, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Sectorally, the BSE telecom index saw the biggest losses, falling 2.26%, followed by metal, bankex, finance, auto, energy and teck. In the broader markets, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices lost up to 0.58%.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.25% to trade above the USD 75 per barrel mark. The rupee depreciated 37 paise to 70.23 against the US dollar intra-day.

Meanwhile, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) purchased equity worth ₹974.88 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) sold shares to the tune of ₹657.06 crore, provisional data available with stock exchanges showed.

Elsewhere in Asia, benchmark equity indices in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a mixed note. European equites started weak.

Maruti Suzuki Q4 net profit dips 4.6 pc to ₹1,795.6 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Thursday reported a 4.6% decline in net profit to ₹1,795.6 crore for the fourth quarter of the 2018-19 fiscal. The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,882.1 crore in the January-March period of 2017-18, MSI said in a statement.

Net sales during the quarter rose to ₹20,737.5 crore, up marginally over the year-ago period. Total car sales dips marginally to 4,58,479 units during the quarter under review, the company said.

For the entire 2018-19 fiscal, MSI posted a net profit of ₹7,500.6 crore, down 2.9% from the previous fiscal. Net sales last fiscal stood at ₹83,026.5 crore, a rise of 6.3% from 2017-18. Total volume sales during 2018-19 were up 4.7% to 18,62,449 units. Of this, 1,08,749 units were exported, the company said.

The company said that the quarter was marked by adverse foreign exchange rates and commodity prices, higher depreciation and higher sales promotion expenses. It was partially offset by cost reduction efforts. The board of directors of the company also recommended a dividend of ₹80 per share for 2018-19.

LINES UP ₹4,500 CRORE CAPEX FOR CURRENT FISCAL

Maruti Suzuki India said it had earmarked a capex of ₹4,500 crore for the current fiscal. The investment will go into various initiatives, including new product development, R&D and land acquisition for sales network, MSI CFO Ajay Seth told reporters here. MSI had earmarked a capex of ₹4,000 crore for 2018-19.

Biz can apply for revoking cancellation of GST registration by July 22: CBIC

New Delhi (PTI): The revenue department has allowed businesses whose GST registration has been cancelled due to non-filing of tax returns to apply for its revocation by July 22, provided they file their pending returns and pay due taxes.

In a letter to field offices, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said it was providing a "one-time opportunity" to apply for revocation of cancellation of GST registration by July 22, 2019, for those entities for whom cancellation order has been passed up to March 31, 2019.

The CBIC said where the registration has been cancelled with effect from the date of the order, all returns due till the date of such cancellation are required to be furnished before the revocation application is filed.

In cases where the registration has been cancelled with retrospective effect, the CBIC has allowed filing of revocation application, subject to the condition that all returns relating to the period from the effective date of cancellation till the date of revocation order will be filed within a period of 30 days from the date of the revocation order.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11735.70	11796.75	11624.30	11641.80	-84.35
ULTRACEMCO	4450.50	4686.60	4448.50	4635.00	240.35
GRASIM	876.10	940.00	876.10	923.00	42.45
DRREDDY	2851.65	2940.00	2839.45	2936.70	77.30
BHARTIARTL	322.80	332.90	321.00	332.70	8.20
BPCL	348.95	359.45	347.60	357.80	8.80
UPL	950.50	973.90	946.00	969.75	21.55
TCS	2175.00	2205.00	2168.05	2203.00	19.55
WIPRO	293.05	295.95	292.85	295.20	2.15
BAJAJ-AUTO	3073.95	3110.00	3027.60	3095.00	19.20
BAJAJFINSV	7663.50	7735.95	7625.00	7671.00	33.05
ONGC	168.35	170.00	166.55	169.00	0.35
HEROMOTOCO	2618.00	2638.00	2597.65	2610.85	-1.05
CIPLA	558.70	563.95	551.15	558.25	-0.30
ASIANPAINT	1450.00	1460.00	1438.10	1449.00	-1.05
ITC	307.25	309.80	302.00	306.00	-0.45
COALINDIA	254.85	255.20	248.30	253.50	-0.50
LT	1366.85	1380.55	1352.15	1357.90	-2.75
BRITANNIA	2988.00	2999.00	2962.65	2972.00	-6.20
HCLTECH	1141.00	1151.40	1129.05	1136.00	-2.95
TITAN	1155.00	1165.00	1135.40	1145.65	-3.50
NTPC	134.00	135.35	132.30	133.50	-0.45
TECHM	820.00	827.00	813.45	816.00	-2.75
BAJFINANCE	3099.80	3114.40	3072.65	3081.95	-11.10
ZEEL	419.45	424.25	412.30	416.15	-1.75
IOC	153.60	155.45	151.85	153.10	-0.70
M&M	671.80	673.00	664.00	665.00	-3.15
POWERGRID	192.20	195.80	190.70	191.00	-0.95
KOTAKBANK	1368.90	1377.00	1355.00	1359.00	-7.75
ADANIPORTS	390.00	392.90	387.65	389.00	-2.75
HDFCBANK	2286.90	2298.80	2257.95	2262.25	-17.50
YESBANK	241.00	250.40	236.05	237.25	-1.90
INFY	736.45	737.65	727.05	730.05	-6.40
HINDUNILVR	1756.00	1762.60	1727.20	1737.15	-15.45
EICHERMOT	20510.45	20639.00	20300.00	20350.00	-181.55
GAIL	346.00	349.00	341.10	342.80	-3.25
TATAMOTORS	223.40	225.90	220.25	221.20	-2.40
SUNPHARMA	465.25	474.60	459.50	463.25	-6.10
ICICIBANK	400.90	402.40	394.30	395.65	-5.45
SBIN	311.00	312.00	305.40	306.50	-4.25
RELIANCE	1389.10	1412.40	1362.60	1370.00	-19.50
INDUSINDBK	1716.00	1724.00	1673.00	1675.00	-24.25
HDFC	1987.55	1998.80	1946.55	1951.45	-28.95
AXISBANK	754.00	758.55	738.55	741.30	-11.55
IBULHSGFIN	733.00	761.90	724.00	735.60	-13.50
JSWSTEEL	291.50	294.50	285.50	286.70	-5.65
HINDALCO	200.85	202.65	195.75	196.80	-3.90
MARUTI	7014.75	7144.95	6865.00	6880.00	-136.70
VEDL	174.60	175.25	170.00	170.35	-4.45
TATASTEEL	522.00	529.30	509.00	511.00	-14.25
INFRATEL	287.35	298.00	265.65	272.50	-29.00

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	28093.65	28186.30	27874.95	27914.95	-142.90
SHREECEM	19400.00	20140.05	19281.60	19930.50	533.05
UBL	1427.00	1466.40	1425.30	1461.50	32.65
HINDPETRO	269.50	279.00	266.10	274.85	6.05
SIEMENS	1181.95	1201.80	1165.80	1200.90	23.30
AUROPHARMA	786.00	815.00	785.10	800.00	14.70
ICICIPRULI	362.00	380.25	362.00	368.25	5.05
INDIGO	1480.00	1511.00	1473.00	1493.00	20.40
BIOCON	621.05	623.70	614.50	620.15	6.75
ACC	1606.00	1664.75	1603.00	1623.10	17.10
LUPIN	860.00	874.90	853.10	873.10	8.85
HDFCAMC	1587.05	1625.00	1587.05	1607.40	15.15
SBILIFE	609.60	619.70	608.05	614.35	4.05
PETRONET	236.00	237.80	234.80	237.50	1.45
ICICIGI	1078.90	1090.00	1065.00	1076.00	5.55
ABB	1498.00	1499.80	1475.00	1498.00	6.65
SAIL	56.25	56.90	55.90	56.65	0.20
DMART	1339.00	1361.95	1320.25	1334.95	3.80
PGHH	10570.00	10649.00	10380.00	10577.00	20.45
HAVELLS	778.10	780.50	770.50	773.40	-0.65
OFSS	3548.00	3557.05	3520.00	3536.00	-2.70
DLF	177.00	178.70	173.00	175.50	-0.55
HDFCLIFE	400.80	402.00	396.40	398.40	-1.60
MOTHERSUMI	149.20	150.50	146.80	148.10	-0.75
BOSCHLTD	18010.00	18193.90	17900.00	17916.60	-89.15
MRF	56049.00	56192.95	55300.00	55330.00	-312.40
GICRE	250.00	250.20	244.20	248.00	-1.65
PIDILITIND	1223.50	1238.30	1205.00	1213.00	-8.95
HINDZINC	274.35	277.65	271.40	273.40	-2.10
DABUR	398.65	401.70	393.80	395.10	-3.55
PEL	2578.00	2584.35	2531.30	2558.20	-27.50
BAJAJHLDNG	3326.90	3328.00	3251.25	3265.00	-35.45
NHPC	23.35	23.55	23.00	23.10	-0.25
MCDOWELL-N	554.50	556.80	544.80	548.80	-6.20
COLPAL	1218.00	1220.00	1198.25	1201.10	-13.75
AMBUJACEM	222.35	229.85	219.50	221.35	-2.75
DIVISLAB	1736.25	1742.50	1710.55	1720.50	-22.20
IDEA	16.75	17.25	16.30	16.90	-0.25
NIACL	185.00	186.00	180.00	182.00	-2.70
CADILAHC	329.55	331.35	323.00	324.30	-5.25
ASHOKLEY	91.45	92.50	89.55	89.75	-1.50
NMDC	102.50	102.95	100.25	100.65	-1.70
L&TFH	140.25	140.80	136.60	137.25	-2.35
BHEL	73.85	75.15	71.70	72.15	-1.30
CONCOR	507.60	507.60	488.50	494.00	-9.55
MARICO	364.00	364.85	355.50	356.00	-6.90
SRTRANSFIN	1184.95	1194.00	1146.00	1156.00	-23.00
PAGEIND	23700.00	23749.95	23000.95	23125.00	-460.50
BANDHANBNK	607.00	613.00	587.30	592.00	-13.50
BANKBARODA	125.20	125.75	121.50	122.00	-3.10
GODREJCP	675.00	677.50	647.25	650.90	-23.45

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
RPOWER	7.84	8.25	7.82	7.94
SPICEJET	127.00	133.45	126.80	131.50
YESBANK	241.40	250.15	236.50	237.70
IBREALEST	116.05	127.30	113.35	123.45
RELIANCE	1392.90	1410.90	1365.00	1374.55
MARUTI	7019.00	7145.20	6865.00	6902.95
PCJEWELLER	137.25	140.00	130.80	132.30
JETAIRWAYS	171.25	177.80	162.50	169.90
SUZLON	7.20	7.48	7.01	7.15
RELCAPITAL	157.40	161.30	147.55	150.05
IBULHSGFIN	738.00	761.80	724.80	732.80
JPASSOCIAT	5.70	5.79	5.62	5.63
ULTRACEMCO	4426.00	4686.30	4426.00	4622.30
INFRATEL	290.00	297.60	258.00	270.95
DHFL	145.00	151.00	143.25	144.65
M&MFIN	442.40	442.40	412.75	416.15
TATAMOTORS	224.25	225.85	220.25	220.70
INFY*	736.40	737.55	726.00	731.20
RELINFRA	122.90	128.60	121.10	121.95
HDFCBANK	2283.00	2298.80	2258.60	2262.90
GRASIM	879.95	939.45	879.95	921.50
LT	1365.00	1381.00	1352.95	1355.35
TATASTEEL	523.30	529.35	509.00	510.90
TCS	2169.00	2199.00	2169.00	2197.20
IBVENTURES	306.00	325.10	304.05	319.55
SBIN	311.50	312.05	305.70	306.45
KOTAKBANK	1374.00	1378.65	1357.25	1359.20
HINDPETRO	269.00	278.40	266.35	274.10
HEG	1791.30	1833.30	1751.80	1781.90
AXISBANK	755.70	758.70	737.60	744.45
ICICIBANK	401.90	402.25	394.30	397.00
DLF	175.50	178.60	173.00	173.90
INDIACEM	106.40	112.00	105.25	109.20
IDFCFIRSTB	52.40	53.40	51.95	53.05
DCBBANK	217.70	219.30	212.20	214.45
STRTECH	195.00	197.55	190.65	191.45
AUROPHARMA	786.00	814.40	785.85	797.20
ASHOKLEY	91.75	92.45	89.65	89.85
IDEA	16.80	17.15	16.40	16.85
GRAPHITE	408.65	420.50	403.25	410.50
JINDALSTEL	172.85	174.40	166.05	166.90
WIPRO	294.00	295.75	293.00	295.25
SUNPHARMA	468.90	474.70	459.40	463.00
ZEEL	418.25	424.50	412.65	416.90
INDIGO	1493.20	1510.00	1473.00	1492.00
POWERGRID	193.00	195.45	190.45	191.40
DMART	1339.90	1360.00	1321.00	1329.25
ACC	1609.00	1662.90	1606.35	1622.10
BPCL	350.00	359.65	348.10	358.35
CGPOWER	37.90	39.45	37.50	39.15
BIOCON	620.00	623.00	615.50	621.00
PNB	88.40	89.15	86.25	86.60
AUBANK	610.05	628.90	608.40	624.00
ONGC	169.00	169.70	166.60	168.40
INDUSINDBK	1708.60	1723.15	1670.00	1679.90
ITC	306.45	309.70	302.65	306.05
HINDUNILVR	1755.00	1760.95	1725.60	1731.20
INFIBEAM	47.05	47.95	45.35	45.80
VEDL	175.25	175.25	170.30	170.90
JAICORPLTD	123.20	126.45	123.00	123.45
BANKBARODA	125.10	125.70	121.55	122.15
L&TFH	139.95	140.40	136.60	137.50
RNAM	210.00	215.10	201.60	204.85
ALBK	49.80	51.55	49.00	49.50
ICICIPRULI	364.00	379.45	362.50	367.40
AMBUJACEM	223.00	229.95	219.50	220.10
BOMDYEING	126.45	129.25	125.00	126.60
BANDHANBNK	609.00	613.00	588.00	590.25
RCOM	1.81	1.88	1.81	1.81
HEXAWARE	340.00	344.40	331.40	342.45
TECHM	820.00	826.35	812.15	815.00
IOC	153.10	155.40	152.10	153.20
PIDILITIND	1222.60	1238.65	1207.35	1214.65
TATAPOWER	69.40	69.50	67.20	67.50
RAIN	129.50	130.90	122.50	123.80
HDFC	1988.00	1997.00	1950.55	1957.80
DRREDDY	2851.00	2944.00	2845.20	2930.00
BAJFINANCE	3085.00	3114.90	3072.70	3080.55
LUPIN	859.10	873.80	853.50	870.90
KEC	293.75	305.60	293.75	297.05
UPL	948.10	972.50	946.55	970.00
SAIL	56.70	56.85	55.95	56.45
GODREJCP	676.00	677.65	648.05	650.00
BEL	88.75	89.60	86.80	87.45
IPCALAB	968.00	987.00	968.00	974.15
MAHABANK	17.99	19.40	17.80	18.66
HINDALCO	200.10	202.55	196.15	197.00
NTPC	134.90	135.25	132.35	133.20
M&M	672.00	672.00	662.00	663.95
MOTHERSUMI	150.10	150.75	146.95	148.30
BHEL	73.45	75.15	71.75	72.15
HDFCLIFE	400.10	401.95	396.60	399.20
IGL	309.55	315.35	307.20	309.85
TATAGLOBAL	209.00	212.50	207.00	211.05
HCLTECH	1141.00	1151.75	1127.40	1133.60
COALINDIA	255.75	255.75	248.65	251.45
NCC	101.95	105.50	101.75	103.65
ADANIPOWER	52.90	53.45	50.30	50.80
RADICO	373.05	380.20	363.00	365.20
RECLTD	150.00	153.55	149.00	149.45
TITAN	1153.90	1164.00	1135.70	1146.00
BHARTIARTL	322.00	331.75	321.25	327.95
ADANIPORTS	397.00	397.00	387.85	391.50
CENTURYTEX	923.60	962.00	923.10	935.00
HEROMOTOCO	2629.00	2636.95	2597.45	2606.10
JUBLFOOD	1320.65	1355.15	1320.60	1332.00
TATAMTRDVR	108.55	109.85	107.00	107.40
DISHTV	36.90	37.30	35.60	36.20

