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LOOKS AREN'T
EVERYTHING:
PRIYANKA
13 VIVACITY

SC ropes in CBI, IB, police

Agencies asked to unravel alleged conspiracy against CJI

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

A three-judge Special Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said if fixers continue to work and manipulate the judiciary as claimed, neither this institution nor any of "us" will survive. The Bench, also comprising justices RF Nariman and Deepak Gupta, asked lawyer Utsav Singh Bains, who has made claims of a larger conspiracy, to file another affidavit by Thursday morning after he has some more "incriminating evidence".

The Bench said it will

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

Earlier in the day, the apex court directed chiefs of the CBI, the IB and the Delhi Police to appear and meet in chambers the three judges who are hearing the lawyer claim that there was a larger conspiracy to frame the CJI. After meeting the directors of the CBI and the IB, and the Delhi Police Commissioner, the Bench reassembled at 3 pm to hear the matter at length.

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

The Bench also clarified



□ The court says it will go to the root of the alleged conspiracy and the sensational claims made by a lawyer that he was offered bribe to 'fix' the CJI

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

□ The Bench asked lawyer Utsav Singh Bains, who has made claims of a larger conspiracy, to file another affidavit by Thursday morning after he claimed that he has some more 'incriminating evidence'

□ The Bench said it will take up the matter for hearing on Thursday

that there is no connection between the hearing of Bains' claims of larger conspiracy and the in-house enquiry ordered into the sexual harassment allegations against the CJI.

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

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

The Bench after perusing the material, placed by him in a sealed cover, said "very disturbing" facts have emerged in the matter. "Can you call some responsible officers from the CBI, preferably the director? Can you call him to meet us in our chambers?" Justice Mishra asked Venugopal.

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

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

Continued on Page 4

Mamata sends me sweets, says PM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

To that Modi asked "what makes you say so?"

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

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

"She would take out all the anger against me. You must be at peace. In a way, I feel I have helped you, especially in Twinkleji's case," Modi told Kumar in Hindi.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

NO ONE WILLING TO TAKE UP JEM LEADERSHIP: ARMY
Srinagar: Lt Gen KJ S Dhillon on Wednesday said after the Pulwama terror attack the security forces launched an offensive against the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in the valley, resulting in a situation where no one is willing to take up the leadership of the outfit. **P7**

HC LIFTS ITS BAN ON TIKTOK WITH RIDERS
Madurai: The Madras High Court bench here on Wednesday lifted its ban on Chinese social media app TikTok with the condition that the platform should not be used to host obscene videos. A bench of justices N Kirubakaran and SS Sundar, which heard the matter as per the orders of the Supreme Court, warned if any controversial video violating its condition was found uploaded using the app, it would be considered a contempt of court. **P4**

EC CALL ON INVOKING ARMED FORCES LIKELY
New Delhi: The Election Commission will "soon" take a decision on complaints regarding political leaders invoking Armed forces in campaigns, highly-placed sources said on Wednesday. The EC is examining reports on comments made by PM Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah on the armed forces. **P6**

PM ROADSHOW TODAY. TO FILE PAPERS TOMORROW
Varanasi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a roadshow and take part in the Ganga 'aarti' on Thursday, a day before he files his nomination papers from this Uttar Pradesh constituency, a party functionary said. **P7**

NIA court rejects plea to stop Pragya from fighting poll

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

Hearing an application filed by Nisar Ahmed Sayyad Bilal, father of one of the victims in the 2008 Malegaon blasts, seeking to restrain Pragya from contesting the Lok Sabha polls, Special Judge VS Padalkar noted, "In ongoing elections this court does not have any legal powers to prohibit anyone from contesting elections; it is job of electoral officers to decide.

This court can't stop the accused number one (Pragya) from contesting elections. This application is negated."

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

"There was no need to mention in your reply that

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ HOOGHLY/BURDWAN

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

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

The PM in an interview to



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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4

Udit Raj quits BJP, joins Cong, terms Modi anti-Dalit

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

High drama had unfolded on Tuesday the last day of filing of nomination for Delhi's seven LS seats that go to the polls on May 12. Udit waited for some communication from the BJP and in the process kept changing goal posts. He had threatened to file his nomination as an Independent candidate on Tuesday if the BJP denied him the party ticket, but did not do so. He removed the prefix 'Chowkidar from his twitter handle in the afternoon, only to add it again by Tuesday evening.

Continued on Page 4



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Wife smothered Rohit with pillow: Cops

Delhi Police arrests Apoorva, says she confessed to killing husband

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

rogation of Apoorva after police sought her three-day custody.

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



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

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



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

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

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

Continued on Page 4

Man who killed wife, 3 kids held

SP SINGH ■ GHAZIABAD

Three days after a 32-year-old "ex-techie" who had murdered his wife and three children due to financial crisis in Ghaziabad's Indrapuram was arrested from Udupi in Karnataka. The accused, on the run after killing his wife and children in cold blood, was tracked by the sleuths of Ghaziabad Police on the basis of technical surveillance.

The accused, identified as Sumit, had allegedly stabbed to death his 32-year-old wife Anshu Bala and his children Permesh, Akriti and Aru at around 3 am on Sunday at their home in Indrapuram. He had planned the murder and had sedated his wife and the three children. While the eldest child Permesh was five, the younger children were four-year-old twins.

According to the police, Sumit had lost his job at an IT company in Bengaluru in January. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Upendra Agrawal said on Wednesday that the Ghaziabad police team arrested him from Udupi in Karnataka and brought him here after securing transit remand from the concerned court.

"During interrogation he



confessed his crime and revealed that due to the job loss from last three months, he was under financial crisis so lost his control over him and started consuming drugs to calm down. His wife also could not get a good job due to which he could not get his twin children admitted in any play school," said the SSP.

"The accused further disclosed that he hardly managed to get admission in School for his elder son by borrowing Rs 29,000 from a friend. But he lost

all his regular income which forced him to be addicted of drugs. The owner Mukesh Kumar of Hukum Medical store used to supply him drugs," the SSP said.

"Before executing his plan to eliminate the entire family, he bought potassium cyanide from Mukesh and siphoned Rs one lakh from Mukesh's online account in to his account. After getting money he bought sleeping pills which he administered along with cold drink to all of them. Afterward he bought a

set of knives from '@home store' and on the wee hours on Sunday, he executed his plan," said the SSP.

"He fled the home to New Delhi railway station by Ola cab. During journey he uploaded the confessional video to his brother through which the matter could come in light. Though he bought the ticket till Tiruvannantapuram but dropped at Udupi from where he was arrested. The police could track his location through surveillance," the SSP added.

ISIC to provide pick up, drop facility to patients during polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) will provide pick up and drop facility for the patients and their attendees to the polling booths which are located within Delhi NCR.

The initiative, titled '#ISICWalksTheVote', aims to empower the patients and their attendees to exercise their democratic right on 12th May, when nearly 1.36 crore voters of the national Capital will make a beeline to the polling booths.

"Though enabling patients' access to polling stations does not constitute a core responsibility of a healthcare provider but considering that only because they are not healthy enough to go by their own to cast their votes, we have decided to extend a helping hand by facilitating their access to the polling booths across Delhi NCR," Dr H S Chhabra, Medical Director and Chief of Spine Service, ISIC.

Highlighting the difficulties faced by disable people, he said in past, there were incidents of people with disability not being able to cast their vote. Disability rights are slowly coming to the mainstream from the fringes and political parties are increasingly becoming aware of their inclusion, he said, stressing that there is also need polling officials to be more sensitive towards the need of people with disability.

According to the Election Commission of India, voters having one among the 21 disabilities mentioned by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 are termed as 'voters with disabilities'. In addition, if a person who has reduced mobility and/or motor function and/or physical coordination due to age, temporary ailment, pregnancy, or other disease, and needs to be facilitated to get registered as well as vote are termed as 'voters with reduced mobility and physical functions'.

3-yr-old succumbs to car injuries at AIIMS



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A three-year-old child, who was ran over and dragged by a car for almost 20 metres in northwest Delhi's Bharat Nagar on Monday evening, succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday.

According to a senior police official, the accused driver is identified as Aas Mohammed who is also uncle of the deceased child Gulam. Police had earlier arrested the boy's uncle on charges of rash and negligent driving but he bailed himself out.

"The incident occurred at 5:17 PM on Monday evening when Mohammed brought Gulam home. As he dropped the child at his doorstep, Mohammed received a phone call. While Mohammed thought that Gulam had crossed

the road and started driving when the boy came under the car," said the senior police official.

"Thereafter, he was dragged for at least 20 metres before passersby signaled the driver to stop. The child was rushed to a nearby hospital where his condition was stated to be critical for last two days and on Wednesday child breathe his last," said the senior police official.

"A case for dangerous driving and causing death has been registered at the Bharat Nagar police station," said the senior police official.

PUBLIC NOTICE

INC-26 (Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rule 2014) Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another before the Central Government Northern Region Bench New Delhi.

In the matter of the Companies Act 2013 Section 13(4) of Companies Act 2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rule 2014.

AND
In the matter of SHALAK VARAD INFRACON PRIVATE LIMITED having its registered office at E-340 Basement, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065 IN IN Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary General Meeting held on 16 March 2019 to enable the company to change its Registered office from state of NCT OF DELHI to state of UTTAR PRADESH Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of registered office of the company may deliver or caused to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director Northern Region Bench B-2 Wing 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003 or to the under signed within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of application to the Company at its Registered office as mentioned below.

SHALAK VARAD INFRACON PRIVATE LIMITED Registered office E-340 Basement East of Kailash New Delhi-110065 IN

For and on behalf of the Applicant
Sd/-
Rajesh Bansal
Date- 25.04.2019 Director
Place-New Delhi DIN- (00435185)

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Form No. INC-26 (Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014) Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another Before the Central Government Northern Region

In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND
In the matter of Vallance Solutions Pvt. Ltd Limited having its registered office at H. NO. 425, Ashoka Enclave Ext. 3 Sector-35 Faridabad, Haryana-121001, Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 16th March, 2019 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Haryana" to "State of Uttar Pradesh".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director Northern region at the address B-2 Wing, 2nd floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003 within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned above.

For and on behalf of the Board
For Vallance Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Vikas Kamra, (Director)

Date: 18.03.2019
Place: Faridabad

At 43 deg C, city records hottest day of season

NEW DELHI: The national Capital on Wednesday recorded the hottest day of the season so far, with the temperature soaring to sweltering 43 degrees in some parts of the city.

The Safdarjung Observatory, data of which is considered the official figure for the city, registered a maximum of 41.7 degrees Celsius, four notches above the season's average.

The minimum temperature settled at 27.1 degrees, also four notches above normal, said a Meteorological (MeT) Department official.

The Palam Observatory registered a high of 43 degrees Celsius. PTT

Two held with 50 kg cannabis

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) in Gurugram's Palam Vihar on Wednesday claimed to have arrested two persons for alleged involvement in the smuggling of Cannabis (ganja) in city. Police have also seized 50 kg of cannabis worth ₹3 lakh from the possession of the accused who used to procure it from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The accused have been identified as Hari Om (36) and Varun Tyagi (38) both residents of Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. "The probe team had specific information about the criminals who were involved in smuggling contraband drugs. Following secret information the police team put up a checkpoint at Daultabad Chowk on Dwarka

Expressway and nabbed the criminals in the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday and seized a Tata Xenon car and contraband," said Shamsher Singh

Dahiya Assistant Commissioner of police



A police official said the culprits smuggling the drug from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and used to supply in the Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR)

as per the demand. "During the questioning, the culprit reveals that they used to buy cannabis at cost of ₹2,000 from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and sell the drug in the Delhi and NCR and adjoining states at a profit of ₹5,000 to 6,000. They were involved in cannabis smuggling for the last three months," Dahiya said.

"A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act has been registered against the duo at the Rajendra Park police station The accused will be taken on remand for further questioning. It could be possible the duo is active members of inter-state drug paddlers," Gurugram police spokesperson Subhash Boken said.

It may be recalled that on March 2, the Gurugram police had arrested three persons and seized 1.858 kg methadone from their possession. The seized methadone powder is valued at ₹25 lakh in the international market.