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
TATAELXSI	930.00	934.85	923.50	926.00
BANKINDIA	93.05	93.80	91.50	92.25
JKLAKSHMI	349.35	375.50	347.35	369.50
SYNGENE	619.00	620.30	605.10	610.00
PEL	2585.70	2585.70	2536.00	2555.10
BEML	909.20	923.85	897.70	906.00
DABUR	396.75	401.70	394.60	396.90
JUSTDIAL	577.85	581.70	570.00	573.05
JSWSTEEL	293.85	294.40	286.10	286.40
ALKEM	1731.25	1733.20	1688.00	1698.00
WOCKPHARMA	429.00	435.65	425.45	428.40
SOUTHBANK	16.50	16.75	16.30	16.30
JSLHISAR	87.65	91.95	87.40	90.25
BAJAJFINSV	7654.05	7707.50	7625.30	7659.75
NOCIL	138.90	138.90	134.85	135.60
SUNTV	590.55	596.85	573.60	577.50
ESCORTS	753.80	758.55	744.50	750.00
NBCC	59.65	60.55	58.55	58.90
PNBHOUSING	790.80	794.70	778.10	781.85
ORIENTCEM	93.80	104.00	93.80	99.00
GRUH	313.90	321.45	313.10	313.10
CANBK	273.00	275.25	269.35	271.50
VIPIND	474.00	475.90	465.30	467.95
MCX	780.00	809.80	780.00	799.00
BAJAJ-AUTO	3056.10	3100.00	3028.80	3088.80
GODREJPROP	899.90	904.00	865.00	877.00
SUNTECK	475.25	481.00	468.90	471.90
MFSL	444.00	456.60	435.05	439.00
FEDERALBNK	95.00	96.70	95.00	95.35
SBILIFE	609.50	621.35	605.80	612.15
TORNTPHARM	1800.00	1800.00	1720.00	1720.00
OBEROIRLTY	526.15	537.00	524.20	536.90
NATIONALUM	53.00	53.65	52.60	52.75
MINDTREE	980.05	996.50	975.15	978.05
FRETAIL	425.90	428.00	415.15	417.00
FSL	51.75	52.30	50.00	50.65
OIL	178.75	181.20	174.95	178.95
UNIONBANK	89.10	89.70	87.45	87.75
CASTROLIND	157.30	158.40	154.50	155.25
SHANKARA	509.00	528.90	507.55	522.95
NATCOPHARM*	538.10	538.80	531.00	538.00
GAIL	345.05	350.00	342.00	343.90
LEMONTREE	75.75	75.75	73.35	74.10
DELTACORP	244.00	250.35	241.15	242.85
STAR	475.00	484.45	473.80	477.05
RAYMOND	769.00	773.95	751.85	756.80
IDBI	43.15	44.05	43.00	43.80
INDHOTEL	154.50	154.90	151.40	152.00
JUBILANT	692.95	692.95	673.05	673.90
MANAPPURAM	120.00	121.70	117.50	119.80
DCMSHRIRAM	404.75	422.20	404.75	414.25
PVR	1720.00	1726.85	1704.60	1714.45
LICHSGFIN	504.05	506.30	491.70	492.00
PFC	118.75	120.60	117.60	118.55
SRTRANSFIN	1182.85	1193.40	1146.90	1159.00
BATAINDIA	1469.00	1473.60	1457.00	1465.10
ASIANPAINT	1445.00	1459.70	1439.60	1446.00
VGUARD	220.40	222.50	218.70	220.00
TV18BRDCST	32.60	33.85	32.50	33.15
ABCAPITAL	99.50	99.80	97.80	98.20
MUTHOOTFIN	593.25	596.50	572.65	580.85
CANFINHOME	320.05	324.00	317.00	319.35
HEIDELBERG	184.00	187.40	181.80	184.20
EVEREADY	154.50	156.50	148.00	150.05
CIPLA	558.00	563.95	551.25	555.25
RAMCOCEM	772.15	807.80	769.00	794.85
TATACHEM	582.35	582.90	572.80	573.00
BRITANNIA	2980.75	2996.90	2966.00	2971.40
GLENMARK	638.10	645.40	636.75	642.00
KTKBANK	128.25	130.70	128.05	128.80
MEGH	64.95	65.35	63.30	63.65
UBL	1437.00	1464.55	1425.95	1449.30
IRB	134.25	134.90	131.30	131.70
RBLBANK	671.40	674.40	664.10	669.30
GNFC	312.90	318.15	311.00	311.05
EXIDEIND	218.25	218.70	212.55	214.00
PHILIPCARB	161.00	164.35	161.00	162.50
SRF	2514.00	2539.40	2499.45	2515.60
VENKYS	2055.00	2118.00	2055.00	2088.00
BHARATFORG	483.45	486.30	478.90	482.00
BALKRISIND	957.15	968.00	925.00	938.95
CHENNPETRO	259.20	262.40	254.45	256.10

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
NHPC	23.45	23.60	23.05	23.15
APOLLOTYRE	211.50	211.50	207.50	209.95
FORCEMOT	1733.00	1770.00	1710.00	1712.05
MANPASAND	116.05	117.90	111.00	113.85
EDELWEISS	168.00	169.20	164.00	164.50
JISLJALEQS	59.00	60.10	58.65	59.65
MGL	981.70	982.00	961.65	963.25
CADILAHC	329.85	331.25	322.70	325.40
HAVELLS	774.40	779.70	770.00	771.10
TVSMOTOR	517.70	521.70	514.20	517.00
AMARAJABAT	676.00	677.50	666.00	668.00
GMRINFRA	17.40	17.75	16.90	16.90
APOLLOHOSP	1241.85	1258.90	1230.65	1248.00
ICICIGI	1082.90	1089.05	1068.00	1074.00
EQUITAS	131.40	132.65	127.45	129.00
COLPAL	1213.00	1218.00	1195.40	1203.00
CONCOR	504.00	505.20	489.35	492.50
CEATLTD	1090.05	1097.60	1083.05	1084.10
RAJESHEXPO	714.95	731.00	709.00	712.00
ITI	94.20	95.70	93.05	93.40
SPARC	180.00	181.05	174.00	174.00
BIRLACORPN	516.90	525.15	500.00	500.00
DBL	617.05	623.40	605.00	608.90
HFCL	22.35	22.80	22.20	22.40
VOLTAS	617.95	619.65	611.90	612.05
ADANIGREEN	45.05	45.15	43.60	43.75
NMDC	102.70	102.90	100.00	100.35
TAKE	151.90	154.20	148.00	152.65
ENGINERSIN	115.45	116.00	114.70	114.70
ORIENTBANK	102.00	102.50	98.75	99.70
BHARATFIN	1069.40	1071.85	1040.00	1040.65
TEJASNET	189.00	190.10	183.10	185.40
GICHSGFIN	252.05	262.90	252.05	262.30
SYNDIBANK	39.55	40.20	38.90	39.00
LTTS	1699.95	1717.00	1690.35	1717.00
PIIND	1018.75	1071.00	1018.75	1048.00
UJJIVAN	325.00	327.40	317.60	321.35
WABAG	293.05	296.05	285.65	286.35
EICHERMOT	20355.10	20620.00	20300.00	20345.95
SIEMENS	1176.00	1193.00	1166.50	1193.00
TATAMETALI	671.50	671.50	626.55	628.10
INDIANB	258.25	258.25	251.30	253.20
LTI	1705.25	1714.95	1695.30	1708.50
GODFRYPHLP	1125.55	1155.95	1115.00	1127.15
JSWENERGY	72.50	72.50	69.45	69.95
KSCL	471.15	477.65	462.95	466.35
DEEPAKNI	263.60	272.00	257.35	265.00
DIVISLAB	1733.90	1741.65	1710.65	1722.00
IDFC	42.90	43.55	42.55	43.00
INOXLEISUR	320.50	320.50	308.65	313.45
PAGEIND	23425.00	23494.50	23000.00	23160.00
PRSMJOHNSN	101.00	103.50	98.30	98.55
FCONSUMER	43.70	44.00	43.25	43.80
GSPL	191.10	192.75	187.30	189.55
FDC	171.00	171.00	160.35	160.95
JMFINANCIL	87.85	88.35	87.00	88.00
ISEC	216.00	225.00	215.00	220.00
SHREECEM	19400.00	20103.25	19299.15	19959.00
DEEPAKFERT	148.00	149.60	144.10	144.10
AJANTPHARM	1026.00	1046.00	1023.80	1031.85
JKCEMENT	890.00	922.00	880.50	907.00
MPHASIS	966.05	968.00	950.00	954.70
ADANITRANS	220.90	228.90	220.00	220.00
HINDCOPPER	48.75	49.20	47.60	47.95
HINDZINC	275.65	277.35	271.80	273.25
PETRONET	236.00	237.65	234.75	237.55
CHOLAFIN	1422.20	1444.00	1417.05	1422.90
J&KBANK	60.30	61.75	60.05	60.65
NLCINDIA	68.05	68.20	64.00	64.75
RALLIS	158.10	158.90	155.75	156.65
IFCI	12.10	12.39	12.03	12.27
AVANTI	389.00	398.00	385.50	386.85
GSFC	101.60	103.20	100.75	102.35
WELSPUNIND	54.40	54.55	53.55	53.55
NAUKRI	2010.00	2010.00	1965.00	1978.75
GRANULES	116.55	116.75	113.95	114.25
ABFRL	216.45	219.50	214.00	214.55
ABB	1485.00	1499.85	1475.00	1499.85
KAJARIACER	625.05	627.65	615.20	615.20
REPCOHOME	432.90	447.20	431.85	439.70
TRIDENT	68.05	68.10	66.50	66.60
JBCHEPHARM	348.05	355.00	345.80	354.00
WHIRLPOOL	1404.00	1429.00	1398.75	1412.00
SUNDRMFAST	561.45	567.30	550.05	558.00
MERCK	3735.35	3763.00	3699.80	3710.00
GODREJIND	510.00	513.75	507.30	508.25
CUMMINSIND	740.75	740.75	730.15	733.00
CROMPTON	234.05	235.80	233.00	233.60
JAMNAAUTO	57.35	57.60	56.70	56.75
FORTIS	139.15	139.55	138.00	138.95
LAKSHVILAS	79.70	80.90	77.55	79.20
MARICO	363.90	364.00	356.20	357.00
SUDARSCHEM	331.70	339.65	330.55	335.65
NESTLEIND	10820.00	10980.00	10820.00	10879.00
BLISSGVS	171.00	174.20	168.40	169.50
EIDPARRY	204.75	206.95	195.10	197.45
QUESS	680.00	722.95	680.00	707.00
WELCORP	136.50	138.00	133.50	133.70
GPPL	93.00	93.75	90.40	90.80
MOTILALOFS	735.70	737.05	711.00	711.00
GREENPLY	167.00	170.20	165.40	170.20
OMAXE	211.80	211.80	208.95	211.25
ISGEC	565.00	565.00	554.70	563.00
FINCABLES	456.45	463.00	448.00	454.00
IOB	14.60	15.28	14.60	14.96
TORNTPOWER	254.70	255.40	252.05	253.10
SUVEN	266.75	267.15	262.55	263.20
SADBHAV	227.65	244.00	226.85	236.10
WESTLIFE	398.05	404.00	397.00	403.70

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
HSCL	114.25	114.65	113.00	113.15
BERGEPAINT	323.35	325.20	320.70	324.75
ECLERX	1143.95	1144.00	1128.00	1140.00
RCF	59.00	59.30	58.45	58.50
MRF	55652.00	56230.50	55220.95	55648.95
GODREJAGRO	523.65	528.85	516.95	523.90
DCAL	227.55	228.00	219.00	223.30
CYIENT	589.00	590.50	584.25	586.80
ELGIEQUIP	271.00	277.85	266.60	275.05
SYMPHONY	1440.00	1440.00	1390.00	1399.00
MAHINDCIE	226.20	230.00	224.60	224.60
JYOTHYLAB	182.20	182.20	179.00	179.30
PARAGMILK	242.70	246.25	240.30	240.30
COROMANDEL	438.00	441.00	430.25	433.00
NAVINFLUOR	677.00	690.00	670.10	675.35
TATACOFFEE	90.85	91.50	90.40	90.80
COCHINSHIP	382.00	383.50	379.40	381.40
KNRCON	248.10	249.05	241.00	245.15
SWANENERGY	108.80	109.65	108.00	108.00
GMDCLTD	73.45	74.40	73.00	73.90
KEI	422.80	424.65	418.05	422.00
EMAMILTD	392.65	397.00	392.40	396.80
BAJAJELEC	562.05	572.75	562.00	566.10
IBULISL	326.00	336.15	323.00	328.25
MRPL	71.30	71.55	70.15	71.25
OFSS	3536.50	3558.00	3515.00	3523.35
NIITTECH	1307.20	1310.00	1294.95	1300.70
SJVN	24.30	24.35	23.10	23.45
ESSELPRO	135.00	135.80	134.25	134.90
ASHOKA	130.00	130.00	128.70	129.50
GHCL	245.40	245.40	239.00	241.50
TRENT	355.05	360.15	353.45	359.00
KANSAINER	430.75	450.00	430.75	442.05
THOMASCOOK	248.85	249.35	244.80	245.60
SHK	150.00	150.20	147.15	149.20
CHOLAHLDNG	510.00	516.00	510.00	510.00
VINATIORGA	1792.00	1800.00	1772.00	1789.80
AARTIIND	1553.80	1598.35	1553.80	1586.00
INTELLECT	222.80	225.70	222.60	223.65
JINDALSAW	83.95	85.25	83.10	83.30
JKTYRE	90.00	90.75	89.55	89.85
HIMATSEIDE	220.70	221.00	213.00	214.30
SUPREMEIND	1181.35	1183.00	1141.00	1154.70
COFFEEDAY	265.75	274.90	265.75	271.90
GREAVESCOT	142.00	144.50	141.40	141.95
PERSISTENT*	640.00	642.10	634.00	642.00
MOIL	157.00	157.10	155.35	155.35
GUJGAS	157.85	158.55	156.45	157.60
PTC	69.80	71.70	69.40	70.50
SOBHA	486.75	493.00	482.40	483.70
ADVENZYMES	189.10	194.15	189.10	191.00
SCI	35.15	35.60	34.90	35.35
CUB	204.00	204.70	198.40	202.25
MINDAIND	378.05	384.55	378.05	382.50
HUDCO	42.90	43.25	42.65	42.70
TIMETECHNO	94.25	95.75	93.05	93.05
BAJAJCON	330.45	333.30	328.60	329.30
UFLEX	237.50	239.25	234.30	238.85
MMTC	27.20	27.20	26.65	26.70
FINOLEXIND	466.00	469.90	455.55	455.55
NBVENTURES	105.20	105.30	103.00	104.25
GUJALKALI	488.00	489.85	482.50	482.50
ASTRAZEN	2261.10	2273.00	2254.10	2263.05
MAHLIFE	381.25	383.00	377.40	380.00
BOSCHLTD	18001.05	18150.00	17901.50	17901.50
ATUL	3480.00	3524.00	3450.40	3455.50
MAHLOG	535.50	543.50	525.70	528.00
SREINFRA	27.10	27.60	26.65	27.10
GET&D	254.45	263.70	253.65	261.90
SHRIRAMCIT	1685.00	1844.95	1668.10	1705.10
ANDHRABANK	27.75	27.85	27.25	27.30
ASTRAL	1226.00	1229.80	1204.85	1226.00
VBL	833.55	840.50	828.75	838.00
ABBOTINDIA	7830.00	7895.35	7605.05	7700.00
SONATSOFTW	332.80	333.00	328.00	330.00
CHAMBLFERT	161.00	162.10	158.75	160.45
BAJAJHLDNG	3326.90	3326.90	3259.00	3259.00
AEGISLOG	196.75	197.20	194.60	196.05
GESHIP	287.00	288.85	284.30	286.00
TNPL	198.95	208.25	197.95	201.90
GICRE	249.30	250.05	244.50	248.70
NIACL	185.95	185.95	182.00	182.60
SCHNEIDER	104.50	104.60	101.25	101.50
PRESTIGE	264.90	267.50	263.30	265.35
BBTC	1293.00	1293.60	1274.45	1282.40
SUPPETRO	216.95	220.00	212.20	213.00
MAXINDIA	68.40	69.85	68.15	68.50
KALPATPOWR	483.00	483.00	476.05	478.20
LAURUSLABS	387.40	389.30	385.00	387.10
TATACOMM	580.30	582.00	570.10	580.00
KRBL	348.05	351.65	344.00	347.00
JSL	38.30	38.90	37.95	38.00
CENTURYPLY	182.70	183.35	181.00	182.60
JAGRAN	116.00	116.25	110.20	110.50
STARCEMENT	106.95	110.00	106.95	107.60
SHILPAMED	406.10	406.20	392.65	394.00
UCOBANK	18.30	18.50	18.10	18.50
CORPBANK	27.80	28.05	27.35	27.35
NESCO	508.90	511.90	498.10	498.10
HAL	678.00	681.00	673.05	678.00
CENTRALBK	33.50	34.00	33.10	33.15
BDL	283.00	290.50	283.00	284.00
THERMAX	977.60	979.60	967.60	971.95
SOMANYCERA	395.60	418.80	395.60	405.10
RATNAMANI	877.50	894.00	877.50	894.00
NAVKARCORP	37.50	37.70	37.20	37.70
TVTODAY	311.60	319.00	311.35	318.50
CCL	259.85	260.00	255.05	260.00
HSIL	265.30	266.40	261.50	265.60

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
EIHOTEL	192.60	193.00	190.25	190.30
INOXWIND	66.40	67.75	66.40	66.65
ALLCARGO	114.00	114.00	111.05	112.00
LAOPALA	207.45	208.65	204.05	208.65
PHOENIXLTD	601.15	601.55	593.05	593.05
KPRMILL	615.55	619.00	614.00	616.30
IEX	158.50	159.60	158.00	158.00
WABCOINDIA	6300.00	6320.25	6265.05	6290.00
GLAXO	1291.95	1295.00	1285.55	1288.00
MINDACORP	132.45	133.65	130.90	133.00
VMART	2775.00	2780.00	2722.05	2728.05
PFIZER	3144.00	3146.00	3105.55	3106.00
LINDEINDIA	494.25	499.50	490.95	496.75
CENTRUM	31.25	31.80	30.40	30.70
THYROCARE	492.15	510.00	492.15	500.85
GUJFLUORO	1037.65	1037.70	1010.00	1010.00
MHRIL	239.70	240.25	236.05	236.55
GRINDWELL	595.00	605.00	595.00	596.20
NETWORK18	33.25	34.00	33.25	33.55
CRISIL	1461.05	1470.00	1454.00	1460.00
ASTERDM	150.95	150.95	147.35	148.20
ZENSARTECH	231.20	234.00	231.00	232.95
INDOSTAR	400.00	406.05	399.20	400.05
GSKCONS	7271.75	7287.00	7192.00	7229.95
BAYERCROP	4179.60	4202.00	4141.85	4172.30
PNCINFRA	147.05	152.55	147.05	151.00
BLUEDART	3198.90	3198.90	3125.00	3134.00
RELAXO	902.00	906.85	896.90	900.55
APLLTD	544.00	544.00	530.10	533.45
BLUESTARCO	651.10	657.90	648.60	648.90
APLAPOLLO	1596.65	1596.65	1554.85	1565.00
MAHSCOOTER	3924.00	3934.10	3825.05	3830.00
BALMLAWRIE	177.00	177.15	175.50	177.15
HATSUN	709.05	717.00	706.40	716.40
SHARDACROP	388.35	388.40	374.40	375.10
GEPIL	903.00	914.30	897.25	910.70
PGHH	10500.00	10681.95	10395.00	10681.95
REDINGTON	96.10	98.00	96.05	96.05
SANOFI	5640.00	5647.05	5600.00	5630.10
CARBORUNIV	371.00	373.25	367.55	370.15
GDL	142.20	142.70	137.35	137.90
UNITEDBNK	10.91	11.15	10.91	11.05
ITDC	265.50	269.35	265.00	265.00
DBCORP	191.00	191.00	187.55	190.70
FORBESCO	2437.85	2438.00	2367.00	2367.00
TATAINVEST	845.70	849.15	842.05	846.00
ASAHIINDIA	242.00	242.00	239.00	240.75
TIMKEN	580.00	580.00	568.00	580.00

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
BASF	1375.00	1375.00	1347.00	1347.00
LUXIND	1368.60	1383.00	1368.60	1375.95
GALAXYSURF	983.10	1005.00	975.00	998.00
LAXMIMACH	5921.00	5949.35	5890.00	5890.00
GILLETTE	7599.00	7620.00	7547.00	7570.00
HERITGFOOD	494.20	494.20	486.50	491.90
CARERATING	982.60	984.45	975.40	982.30
LALPATHLAB	1062.95	1078.60	1054.80	1070.00
GULFOILLUB	871.95	871.95	860.10	860.10
FLFL	483.00	489.00	478.95	483.35
DHANUKA	384.00	384.30	379.00	379.00
TIINDIA	380.00	380.60	374.25	377.05
TTKPRESTIG	8180.00	8300.00	8170.90	8222.00
MAGMA	124.90	125.65	121.50	123.65
NILKAMAL	1376.00	1380.25	1361.05	1361.05
AKZOINDIA	1751.95	1754.65	1732.25	1732.25
SCHAEFFLER	5465.35	5578.50	5465.35	5475.00
VTL	1139.55	1146.80	1129.00	1135.00
APARINDS	684.95	685.00	656.45	670.10
ITDCEM	127.45	127.90	125.85	126.85
SHOPERSTOP	460.05	462.40	456.00	456.00
NAVNETEDUL	114.00	114.00	112.40	113.10
SKFINDIA	1994.00	1996.95	1980.25	1990.00
SIS	847.75	847.75	824.00	837.00
3MINDIA	24687.50	24935.00	24600.00	24810.00
ENDURANCE	1163.05	1167.45	1158.00	1158.00
GAYAPROJ	172.95	172.95	166.00	166.75
CAPPL	382.95	382.95	377.00	377.00
ZYDUSWELL	1305.00	1307.05	1294.50	1294.50
KIOCL	137.45	137.45	130.25	130.25
SUPRAJIT	229.90	235.00	228.00	235.00
CERA	2851.75	2851.75	2812.80	2850.00
HONAUT	23840.70	23840.70	23600.00	23800.00
AIAENG	1785.05	1810.00	1785.00	1810.00
IFBIND	857.30	868.90	855.45	865.00
TRITURBINE	108.25	108.30	107.05	107.05
TVSSRICHAK	2219.80	2219.85	2195.55	2207.00
MONSANTO	2528.05	2551.00	2528.05	2536.00
JCHAC	1920.00	1920.00	1871.15	1914.40
NH	212.45	212.45	204.80	207.40
ERIS	620.65	630.25	618.55	630.25
SOLARINDS	1072.90	1072.90	1068.15	1070.00
SFL	1355.00	1357.00	1355.00	1355.00
TEAMLEASE	2998.90	2998.90	2952.00	2952.00

BLASTS IN SRI LANKA

Suicide bomber was earlier arrested but released

IANS ■ COLOMBO

One of the Sri Lankan suicide bombers was previously arrested by police and then released, a senior Government official said on Thursday.

Ilham Ahmed Ibrahim, one of two sons of a spice tycoon who blew themselves up in Sunday's attacks, detonated a device at the Cinnamon Grand hotel in Colombo on Easter Sunday, the official told *CNN*.

"It was the suicide bomber of the Cinnamon Grand bomb attack who was released earlier," the official said.