'Submit report on illegal construction in Tughlakabad Ext'

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and the South Delhi Municipal Corporation to submit an action taken report on illegal constructions in the Tughlakabad Extension area here.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel sought the report after perusing a report from a committee comprising representatives of the Central Pollution Control Board and the SDMC.

"Let an action taken report be now furnished in respect of stopping of illegal activities, prosecuting the guilty and recovery of compensation for the damage caused to the environment which should be adequate to recover the cost of restoration as well as deterrent," the bench said.

The tribunal said that the report may be furnished before August 8 via e-mail. The committee informed the bench that the constructions are in 'unauthorised and unauthorised regularised colony' having no clearance or approved building plans.



"Garbage/waste/filth was found scattered all around the entire colony creating very unhygienic conditions for living. Appropriate agencies may be directed for garbage collection and maintaining cleanliness in the area," the report said.

The tribunal said that no action has been taken by the SDMC or the DPCC in spite of the above conclusions. The NGT was hearing a plea filed by local resident Nanak Singh, alleging violation of environmental laws by illegal construction without any sanctioned plan in street numbers 35, 20, 21, 22, RZ-261A and 19 in Tughlakabad Extension.

The plea contended that such constructions are hazardous to public health and the environment. PTI

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN ARAVALLI REGION

File criminal case against financiers: HRERA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA) on Wednesday directed the Gurugram police to register a criminal case against financiers of construction projects in the Aravalli region. The authority initiated the action over the issue of misappropriation of the allottees' money by the promoter in connivance with the lenders and financiers of the real estate project.

The Chairman of the HRERA Authority Gurugram, Dr K.K Khandelwal said that "directions have been issued to the Commissioner of Police, Gurugram to register criminal case against Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited, M/s Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited and PNB Housing Finance Limited for misappropriation of crores of rupees deposited by the allottees for the completion on the projects namely Araville, Basera, Hues and Hill Town in Gurugram and violation of



the statutory provisions of RERA, 2016".

He said that the authority has taken a serious note of the fact that India Bulls Housing Finance Limited, Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited and PNB Housing Finance Limited have fraudulently and arbitrarily withdrawn entire amount of the receivable deposited in the 'RERA Account', which is a flagrant violation of section 4(2)(I)(D) of RERA, 2016.

According to Dr Khandelwal, this provision has been incorporated in law to address the mischief earlier being committed by unscrupu-

lous builders to divert amount realised from the allottees to other projects or for different purposes other than the project for which amount has been deposited by the allottees.

As of now, the law provides that 70% amount realised for the real estate project from the allottees has to be kept as a reserve and can only be utilised after the promoter has paid and incurred expenditure on cost of construction and land cost.

The money up to the extent of 70% of the amount realised from the allottees is the allottees' money under the charge of the promoter in trust, under surveillance and monitoring of RERA.

In case of any complaint the authority may prohibit use or withdrawal of this money for any other purpose under the circumstances where there is an apprehension of misappropriation of allottees money, said Dr Khandelwal.

He further stated that this account is attached with a condition that any amount withdrawn can be utilised only

for construction and land cost and that too withdrawal out of this account can be made after observing certain formalities like a certificate from an engineer, architect and chartered accountant.

Further, there cannot be any lien on this account and if any such charge is created by the promoter then in that condition the allottee shall under no circumstance bear the burden of that charge. It shall solely be the duty of the promoter to clear the encumbrances, he said.

These are 4 ongoing projects being developed by M/S Supertech Limited, which are left midway. The Hill Town Project is in Sector 2, Sohna while Basera Project is in Sector 79 & 79 B and Araville Project is in sector 79 of Gurugram. For these three projects, the financier was India Bulls Housing Finance Limited while for Hues Project in Sector 68, HD Zone Gurugram, the financiers are M/S Industrial Finance Corporation of India and M/S PNB Housing Finance Limited.

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In reference to e-tenders specification No. CCP-1/59/2018-2019 invited previously, for work of Appointment of Project Management Agency (PMA) for construction of 10Nos GIS Substation in UPCL under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto to 17:00 hrs of 13.5.2019. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 14.5.2019 at 15:30 hrs.

Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

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3	Earnest Money	Rs. 45,700/-
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AAP to release manifesto today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener, Arvind Kejriwal, will release the party's manifesto on Thursday, which is expected to be based on the agenda of granting 'full statehood' to the national Capital.

The party would come up with its manifesto that would lay out the roadmap of how the AAP will take the agenda of statehood forward if elected to power. "Other than a central manifesto, each candidate would also come up with a constituency-wise manifesto which would list out local issues and how the party plans to counter them," senior party leader Gopal Rai said on Tuesday.

The manifesto would cover a range of issues such as



Representational image

employment, higher education and women safety that Delhi faces because of not having the status of full statehood, sources in the party said, adding that it would be released in presence of senior party leaders and all the seven candidates who are contesting on the party's ticket from Delhi.

The constituency-wise manifesto would be released in the first week of May. He also said his party would start the third phase of its campaign after April 25, during which there would be targeted campaigning.

Seven candidates fielded by the AAP are Chandni Chowk candidate Pankaj Gupta, East Delhi candidate Atishi, North West Delhi candidate Gagan Singh, South Delhi candidate Raghav Chadha, North East Delhi candidate Dilip Pandey, West Delhi candidate Balbir Singh Jakhar and New Delhi candidate Brajesh Goel.

The ruling AAP in the city is fighting 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 has started its campaign convincing people to support the party to get full statehood for Delhi.

"The first phase was general campaigning, the second was campaigning that con-

ducted with floating voters and now in the third phase of campaigning, we would be identifying points that could give the AAP a jump or an advantage in terms of voters," Rai said.

In the third phase of campaigning, AAP will field 'star campaigners' in rallies and street meetings. The AAP on Tuesday released its list of top leaders to campaign in the Lok Sabha polls. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, senior party leaders Gopal Rai, Bhagwat Mann, Sushil Gupta, Naveen Jaihind, Abhinav Rai, Sudhir Yadav and Vimal Kishore are among the leaders who will campaign for the party. Delhi goes to poll on May 12 and the results would be announced on May 23.

AAP to challenge Bidhuri's nomination approval in court

Returning officer accepts Gambhir's nomination

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



The nomination of Bharatiya Janta Party's East Delhi candidate, Gautam Gambhir, was accepted by the Delhi Electoral office on Wednesday, hours after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) raised objections over documents submitted by him. However, the AAP on Wednesday said that it would move the Delhi High Court, challenging the returning officer's decision to accept the nomination papers of Ramesh Bidhuri, the BJP candidate from South Delhi Lok Sabha constituency.

mation including pending criminal cases against him," Chadha tweeted.

The party, in a statement, said it would move the high court since the returning officer "erred in overlooking glaring discrepancies in Bidhuri's nomination and it is a fit case for legal challenge". The party listed some of the grounds on which it will challenge the decision.

"The BJP candidate has failed to declare in particulars of pending criminal proceedings, particularly CC No. 303/2018 filed in P. S. K a z i m a h a m a d p u r, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, under Sections 504, 506, 153 and 153(a) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860," it said.

Bidhuri also failed to disclose particulars of LIC policy for sum assured of Rs 1,00,000 with premium of Rs 2,829 half

yearly, though the same was disclosed in the Form 26 Declaration in 2014, the party claimed.

The candidate has intentionally left blank paragraph 6A, despite being required to fill up. In Paragraph No. 4 in respect of his income tax return, the candidate has disclosed a false total income of Rs 8,79,150 for the year 2013-14 as opposed to the amount of Rs 6,16,995 demonstrated by his Form 26 Declaration for the year 2014, the AAP said.

"In Paragraph No. 4 in respect of his spouse's income tax return, the candidate has disclosed a false total income of Rs 1,68,000 for the year 2013-14 as opposed to the NIL income demonstrated in his Form 26 Declaration for the year 2014," the AAP alleged.

"Gambhir's nomination was examined by the authorities and has been accepted," a senior official of the Delhi CEO Office said.

Tuesday was the last day of filing nominations for the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi, which is due on May 12. The AAP had also raised objections on nominations filed by sitting South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri.

Chandni Chowk app to guide voters

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

In order to encourage people to cast their vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2019, the office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) will launch a 'Smart Application (app)' on Thursday exclusively for the residents of Chandni Chowk. The app will be called as 'Chandni Chowk' app.

The app will have features that will assist the voters in identifying the polling stations and other important informations such as the number of candidates voted and the number of voters standing in the queue.

Chandni Chowk Constituency, he said, "It is the choice of every district and the district collector of a particular constituency. We developed this application to encourage the people to come and cast their vote. Moreover, the elections in Delhi will be held in the peak summer, citing this is a main reason people do not go to vote. Thus, through this app, people can check about the engagement of crowd and number of people standing in the queue."

As per the CEO, the 'Chandni Chowk android app' will be available in the IOS and Google Play. "The app has capacity of 80 thousand hit at a time," added the official.

There are 15,57,403 (up to Sunday) voters registered in the Chandni Chowk constituency. The electorate further has approximately 13816 polling stations and 2694 poll locations. The General Elections conducted in seven phases was begun on April 11 and will continue till May 19. The polls in Delhi will be held on May 12 and the overall results will be declared on May 23.

AAP forms 24 frontal organisations for targeted campaigning

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Stepping up its campaign for the Lok Sabha polls, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has set up 24 frontal organisations, including special wings for women, student wing, minority wing, auto drivers, and Residents Welfare Association (RWA) wing for targeted campaigning.

The party in a statement said that all these bodies would convey AAP Government developmental works in a targeted manner. These wings will also inform people about the benefits of full statehood of the national capital. "In the first phase, it was general campaigning. The second was campaigning that connected with floating voters and now in the third phase of campaigning, we would be identifying points that could give the AAP a jump or an advantage," it said.

Legal, doctors, Purvanchalis, auto, e-rickshaw, OBC, STs, SCs and South Indian wings are among the 24 frontal organisations established by the party.

Lekhi says Kejriwal raising statehood issue to cover up Govt's failures

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Accusing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ruled Delhi Government for not doing any work in the interest of the people; Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) candidate from New Delhi constituency, Meenakshi Lekhi, said that Kejriwal has raised the issue of full statehood in order to cover up its failures.

Lekhi said that the people of Delhi have understood the anti development character of AAP and has also rejected in the MCD elections. People of Delhi have already made up their mind to make Modi again the Prime Minister of the country with massive majority.

Addressing media persons, Lekhi said "I got the toilets constructed and also installed coolers in the passenger shades. A foot over bridge was also constructed with the cooperation of Urban Development Ministry at the cost of 10 crores," he said.

She further said that the Central government had allotted 900 crores to Delhi Government but Kejriwal failed to utilize this fund and has no answers to it. "Residents have already made up their mind to make Modi again the Prime Minister of the country with massive majority," she added.

CEO flags off poster-wrapped Metro to aware voters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



In order to encourage the citizens to exercise their franchise in the Lok Sabha Elections 2019, the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer, Ranbir Singh along with renowned Para-Olympians flagged off a metro train completely wrapped with posters and quotes to aware and encourages the voters to cast their vote in the general polls.

The metro train was flagged off by the Delhi CEO, Ranbir Singh along with PWD icons Ankur Dharma, Para-Olympian and Arjuna award winner and para-olympian Neeraj Yadav. The train will run on Delhi Metro's Yellow Line connecting Huda City centre to Samyapur Badli.

Urging the citizens to vote, the Delhi CEO Singh, sports man alongwith election commissioner, Indian Information Service officers and transgender persons took a ride on the metro on Wednesday from Kashmere Gate to Samyapur Badli and interacted with the passengers and asked to vote on 12 May.

BJP's Capital manifesto yet to be released

Will take public suggestions for manifesto: Tiwari

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP)'s much hyped Delhi specific manifesto is yet to see the light of the day. Party insiders say, the promised manifesto to counter Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal, appears to have been put on the back burner.

Several key issues such as "pollution, water, electricity tariff, liquor shops and development works" in city were the issues to be incorporated in the BJP's Delhi manifesto.

At a time, when the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Congress have announced the release of Delhi-specific manifesto, Delhi BJP workers have no clue when their party manifesto (Sankalp Patra) would be released.

The Pioneer learnt from Delhi BJP office bearers that the manifesto was not ready yet. It may be recalled that Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari along with former south Delhi Mayor Aarti Mehra invited suggestions from Delhi public to make manifesto for Delhi public.

Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan "Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas", BJP leaders had then claimed to add area specific manifesto to put the Kejriwal Government on the mat.

"From sanitation workers, water and electricity tariff and other policy issues pertaining to air pollution, and unauthorised colonies were the subjects suggested by Delhi's people to BJP. Importantly, maintenance and cleaning of Yamuna ghats were also in suggestion under redevelopment of Yamuna riverfront plan", a party worker claimed.

Meanwhile, targeting his opponent AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal for boycotted the nomination of his own party candidates, Tiwari attacked him, "Kejriwal has admitted the defeat of his party and ready to Campaign for Tukde-Tukde Gang and Support the Enemies of the Country."

In a tweet, Tiwari questioned Kejriwal, "Kya Aam Aadmi Party Ho Gyi Bekar-Kuch to Batao Barkhurdar> Tiwari went on to say that Kejriwal has become enemy of the voters of Delhi because he has not implemented about half a dozen welfare schemes by the Central Government. "The claim of Bijli Half-Pani Maaf has also proved to be hollow and the people living in rural areas and unauthorised colonies of Delhi are facing shortage of water," Tiwari said.

AAP, BJP top poll code violation list

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and Aam Aadmi Party have topped the list of poll code violations and the defacement of public property as the office of the Chief Electoral Officer has filed as many as 179 First Information reports/ Daily Diary (DD) entries, out of which 28 is against BJP and 21 against AAP.

"Under violation of model code of conduct, up to 24.04.2019, a total of 179 FIRs/DD entry have been lodged, out of which, Twenty One against the Aam Aadmi Party (13 FIRs and 8 DD entry), Twenty eight against the Bhartiya Janata Party (14 FIRs and 14 DD entry), Nine against the Congress Party (3 FIRs and

6 DD entry). One against Bahujan Samaj Party (1 FIR) and one against Samajwadi Party (1 DD entry), four against CPI (M) (02 FIRs and 02 DD entry) and 115 (111 FIRs and 4 DD Entry) are against under the head of others/non-political," shows the data shared by the office of CEO.

The statistics surveillance team of Delhi's chief electoral office, constituted to keep an eye on the expenses of political parties, has seized 496 unlicensed arms/weapons and 2,716 cartridges/explo-

sives/bombs seized. The data shows that till date, a total of 325680 hoardings/banners/posters have been removed in all over Delhi out of which 30533 are removed from New Delhi Municipal Council, 43075 from East Delhi Municipal Corporation, 2411 from Delhi Cantonment Board, 140383 from South Delhi Municipal Corporation, and 109278 from North Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Besides, a total number of 378 FIRs have been registered under Arms Act, in which 435 persons have been arrested and 1378.9806 Kg. Narcotics/Drugs have been seized. Whereas, 4639 licensed arms deposited, 83575 persons have been booked under various sections of CRPC/Delhi Police Act, as preventive action

measures. Further, the Excise department has seized a total number of 1373 bottles, 103 Half, 159320 quarters of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and 1095 bottles, 1231 Half, 330409 quarters of Country liquor and 7486 beer bottles. A total number of 1042 FIRs have been registered in Excise Act and 1043 persons are arrested in Excise Act.

"As on date (24.04.2019), 37 cases are recorded against the violation in other cases (misuse of vehicles, violation of loudspeakers, illegal meetings and gratification of electors, etc)," read the data.

The LS poll, conducted in seven phases was begun on April 11 and continues till May 19. Delhi will vote on May 12 and the overall results will be declared on May 23.

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150 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA

Indore bets on NaMo return but there's mood swing

IANS ■ INDORE

There is a sense of wariness in the satta market as the unauthorised betting network is known. This follows a raid over Indian Premier League (IPL) punters in Bhopal last Sunday that led to recovery of over Rs 100 crore and arrest of many bookies. The police crackdown has broken down the bookies links that allegedly connect them with Dubai kingpins.

Mediapersons reporting the market have been warned to be guarded. There is a fear of phones being tapped.

The satta market at Indore has acquired some credibility of sorts over the predictions that often go right. Indore has been the satta hub for ages. People in their 70s recall stories about animated betting even over the rainfall or lack of it.

The focus this time is more on cricket because spectrum is wide, and each nuance of the game can be betted upon.

On the election front post-

Pulwama pull had sent the BJP's stock soaring and the satta markets in Indore (MP), Falodi (Rajasthan) and Hapur (UP) had all offered heavy returns on money staked on the party. Indore market was offering double returns on anyone betting for less than 245 seats for the BJP.

There is a change in the trend over the past couple of weeks. Interestingly, the satta market trends available online refer to the rates prevailing a month ago. Is there a change in the ratings? Many elements can affect the poll results. For instance, the naming of Sadhvi Pragma Thakur as BJP candidate from Bhopal has caused waves in the market.

Now with the IPL and polling season coming together the punters should have had the best of both worlds. But this brake on their activities has become the talk of the trade. There is a caution on BJP's going rate although it continues to range between 200 and 235.

Tuesday's polling in Chhattisgarh and other states has dipped the BJP supporters' confidence.

Something similar had happened in the heartland states during the Assembly elections. There was big money on BJP returning to power in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh till a month before the polls. There was a drastic change two weeks prior to the polling and trends changed in favour of the Congress.

The overall odds are 80 paise on the BJP and Rs 1.25 on the Congress. One punter explained: "If you bet one rupee on the BJP winning these States, you will get a return of 80 paise. For the same value of money on Congress, you would get Rs 1.25."

Insiders say the market has opened up and rates would change as date of counting May 23 approaches. "Exit polls also tell you about the mood of the political outcome and we expect that odds in favour of Congress will go up. It may

become 100 paise for BJP and 90 paise for Congress," the punter said.

Going by the satta mood, the betting syndicate fancies between 230 and 245 seats for the BJP. Between 12 and 15 out of 29 for the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, between 2 and 4 out of 11 in Chhattisgarh and between 15 and 17 out of 25 for Congress in Rajasthan.

"There are many punters, but they operate under four or five big players here. The police have already arrested four punters, and now they have become cautious. Some of them have shifted their base to Mumbai. But businessmen here are still putting a lot of money in satta through these old players," said a regular bookie.

The big players have their networks in many cities like Indore, Mumbai, Jaipur and others. "People know each other in this business. Small time players always operate under their bosses and these bosses know each other. Even

if they shift their bases, they are always in touch with each other through Internet or mobile phones. To avoid police, they keep changing our contact numbers very often," he added.

Even before the first round of polling takes place next Monday in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Kamal Nath

and his son are in the fray to make a debut in the Assembly and Lok Sabha respectively.

The betting market in Indore is predicting a 50:50 share for the Congress and the BJP in the State. Though the market odds were in favour of the BJP on Monday, the scenario changed on Wednesday.

Bookies bet on BJP in Rajasthan

IANS ■ JAIPUR

Jaipur, April 24 Phalodi is a small town in Rajasthan that is home to the famous betting market in its vicinity which has come alive against the backdrop of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. The betting market believes that the BJP is headed for victory in about 250 Lok Sabha seats, according to a bookie from this town who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Speaking to, he said: "The BJP continues to be a favourite of bookies this election season and will get around 246-250 seats on its own. With around 55 seats from the allies, it is sure to cross 300 seats. In Rajasthan, the BJP will get around 18 seats even though the state government machinery is being run by the Congress."

The all-India figure for the Congress is 76-79 seats, according to the bookmaker.

Phalodi is situated about 160 km from Jodhpur. The betting or satta market gained credence after giving accurate predic-

tions on significant subjects. Besides Phalodi, the Shekhawati region, comprising Bikaner and Sikar, is also known for giving clear predictions on crucial issues. In fact, Phalodi and Shekhawati belts share common predictions and hence have earned due 'recognition', he said.

Another punter from Phalodi said: "The working of this betting system is quite interesting. It comprises bookies and punters, the former fixes the amount — for example, the number of seats the BJP will win — and the punters then put their money on it. There is a strong team across states which collects data to analyse the trends.

"The networking of this market is quite strong. Not all people are allowed to enter this market. The entire network has a very strong intelligence system which can never collapse. They operate via Whatsapp and private websites. No outsider is allowed on these platforms."

Speaking on Rajasthan, which is yet to vote, he said: "The present trends reveal that BJP will get around 18 seats while the Congress shall get the remaining seven."

Mamata sends...

From Page 1

Twinkle was quick to respond to the quote from the interview shared on the BJP's official Twitter account.

"I have a rather positive way of looking at this — Not only is the Prime Minister aware that I exist but he actually reads my work," she tweeted. The Prime Minister also recalled meeting Twinkle's maternal grandfather, entrepreneur Chunnibhai Kapadia.

Twinkle, a newspaper columnist, is the author of books such as "Mrs Funnybones" and "The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad".

MP Govt spent ₹1.58 cr for stay of Kamal Nath, 3 officers in Switzerland

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

Kamal Nath and Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary SR Mohanty, Principal Secretary to the chief minister Ashok Barnwal and Principal Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion of the State Government, Mohammed Suleman participated in the World Economic Forum, 2019 in Davos, Switzerland held in January, it said.

The delegation of Madhya Pradesh Government participated in the exclusive business

lounge in Davos to co-brand the state along with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, government of India, the RTI documents said.

The State Government, in its response, however, said the actual amount spent was roughly Rs 1 crore.

It also named other states which had attended the meeting and also mentioned the expenditure incurred by them.

"Further, Madhya Pradesh is not the only state which participated in the annual meeting of World Economic Forum in Davos. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Maharashtra have also participated in the Davos annual meeting," a statement issued by the State Government said. **PTI**

SC ropes in CBI...

From Page 1

"My submission is that a special investigation team (SIT) be constituted under the supervision of this court. The truth must come out in the investigation monitored by the court. This will inspire confidence," Mehta said.

Venugopal also supported Mehta's submission and said a thorough enquiry should be conducted in the matter. However, Justice Mishra said this is a "sensitive issue" and CJI Gogoi has also taken action in the matter.

"This action has been taken by the CJI for the first time in the history of India. This was happening around in the past also but no CJI had the courage to do this," he said, adding that the CJI is taking the action "without any fear".

The Bench said full protection should be given to Bains as the court doesn't want evidence to be destroyed or

compromised.

At the fag end of the hearing, Bains told the court that he has some more very important and very critical piece of evidence related to the mater and he be allowed to file an additional affidavit. The Bench allowed the request of Bains and said, "It should be handwritten and not typed."

Bains had filed an affidavit following the unprecedented hearing on Saturday during which Justice Gogoi had said that some "bigger force" was behind the controversy as they wanted to "deactivate" the CJI's office and he would not stoop too low even to deny these allegations.

The hearing on April 20 in the case, titled as a matter of "great public importance touching upon the independence of judiciary", was held after stories were published on some news portals about the sexual harassment allegations levelled by a former employee of the apex court against the CJI.

Bookies brace for BJP-led 'khichdi' Govt

IANS ■ MUMBAI/NAGPUR

After completion of polling in 303 out of the 543 Lok Sabha seats, bookies and punters in the unofficial 'Satta Bazaar' (betting market) predict a BJP-led coalition Government at the centre with Narendra Modi returning as Prime Minister, according to sources.

The market also indicates that the ongoing elections are rather more high stakes than the one held in 2014 as the betting turnover this time has crossed an estimated Rs 2 lakh crore, almost double than the previous polls.

After three phases, balloting will take place at another

240 Lok Sabha seats in the remaining four phases.

As things stand now in the betting market, the prospects of the two main coalitions — BJP+allies and Congress+allies — roughly stands at 60:40. Shortly after the February 14 Pulwama terror attack and the subsequent IAF strike in Balakot in Pakistan on February 26, the ruling BJP+allies were the hot favourite among punters who gave them a winning chance with around 240+60 seats in the Lok Sabha where 272 is the simple majority figure.

Weeks later and amid scepticism in various quarters, circumstances changed and the punters now give BJP+allies

200+60 seats, slightly short of simple majority, yet better placed to grab power with the help of smaller parties.

Similarly, the Congress+allies camp, which prior to the Pulwama attack, harboured prospects of around 180+80 seats, has notched down in the stakes at around 140+60 seats, considerably short of the majority figure, putting a question mark on Congress President Rahul Gandhi's chances of becoming the Prime Minister.