Ilham Ahmed Ibrahim and his brother Imsath Ahmed Ibrahim were previously identified as two of the suicide bombers in Sunday's attacks which left at least 359 people dead.

Police have confirmed to *CNN* that they are holding the brothers' father, Mohamed Yusuf Ibrahim, a wealthy spice trader, on suspicion of aiding and abetting his sons.

Sri Lankan authorities have blamed a local Muslim group for the bloodbath although the Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the suicide bombings.

Children of Ahmadi Muslim refugees eat a meal at a community centre that they took refuge in Pasyala, north east of Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Thursday AP

Lanka intensifies crackdown on terror suspects

16 more held

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan authorities on Thursday intensified their raids with the help of the army and arrested 16 more suspects in connection with the country's worst terror attack on Easter Sunday that killed nearly 360 people and left over 500 injured.

The arrested people were being interrogated at length by the investigation sleuths in connection with the bombings.

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

Officials said with the arrest of 16 more people on Wednesday, the total number of suspects under police custody has risen to 76.

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

ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attacks and identified suicide bombers who carried out the devastating blasts. Authorities have deployed thousands of troops to help police carry out search operations.

Over 5,000 Army personnel have been deployed around the country. "During the last 24 hours, there have been no major incidents. We have deployed over 6,300 troops. This includes 1,000 from the Airforce and 600 from the Navy," military spokesman Brigadier Sumith Atapattu said.

Meanwhile, a minor explosion happened behind the magistrate's court at Pugoda, the western province town, 40 Kms north of Colombo. There was no immediate report of any casualty. Police said that the explosion occurred in a garbage dump and that there were no injuries. A probe has been launched to ascertain the cause.

Search operations of suspected properties, arrests and detention of people and to place road blocks for such operations have been facilitated by the newly-enforced emergency regulations.

The regulations were adopted without a vote in Parliament on Wednesday. The curfew which was imposed at 10 pm on Wednesday was lifted at 4 am on Thursday.

President Maithripala Sirisena has convened an all-party meeting. He would meet religious leaders. Both parleys are to discuss the attacks dubbed as among the five deadliest terrorist attacks carried out since the 9/11 in the US. Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, the head of the local catholic church, has asked all churches to stop masses until the situation improved, his office said.

On Wednesday, the Sri Lankan Government had admitted that "major" Intelligence lapses led to the horrific coordinated attacks.

Sir Lanka Defence Secretary resigns

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando resigned from his post on Thursday, days after a series of devastating suicide attacks that tore through three churches and three luxury hotels on Easter Sunday.

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

Fernando handed over his resignation letter on Thursday on a request made by President Sirisena, Colombo Gazette reported.

Nine suicide bombers, believed to be members of local Islamist extremist group called National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ), carried out the devastating blasts that killed 359 people and wounded more than 500 others. *PTI*

Scared Muslim refugees flee homes over attack fears

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Hundreds of Muslim refugees in western Sri Lanka have taken refuge in mosques and a police station after facing intimidation following the deadly Easter bombings, activists said on Thursday.

At least 359 people died in Sunday's coordinated suicide blasts, including more than 100 Christians attending mass at St Sebastian's church in Negombo on the island's west coast. The attacks have been condemned by leaders of the country's Muslim minority, but the community has been left in fear of a backlash.

Scores of Ahmadi Muslims who settled in Negombo after fleeing persecution in their home countries have been thrown out of their accommodation by landlords, according to officials. "Today these refugees have become refugees again in Sri Lanka. They have been displaced for a second time," Ruki Fernando of Inform, a Sri Lankan human rights group, told reporters.

The refugees are from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen and Iran. Ahmadis have faced repeated attacks in these countries by hardline Islamist groups who do not consider them to be Muslim.

SIDELIGHTS

LANKA SUSPENDS VISAS ON ARRIVAL PROGRAMME
Sri Lanka suspended its plans to grant visas on arrival to citizens of 39 countries. "Although arrangements were in place to issue visas on arrival for citizens of 39 countries, we have now decided to hold it for the time being in consideration of the current security situation," Tourism Minister John Amaratunga said

LEAVE SL OVER 'CONCRETE THREAT': ISRAEL TO CITIZENS
Israel on Thursday urged its citizens travelling in Sri Lanka to leave the country, citing an "elevated concrete threat" following deadly Easter bombings there. The recommendation from Israel's counter-terrorism bureau said the travel warning was issued after consultations with security and foreign ministry officials.

1 OF SUICIDE BOMBERS HAD OZ VISA: PM MORRISON
Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison said one of the suicide bombers had been in Australia years earlier. Prime Minister Morrison said the person had been in Australia on a student and a graduate skilled visa with a spouse and child visa as well. The individual left in early 2013.

DRONES, UNMANNED AIRCRAFT BANNED AFTER BOMBINGS
Sri Lanka has banned the use of drones and unmanned aircraft following the massive Easter Sunday. The Civil Aviation Authority said the ban will be in effect until further notice. The use of drones and unmanned aircraft has been temporarily banned within the Sri Lankan airspace, Colombo Gazette reported.

LANKA STILL FACES POSSIBLE TERROR ATTACKS: PM
Sri Lanka still faced more attacks and authorities were now targeting "sleepers" — terrorists who could activate to initiate another round of bombings, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe warned. Facing public criticism for not acting against Islamist extremist groups in the island nation, Wickremesinghe said some of the suspected attackers responsible for the Easter Sunday bombings were being monitored by the country's intelligence services.

Ex-Vice President Joe Biden launches 2020 WH bid

Washington: Former Vice-President Joe Biden formally joined the crowded Democratic presidential contest on Thursday, declaring the soul of the nation at stake if President Donald Trump wins re-election.

In a video posted on Twitter, Biden focused on the 2017 deadly clash between white supremacists and counter protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia. Biden noted Trump's comments that there were some "very fine people" on both sides of the violent encounter, which left one woman dead.

"We are in the battle for the soul of this nation," Biden said. "If we give Donald Trump eight years in the White House, he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation — who we are. And I cannot stand by and watch that happen." The 76-year-old Biden becomes an instant front-runner alongside Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is leading many polls and has proved to be a successful fundraiser. Among Democrats, Biden has unmatched international and legislative experience, and he is among the best-known faces in US politics. He quickly racked up endorsements on Thursday morning, becoming the first Democrat running for president with the backing of more than one US senator.

Still, Biden must compete in a field that now spans at least 20 Democrats and has been celebrated for its racial and gender diversity. *AP*

Trump questions Biden's intelligence to wage winning primary bid

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Thursday cast doubt on Joe Biden's mental capacity for a successful primary campaign as the seasoned Democrat became the latest to join the 2020 race for the White House.

GLOBE TROTTING

CHINA VISIT WILL TAKE TIES TO NEW HEIGHTS: PAK PM
Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday called China an "iron brother" of Pakistan and said his visit to Beijing for the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) will take bilateral strategic ties to new heights.

N KOREA READY ONLY IF IT GETS GUARANTEES: PUTIN
Vladivostok: Russian President Vladimir Putin said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un confirmed during their first summit Thursday he is willing to give up his nuclear weapons — but only if he gets an ironclad guarantee of security beforehand. The Russian President stressed that Moscow and Washington both want North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons. But he said the security guarantees should be underwritten by multiple countries, hinting at an arrangement like the six-nation talks Russia participated in until their collapse in 2009.

ASETROID IMPACT: NASA TO CONDUCT 'MOCK DRILL'
Washington: NASA, along with its international partners, is set to conduct a mock exercise that will play out a realistic — but fictional — scenario for an asteroid on an impact trajectory with Earth. The exercise will help the planetary defense community understand the important aspects of a possible disaster and identify issues for accomplishing a successful response.

HK RIGHTS MUST BE 'FULLY RESPECTED': BRITAIN
London: Free speech and Assembly rights in Hong Kong must be "fully respected", Britain said on Thursday, a day after leaders of the city's democracy movement were jailed for organising mass protests in 2014. "It would be deeply concerning if the outcome for these individuals were to deter the people of Hong Kong from participating in peaceful protest in the future," a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Theresa May said.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that an unknown Male person was found Unconscious Condition he was admitted in SGM Hospital, Mangol Puri Vide MLC No.5602/19 Dated 15.04.2019 and during treatment decleared dead by Doctor. In this regard Case **DD No. 43-B, Dated 17.04.2019 Time 03.40 PM** has been lodged at **P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.** The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unknown **S/o:** Unknown **R/o:** Unknown **Age:** Approx 85 Year, **Height:** 5'6" Approx, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Black Colour T-Shirt-Black Colour Pajama.

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

SHO
P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25268394,25280979
DP/2177/OD/19 **7065036130**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male **Age :** About 68 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Build:** Medium, wearing coca-cola dharidar shirt and white & blue colour dharidar half pant, was found unconscious on 19.04.2019 infront of Parsh Dairy Farsh Khana, Hauz Qazi, Delhi, he admitted in LNJP Hospital, during the treatment doctor declare him dead. In this regard a DD No. 1-A dated 19.04.2019 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of MAMC, Hospital, Delhi.

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

SHO : P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23210414, 23212482
DP/6227/CD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Hareesh @ Heera, S/o Purmchand, R/o A-359, Sirapur Canal Rest House Jhuggi Siraspur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 45/03 u/s 279/304 IPC at PS. Prashant Vihar, Delhi and his warrant of arrest there upon issued has been return with the report that the said Hareesh @ Heera, has absconded (or is evading himself to avoid the service of the warrant.)

Proclamation is hereby made that said Hareesh @ Heera, accused in FIR No. 45/03 u/s 279/304 IPC at PS. Prashant Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 30/05/2019.

By Order
Ms. Kadambari Awasthi, Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 110, Rohini Courts
DP/2769/RD/19-(Court Matter) **Delhi**

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 10-12 years, **Height:** 4'9", **Sex:** Male, **Wearing :** Naked Body, Place of recovery : Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sec-13, Rohini Delhi, Recovery of UIDB : 12:04pm dead on dated 16.04.2019. In this regard, a **FIR No. 39-A dated 16.04.2019** has been lodged at PS K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

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

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

SHO
P.S., K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
DP/2778/RD/19 **Ph. : 011-27571162, 8750870327**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead in Park, Infront of Ramleela Ground, Narela, Delhi on 15.04.2019 at 09.57 PM. In this regard a **DD No. 148-A, Dated 15.04.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Narela, Outer North District, Delhi** The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, **S/o:**Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** approx. 50 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White Colour Kurta and Pajama. **Other Information:** He was Vagabond type and known by the name of Balaji.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: No.011-24368639 **S.H.O**
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Narela, Outer North Distt., Delhi**
DP/235/ON/19 **Ph.: 011-27280435, 27282350**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Pushpa

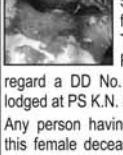
General public is hereby informed that one lady alongwith a child namely Harman Age-6 Months (depicted in the photo) namely **Pushpa** W/o **Sandeep** R/o WZ 17 B Gali No. 12 Sant Garh Tilak Nagar, Delhi has been reported missing since 12.04.2019 at Time 07.00 PM from Kesu pur Mandi ke Samne Footpath vide **DDNo. 11A Dated 13.04.2019** lodged at **Police Station–Khyala, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under:-

Aged - 24 years **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5' **Face:** Round, **Physique/Built:**Strong, **Clothing:** Red Colour Suit & Salwar and Plastic Chappal in her feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing lady may inform SHO, Khyala Delhi at **E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in** or website : **http://cbi.nic.in**

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
Fax : 011-24368639 **P.S. Khyala, Delhi**
Ph.: 011-28335696,28335686
DP/8220/WD/19 **8750871132**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body of female, Age 18/20 years, Height 5', Highly Decomposed was found dead at Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi on 09.04.19. In this regard a DD No. 22-A dated 09.04.19 has been lodged at PS K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this female deceased may be kindly inform to the undersigned.

SHO
PS: K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
Ph.: 27571162, 8750870327
DP/2786/RD/19

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

[Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016]

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF M/s SIKKA PAPERS LIMITED

	RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1	Name of corporate debtor	SIKKA PAPERS LIMITED
2	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	21st September, 1984
3	Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Delhi, India, under the Companies Act, 1956
4	Corporate Identity No./Limited liability identification No. of corporate debtor	U21012DL1984PLC128665
5	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	B-3 M Block AVG Building Connaught Circus New Delhi, Central Delhi
6	Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	24th April, 2019
7	Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	29th October, 2019
8	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Name–Ajit Kumar Reg No- IBBI/IPA-003/IP-N00062/2017-18/10548
9	Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Reg. Add – 1A, Sanskriti Apartment GH-22, Sector 56, Gurugram,Haryana & Punjab, 122011 Email – cmaaj@ajl@gmail.com
10	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Address – Sun Resolution Professionals Pvt Ltd. 83, National Media Centre, Shanker Chowk, Nr. Ambience Mall / DLF Cyber City , Gurugram – 122002 Email : cirp.sikkapapers@gmail.com
11	Last date for submission of claims	8th May, 2019
12	Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	NOT APPLICABLE
13	Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	NOT APPLICABLE
14	(a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	(a) www.ibbi.gov.in (b) NOT APPLICABLE

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the Sikka Papers Limited on 24th April, 2019.
The creditors of Sikka Papers Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 08th May, 2019 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.
A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as authorised representative of the class (NA) in Form CA.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Sd/
Ajit Kumar
Interim Resolution Professional
Reg No- IBBI/IPA-003/IP-N00062/2017-18/10548

Date: 25thApril, 2019
Place: Gurugram

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
(through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location	Provision of interlocking at L-Xing No.109 & 133 in section of ADSTE / ROK of DLI Division.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 50,85,862.38/- only
Tender Document Fee (₹)	₹ 5,900/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 1,01,700/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi - 110 055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time 22.05.2019 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice Board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110 055.

Tender No. 858-Sig-16-M-Tender-1269 Dated : 25.04.2019 1219/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

Tender No.	25.8.597.DSL.SSB®
Name of work	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.
Approximate cost	₹ 65,23,132/- (₹ Sixty Five Lacs Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Two only)
Earnest Money	₹ 1,30,500/- (Note : It should in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note : FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter No. 2015/CR-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
Completion period of the work	12 Months
Cost of tender document	₹ 5,900/- with GST @18% (Note : It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note : FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter No. 2015/CR-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs on 20.05.2019 opening of tender at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender is available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. - 25.8.597.DSL.SSB (R) Dt.- 25.04.2019 1217/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867/2358
Victoria Cross Vijeyta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun -248001
Telephone : 0135-2763672-76, Fax : 0135-2760289

E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE-Ist

This office e-tenders specification No. CCP-I/69/2018-2019 invited previously, for supply of 11 KV XLPE Cable Al. 3x185 Sq.mm and 11 KV XLPE Cable Al. 1x630 Sq.mm are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tenders can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs of 3.5.2019. Part-I of the e-tenders shall be opened on 4.5.2019 at 15:30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, Please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

No. : 214/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 **Superintending Engineer**
Date : 24.04.2019 **Corporate (C & P- I)**

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONS" Use L.E.D. Bulb to Save Electricity
(Toll Free : 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org"
(For information on Electricity Theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4188 / Fax No. 0135-2760911)

Trend Blazer

Parineeti lip-syncs Nick's *Sucker*

Actress **PARINEETI CHOPRA** was seen lip-syncing Jonas Brothers' new song titled *Sucker*.

Sharing a video of herself singing, Parineeti gave a shoutout to Nick, who sang the song with his brothers Joe Jonas and Kevin Jonas.

"My jam to get into the mood for the scene yesterday! Haha, Nick Jonas. Whatsay!" she captioned the video.

Replying to Parineeti, Nick commented, "Haha love it!" while her cousin and Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra, who featured in the music video and is married to the American singer, said she too loved the video.

'The way we conceive, develop and make films today is completely different from how we did 20 years ago. The makers and the audience as well have evolved and we are making films that are breaking genres. It's a great time to be an actor and experiment with various characters and different kinds of films.'
—Kunal Kemmu

Veteran actor **ANUPAM KHER** will be with actor-turned-politician and Chandigarh MP Kirron Kher when she files her nomination papers for the Chandigarh seat.

In a short video, the actor is heard saying, "Once again Kirron Kher*ji* is getting a chance to become a member of parliament from Chandigarh. We will take part in this event of democracy and will go to the office of the Deputy Commissioner to file the nomination."

He captioned the video, "Looking forward to be with the BJP candidate Kirron Kher and the people of Chandigarh to participate in the nomination filing ceremony. Good luck to everybody. Let's participate in this amazing and the largest festival of democracy."

Rami joins *James Bond 25*

Oscar-winning actor **RAMI MALEK** has bagged a role in the new James Bond film, which is tentatively titled *James Bond 25*.

Producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson together with director Cary Fukunaga revealed that Malek along with other new faces Ana De Armas, David Dencik, Lashana Lynch and Billy Magnussen have joined Daniel Craig in his fifth and final 007 outing.

Malek will play the role of a villain in the film. He said, "I promise you all I will be making sure Mr Bond does not have an easy ride of it in this, his 25th outing."

The film is scheduled to release in April 2020.

'A BUMP DOESN'T STOP YOU'

Designer CÉCILE REINAUD tells AYUSHI SHARMA that there is a huge demand for maternity fashion on a global level from what it used to be a few years ago. It started in America, trickled into Europe and it has now reached India

Frumpy, loose, unbecoming and not in the least stylish — these are some words that are associated with maternity fashion. However, pregnancy doesn't have to mean dressing up in sacks or its closest equivalent. Celebrities like Kareena Kapoor Khan and Beyonce amping up the fashion quotient during pregnancy has ensured that there is no flagging in the social pressure to look good even during this time.

It's true that fashioning clothes for a changing body is a daunting task but designer Cécile Reinaud apprises us that there is a huge demand for maternity fashion on a global level compared to what it used to be a few years back. It started in America, trickled into Europe and it has now reached India, a nation that has spread its arms wide to welcome this niche segment. The consumers demand something comfortable yet fashionable, so it will definitely flourish exponentially in the coming years.

Just like traditional fashion, many trends exist in maternity garments as well. She notes that denim wear is extremely popular because most women love to dress up their closet with the fabric. From skinny jeans to denim dresses and shirts, this is a favourite across the globe. The other trend is floral prints — from pale pinks to light blues, these never go out of fashion. It is not just the safest to follow but also a classy style to adopt during that phase.

There has been a substantial change in the way expectant mothers live their lives as compared to yesteryears. This sensibility too has to be blended into designs. She says that women are educated, well-travelled and they believe in being always on point. The same attitude can be seen even when they are pregnant. Every woman wants to look stylish and elegant no matter whether it is in office or at a party — a bump doesn't deter them. Since, it is a new chapter in a woman's life, nothing should detract them from enjoying it to the fullest. The designs are created keeping in mind the modern woman's desire to look chic everyday and also be able to re-use these apparel post-pregnancy.

'IN A PROFESSIONAL SPACE, IF YOU DON'T DRESS UP WELL, PEOPLE DON'T TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY, ESPECIALLY WITH A BIG BELLY. IT BECOMES EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO DRESS SHARP TO SHOW YOU ARE ON TOP OF THINGS. THIS PHENOMENON STARTED 15 YEARS AGO IN THE UK AND NOW IN THE NEW GENERATION OF CAREER-DRIVEN INDIAN WOMEN'

Dressing in the way you like can keep you positive, happy and comfortable, even as you face this big change in life. Fancy maternity outfit is becoming a necessity as compared to the past, especially in India. She says that women in metros have a career and they want to look smart and sophisticated as they head out. "In a professional space, if you don't dress up well, people don't take you seriously, especially with a big belly. It becomes even more important to dress sharp to show you are on top of things. This phenomenon started 15 years ago in the UK and now has gained prominence among the new generation of Indian women who are career-driven. With the advent of the social media, women take inspiration from the way celebs and influencers dress up, regardless of the situation or their phase of life. This has driven the demand for more comfortable clothes for every stage of a woman's life, including pregnancy," adds Cecile, who has also designed outfits for many royals including the future queen of England, Kate Middleton.

She believes that the maternity fashion scene in India is not very different as compared to other countries. However, Cécile further adds, "Indian women like to dress up more modestly, so they avoid low cut V necks. They are more comfortable with sleeves attached to their dresses and tops. Weather too plays a role. It is hot most of the months in the country so we look for fabrics that are light and that will keep you cool, while making you feel adequately covered and elegant."

(The designer is also the founder and the managing director of Séraphine.)

Living with electricity

Spending a week with an electric car can change one's outlook towards such vehicles but upfront costs are an issue

KUSHAN MITRA

DELHI DRIVER

At the outset, I should make one thing clear that the BMW i3s is a luxury car, it might be an eco-friendly BMW with recycled plastic being used as well as environmental-friendly fabric for the seat and the few bits of (fake) leather were offcuts from the production line, but this is a BMW nonetheless. This is therefore, not a car for everyone, but is one of the most popular electric vehicles in Europe. Priced at around 40,000 Euros, if it were to come to India, if incentives are offered for the import of electric vehicles, such as no additional excise, it will still cost at least ₹35 lakh, only a bit less than a brand-new BMW 3-series or X1. However, driving one for a week, complete with its new green registration plates that electric vehicles are allowed to use was an eye-opener for this writer.

To be fair, this column had been written about the i3s when we had driven it in Portugal a year and half ago, but that was a media drive where one did not have to deal with the nitty-gritty of living with an electric vehicle, that is charging. Now, we know that India does not have enough charging infrastructure as yet, and more on that later. But I could charge the i3s at home, thanks to a couple of reasons. Firstly, I had covered parking and a plug-point as well as a three-phase power connection. While charging from a low amperage point meant that the car took over twelve hours to charge from empty and on 'Comfort' mode it took twelve hours.

In 'Comfort' mode, the default mode of the car had 218 kilometers of range on full charge. On 'Eco Pro' mode, the car had around 250 kilometers of range and in 'Eco Pro+' over 300 kilometres of range. I, however, kept the car on 'Comfort' most of the time as it allowed me to use the air-conditioner without any issues, it is summer in Delhi after all. I'd also plugged in my mobile phone so as to listen to music and actual range was a lot higher than the initial indicated one because the i3s has a very good regenerating system that charges the battery whenever you lift your foot off the pedal so much so that you rarely end up using the brakes.

So what are the headline numbers. The car claimed that it was consuming 12.9 kilowatt-hours (units) of electricity for every 100 kilometers of driving. Now, in Delhi, residential power costs ₹7.75 per unit at maximum rates, this means that the i3s has a running cost, if you buy power at the peak rate, of just ₹1 per km. That, frankly, is unbeatable by any petrol or diesel car. Keep in mind that fixed costs remain the same, any few households fall into the peak charge for electricity. So overall costs will, using a back of the envelope calculation, be around 80 paise per kilometre. A small petrol hatchback such as the Hyundai i20 or Suzuki Baleno would have a per-kilometre cost of ₹5.5. Even with BMW's 1,00,000 kilometre warranty on the battery and rising fuel prices going forward, which is almost certain, savings on running cost over that period will be ₹8 lakh at best, not enough to make up the difference. Maybe if you considered this over a BMW X1 for example, you might save money but that is all dependent on a benevolent government which wants to promote electric car usage in India and keeps import duties low or at zero at least initially to seed the market.

But this does not preclude the fact that the i3s will, even if not charged import duties, cost 3.5 times that of a standard hatchback. And then there is an issue with infrastructure, there are some charging stations built in and around Delhi by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for the fleet of government electric vehicles, including one at Jor Bagh Market near the offices of the Environment Ministry. But guess what, that charging system is not compatible with that of the BMW. This is like needing an iPhone charger and finding a Micro-USB charger. So well, I could not try that out. This incompatibility issue is something that the industry and government will need to deal with.

The i3s is actually an amazing car to drive around the city. For one the instant power delivery and almost perfectly linear acceleration means that it overtakes with surprising ease, it can be rather quick if you want it to be and thanks to its excellent centre-of-gravity, it handles like you expect a BMW should. But this is just a technology-demonstrator brought here by BMW to showcase their technology and train their service engineers. However, I do wish that the car-maker does share this car with someone in the government and let them drive around and get some idea of how to formulate electric vehicle policy going forward.

Chinese artist writes book using only emoticons

Book from the Ground is a novel written using only emoticons by a Chinese artist Xu Bing that illustrates the ability to create a universal language using graphic symbols, he said.

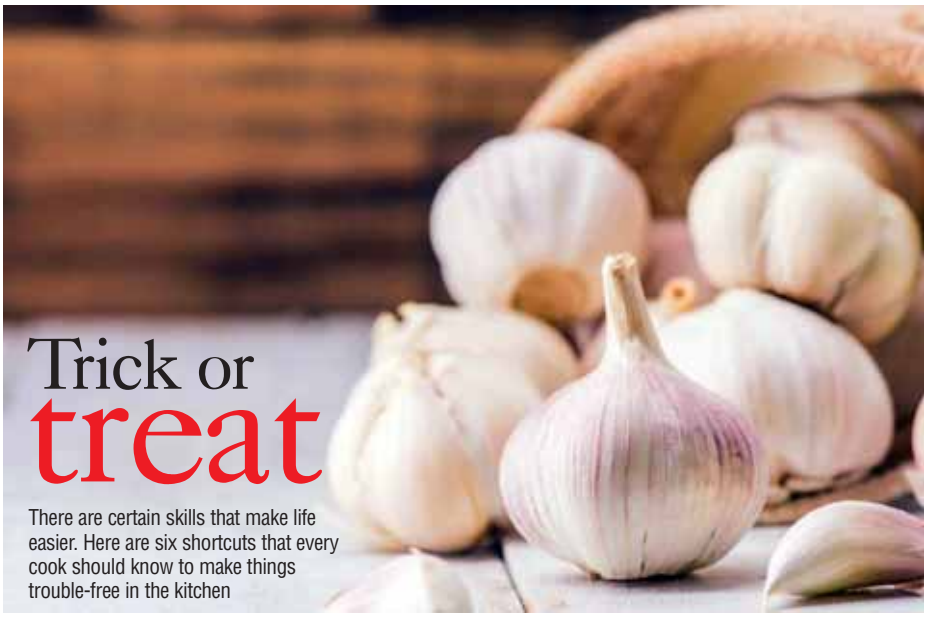
Xu's aim to create the book, which so far has only been published in the US, is for any person anywhere in the world to be able to understand the story without having to know any given language in advance, since the emoticon symbols are universally shared and used. This preoccupation with language, which permeates all of Xu's work, stems from his childhood. When he was 11, the Cultural Revolution erupted in China and he had to learn new, simplified Chinese characters in order to be able to read and write according to the government's new guidelines.