However, the current positions may alter significantly if

AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi jumps into the fray and participates more aggressively in the campaign, the betting market feels.

The bookies, wary of a close watch being kept by the security agencies, mostly operate from locations abroad, using special mobile apps, an improvement over earlier practices like online betting. Most bets originate from urban commercial centres like Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot, New Delhi, Punjab, Haryana.

Hapur bookies see Modi returning, but with fewer seats

IANS ■ HAPUR

The Modi magic may be waning, but it will still bring the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) back to power. If the predictions of the Hapur 'satta bazaar' is anything to go by, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will form the next Government at the Centre.

However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to be in weaker position compared to 2014, given that the satta bazaar is giving fewer seats to the BJP this time.

"We are expecting the BJP to win 240 seats in the ongo-

ing Lok Sabha elections. The tally may touch 245, but not more than that," said an operator in the Hapur satta market.

Multiple operators here said the BJP and its alliance partners would together get majority comfortably.

A weaker position for Modi means the saffron party's Hindu agenda is taking a backseat as one of BJP's key allies, the Janata Dal-United, is unlikely to accept it.

It will also impact the major policy decisions of the government, meaning it would be almost impossible to take decisions such as demon-

etisation.

"Given Modi's personality, it is difficult to even visualise how he would act in that situation. Among the BJP allies, the most powerful are the Shiv Sena and the JD-U and they will definitely make his life difficult," said a political analyst, wishing not to be named.

The BJP is likely to lose almost half of its seats in Uttar Pradesh. The bookies in Hapur expect 41 seats for the BJP. This means the party will lose huge support base in a state considered extremely important for the Government at the Centre.

HC lifts its ban on TikTok with condition there should be no obscene videos

Madurai: The Madras High Court Bench lifted its ban on Chinese social media app TikTok with the condition that the platform should not be used to host obscene videos. A Bench of justices N Kirubakaran and SS Sundar, which heard the matter as per the orders of the Supreme Court, warned if any controversial video violating its condition was found uploaded using the app, it would be considered a contempt of court.

The HC on April 3 directed the Centre to ban the app "TikTok", used to create and

share short videos, as it voiced concern over "pornographic and inappropriate content" being made available through such platforms. It had passed an interim order on a public interest litigation which sought a ban on the app on the ground that it allegedly carried contents that "degraded culture and encouraged pornography". Hearing a plea by the Chinese company ByteDance, which owns TikTok, challenging the ban, the SC refused to stay the HC order but asked it to raise its grievances before the HC. **PTI**

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

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PD(8466)A

I, Harinder Kumar S/o Dalgir Singh R/o Haldona Tugalpur, G.B. Nagar (U.P.) have changed my name to Harinder Singh for all purposes.

PD(8469)A

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PD(8467)C

THANKSGIVING

Thank you Holy Spirit for Blessings Celine.

PD(8468)C

Udit Raj quits...

From Page 1

He did it when there was a rumour that the nomination papers of singer Hans Raj Hans, whom the BJP had fielded from that seat, were incomplete. However, Udit changed his track again and joined the Congress on Wednesday but not before her hurled a volley of accusations on the BJP. Udit met Rahul Gandhi at his residence on Wednesday and addressed the media in the company of senior Congress leaders KC Venugopal, Sheila Dikshit and Randeep Surjewala at its headquarters. The party took to Twitter on Wednesday to welcome Udit. "Congress President @RahulGandhi welcomes Shri Udit Raj into the Congress," it said on Twitter.

Congress spokesman Surjewala lauded Udit for being the 'voice of Dalits and the oppressed' and attacked the Narendra Modi Government, alleging that large-scale atrocities were committed against the Dalits under the BJP rule. "I wanted to join the Congress for a long time and Rahul Gandhi knows this. I don't lie. If BJP would have given me a ticket from there (northwest), I would have fought from there. But because of this (not being given ticket), a big thing has come out before the people that how anti-Dalit, the BJP is," Udit said. He went to say the BJP did not give him a ticket as he had spoken out in support of the Dalits who were protesting last year against the alleged dilution of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. "My mistake was when the atrocities act was changed, I was not deaf and dumb in the BJP. If one stays deaf and dumb in the BJP, that person can also be made the PM by them," he said. Udit had courted controversy a few weeks ago after allegedly being caught in a sting done on several MPs, which purportedly showed lawmakers accepting use of black money for contesting polls.

Yes I send Modi gifts...

From Page 1

CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty asked whether Banerjee had sent some kind of gifts to other politicians like Rahul Gandhi or any other party. "She sends it to Modi only as she sent him a bouquet even after Gujarat riots when he became the Chief Minister for the second time because she knows who is her real ally against the Left force," he said.

Banerjee who subsequently walked a huge road show at Burdwan said "those who think that they can demoralize Mamata Banerjee by spreading canards are fools of the first order. The election results will only show that. Banerjee had for the first time in the past 8-9 years been leading road shows of such magnitude. Earlier she did road shows in Siliguri, Krishnagar. The Prime Minister who was addressing two rallies at Birbhum and Ranaghat also seized the 'sweet-and-kurta' stick from the Leftists' hand even as he doubled the decibel of his attack on the Chief Minister saying, "Didi's sun in Bengal is setting," which can be proved by the trend in the first three round of polling.

"Didi's temper is going out of control as she has understood the trend in the three phases. And so she has started attacking the central forces and the Election Commission," Modi said reminding how "Mamata Banerjee used to demand imposition of President's Rule in 2009 and before to remove the communist Government". Now after seeing the TMC rule it seemed that "this is a worse Government than that of the Left Front," Modi said demanding vote in the name of national pride, security, end of terrorism and goonda raj particularly in Bengal as also a logical conclusion of the chit fund probe.

Tiwari was at Max Hospital for treatment when she received a call from home that he was unwell. She then took an ambulance that brought Rohit to the hospital. Rohit's mother on Sunday had alleged that Apoorva and her family were money-minded and wanted to acquire the family property. She had earlier said the couple had started having fights right from the first day of marriage.

The judge also directed that the accused will be medically

NIA court rejects plea to...

From Page 1

It may be recalled that an improvised explosive kept under the seat of a LML Freedom motor-bicycle had exploded between Bhikku Chowk and Anjuman Chowk, near Noorani Masjid, at Malegaon in north Maharashtra, on the night of September 29, 2008, leaving six persons dead and injuring 101 others.

During Wednesday's hearing, Judge Padalkar also noted that his court was not a proper forum to contest the bail granted to Sadhvi Pragma.

"This court has not granted bail... wrong forum has been chosen," the judge said. Incidentally, a petition seeking cancellation of Sadhvi Pragma's bail is pending before the Supreme Court.

Bilal, whose son had been killed in the 2008 Malegaon blasts, had filed an intervention application in the Special Court last week, seeking a direction to restrain Sadhvi Pragma, who has been nominated as its candidate, from contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Bhopal, where she is taking on senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh.

Bilal had opposed the move by Sadhvi Pragma, one of the key accused in the case, to contest the Lok Sabha polls on the ground that she had defied the court order, granting her "conditional bail". He stated that Sadhvi Pragma had been granted bail after considering her failing 'health'.

"Sadhvi got bail on health grounds but now she is clearly healthy enough to fight elections in the crippling summer heat which means she has misgued the court," Bilal had stated in his plea.

"Sadhvi is not attending hearing of the court on the pretext that she is unwell and she is a breast cancer patient,

but on the contrary she has been seen participating in various programs and giving objectionable and instigating speeches since her release from jail," Bilal had said.

In its four-page reply filed before the special court through special public prosecutor Avinash Rasal, the NIA told the court that it had not found sufficient evidence to prosecute Thakur in the 2008 Malegaon blasts.

The NIA had also stated in its reply that it had no jurisdiction in the matter and that it was for the Election Commission to decide.

In her reply to Bilal's intervention application filed through lawyer Prashant Maggu, Sadhvi Pragma had urged the court to dismiss the plea seeking a bar on her contesting the Lok Sabha polls on the ground that "pendency of cases is no bar to contesting elections".

"There is no provision in the Representation of Peoples' Act, 1951 which disqualifies the candidate from contesting the election, if criminal case is pending against him/her," Maggu told the court.

"The sub-section 4 of Section 8 of the Act states that even if a person, who is Member of Parliament or State legislature is convicted, disqualification will not take effect if appeal or revision is filed against the conviction within 90 days or if the conviction is stayed by the Court," Maggu said, in his reply filed on behalf of Sadhvi Pragma.

When the issue of cancellation came up before court, Sadhvi Pragma's lawyer JP Mishra said that Thakur got bail on merit along with medical grounds.

He added that she is contesting the poll, attending meetings and campaigning, but a doctor was always present with her round the clock.

Wife smothered Rohit with...

From Page 1

"On April 16, nobody tried to wake Rohit because he suffered from insomnia (sleep disorder). After he failed to get up, one of his servants went into his room around 4 pm, and saw him lying on bed with a nosebleed," said the Additional CP.

Rohit's mother Ujjwala

was at Max Hospital for treatment when she received a call from home that he was unwell. She then took an ambulance that brought Rohit to the hospital. Rohit's mother on Sunday had alleged that Apoorva and her family were money-minded and wanted to acquire the family property. She had earlier said the couple had started having fights right from the first day of marriage. The judge also directed that the accused will be medically

examined as per rules and allowed her lawyer to be present with her during interrogation and serve a copy of FIR. Police told the court that they want to find out more clues related to this case and ruled out the possibility of any other suspect. The lawyer appearing for Shukla opposed the plea for custody saying she has cooperated throughout the investigation.

Rohit joined the BJP ahead of the 2017 Uttarakhand Assembly polls and recently indicated that he could join the Congress. In 2012, ND Tiwari, who had quit as Andhra Pradesh Governor after a purported video of his sexual escapade was leaked, was forced to give samples of his DNA for a paternity test after warnings by the Delhi High Court.

Table with 2 columns: Case Name and Amount. Includes entries like 'उपरोक्त पावर ट्रांसमिशन कागोपरेसन सुविधा' for ₹7,500/-, 'क्यापेरोसन सुविधा' for ₹5,000/-, and 'नियंदा प्रव्रत शुक' for ₹1,180/-.

Sonia authorised to take call on Priyanka vs Modi

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nakul Nath richest candidate of MP

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

IN SHORT

CONG MOCKS BJP ON FALSE REPORT OF PRESS MEET

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

LOCS ISSUED TO BHUSHAN STEEL CHAIRMAN, WIFE

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

25 SCHOOLS TAKE PART IN 2-DAY WWF FEST

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

ENDS LESS HARMFUL THAN CIGARETTES: STUDY

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

'THE JOURNEY' BY MANJIT RELEASED

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

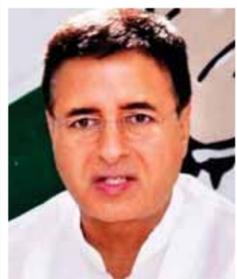
revealed that the company and its promoters have committed a scheduled offence and derived proceeds of crime by indulging in the illegal quarrying and the trade proceeds of the company were further relentlessly incubated resulting in further accruals of proceeds of crime, all of which were camouflaged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

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

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

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

Investigation under PMLA



PNS ■ DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

'Cancer-afflicted kids deprived of vital drugs'

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



sector retail pharmacies were surveyed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

meant was that he should respect the Attorney General.

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

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

Priyanka dubs Modi as 'Pradhan Prachar Mantri'

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

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

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

"Is he a 'chowkidar' (watch-



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Congress leader said though the Prime Minister called himself a 'chowkidar', everybody knew that only the rich could afford 'chowkidars'. Priyanka appealed the voters to help her and her party candidates to end the politics of 'divisiveness and negativity' and teach the BJP a lesson in the Lok Sabha election.

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

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



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

Shah accuses Opp of being soft on terror

PTI ■ MUNGER/BEGUSARAI/ UJIYARPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

propaganda involving actions of the armed forces.

"...Parties/candidates are advised that their campaigners/candidates should desist, as part of their election campaigning, from indulging in any political propaganda involving activities of defence forces," the commission said on March 19.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

Naseeruddin Shah made many statements against

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

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

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

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

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

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



After LS polls, TN gets ready for bypolls

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phase IV: Spotlight on personalities in UP

IAN S ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Shahjahanpur, the BJP

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

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

Modi protected interest of 15 selected people: Rahul



PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

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

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

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

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

dar (watchman)", Rahul alleged, "This chowkidar obliged 15 selected people during his five-year term but told sugarcane farmers that cane-farming caused sugar (diabetes)."

The diabetes remark is, however, mostly attributed to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Raking up the Rafale issue, the Congress chief said, "Anil Ambani, who never manufactured an airplane, was awarded with a Rs 30,000 crore contract, but cane farmers were told that cane-farming caused sugar (diabetes) when they demanded their dues."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He claimed that his party

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

PTI ■ KANPUR/HARDOI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

schedule available now.

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

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

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

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



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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

Addressing a joint Press conference with the Director General of J&K Police, Dilbag Singh in Srinagar, Lt-Gen Dhillion said, "post Pulwama attack we have targeted Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) leadership across Kashmir Valley." He said, "the situation now is that no one is coming forward to take over the leadership of JeM in the valley."

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

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

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

Pak terrorist trained by 26/11 mastermind Lakhvi arrested

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

A Pakistani terrorist, who was indoctrinated and trained by 26/11 Mumbai attacks mastermind Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, was arrested from Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir, police said here on Wednesday.

Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorist Mohammad Waqar Awan, who was tasked with reviving militancy in certain areas of the Kashmir Valley, was arrested earlier this week and paraded before the media on Wednesday at the Police Control Room.

Awan, a resident of Mohalla Miana in Mianwali area of Punjab in Pakistan, was indoctrinated by Lakhvi at his residence in Rawalpindi, officials said. The initial arms training to the Pakistani terrorist was also given by Lakhvi, who along with six others has been charged by the Pakistani authorities with planning and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said a pistol and some other things were recovered from the Pakistani militant when he was arrested. Asked

about Awan's activities in Srinagar, the SSP said he mostly visited areas around Srinagar-Baramulla highway and few areas in downtown the interior areas of the city here.

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) Name: Himanshu Tanwar, S/o: Sh. Mohan Tanwar, R/O: WZ-91/11, Naraina, New Delhi, Aged: 31 years, has been reported missing from his house, since 06.04.2019 at 07.00 AM. Vide DD No. 35A, Dated 07.04.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Naraina, Delhi.

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

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

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

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

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

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-25946700, 25946710
DP/2128/OD/19

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

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

Name of The Borrower / Address/ Co-Borrower And Guarantor Name	Property Address of Secured Assets	1. NPA Date 2. Date of Demand Notice 3. Outstanding Amt (Rs.) as on Date of Notice 4. Loan Amount (Rs.)
1. Mr. Ajay Kumar S/O Sh. Kamleshwar Prasad Singh R/O A-302, Plot No. 11/2, Amrapali Vaishali Apartments, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-122002, U.P. Also At : Mr. Ajay Kumar S/O Sh. Kamleshwar Prasad Singh M/S Ultra Home Construction Pvt. Ltd., 56140, Tower-C, Sector-62, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301.	Immovable Assets : All That Lease Hold Plot Of Land Bearing No. A-014 Having Area Of 200 Sq. Mtrs. (220.20 Sq. Yds) In Project Palcan Villas Situated At Sector 128, Jaypee Greens Wish Town, Noida (UP)	1. 9-Sep-18 2. 15-Apr-19 3. Rs. 39,82,740/- 4. Rs. 53,70,808/- Rs. 52,00,000/- Rs. 80,65,000/-
2. Mrs. Seema Kumari W/O Mr. Ajay Kumar A-302, Plot No. 11/2, Amrapali Vaishali Apartments, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-122002, U.P.	Immovable Assets All The Pieces And Parcel Of Freehold Site/Plot No. Scf-96 At Sector-14, Faridabad, Haryana Having Area Of 121 Square Metres.	1. 11-Apr-19 2. 15-Apr-19 3. Rs. 4. Rs. 2,75,81,209/- 2,80,00,000/-
1. Mr. Arvind Sud S/O Sh. Bhup Chand Sud R/O SCF-96, Sector-14, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana Also At : Mr. Arvind Sud Proprietor Captains Table SCF-96, Sector-14, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana	Immovable Assets All The Pieces And Parcel Of Freehold Site/Plot No. Scf-96 At Sector-14, Faridabad, Haryana Having Area Of 121 Square Metres.	1. 11-Apr-19 2. 15-Apr-19 3. Rs. 4. Rs. 2,75,81,209/- 2,80,00,000/-
1. Mr. Jitendra Pratap Singh S/O Sh. Bhagat Singh R/O House No. 44d, Block-B, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida-201301, U.P. Also At : Mr. Jitendra Pratap Singh S/O Sh. Bhagat Singh L-111,105, Sector-D, Aligarh, Lucknow-202002, U.P. Also At : Mr. Jitendra Pratap Singh S/O Sh. Bhagat Singh Jagran New Meada 9, 11, Okhla Phase-III, Modl Mill, Delhi-110020	Immovable Assets Lease Hold flat No. 201 On The Second Floor In Madison Tower Having A Total Super Area Measuring 161.64 Sq. Mtrs. (1739.89 Sq. Ft.) Having Covered Area Of 131.45 Sq. Mtrs. (1414.93 Sq. Ft.) And Share Of Common Areas In Respect Thereof Vis-A-Vis The Area Of The Concentered Residential Tower, Measuring 30.19 Sq. Mts. (324.97 Sq. Ft.) Approximate In The Multi Storeyed Residential Complex Nri City Apartments Within "Omnia Nri City" Township Situated At Omega-II, Builder Area, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) Alongwith The Undivided, Impartible, Unidentified Lease Hold Rights In The Portion Of The Said Land Underneath The Building, Consisting of Several Blocks, Comprising The Complex, In Proportion Of The Super Area Of The Said Flat/Dwelling Unit.	1. 11-Apr-19 2. 18-Apr-19 3. Rs. 4. Rs. 1,07,27,357.87/- 1,50,00,000/-
1. Mr. Kunal Kumar Khaitan S/O Mr. Kamel Kumar Khaitan R/O A-4/13, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 Also At Mr. Kunal Kumar Khaitan Partner M/S Rashee Constructions House No. L-95, Sector-2, Near Bada Gole Chakkark, Dstic, Bawana, Delhi-110071	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Property Bearing No. A-4/13, Area Measuring 202.50 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Paschim Puri Residential Scheme, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi And Bounded As Under:- North - Plot No. 12 East - Road South - Plot No. 14 West - Service Lane	1. 11-Mar-19 2. 18-Apr-19 3. Rs. 4. Rs. 1,07,27,357.87/- 1,50,00,000/-
2. Mrs. Manita Khaitan W/O Mr. Kunal Kumar Khaitan R/O A-4/13, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 Also At : Mrs. Manita Khaitan Partner M/S Rashee Constructions House No. L-95, Sector-2, Near Bada Gole Chakkark, Dstic, Bawana, Delhi-110071	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Property Bearing No. A-4/13, Area Measuring 202.50 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Paschim Puri Residential Scheme, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi And Bounded As Under:- North - Plot No. 12 East - Road South - Plot No. 14 West - Service Lane	1. 11-Mar-19 2. 18-Apr-19 3. Rs. 4. Rs. 1,07,27,357.87/- 1,50,00,000/-
3. Mrs. Kamala Kumari Khaitan W/O Kamel Kumar Khaitan R/O A-4/13, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Property Bearing No. A-4/13, Area Measuring 202.50 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Paschim Puri Residential Scheme, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi And Bounded As Under:- North - Plot No. 12 East - Road South - Plot No. 14 West - Service Lane	1. 11-Mar-19 2. 18-Apr-19 3. Rs. 4. Rs. 1,07,27,357.87/- 1,50,00,000/-
4. M/S Rashee Constructions Through Its Partner House No. L-95, Sector-2, Near Bada Gole Chakkark, Dstic, Bawana, Delhi-110071	Immovable Assets Lease Hold Property Bearing No. A-4/13, Area Measuring 202.50 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Paschim Puri Residential Scheme, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi And Bounded As Under:- North - Plot No. 12 East - Road South - Plot No. 14 West - Service Lane	1. 11-Mar-19 2. 18-Apr-19 3. Rs. 4. Rs. 1,07,27,357.87/- 1,50,00,000/-
1. Mrs. Nilofar Singh W/o Mr. Ipinnder Singh R/O 607, Sarvapriya Vihar Apartments, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi 110016	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No 503, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part -2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen , One Servant Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement , Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South : as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 11,201,794/- 4. Rs. 17284000/-
Also At : Mrs. Nilofar Singh W/o Mr. Ipinnder Singh F-9033, Okhla Industrial Area Phase -1 New Delhi-110020 Also at : Mrs. Nilofar Singh W/o Mr. Ipinnder Singh H No-503, Second Floor, Block-E, G.K-2 New Delhi 110048	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No 503, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part -2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen , One Servant Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement , Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South : as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 11,201,794/- 4. Rs. 17284000/-
2. Mr. Harman Singh S/o Mr. Ipinnder Singh R/O 607, Sarvapriya Apartments, Sarvapriya Vihar New Delhi 110016	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No 503, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part -2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen , One Servant Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement , Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South : as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 11,201,794/- 4. Rs. 17284000/-
Also At : Mr. Harman Singh S/o Mr. Ipinnder Singh H No-503, Second Floor, Block-E, G.K-2 New Delhi 110048	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No 503, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part -2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen , One Servant Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement , Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South : as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 11,201,794/- 4. Rs. 17284000/-
3. M/S Nitex Overseas Through its proprietor Mrs. Nilofar Singh, F-9033, Okhla Industrial Area Phase -1 New Delhi-110020	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No 503, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part -2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen , One Servant Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement , Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South : as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 11,201,794/- 4. Rs. 17284000/-
Also At : M/S Nitex Overseas Office at 287, Sant Nagar, East Of Kailash, New Delhi 110065	Immovable Assets Entire Second Floor of the Property No 503, Block-E, Measuring 248 sqyds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part -2, New Delhi with Three Bed Room, Three Bathrooms, One Drawing Dining Room, One Kitchen , One Servant Room, Open Car parking space in the back side of basement , Half Top Terrace to be used commonly with owner of the first floor along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under: East: as per the sale deed West: as per the sale deed North: as per the sale deed South : as per the sale deed	1. 11-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 11,201,794/- 4. Rs. 17284000/-
1. Mr. Shahid Jamal, S/o - Tabajum Ali R/O-264/2, G/F, Near Ration Card Office, Shalimar Bagh, Mother Dairy, New Delhi - 110088	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right coexist of - Bedroom-1, Drawing / Dining, 1-Kitchen, 2-Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq.ft. or 83.61 sq.mtrs on Plot No - G.K -4/144/5, GyanKhand -IV, Indrapuram Ghaziabad - U.P along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under (According to sale Deed): East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Per Sale Deed North: As Per Sale Deed South: As Per Sale Deed	1. 2-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 1,180,608/- 4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
Also At : Mrs. Reena, W/O - Mr. Shahid Jamal, R/O - Flat No - SF - 1, IInd Floor, Plot No - 144005, GyanKhand/IV, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad - 201014	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right coexist of - Bedroom-1, Drawing / Dining, 1-Kitchen, 2-Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq.ft. or 83.61 sq.mtrs on Plot No - G.K -4/144/5, GyanKhand -IV, Indrapuram Ghaziabad - U.P along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under (According to sale Deed): East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Per Sale Deed North: As Per Sale Deed South: As Per Sale Deed	1. 2-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 1,180,608/- 4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
Also At : Mr. Shahid Jamal, S/o - Tabajum Ali, Shahid Hosry, B-1529, ShahidHosry, Shastri Nagar, New Delhi -110088	Immovable Assets Free Hold Residential Flat Number -S-1, Second Floor without roof right coexist of - Bedroom-1, Drawing / Dining, 1-Kitchen, 2-Toilet-Bath and balcony with covered area 900 sq.ft. or 83.61 sq.mtrs on Plot No - G.K -4/144/5, GyanKhand -IV, Indrapuram Ghaziabad - U.P along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under (According to sale Deed): East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Per Sale Deed North: As Per Sale Deed South: As Per Sale Deed	1. 2-Apr-19 2. 22-Apr-19 3. Rs. 1,180,608/- 4. Rs. 2,396,980/-
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Who's the bigger star?