"It's the first book that everyone in the world can read, since it needs no translation," said the artist, adding that currently, by using a very simple system of signs, emoticon users, especially young people, enjoy the ability "to communicate on the international level." "The idea for the book began 13 years ago, when I was having expositions all over the world and I spent a lot of time on airports," said Xu.

The book includes 24 chapters. Xu presented his new book at the Art for People exposition, where on display is a banner given to him by the Museum of Modern Art in 1999 on which can be read the slogan "Art for the People" with the English letters grouped in a way that simulates Chinese writing.

Using the same calligraphic technique, the artist has also adapted or translated the 15th century poem *El bon poble* by Ausias March in a work inspired by the Valencian culture.

—IANS



Trick or treat

There are certain skills that make life easier. Here are six shortcuts that every cook should know to make things trouble-free in the kitchen

There are certain small skills that make life better and easier. I'm well aware that many of them take place outside of the kitchen, and I probably don't know as many of those as I should. I'm of no use if you have a flat tire or need to calculate the circumference of something or want to find your way out of the woods.

But after many years of clanking around in the kitchen, I have collected a fair arsenal of cooking tips and shortcuts. Here are a few that everyone should know:

HOW TO QUICKLY RIPEN AVOCADOS

If you have a hard avocado and you need it to be soft in a day or so, simply place it in a brown paper bag with a banana or apple and fold the top to close it up. The natural ethylene gases emitted by the other fruit will cause the avocado to ripen faster. Depending on how hard your avocado is, it might take a couple of days.

HOW TO MINCE GARLIC SUPER FINE

If you are using minced garlic in a dish, particularly where the garlic is uncooked, big chunks are not what you are looking for. Just smash a clove or two (or five) with the side of a heavy knife, slip off the papery skin and start chopping on a cutting board. As the garlic gets chopped, add a pinch or so of kosher or sea salt and keep chopping. The salt acts as an abrasive so the garlic gets minced fine. Every once in a while, use the side of the knife to smear the garlic against the cutting board, then scrape it back up and keep mincing. You can hear the salt crunching under the blade as it works to pulverise the garlic.

HOW TO MAKE BUTTERMILK

Unless we are really planning ahead, when 'buttermilk' comes up as in ingredient in a recipe, it's unlikely most of us have it on hand. Easy solution — Make your own. Place one tablespoon lemon juice or white vinegar in a measuring cup and then fill it with milk to the one cup line. I like to use whole milk, but you can also use 2 per cent. If you see slight curdling, don't worry it won't affect the finished product. This may not be as thick as regular buttermilk, but the acidity in the milk will perform the same function — getting you to a tender, flaky and flavorful baked good.

HOW TO PEEL GINGER WITH A SPOON

Ginger's skin is thin enough to be scraped off with the edge of a teaspoon. In fact, it's easier to use a spoon than a vegetable peeler because the spoon can get into the crevices and navigate over the bumps more easily. Also, this means you can have even a little kid help with this kitchen task, since they can't nick themselves with a spoon.

HOW TO SOFTEN BROWN SUGAR

If you have a day or two, just place a piece of fresh bread in a container with the brown sugar, seal the container and your brown sugar will soften right up. If you are in a hurry, place the brown sugar in a bowl, place a damp paper towel over it, cover the bowl with a plate and microwave it for 20 seconds. Check to see if it's soft and if not, continue microwaving in 20 second bursts until it is. Use it pretty quickly, and when you store any leftovers, make sure to put a piece of fresh bread in the container with the sugar.

HOW TO GET HONEY (OR MOLASSES, MAPLE SYRUP OR CORN SYRUP) OUT OF A MEASURING CUP

Anything sticky is just plain hard to measure. You pour it into the cup or spoon and then into your bowl or pot, and a thick coating is always left inside the measuring cup, drip-drip-dripping, but never fully getting out of the cup. The quick hack is cooking spray. Just spray the inside of the cup or measuring spoon with non-stick cooking spray, measure your sticky ingredient and it will slide right out. Cleanup is easier, too.

—AP

CHEF TALK

'AWARENESS IS THE KEY'

Chef TARUN SIBAL tells AYUSHI SHARMA that our lifestyle choices are the exact opposite of what's required for a healthy body. The change needs to start with the use of local, seasonal produce and by restricting the intake of processed food options

❖ Given livestock, certain foods won't last beyond 2030-50 as predicted by Lancet, how do we change food culture to make sustainable choices?

This situation has become alarming. We need to go back to the consumption of local produce. The focus on westernised diets which are based on three crop varieties and an overconsumption of meat needs to be tackled. Refined sugars, saturated fats, dairy are areas where the restrictive approach can work in our favour. We will also need to inhibit wastefulness as a habit.

❖ What are the challenges to a sustainable food culture in India?

The sheer size and diversity of the country presents a huge challenge in terms of food. Indian food culture is an amalgamation of varied food interpretations. Sustainable culture will need education for the farmer and evolution of the consumer at various levels of the economy.

❖ In what way do we need to change the way we eat, given our lifestyle choices?

It can only start with the understanding that we need to make a change, so awareness is the key. Our lifestyle choices are the exact opposite of what's required for a healthy body and mind. Hence the intake becomes the most important aspect we can work on. As I said, it will start with the use of local and seasonal produce. And by restricting the intake of processed food options.

❖ As the population grows and yields get squeezed, a growing number of farmers are switching to practices that conserve resources and at the same time are more productive. What do you have to say about the native crops that India has stopped growing?

It's a shame that we end up lapping what the West brings us with respect to super foods. We have always had abundance in terms of produce that is good for you. From ghee to barley, millet to coconut, moringa to rosella. We have it all. We need to make all of this mainstream and enhance its usage. We also have to create suitable demand and maintain a healthy rate of supply.

❖ What do you have to say about the current food culture in India?

We have a head start when it comes to sustainable food culture as a major chunk of the Indian population is vegetarian. By focusing on grains, legume, pulses, vegetables and fruits, the balance of the food ecosystem is maintained. But with an increase in the urban population that centres around a western diet, this balance is shifting.

❖ Has Indian cuisine made a mark on the global palate? Is it being appreciated by connoisseurs and the masses adequately?

You will be surprised if I tell you that Indian cuisine is classified as a heritage one by the UN, with Mexico and China being the other two countries with the same status. We have been eating the same for ages. Indian cuisine is a feast as it's rich, varied, seasonal and has all the elements that ensure that it is appreciated across the globe. International chefs have opened up to Indian cuisine and Indian chefs have started using global techniques while working with ingredients and flavours from the country. Indian chefs have made huge efforts in making the food look delectable.

❖ Food preferences are subjective. Some may like a dish and some won't. How do you deal with negative criticism to your cooking?

I rather call it feedback. And no one can please everyone. But each guest is important and we try to match his/her expectations.

❖ What is the biggest thing you stand for and support as a chef?

Kitchens are high stress ecosystems and chefs are burning out. I stand for creating an environment that's less taxing and is built on camaraderie and balance. My food logic is simple. I make the familiar exciting and the unfamiliar approachable. Having said that, seasonality, tastefullness and balance of flavours play a vital role.

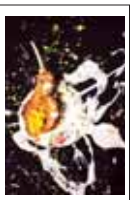
gorgeous

As the city take a step forward towards the summer season, the craving for chilled shakes and drinks go up. Pablo — the food cartel is serving the most innovative shakes, mocktails and smoothies like Blueberry Green Tea, Avocado and Pineapple Smoothy, Pineapple Kiwi and Flaxseed Smoothy, Parle-G Shake among others. **Price:** ₹1,200 for two **Date:** April 30 **Time:** 8 am to 10.30 pm **Venue:** GL-19, Cross Point Mall, DLF phase 4, Gurugram.

With the mercury shooting up, it's time to refresh and replenish the body with exotic summer sippers. UNO Chicago Bar and Grill has introduced cocktails like That's Amore, Towered Iced Tea, Cosmo Blood Orange, Classic Mojito. **Price:** ₹1,500 for two **Date:** Ongoing **Time:** 12 am to 12 pm **Venue:** Gardens Galleria Mall, Sector 38, Noida.

Local, bar and cafe's Mutton Galouti Warkhi Parantha is certainly worth making a beeline for. Dig into their street specials which include Pani Puri Shots to Tacos and Panko Chicken with Chips, Wok Salt and Pepper. **Price:** ₹1,000 for two, plus taxes **Date:** Throughout May **Venue:** Showroom no 11, Atmaram Mansion, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, CP.

Burma Burma, is all set to bring in the Burmese New Year festivities. On the menu are special dishes like Spicy Avocado Tea Leaf Salad, Quack Palata, 999 Noodles. **Price:** ₹1,500 for two, plus taxes **Date:** Till May 5 **Time:** Lunch — 12 pm to 4 pm and Dinner — 6.30 pm to 11.30 pm **Venue:** At Burma Burma outlets in Select City Walk, Cyber Hub and DLF Mall of India.



Savour the flavours of tender and juicy Kebabs and grills at Farzi Cafe. From tender and succulent Tandoori New Zealand Lamb Chops rubbed with garlic and chill to signature Murgh Shorba, Pulled Chicken. **Price:** ₹1,500 for two, plus taxes **Date:** On till May **Time:** 12 pm to 11.45 pm **Venue:** 7-8, DLF Cyber City, Gurugram.

Swad presents an extensive new menu — Bedmi Poori with Aloo Sabji, Dilkhush Pizza Dosa, Vegetarian Cooker Meat, Mock Meat dish, Kathi Kabab with Roomali, Gulab Jamun and Tiramisu. **Price:** ₹750 for two **Date:** Throughout May **Time:** 12 pm to 11.30 pm **Venue:** 43, Chiranjivi Tower, Nehru Place.

RECIPES

JALAPENO CORNITOS WITH SOUR CREAM

WHAT YOU NEED

- Cornitos jalapeno flavour nachos: 1 packet
- Cornitos chunky salsa: 1 jar
- Onion (finely chopped): 1
- Cornitos sliced jalapeno peppers
- Avacado: 1
- Tomato (finely chopped): 1
- Sour cream: 1 cup
- Coriander

METHOD

- Arrange layer of cornitos wasabi flavour nachos on a platter.
- Top it up with chopped tomatoes, onions, avocado and salsa.
- Repeat the same with another layer of nachos on top of it.
- Again top it with chopped tomatoes, onions, sliced fresh jalapeno chunky salsa and coriander leaves.
- Serve it fresh with sour cream on top.

Courtesy: Cornitos.

MANGO MULE

METHOD

- Add ice to glass and put mango juice.

Add lime juice and vanilla syrup and stir well.

Top up with Ginger ale and splash of grenadine syrup.

Garnish with mint sprig and rosemary.

Courtesy: Puneet Kaushal, Bartender at The Deltin, Daman.

HAZELNUT CHOCOLATE MUD SLIDE

WHAT YOU NEED

For the Pastry:

- Butter: 140 gm
- Golden caster sugar: 100 gm
- Plain flour: 225 gm
- Almond: 50 gm
- Egg (beaten): 1

For the Filling:

- Blanched hazelnut: 85 gm
- Golden caster sugar: 50 gm
- Dark chocolate: 200 gm
- Butter: 100 gm
- A splash of brandy
- Egg: 1
- Egg yolks: 3

METHOD

- Begin with pastry and mix the butter and sugar together, then add flour and almonds. Blend everything together with egg. If the pastry is very soft, chill it for 20 minutes. If not, roll out to fit in a deep 23 cm fluted flan tin; if the pastry breaks, press scraps of it into the gaps, leaving a slight overhang. Chill for 20 minutes.
- Heat the oven. Line the case with baking parchment and baking beans, then bake for 10 minutes. Remove beans and cook for another 10 minutes until golden.
- Meanwhile, toast the nuts in a dry pan until turns brown. Scatter over four tablespoon of sugar, cook until it caramelises. Then tip nuts onto a baking tray lined with parchment. Leave to cool, then chop roughly.
- Over a pan of barely simmering water, melt the chocolate, butter and alcohol together, then set aside to cool slightly. Over the same pan, beat the egg, yolks and remaining sugar until pale and fluffy. Take off the heat, then fold in the chocolate mix.
- When case is cooked, remove from oven and turn the heat down. Scatter most of the hazelnuts over the base, then tip in the chocolate mix, pressing it down slightly. Cook the tart for 15-20 minutes until the chocolate has almost set. Leave to cool, then serve with the remaining nuts.

Courtesy: Chef Sanjay Singh Yadav at Vapour Bar exchange, Gurugram.

MARMALADE FRENCH TOAST

WHAT YOU NEED

- Milk: 25 ml
- Egg yolk: 1
- Egg white: 1
- Caster sugar: 10 gm
- Marmalade: 20 gm
- Salt as per taste
- Bread toast: 2 slices

Accompaniments:

- Berry coulis: 25 gm
- Whipped cream: 200 gm
- Maple syrup: 30 ml

METHOD

- Make a smooth batter.
- Mix all the ingredients other that the egg whites.
- Beat the egg whites stiff and fold into the mixture.
- Place two slices of bread toast into the batter, cook on a griddle and serve with accompaniments.

Courtesy: Neelabh Sahay, executive chef at Novotel Kolkata Hotel and Residences.