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



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

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

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

Innovation regulator

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



There is little doubt that medical devices such as cardiac stents or implants for damaged bones and cosmetic improvements have had an impact on people's lives. Cardiac stents and their ease of implantation have made major operations for blocked arteries a thing of past. Hip and knee implants have allowed millions of people with degenerative bone diseases to walk without pain again. Cosmetic implants have been around for a few decades and have improved the self-

esteem of millions. However, a rash of cases in India and across the world have shaken the faith of people in implants and increased the calls for regulation in this sector. The Government has taken some steps in response. For example, the move to dramatically reduce the price of stents was seen as a way to prevent unnecessary procedures by hospitals seeking to line their pockets. However, there have also been cases where implants, hip and breast ones, have gone faulty. With the lack of tort law in India or the ability to have class-action lawsuits against manufacturers, many impacted individuals, particularly after the recent case involving faulty hip implants from American healthcare multinational Johnson & Johnson, have demanded that a regulator with the ability to fine and punish companies be established. This also highlights a bit of the 'wild west' nature when it comes to medical devices that are on the edge of technical innovation. India is a critical emerging market with a growing population that can afford the implants and other aids. However, with few rules and regulations, there have been rampant imports of pre-used devices and a lack of incentives for domestic manufacturing. At the same time, there were few legal remedies for patients impacted by poor quality devices or botched installations.

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

R&D key to India's status

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



CLAUDE ARPI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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

Congress leader
—Urmila Matondkar



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

Pop star
—Britney Spears



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

Iran's supreme leader
—Ayatollah Ali Khamenei



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

Samajwadi Party leader
—Akhilesh Kumar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stand firm on terror

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

MC Joshi
Lucknow

Vote share story

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

parties and form strong opinions on parties.

TR Anandan
Coimbatore

Dividing the nation

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

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

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

Supreme Court needs to be more transparent



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

BP Srivastava
Noida

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

Learn from New Zealand

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

Aditi
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Incentivise, don't destroy business

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



UTTAM GUPTA

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

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

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

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

The entity under composition scheme does not get offset for the tax paid on purchased inputs. However, for a service provider not purchasing inputs, this is not relevant; so he retains the entire surplus. Even in case he buys inputs say worth ₹40,000, paying GST @18 per cent or ₹7,200 (for which he does not get offset) then also, he will make net gain of ₹3720 (₹10,920-₹7,200). In case of a trader/manufacturer, an entity under composition scheme is even more favourably placed as he gets away by paying a mere 1 per cent even as his collection from consumer is higher. Even with denial of input tax credit, he will end up with net gain. For dealers not paying tax at all (having turnover more than ₹4 million), the gain will be even higher. In short, even as all dealers/service providers collect GST at the same rate (this fundamental point can't be camouflaged by sheer innovation in documentation technique viz tax invoice versus simple sale invoice), those under composition scheme give to the Government a lesser tax amount, thereby pocketing the differential. Correspondingly, the tax department incurs revenue loss. No wonder, small businesses contribute very little to the overall tax kitty. Thus, businesses having a turnover between ₹2 million and ₹10 million constitute about 25 per cent of those registered under GSTN but their contribution to revenue is only 5 per cent. Further, more than 50 per cent of the registered firms having turnover of more than ₹2 million, contribute a meagre 1.5 per cent of the total. In other words, 75 per cent of the registered entities contribute a minuscule 6.5 per cent to the total revenue.

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

(The writer is a policy analyst)

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

—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI



YOU (MODI) ARE DESTINED TO BE DETHRONED AFTER THE ELECTIONS. OUR GOVERNMENT WILL PROVE WHAT A BIG SCAM DEMONETISATION WAS.

— WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE

Don't short-change women

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



MOIN QAZI

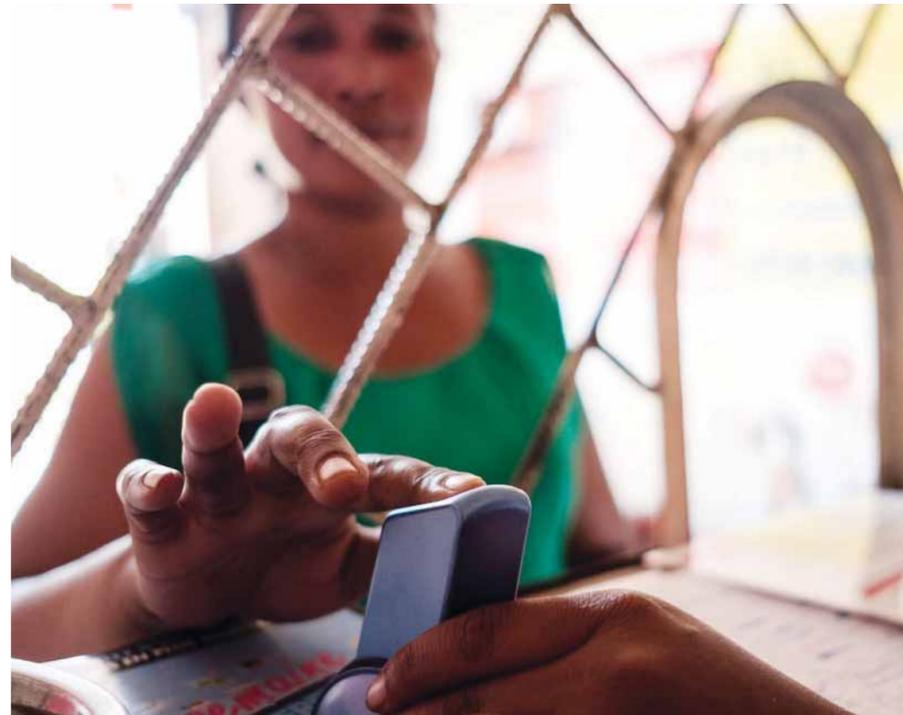
It is now a universally-acknowledged fact that India has shown spectacular performance in financial inclusion and is now a guiding light for the developing world. Several international surveys and studies have vouched for this. They also highlight the impressive gains made by women. Drumbeaters are excited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

However, a deeper view will reveal that this granular and rosy picture is tinted. While more women have been enrolled for bank accounts, a larger gender gap persists in account usage. And beyond account ownership, in terms of credit and insurance usage, gender gap remains high. For example, female account owners showed 11 per cent point gap against men in terms of account usage; 54 per cent of women with an account made no deposit or withdrawal in a year as compared to 43 per cent of men. The credit gender gap is more stark. Distribution of outstanding credit in small borrower accounts showed 24.5 per cent share of female account owners against 72 per cent of men as on March 2017. Financial inclusion of women is one of the many powerful levers that can advance gender equality. Efforts to get more women signed up for accounts has seen good results in recent years as development agencies and Governments alike have stated focusing on financial products as a tool for poverty alleviation and female empowerment. Despite increased attention to financial inclusion for women, we have not been able to translate these efforts into large-scale, meaningful progress. Significant change can come only through focussed efforts from Governments and banks. It is here that increasing awareness can play a big role to bridge the gap.

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

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

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



ic products that are only superficially tailored to their needs.

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

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

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

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

Financial products are often not designed, distributed or bundled to meet the needs of women. They are usually tasked with stretching the family budget in times of financial hardship. Providing micro credits or a small affordable and account-linked overdraft can help women cover their day-to-day household emergencies. Women's financial needs and responsibilities require bundled solutions of savings, credit and insurance. Professionals and practitioners have put forth some silent features of financial products and services that foster women's active participation in formal finance. They found that women do not have a smooth financial journey and have more interruptions and life-stages in their financial lives (withdrawal from employment during pregnancy and in medical emergencies for nursing sick family members). They may remain active users of the accounts during these periods. Women should be able to reactivate their accounts without much hassles or penalties. Women are also more price-point sensitive and expect affordable fees.

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

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

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

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

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

Of rising temperatures and falling standards

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



KOTA SRIRAJ

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

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

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

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

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

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

of economic development of the poorer countries.

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

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

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

more pollution.

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

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

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

The Government must also

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

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

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



FEWER ROBOCALLS? MAY BE NOT FOR LONG

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

FinMin brings in changes in e-way bill system

To check GST evasion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



the e-way bill portal.

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

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

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

the goods are in transit/movement.

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

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

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

Wireless broadband subscriber base touches 532 mn in Feb: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The active wireless sub-



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

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

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

WeWork India, others offer jobs to Jet Airways employees

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

WeWork said interested



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

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

"We at Lowé's India welcome any employee of the IT division of Jet Airways to apply for technology positions with us. Interested candidates can

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

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

Startups like CureFit have also stepped in to offer employment to the distressed workers at Jet.

CureFit co-founder Ankit Nagori had recently tweeted that the company would be open to hire candidates from Jet.

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

CBI issues Look Out Circulars against Bhushan steel chairman, wife

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

crore against Singhal and others.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Gaana expects double monthly active users to 200 million

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Govt procures 55.17 lakh tonnes of wheat so far this year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have contributed the most to wheat procurement so far, the official said.

The Centre has set the wheat procurement target at 357 lakh tonnes for the 2019-20 marketing year (April-March) on hopes of a record 1,000 lakh tonne production this year.

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

MISSING/KIDNAPED

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

Name: Rinki Kumari, Gender: Female, Age: 20 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing: Orange colour Sui, Blue colour Pajama and Red colour Hawai Slippers in Feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnaped girl, kindly inform SHO Ranhola, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Ranhola, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-24368639 28363002, 28363003
 DP/2152/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

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

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

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

HDFC BANK

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

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

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

Customer Name	13(2) Notice Date	Notice Amt.	Possession Date	Description of Property
1. M/s Mega Computers Through Its Proprietor Mr. Suresh Kumar Singh 2. Mr. Suresh Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Inderjeet Singh 3. M/s Gadgets And Gizmos Through Its Proprietor Mrs. Chandrawati Singh 4. Mrs. Chandrawati Singh W/o Sh. S.K. Singh	24-Jan-2019	Rs. 81,61,086/- & Rs. 1,66,27,173/- Total = Rs. 2,47,88,259/-	20-Apr-2019	1. Commercial Space No. Sa-32 (A), Measuring 293 Sq. Ft. & SA-32 (B), Measuring 294 Sq. Ft. on Lower Ground Floor, Situated in Jaipuri Sunrise Plaza, At Ahinsa Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad. 2. B-5G, On Ground Floor, Situated At Express Greens, Built On Plot No. D-10, Sector-44, Noida.
1. M/s Synergy Infonet Private Limited Through Its Director Mr. Shailendra Pratap 2. Mr. Shailendra Pratap S/o Sh. Surendra Pratap Singh 3. Mrs. Ruchi Pratap W/o Sh. Shailendra Pratap 4. Mr. Surendra Pratap Singh S/o Late Sh. Gopal Narain	11-Jan-2019	Rs. 60,61,354/-	22-Apr-2019	Flat No. 48, on 4th Floor, in Block-C, Situated in The Layout Plan of The Mangal CCHS Ltd. On Plot No. 16, Known As Mangal Apartments, Situated At Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi. Bounded As Under:- North : Open, East : Flat No. C-47, South: Passage, West: Open

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

DATE :- 20/04/2019 & 22/04/2019
 PLACE :- GHAZIABAD (UP), NOIDA & DELHI

Authorised Officer
 HDFC Bank Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Mitali Sett & Gaurav Gambhir (Advocates)
 C/o. GAMBHIR & JURISTS
 304, Park View Plaza, LSC-3, Sec-6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 Ph:8805022053

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

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

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

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

Sensex rebounds 490 points

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its three-session losing streak, benchmark BSE Sensex surged 490 points on Wednesday as investors piled into finance, energy and IT stocks ahead of expiry of derivatives contracts. Index heavyweight Reliance Industries, HDFC and HDFC Bank accounted for almost half of the Sensex's gains. Markets were propelled by short covering ahead of expiry of April futures and options contracts on Thursday amid positive global cues, analysts said. After starting on a positive note, indices were boosted by a burst of buying towards the fag-end. The BSE Sensex soared 489.80 points, or 1.27%, to

close at 39,054.68. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 150.20 points, or 1.30%, to 11,726.15. In the Sensex pack, HCL Tech spurred 3.40%, followed by ONGC, IndusInd Bank, Yes Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC, RIL, Bajaj Finance, SBI, HDFC Bank and TCS. On the other hand, Tata Motors, Hero MotoCorp, Coal India, PowerGrid, Maruti, Axis Bank and NTPC fell up to 3.33%. "Despite mixed signals from global markets, and worries domestically on growth and elections, Indian markets rallied almost 1.3%. After three straight days of losses in the Nifty, the headline index delivered strong gains led by financials and tech, while autos continued to drag. "Cement behemoth

Ultratech was the biggest gainer on the Nifty with a 5.6% gain after it surprised the analyst community with better than expected results, especially after a weak show by ACC," said Sunil Sharma, chief investment officer at Sanctum Wealth Management. Aditya Birla Group firm UltraTech Cement on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,014.19 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31. Sectorally, BSE oil and gas, telecom and energy indices gained the most, rising up to 2.32%. Banking, finance and IT indices too ended in the green. The auto index was the only loser, dropping 0.29%. In the broader markets, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices advanced up to 0.43%.

Meanwhile, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold equity worth ₹237.47 crore on Tuesday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) purchased shares to the tune of ₹198.35 crore, provisional data available with stock exchanges said. The rupee, however, declined by 24 paise to close at 69.86 against the US dollar. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, slipped 0.08% to USD 74.45 per barrel. On the Wall Street, the S&P 500 and Nasdaq indices ended at record highs on Tuesday amid a slew of better-than-expected earnings reports. Elsewhere in Asia, benchmark equity indices in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul ended in the red. European equities started off on a mixed note.

USFDA retains OAI status for Indoco's Goa plant

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

Rupee falls by 24 paise on strong dollar demand

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Wednesday declined by 24 paise to close at 69.86 against the US currency, weighed down by a strong dollar sentiment and high demand for the greenback from importers. The domestic currency dropped to more than four-month low of 69.97 in the day trade in line with losses in other Asian currencies against the dollar after positive US economic data. Foreign fund inflows and strong gains in equity markets helped the domestic currency reverse some of the losses before close. "The broader US dollar is trading strong today, with most Asian currencies weaker against the greenback, which gained after strong US housing data dampened concerns about an economic slowdown in the world's largest economy. "Oil prices fell marginally today but still remained at elevated levels. Rising crude and strong ICE Dollar Index have been the prime reasons for domestic currency's weakness," V K Sharma, Head PCG & Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities, said. At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex), the rupee opened sharply lower at 69.80



and further fell to a four-month low of 69.97, the lowest level since December 3, 2018, against the dollar. Intra-day, the unit touched a high of 69.75. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, strengthened by 0.06 per cent to 97.69. Foreign institutional investors emerged as net buyers in the capital markets, putting in Rs 974.88 crore Wednesday, according to the provisional data. "The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) second three-year dollar-rupee swap auction was a massive success like the first one, even as it took just five large bids to cover the entire \$5 billion on offer. "The second USD — INR swap auction received bids to exchange US dollars to Indian Rupees at \$18.65 billion compared with the RBI's promise to take in \$5 billion in its second such swap deal," Sharma said.

342 start-ups have got angel tax exemption since February

New Delhi (PTI): With the Commerce and Industry Ministry taking steps to support budding entrepreneurs, as many as 342 start-ups have received intimation regarding exemption from angel tax since February, an official said. Giving a major relief to budding entrepreneurs, the government in February relaxed the definition of start-ups and allowed them to avail full angel tax concession on investments of up to ₹25 crore. "The ministry is taking all steps to promote and strengthen the start-up ecosystem in the country. A total of 381 start-ups gave undertaking that they should be exempted from angel tax and out of that, 342 have received intimation from CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes)," the government official said.

UltraTech Cement Q4 net profit at ₹1,014 cr

New Delhi (PTI) ■ Aditya Birla Group firm UltraTech Cement on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,014.19 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31. The company had posted a net profit of ₹446.13 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, UltraTech Cement said in a BSE filing. The company's total income stood at ₹11,031.27 crore during the quarter under review. It was ₹9,401.39 crore in the corresponding period previous fiscal. Meanwhile, UltraTech informed that its result for the quarter and the financial year ended March 31, "are not comparable with the previous period" due to merger of Binani Cements into the company, which has now been named as UltraTech

Nathdwara Cements. Its total expense in the fourth quarter of 2018-19 came at ₹9,554.43 crore. "Domestic sales volume jumped 16 per cent over Q4FY18. The clinker capacity and cement grinding facility at Manavar, Madhya Pradesh have stabilised with the clinker capacity operating at 100 per cent utilisation. Variables cost were up 3 per cent over Q4FY18 on account of higher fuel prices and impact of rupee depreciation," the company said. For the 2018-19 financial year, UltraTech Cements net profit stood at ₹2,431.59. It was ₹2,224.46 crore in FY 2016-17. Its total income was at ₹37,817.27 crore in 2018-19, as against ₹32,461.02 crore in the previous fiscal.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11,601.50	11,740.85	11,578.85	11,726.15	150.22
ULTRATECH	4,156.30	4,432.00	4,110.50	4,432.00	233.75
RPLCL	340.1	349.9	340.1	348.95	12.6
HCLTECH	1,109.00	1,142.10	1,096.85	1,141.05	39.05
INDUSINDBK	1,667.00	1,705.00	1,661.10	1,704.00	52.65
ONGC	165.7	165.7	165.7	168.35	4.6
IOC	151	151.45	150.45	153.55	4.15
HDFC	1,943.90	1,985.00	1,933.25	1,984.70	50
YESBANK	233	240.4	231.2	238.55	5.85
INFRAEAT	297	303.5	291	301	7
BAJAJFINSV	7,490.00	7,672.50	7,475.55	7,667.45	172.4
BHARTIARTL	316.5	326.3	315.6	323.75	7.25
ZEE	410.5	419	405.15	417.65	8.5
GAIL	341.1	348	339.7	346.5	7.05
RELIANCE	1,370.30	1,394.80	1,366.25	1,389.50	25.65
SBIN	305.85	311.95	303.6	310.75	5.5
BAJFINANCE	3,035.00	3,099.00	3,032.00	3,089.40	54.35
GRASIM	867.5	887	849.6	884.95	15.5
ITC	1,128.00	1,152.00	1,125.55	1,149.00	19.45
TECHM	807	820	806	818	10.5
HDFCBANK	2,250.00	2,283.90	2,247.05	2,280.95	35.65
JSWSTEEL	289.25	293	286.4	292.4	4.1
ICICIBANK	397.1	402.65	393.45	401.6	5.1
ASIANPAINT	1,436.00	1,459.40	1,431.00	1,449.30	18.3
ITC	303.4	307.2	298.5	307.2	3.8
EICHERMOT	20,400.00	20,580.00	20,140.00	20,550.00	235.1
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,035.00	3,082.85	3,025.20	3,073.95	34.8
DREDDY	2,835.00	2,875.00	2,813.10	2,853.70	31.55
INFY	728.2	737.9	724	735	6.8
LT	1,353.00	1,363.45	1,350.00	1,359.00	10.8
IBULHSGFIN	749.7	761.95	736.55	750	5.8
UPL	942.75	951	941.1	950	7.25
WIPRO	292.05	294.3	290.2	293.15	2.05
KOTAK	2,158.00	2,195.00	2,156.10	2,168.00	13.55
INDUSTRIAL	1,355.00	1,370.00	1,339.65	1,363.75	8.4
HINDUNILVR	1,744.60	1,755.00	1,735.00	1,754.90	10.7
M&M	688	699.2	662.25	669	3.25
ADANIAPORTS	367.7	394	386.1	392	1.1
SUNPHARMA	469.1	470	462.5	469.85	1.3
TATASTEEL	526.9	527.85	517.5	524.1	0.75
VEDL	174.95	176	171.05	175	0.2
HINDALCO	200.4	201.4	197.2	200.5	0.15
NTPC	133.65	134.45	132.3	133.7	0.05
AXISBANK	754.7	755.7	738.35	750.9	-2.35
BRITANNIA	2,988.00	2,997.55	2,952.05	2,977.00	-14
POWERGRID	193.1	194.65	190.05	192	-1
CIPLA	561.4	564.5	553.2	558.7	-3
COALINDIA	256	258.3	253.4	254	-1.5
MARUTI	7,065.00	7,101.95	6,910.00	6,994.35	-54.55
HEROMOTOCO	2,650.00	2,661.60	2,582.15	2,615.90	-22.15
TATAMOTORS	231.65	232.95	217.6	224.25	-7.4

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
LI	1,355.60	1,363.20	1,350.75	1,360.35
TATAMOTORS	233	233.05	217.95	223.7
RELIANCE	1,370.00	1,394.60	1,366.35	1,390.00
YESBANK	233	240.2	231.45	239.15
MARUTI	7,052.00	7,103.75	6,908.40	7,024.35
PCJEWELLER	128.5	138	127.95	133.1
IBREALEST	108.5	117.7	107.1	116.35
RELCAPITAL	145.5	159.55	139.65	155.35
IBULHSGFIN	748.8	761.9	739	748.8
ULTRATECH	4,150.80	4,436.75	4,116.20	4,396.45
JETAIRWAYS	171.2	178.6	167.6	171.25
INFY	727.5	737.8	724.25	736.4
STRTECH	215.05	217	192.25	193.35
TCS	2,157.70	2,195.00	2,155.40	2,185.45
ONGC	165.15	170.3	165.15	168.7
TATASTEEL	527.85	527.85	513.2	525.3
SBIN	307	311.85	303.6	310.7
DHFL	140.5	146.15	140.5	144.7
ACC	1,629.70	1,629.70	1,570.85	1,606.90
SAIL	54.6	57	54.05	56.4
DMART	1,292.00	1,362.00	1,291.55	1,332.45
HDFCBANK	2,253.90	2,282.85	2,247.00	2,279.50
BAJFINANCE	3,048.90	3,100.00	3,032.00	3,092.00
INDUSINDBK	1,678.00	1,705.65	1,665.00	1,700.15
ICICIBANK	396.5	402.25	393	402.5
NTPC	133.95	134.6	132.35	133.8
COALINDIA	256.95	258.2	253.5	254.2
AXISBANK	755	755.1	738.5	752.6
INDIGO	1,484.85	1,490.00	1,440.00	1,472.30
WIPRO	292.05	294.1	290.30	293.1
BRITANNIA	2,985.00	2,993.10	2,963.05	2,976.25
KOTAKBANK	1,353.95	1,372.55	1,340.50	1,370.00
HINDPETRO	254.9	269.9	254.9	268.35
ASHOKLEY	92.45	92.45	90.55	91.2
PNB	88.1	89	86.85	88.4
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,025.00	3,080.00	3,009.00	3,076.25
LUPIN	839	867.2	835.95	864.5
ITC	303	307.2	298.7	306.45
DLF	172	177	171.2	176.2
RELFNRA	118.5	122.45	115.8	120.95
JINDALSTEEL	175.1	176.45	169.1	172.15
BATAINDIA	1,450.00	1,466.00	1,442.00	1,461.90
TATAELSI	955	957.6	927	930.3
TATAGLOBAL	204	211.55	200.5	208.9
SUNPHARMA	469.05	470	462.7	469.15
HCLTECH	1,101.00	1,145.45	1,099.95	1,140.50
HONGSWARE	348	349.55	326.9	332.85
TECHM	805.05	819.9	805.05	818.6
JUSTDIAL	566	580.6	560.7	573.35
KAMBAROTAO	124.1	125.45	122.8	125.1
HEROMOTOCO	2,637.10	2,657.00	2,586.45	2,623.00
IDCFIRSTB	52.1	52.35	51.35	52.05
BHARTIARTL	318.4	326.25	315.75	324.5
HEG	1,840.00	1,842.65	1,767.80	1,792.45
M&MFIN	425	436.6	425	432.5
VEDL	175.15	175.95	171.15	174.85
NITITECH	1,304.25	1,314.00	1,299.25	1,310.50
HDFC	1,949.00	1,988.85	1,934.10	1,979.15
RNAM	192.45	211.15	191	208.3
ZEE	410.05	419.4	405.35	417.95
HINDUNILVR	1,745.00	1,759.80	1,734.05	1,752.75
CONCOR	510	510	497.5	503.25
TITAN	1,124.00	1,152.45	1,124.00	1,147.55
BRPL	319.15	349.45	339.15	348.5
GRAPHITE	420	423.65	406.25	408.65
TATAMTRDVR	113.25	113.25	104.75	108
CHOLAFIN	1,425.00	1,439.50	1,377.20	1,424.25
ASIANPAINT	1,435.00	1,458.45	1,433.65	1,449.15
BANDHANBNK	581.05	606.85	580.05	603.6
ADANIPOWER	52	53	51.15	52.65
IOC	151.1	154.3	150.9	153.8
AMBUJACEM	223.8	226	216.5	224.4
BAJAJFINSV	7,485.00	7,680.00	7,478.20	7,647.35
DREDDY	2,829.40	2,865.00	2,813.10	2,855.35
M&M	670	670	662	668
IDEA	17.1	17.7	17.05	17.2
JISULALEQS	58	59.5	57.25	59.15
RECLTD	147.35	151.5	146.8	150.6
BEML	910	921.55	903	906.7
INDIACEM	101	106.1	99.3	105.7
RPOWER	7.71	7.86	7.31	7.74
QUESS	686.6	715	685.2	689.45
TATAPOWER	685	687.75	674	677.5
CENTURYTEX	918	931	886.1	923.6
ABB	1,468.50	1,503.50	1,464.90	1,484.45
INFIBEAM	43.95	47.45	43.8	46.7
CANBK	274.95	274.95	268	273.4
EICHERMOT	20,350.00	20,595.65	20,175.70	20,546.40
JSWSTEEL	288	293.4	286.5	2