Noisy Neighbours too loud for Utd

Manchester City go top of Premier League with 2-0 derby day win

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola believes his side has raised the bar in the Premier League after edging one point back ahead of Liverpool in a titanic title race with a 2-0 win at Manchester United on Wednesday.

Bernardo Silva and Leroy Sane struck for the visitors in 12 second-half minutes at Old Trafford to inflict a seventh defeat in nine games on United, who remain three points adrift of the top four.

City cannot match their record 100 points tally in romping to the title last season, but victories over Burnley, Leicester and Brighton will clinch the title on 98 points and ensure Liverpool's 29-year wait to win the league continues despite already posting a club record points tally in the Premier League era.

"We increased the level for the Premier League last season with 100 points. That's the level Liverpool are chasing. What they have done is incredible but it's in our hands," said Guardiola.

"Both teams deserve the title. But it can be just one. The team that is going to lose can't have regrets because they have given everything."

City's trip to Old Trafford was billed as the last big hurdle left for Guardiola's men to clear despite United's terrible run of form.

However, Guardiola warned of the tight turnaround before a very different type of test at Burnley on Sunday.

"Normally with this kind of victory you can enjoy it the most but we have to be calm," added Guardiola.

City's trip to Old Trafford was billed as the last big hurdle left for Guardiola's men to clear despite United's terrible run of form

"Now we go to Burnley and we know how tough it will be. It's important to be calm. We are still not champions with three games left — it's incredible with the points we have and Liverpool have.

STANDARD BEARERS

United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer slammed his players' attitude after a 4-0 at Everton on Sunday and was rewarded with a far more energetic and committed performance, even if City's greater quality eventually shone through.

Raheem Sterling shot too close to De Gea after weaving through a host of United bodies inside the area before Sergio Aguero dragged well wide when unmarked at the edge of the box as City went through the gears towards the end of the first-half.

But it was an enforced change early in the second-half that swung the game City's way as Guardiola boldly introduced Sane when the more defensive-minded Fernandinho went down injured.

David de Gea has been a rare model of consistent brilliance as United have fallen behind City in recent seasons.

But the Spaniard's dramatic dip in form of late continued as he could have done better for both goals.

Guardiola's positive change was instantly rewarded when Bernardo cut inside onto his favoured left foot and beat De Gea at his near post.

Sane has been scarcely used by Guardiola of late, but the German, whose winning goal inflicted Liverpool's only league defeat of the season in January, again showed his capability to make a difference in the biggest games.

Sterling led a City counter-attack before feeding Sane, whose powerful shot De Gea could not keep out.

> "Today we didn't play like Manchester United. It's not right. The bare minimum is to work hard and give all for the badge, the supporters, the club and yourself."
> —Marcus Rashford

> "Every one of us wants to do the back to back. We're really happy about this win because it is the derby, a special game, and also really important for the Premier League."
> —Leroy Sane

> "I told them (Man City players) we needed to play to win, it doesn't matter if we concede."
> —Pep Guardiola

WOLVES INFLICT MORE AWAY-DAY PAIN

AFP ■ LONDON

Unai Emery refused to give up on Arsenal's Champions League hopes after seeing his side embarrassed by Wolves in a 3-1 defeat at Molineux on Wednesday.

Ruben Neves, Matt Doherty and the outstanding Diogo Jota scored the goals that condemned Emery's side to a third defeat in four Premier League games, severely denting their hopes of a top-four finish with just three games to go.

The Arsenal manager admitted his team were outplayed by Wolves, who scored three goals in the first half to give the visitors a mountain to climb.

Despite the chastening defeat the Spaniard said his side will keep striving for Champions League football, which they can achieve either through a top-four finish in the Premier League or by winning the Europa League.

Defeat in the Midlands left Emery's men a point behind fourth-placed Chelsea.

"I usually am very critical with myself and I am angry with myself that we didn't do the gameplan we wanted — not with the players," said Emery when asked if he was angry with his team.

"First it is with me and after that my style and idea is to look in front and find a solution, not who is the player who is worst.

"First I am thinking about the solution and the solution for me is to take the possibility on Sunday at Leicester and get our best performance and the best possibility to take the three points."

Pogba odd man out in PFA team of the year

LONDON: Manchester United's Paul Pogba is the only non-Manchester City or Liverpool player to be named in the Professional Footballers' Association's Premier League team of the year on Thursday.

The 26-year-old French World Cup-winning midfielder's inclusion is a surprise after an indifferent season, although he hit a purple patch after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer arrived at Old Trafford as interim manager.

City and Liverpool have been locked in an enthralling duel for the title, with City going top again after beating United 2-0, with Pogba unable to inspire his side to a much-needed win.

City provide six of the 11 players — goalkeeper Ederson, centre-half Aymeric Laporte, midfielders Bernardo Silva and Fernandinho and forwards Sergio Aguero and Raheem Sterling.

The remaining four places are filled by Liverpool players -- full-backs Andrew Robertson and Trent-Alexander Arnold, central defender Virgil van Dijk and forward Sadio Mane.

Van Dijk and Sterling are believed to be in the running for the player of the year award.

There is no place, though, for Liverpool's Egyptian star Mo Salah, who has scored 19 Premier League goals this season, Spurs pair Harry Kane and Son Heung-min or Chelsea playmaker Eden Hazard.

The PFA Team of the Year is voted for by members of the Professional Footballers' Association.

Manchester City had five players in the 2017/18 side but only Argentine star Aguero retains his place from the team of 12 months ago. ***AFP***

SINGLES

ROONEY FIRES DC UNITED TO TOP

New York: Wayne Rooney fired DC United to the top of Major League Soccer's Eastern Conference standings on Wednesday, scoring the game's only goal in a 1-0 win over Columbus Crew. Former Manchester United and England star Rooney curled home a low free-kick in the 27th minute to give United all three points and their first win in Columbus since 2007. The victory leaves United three points clear of second-placed Montreal Impact at the top of the Eastern Conference standings with 17 points from nine games. Montreal kept pace with United after a 3-0 away win against the New England Revolution.

LEE BOWS OUT OF SUDIRMAN CUP

Shanghai: Malaysia's badminton king Lee Chong Wei, under treatment for nose cancer, has withdrawn from next month's Sudirman Cup in China after doctors advised him against "exerting himself", an official said on Thursday. The decision to skip the May 19-26 tournament in Nanning marks the third time Lee, 36, fails to make a comeback and will probably dash his hopes to play in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. He had earlier skipped the All England Open in March and the Malaysia Open in April. "I would like to confirm that Lee Chong Wei will not compete in the Sudirman Cup mixed team event," Ng Chin Chai, secretary general of the Badminton Association of Malaysia. "He is on treatment. Lee is advised by his doctor against exerting himself and not to participate in competition yet."

RANI NAMED IN WOMEN'S NAT'L CAMP

New Delhi: Star skipper Rani Rampal headlined a 60 player probables list for the women's hockey national camp, beginning in Bengaluru from Friday. Rani, who missed out the five match bilateral series with Malaysia due to injury, joins the two-week camp alongside goalkeeper Savita and defender Deep Grace Ekka. A selection trial will be held on May 4 to prune down the list to 33 core probables, a Hockey India media release said. "While I am looking forward to seeing and testing the new talent coming into the National Camp, the athletes will need to perform and show their capabilities," India's chief coach, Sjoerd Marijne said. "We are constantly looking to improve and good players posing a challenge to seniors will only increase the competition within the core group and also help create depth in the team."

IND FACE RUSSIA IN FIH FINALS OPENER

New Delhi: Favourites India will open their campaign against lowly Russia in the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Series Finals, an Olympic qualifier event, to be held in Bhubaneswar from June 6 to 15. World ranked fifth India will take on world No 22 Russia in the final match of the opening day, which also feature games between South Africa and United States and Poland and Uzbekistan. India are placed in Pool A alongside Poland (ranked 21), Russia and Uzbekistan (43rd), while Pool B consists of South Africa (16th), Asia Games Gold medallist Japan (18th), USA (25th) and Mexico (39th). After Russia, India will be up against Poland (June 7) and Uzbekistan (June 10) in their remaining pool matches. The final of tournament will be played on June 15 at the Kalinga Stadium. **Agencies**

ATLETICO EDGE 5-GOAL THRILLER WITH VALENCIA

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid delayed Barcelona winning La Liga by a few days at least after Alvaro Morata and Antoine Griezmann each scored in a 3-2 victory over Valencia on Wednesday.

Defeat at the Wanda Metropolitano would have crowned Barca kings of Spain for a 26th time in their history, with the Catalans now set to celebrate at their own Camp Nou on Saturday instead.

A Barcelona win there over Levante will wrap up their fourth league triumph in five years and they could even be home and dry before kick-off, if Atletico fail to take a point at home to struggling Real Valladolid earlier in the day.

Regardless, success for Ernesto Valverde's side is surely now only a matter of timing given Atletico remain nine points behind the leaders with four games left to play.

Angel Correa's stunning strike in the 81st minute proved the winner after Valencia had fought back, Kevin Gameiro and a Dani Parejo penalty twice pulling them level after goals from Morata and Griezmann.

Morata's early strike continued his excellent form since his move to Atletico in January, his finish at the back post taking his tally to six goals in 13 games for the club.

Griezmann, meanwhile, back from suspension, now has 25 goals in all competitions this season, an impressive return, particularly in a side not renowned for its creativity.

Lewandowski brace wins thrilling German Cup semis

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich will face RB Leipzig in the German Cup final next month after Robert Lewandowski fired them to a 3-2 win over a valiant Werder Bremen on Wednesday.

Lewandowski scored twice in a highly entertaining last-four tie to reach the final for the 23rd time.

Bremen were unfazed by their role as underdogs, attacking Bayern all night and briefly overturning a two-goal deficit.

Yet Lewandowski's late penalty ultimately decided a fiery cup tie in Bayern's favour.

"It was the tough game that we were expecting," man of the match Thomas Mueller told *ARD*.

"Football is fun in an atmosphere like this. I have to say, I'm a bit of a Bremen fan. I love watching them, and their fans are great."

Both sides threw everything forward in the first half, with Milot Rashica in particular causing endless headaches for the Bayern defence.

Lewandowski put Bayern in front on 36 minutes, however, and Mueller appeared to land the sucker punch when he scooped in a second just after the hour mark.

Rashica, though, hauled Bremen back into the tie with two minutes of magic.

The Kosovan set up Yuya Osako to pull a goal back on 74 minutes, before tearing through Bayern with a brilliant solo run a minute later to net the equaliser.

Yet Lewandowski restored the lead from the spot on 80 minutes after Kingsley Coman went down in the box.

Bayern will face RB Leipzig in the final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on May 25, where they hope to win the trophy for the 19th time.

Hamilton wary of rivals' street smarts in Baku

AFP ■ BAKU

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton is expecting his main rivals to give him a tough time on the demanding streets of Baku at this weekend's Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

The five-time world champion, who heads the embryonic 2019 title race by six points after three races, has struggled to master the Baku circuit in the past and won last year only after Mercedes' team-mate Valtteri Bottas had a puncture when leading with three laps remaining.

That disappointment was a body blow for Bottas who did not fully recover and failed to claim a win as Hamilton romped to his fifth drivers' crown. This time, Hamilton expects him, and Ferrari, to respond.

"I was fortunate to get the win here last year," admitted Hamilton, who has developed a habit of turning unpromising races into valuable podium finishes or wins.

"I wasn't quick enough really, right through the weekend so it will be interesting this time.

"I'm expecting Valtteri to be quick and I expect the Ferraris to be particularly quick. It will be interesting. I'm going with a mind-set that I've got to improve on my previous performances."

Victory last year was Hamilton's first at the tricky track made up of the season's longest — and very fast — straight and tight corners, some with little run-off and walls.

NADAL SEES OFF TEARFUL FERRER

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Rafael Nadal showed no mercy towards an emotional David Ferrer as he eased into the quarter-finals of the Barcelona Open on Thursday with a straight-sets victory.

Ferrer is set to retire after the Madrid Open next month and made a tearful exit on what was his last appearance at this tournament.

But there was no room for sentiment for Nadal, who won 6-3, 6-3 to take one step closer to a record 12th Barcelona title.

Four of those triumphs came after beating Ferrer in the final and, at the end of this latest victory, Nadal's 37-year-old opponent saluted the crowd before placing his pink headband down on the service line.

Ferrer reached a career-high ranking of number three in the world in 2013, the same year he went closest to winning a Grand Slam too, undone by Nadal again in the French Open final.

Nadal will be gunning for his 12th success at Roland Garros next month and this was more like the sort of form expected of the world number two, who had won 30 consecutive sets in Barcelona before falling one behind to Leonardo Mayer on Wednesday.

Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff or the talented 20-year-old Greek, Stefanos Tsitsipas, now await in the last eight before a potential semi-final meeting with Dominic Thiem, whom Nadal beat in the French Open final last year.

Osaka downs Hsieh in Stuttgart opener

AFP ■ STUTTGRAT

World number one Naomi Osaka defeated Hsieh Su-wei 6-4, 6-3 in her first clay court match of the season in Stuttgart on Thursday.

US and Australian Open champion Osaka, who lost to Taiwanese veteran Hsieh in Miami last month, secured a place in the quarter-finals against Croatia's Donna Vekic.

Osaka, 21, broke Hsieh three times in total to beat Hsieh for the second time in three attempts this year, having also defeated her on the way to lifting the title in Melbourne.

"She's a really tricky opponent. You never really know what she's going to do," said Osaka.

Osaka needed 84 minutes to dispatch the unconventional Hsieh, a win that ensures she will hold on to top spot for at least another week.

She is less than 200 points ahead of Simona Halep in the WTA rankings, although the Romanian pulled out of this week's tournament with a hip injury.

The Japanese star arrived in Stuttgart, where she last played in Stuttgart as a qualifier in 2017, after suffering early exits in her last three tournaments.

Osaka will meet Vekic, a 6-1, 7-5 winner over Daria Kasatkina, for a spot in the last four, while seventh seed Anastasija Sevastova defeated Germany's Laura Siegemund 6-4, 6-3.

IPL 2019

LEADERBOARD

RUNS	574	David Warner (SRH)
WICKETS	23	Kagiso Rabada (DC)
6S	550	T20 IS ABOUT PRESSURE MOMENTS AND WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT IN THE LAST FEW GAMES — R ASHWIN
4S	1212	

DK special gives KKR 175

KKR skipper hammers 97 not out as hosts recover after slow start

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Under-fire skipper Dinesh Karthik silenced his critics with a career-best 97 not out as Kolkata Knight Riders recovered from an atrocious start to post a competitive 175 for six against Rajasthan Royals in their must-win IPL fixture here on Thursday.

Under pressure to perform after a string of five straight defeats, the World Cup-bound Karthik promoted himself to No 4, shrugging off criticism, and smashed nine sixes and seven fours in his 50-ball unbeaten knock, as KKR hit top gear in the back end of the innings, scoring 126 from the last 10 overs and 75 off the last five overs.

On a day their impact player Andre Russell looked lackluster in his run-a-ball 14, in which he was dropped twice, it was a one-man show from Karthik who went berserk against the likes of Jaydev Unadkat and Shreyas Gopal.

Karthik seized the momentum in the 11th over when he hit Shreyas Gopal for a six followed by three boundaries in an over that yielded 25 runs and KKR did not look back since then.

> UNADKAT CONCEDED 50 RUNS FOR HIS ONE WICKET AND WAS THE MOST EXPENSIVE OF THE LOT AS HE UNDID ALL THE GOOD WORK DONE BY VARUN AARON (2/20) WHO HAD A FINE NEW BALL SPELL OF 3-1-10-2

Karthik completed his fifty from 35 balls and smashed Jofra Archer for successive sixes in the penultimate over before bettering his previous best of 86 when he went berserk against Unadkat by hitting him for two sixes and one four in the final over.

Unadkat conceded 50 runs for his one wicket and was the most expensive of the lot as he undid all the good work done by Varun Aaron (2/20) who had a fine new ball spell of 3-1-10-2.

Put in to bat, KKR got off to an atrocious start to be 32/2 in powerplay overs against an all out pace attack from Rajasthan Royals.

Playing his only second match this season, Aaron extracted pace and swing from the fast-paced Eden track and removed both the openers Chris Lynn (0) and Shubman Gill (14) cheaply.

Aaron set up Lynn brilliantly with his first two balls before bowling a delivery that sharply came back as the Australian played it on to his stumps in a wicket-maiden first over.

Then the talented Gill had no answer to negotiate an inswinger as he was completely beaten by pace to see the ball clip his bails.

Archer capped a superb powerplay for Royals with another maiden as the dispirited KKR found themselves going nowhere and seemed to be losing the plot before skipper Karthik revived them at the back end of the innings.

Up Next

CSK look to dodge MI blues

PTI ■ CHENNAI

They might have already reached the cut-off limit of 16 points needed for the play-offs, but Chennai Super Kings would like to consolidate their position at the top when they take on an inconsistent Mumbai Indians in an IPL match here on Friday.

The MS Dhoni-led side roared back to form after two losses, with a six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Tuesday night, riding on Shane Watson's big hitting.

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2
CSK vs MI
CHENNAI
FRIDAY | 8:00 PM

HEAD TO HEAD
M 25
CSK 11
MI 14

Come on Friday, the hosts would be looking to continue the momentum.

The visitors, currently in third spot with 12 points from 10 games, are coming off a defeat against Rajasthan Royals and will be keen to keep themselves in the hunt for the playoffs.

While CSK's must have welcomed Watson's return to form, the team would be hoping for Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu and Kedar Jadhav to get going ahead of the knockout phase.

It is important for Jadhav to get his touch back with the World Cup looming.

The bowlers have played a big role in CSK's success so far, especially at home, on sluggish tracks. The much-improved Deepak Chahar will be key in the matches to come with his intelligent bowling at the start and at the death.

Though Imran Tahir, who is the second highest wicket-taker with 16, went wicketless in the SRH match, the South African veteran will be expected to stymie the powerful Mumbai Indians batting line-up along with fellow spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Harbhajan Singh.

Mumbai have had a roller coaster season so far and they now need to be at their best in the last lap of the preliminary phase.

In Rohit Sharma, they have a shrewd captain who leads from the front, and a solid batting unit that includes Quinton de Kock, Kieron Pollard and the Pandya brothers — Hardik & Krunal.

Jasprit Bumrah & Co will be wary of CSK's batting with Watson having found his mojo again and the ever-reliable Dhoni.

An interesting battle looms between the two three-time champions.

Steyn ruled out of IPL after brief stint

PTI ■ BENGALURU

After a brief two-match stint, Royal Challengers Bangalore pacer Dale Steyn was on Thursday ruled out of the Indian Premier League owing to an inflammation in his shoulder.

The veteran South African fast bowler, who had recently joined RCB as an replacement for injured Nathan Coulter-Nile, was forced to sit out of the match against Kings XI Punjab on Wednesday after he picked up a niggle.

"Dale Steyn has been prescribed with ample rest due to inflammation in his shoulder. On account of state of his health, Dale will not be available to take part further in the ongoing season of IPL," Sanjeev Churiwala, Chairman of RCB, said in a statement.

The injury-prone pacer had returned to the IPL after a gap of two years and straight away contributed to team's winning cause by picking up four wickets in two games — against Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings.

"His presence has helped the team immensely and we are very thankful for the inspiration and passion that he brought to the squad. The team will deeply miss his energy and presence around. We wish him a speedy recovery and all the luck for all future endeavours," RCB Chairman said.

With the ODI World Cup scheduled to start on May 30 in UK, Steyn may not be willing to aggravate his injury.

Saina, Sindhu sail into quarters

ASIAN BADMINTON C'SHIP

PTI ■ WUHAN

Ace Indian women shuttlers Saina Nehwal and P V Sindhu registered straight-game wins to sail into the quarterfinals of the Asian Badminton Championship here on Thursday.

London Olympic Bronze medallist Saina, who was the last Indian to take the court on Thursday, needed just 38 minutes to get the better of Kim Ga Eun of Korea to enter the last eight round of the women's singles event.

Saina, seeded seventh, has a tough next encounter as she will be up against third seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan.

The other Indian in fray, Sindhu, seeded fourth, took just 33 minutes to beat Indonesia's Choirunnisa 21-15, 21-19 in another second round women's singles match.

The world number six will next play the unseeded Cai Yanyan of China in the quarterfinals.

Besides the female duo, Sameer Verma too continued his impressive run by progressing to the men's singles quarterfinals.

Sameer brushed aside Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus 21-12, 21-19 in his second round encounter.

But a Herculean task awaits Sameer in the last eight round as he will clash with second seed Shi Yuqi of China.

Among other Indians, mixed doubles pair of Utkarsh Arora and Karishma Wadkar crashed out in the second round after losing 21-10, 21-15 to Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja of Indonesia.

There was another defeat in store in the mixed doubles as the combination of Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan too perished in the second round after losing 10-21, 9-21 against second seeded Chinese duo of Yilyu Wang and Dongping Huang.

India's young brigade dominates mixed team competitions in shooting WC

PTI ■ BEIJING

ISSF WORLD CUP

Young Indian shooters dominated the mixed team competitions by winning two Gold medals on day three of the ongoing ISSF World Cup to take the country on the top of medal tally here on Thursday.

The teenage pairing of Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won their second Gold in 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event in as many World Cup stages this year while another teenager Divyansh Panwar struck Gold in Air Rifle Mixed Team event partnering the more accomplished Anjum Moudgil to help cap a memorable day for India.

The start of the day was all about a new pair, a new format and a new result. Anjum partnered Divyansh, who was in only his second senior competition, for the first time to beat the formidable Chinese pair of Liu Ruxuan and Yang Haoran 17-15 in a pulsating Gold medal match.

The win was even more creditable given that a new format was being tried by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) for the mixed events in Beijing.

The second Indian team in the event, Apurvi Chandela and Deepak Kumar also reached the finals but finished sixth eventually.

Then came the icing on the cake with Manu and Saurabh's victory in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event. The teenage stars comprehensively defeated yet another Chinese pair consisting of former Olympic champion Pang Wei and 2019 New Delhi World Cup finalist Jiang Ranxin, 16-6 in the Gold medal match.

Manu and Saurabh began from where they had left at the home World Cup in Delhi a couple of months back, beating top class opponents en route to the Gold. They did enough to make it to the final eight and then beat an experienced German pair in the quarterfinals, a second Chinese pair in the semifinals, before comprehensively beating Pang and Jiang 16-6 in the Gold medal match.

The new format entailed the top eight teams qualifying for the final round where four quarterfinals, two semifinals and a final would determine the eventual medallists.

The quarterfinal was a 30-shot match-up between pairs in rifle while it was a 40-shot affair in pistol. The medal events would entail a series of single shots per competitor per team.

To decide the medals, the pair with the higher series aggregate would be allotted two points and the first team to reach 16 points would be adjudged the winner.

In the Air Rifle event, a single shot would start the final before the series of two shots kicked in.

KAKRAN, MANJU HAND TWIN BRONZE

PTI ■ XI'AN

ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

India's Divya Kakran and Manju Kumari bagged Bronze medals for the country in the women's competition of the Asian Wrestling Championships here on Thursday.

Asian Games Bronze-medallist Kakran defeated Battsetseg Soronzonbold of Mongolia via fall in the play-offs of the 68kg category to finish on the podium.

It was double delight for India as Manju also secured a Bronze medal earlier in the day by beating Vietnam's Thi Huong Dao 11-2.

Seema, who also made it to the play-offs, however failed to register a hat-trick of Bonze medals for India after losing to Valentina Ivanovna Islamova Brik of Kazakhstan 5-11 in the 50kg category.

Silver-medallist in the 69kg category at the 2017 edition of the Asian Championships, Kakran lost out on a place in the final of 68kg after going down to Feng Zhou of China 4-14 in the semi-finals.

In the 59kg category, Manju had lost to Battsetseg Altantsetseg of Mongolia 6-15 in the last four stage to settle for a place in the bronze-medal round.

Manju had earlier beaten Kazakhstan's Madina Bakbergenova 5-3 in the quarter-finals.

In the 50kg category, Seema defeated Meng Hsuan Hsieh of Chinese Taipei 10-2 in her repechage bout. She had earlier lost to Yuki Irie of Japan in the qualification round but made the repechage after her Japanese rival reached the final.

However, India's campaign got over early in the 55kg and 76kg weight divisions when Lalita and Pooja lost their respective quarterfinal bouts to bow out of the event.

Lords of the Ring: 6 Indians enter Finals

PTI ■ BANGKOK

ASIAN BOXING C'SHIP

Amit Panghal (52kg) and Kavinder Singh Bisht (56kg) remained on course for their second successive international Gold medals this year and India looked good to notch up its best ever performance in the Asian Boxing Championships here on Thursday.

Panghal and Bisht were the most impressive on a day when Shiva Thapa's (60kg) unprecedented fourth successive semifinal appearance ended with a Bronze after a gruelling battle which could have gone either way.

Deepak Singh (49kg) and Ashish Kumar (75kg) joined Panghal and Bisht in the men's finals, while Pooja Rani (81kg) and Simranjit Kaur (64kg) advanced to Friday's summit clashes in the women's draw.

Panghal defeated China's Hu Jianguan in a split verdict, which was a surprise given that the Indian was clearly the more dominant of the two boxers and dictated the bout with his tremendous pace and aggression.

Bisht, on the other hand, turned in a lion-hearted show in a bloody battle which left him and his opponent — Mongolian Enkh-Amar Khakhuu — with bandaged right eyes. The draining fight ended 3-2 in the Indian's favour.

Thapa came out all guns blazing too, against 2015 edition's Silver-medallist Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin, but a loss of momentum in the final round ended up tilting the scales against him in a split decision by the judges.

Also finishing with a Bronze among men were Ashish (69kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg).

Settling for Bronze medals among the women were veteran former champion L Sarita Devi (60kg), last edition's Silver-medallist Manisha (54kg), former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and world Silver-medallist Sonia Chahal (57kg).

Manisha lost to Taiwan's Huang Hsiao-Wen, while Sarita (60kg) went down to China's Yang Wenlu.

Pooja was up against Kazakhstan's Fariza Sholtay and emerged triumphant in a unanimous decision.

Zareen gave it her all in the clash against Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Tam but signed off with a Bronze after losing the bout on a split verdict by the judges.

Sonia was squared off against local favourite Nilwan Techasuep and although the Indian seemed to be a more precise puncher than her rival, the judges ruled in the Tha's favour much to the crowd's delight.

In the last Indian bout of the day, national champion Simranjit faced a rather sluggish opponent in Uzbekistan's Maftunakhon Melieva and controlled the proceedings from start to finish for an easy 5-0 triumph.