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

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

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

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

4.0 Tender will be closed at 15.00 hours on 21.05.2019.

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

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

1210/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

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

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

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

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



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

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

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

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Rubina**, D/o Madlub, R/o H. No. 221, Chajju Ram Colony, Kamruddin Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi, has been missing since Dated 02.04.2019. In this regard a D.D. No. 57-A, Dated 05.04.2019 has been registered at Police Station - Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 25 years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'1", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Wearing black & white Suit-Salwar and Chapple in feet.

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING



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

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

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

EASTER ATTACKS

SL Govt admits 'major' Intelligence lapses

President asks Defence Secretary, police chief to resign

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

The Islamic State has

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Nonsense' to link attacks to NZ: US denies providing intelligence

Senior Lankan Muslim official

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

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

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

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

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

foreign influence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

At least four Americans were killed in the attacks.

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

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

Sri Lankan authorities have started an investigation

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

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

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

Scottish leader calls for second independence vote by 2021

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

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

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

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

Trump threatens SC fight against impeachment

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

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

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

"The Mueller Report, despite being written by Angry Democrats and Trump Haters, and with unlimited money behind it (\$35,000,000), didn't lay a glove on me. I DID NOTHING WRONG," Trump wrote.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNHRC chief condemns 'shocking' Saudi mass executions

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

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

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

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date : April 25, 2019
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited.

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

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

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

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

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

Date : 24.04.2019
Place : NEW DELHI

Authorised Officer
(Syndicate Bank)

SEARCH FOR MISSING



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

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

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

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction)
III Western Railway, Churchgate, Mumbai-400 020 invites offer through e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in for the following tender : **Tender No. Dy.CE(C) ST/152. Name of work :** Laying and Linking of Railway Track, Point and Crossings, Transportation of P Way Material and other related works for remodeling of Udhna Yard in connection with 3rd line and work of 3rd line between Udhna to Surat (Km. 262.00-266.00 of Mumbai Division of Western Railway in connection with Udhna-Jalgaon Doubling project; **Cost of Tender form (In ₹) :** ₹ 10,000/-; **NIT Value (In ₹) :** ₹ 5,35,37,749.57; **EMD (In ₹) :** ₹ 4,17,700/-; **e-Bid closing date :** 15.05.2019 at 15.00 Hrs.; **e-Bid opening date :** 15.05.2019 at 15.30 Hrs.; The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available in electronic format on our website www.ireps.gov.in.

Like us on [Facebook.com/WesternRly12](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly12)

Trend Slazer

Looks aren't everything: PeeCee

Actress **PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS**, who has been named Beauty of the Year by People magazine, says she has realised that looks aren't everything. Priyanka has also realised that "in the world we live in, the standard of beauty is not real." Looking back at the time she started working in show business, she said, "I think I realised what all it takes to actually look the way we do on magazine covers and the work we do. That's when I realised looks aren't everything, it's the confidence with which you walk into a room, it's the ability to do your job to the best of your capabilities."



'Me and Alia (Bhatt) had so much fun shooting the song for Student of the Year 2. Personally, I have never done a dance number like that. Working with Alia was an amazing experience. Though she is such a big star, she was open and cooperative on set while shooting the song.'
—Tiger Shroff



Actress **PARINEETI CHOPRA** has been roped in for the Hindi remake of the American film *The Girl On The Train*. She has called it a "thrilling ride." She wrote on social media — "Hopping onto this thrilling ride! Excited to be a part of *The Girl On The Train* official Hindi remake. The psychological thriller will be produced by Reliance Entertainment. The Hollywood film was based on author Paula Hawkins' 2015 debut novel of the same name."



'Gemini Man, most demanding film'

Actor **WILL SMITH** says the emotional and physical challenges of making Ang Lees science-fiction thriller *Gemini Man* have been the most demanding of his career. "This is not only an action film, but an exploration of what one's younger self can ultimately teach one's older self. I'm 50 years old now, and the irony of becoming 23-year-old junior in this film is that 23-year-old me wouldn't have been ready for this experience or to take on this role. Our hope is that this story provides something for everyone — never before seen cinematic wizardry, nuanced, relatable characters and next-level action," he said. The film will release worldwide on October 11.



'ENDING IS NOT A SCARY WORD'

Anyone who saw *Avengers: Infinity War* knows that the directors weren't kidding about bringing this saga to a close as Thanos literally dissolved half of humanity, including Spider-Man and Black Panther in an event known as 'the snap' that's inspired tears, memes and more fan theories than the internet can hold

About five years ago, Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige found himself on a retreat in Palm Springs plotting the future for the wild, experimental "cinematic universe" that he helped start in 2008. He wanted to do something that they hadn't done. He wanted an ending.

And after a quick pitch to Robert Downey Jr, he, directors Anthony and Joe Russo and screenwriters Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, started plotting a way to bring this saga to a close, brainstorming whenever they had a moment — even in between takes of *Captain America: Civil War*.

Anyone who saw *Avengers: Infinity War* knows they weren't kidding around either. Thanos literally dissolved half of humanity, including Spider-Man and Black Panther in an event known as "the snap" that's inspired tears, memes and more fan theories than the internet can hold. Talk about a cliffhanger.

Endings are a rarity in the franchise movie-making business; especially when one's popularity has only multiplied as the movies of Marvel have. But Marvel Studios, which has never shied away from a little rule-breaking, is taking a sledgehammer to that old "don't leave money on the table" maxim, and audiences will finally be able to see how they do it when *Avengers: Endgame* opens nationwide today.

"Ending is not a scary word," Feige said. "It's a necessary word."

What exactly that means for the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is something of a state secret. Feige said that this will be "definitive," though.

"People can debate and discuss what that means before they see the movie," Feige said. "But for us that means bringing to a conclusion the first three phases, the first 22 films in the MCU, so that everything thereafter is a new start."

So "new" in fact that Feige won't even discuss what's to come beyond the July release of *Spider-Man: Far From Home*. He won't confirm reportedly in-the-works projects like the *Black Widow* stand-alone, *The Eternals* or *Shang-Chi*, or talk about plans for the 20th Century Fox properties like *Deadpool* and *X-Men* that are now under his purview. They have the next five years mapped out; they're just not letting audiences peek behind the curtain until after *Endgame*. It's that big.

"How we leave *Endgame* will help define where we're going for many people," Feige said. But how does one talk about a movie that no press has seen and no actors or creators are allowed to discuss in detail? Well, carefully and cryptically.

It was Robert Downey Jr.'s Tony Stark (Iron Man) who kicked things off for the MCU, and it's him who opens "Endgame" and most often takes centre stage. Providing even the most basic of plot points in *Endgame* is a fool's errand, but it's fair to say that it takes place some time after the rapture caused by the megalomaniac boulder Thanos (Josh Brolin). Having obtained all six of the "infinity stones," he wiped away 50 per cent of Earth's creatures (and superheroes) at the end of *Infinity War* with the snap of his fingers.

Rather than bask in the extra parking spaces and



uncrowded check-out aisles, the survivors have spent the ensuing time in a prolonged state of mourning. The remaining superheroes are also reeling, ashamed of their defeat. One has turned angry and vengeful, another has grown a beer belly. As nauseating as the aura of momentousness around *Endgame* has been for some, the movie — while certainly not lacking in ominous solemnity — is frequently funny, as the Russos, working from a script by Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, arrange their heroes in fresh pairings and unlikely contexts.

That's owed sizeably to the cast, which sports a number of top-tier comic actors, chief among them Downey Jr, but there's also the thankfully prominent Paul Rudd (Ant-Man) and *Avengers* regulars Chris Hemsworth (Thor) and Mark Ruffalo (the Hulk). While Marvel has improved in gender parity (Brie Larson's recently launched *Captain Marvel* plays a small but pivotal role here) its cosmos could still use some funny actresses. Can Maya Rudolph, please, be made queen of the galaxy?

From the previous outing, we knew some things. That the heroes left like Iron Man, Captain America (Chris Evans), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), Thor, Hulk and War Machine (Don Cheadle) are dealing with the devastating loss post-snap while trying to figure out what to do with Thanos. A helpful "Avenge the Fallen" campaign served as a reminder of who survived and who didn't (some of the dusted were even a surprise, like *Black Panther's* Shuri). We also know they have a new weapon in Brie Larson's *Captain Marvel*, who Samuel L Jackson's Nick Fury managed to page before dissolving into dust.

Characters die. But it is at least three clown cars worth of superheroes. Seldom, if ever, have more movie stars been brought together in one place; a film with this kind of collection of talent really can't help but be decent, at minimum.

Filming proved an emotional experience for many of the actors, a lot of whom have now been working together for almost a decade or more.

"I was pretty teary-eyed," Evans said. "This is the culmination of a really long endeavor. It kind

of wraps up the journey for a lot of these characters."

It led to a lot of reflection, about where they started and how they've grown. Johansson noted that she'd been developing her character for 10 years now, and is excited that Black Widow has evolved from a "sexy secretary" type to a more fully realised woman.

"The whole shoot felt pretty nostalgic," Hemsworth added. "We were constantly talking about when it all started to how we pulled this off and what we were a part of."

But he also admits he was "kind of happy to get off the set." An eight month shoot can wear even on Thor.

And indeed the shoot was grueling. The directors, who did *Winter Soldier*, *Civil War* and *Infinity War* said it was the hardest of their life. "This went far beyond anything we'd ever done before," said Anthony Russo. "There's a reason why movies aren't made this way normally."

But that this was unconventional was also the draw. "I think the only reason we stuck around, is because they were committed to an ending and we're deconstructionists," said Joe Russo. "We like to take things apart and see the ramifications of what happens. *Winter Soldier* the good guys became the bad guys, *Civil War*, we divorced the heroes, *Infinity War*, we killed half of them. We like to smash it and look at how you can put the pieces back together."

And no one, not even Feige, regrets putting the MCU on this one-way path. That's not to say he never second guesses himself, however.

Two weeks before *Infinity War* came out he had a moment of panic about the snap. "That ending was one of the reasons why we wanted to make the movie. That's how we sold it to Disney. We were confident in it," Feige said. "But then a week or two weeks before the film came out, I went, 'Oh no. We're killing all these people. What if the audience totally rejects it?'"

Generous in humor, spirit and sentimentality, *Endgame* is a surprisingly full feast of blockbuster-making that, through some time-traveling magic, looks back nostalgically at Marvel's decade of world domination. This is the Marvel machine working at high gear, in full control of its myth-making powers and uncovering more emotion in its fictional cosmos than ever before.

But the main difference is that a dose of finality has crept in to a universe where death is seldom visited on anyone but the bad guys. *Endgame* will likely be most remembered for its teary goodbyes. To say who would, of course, invite my own

An epic send-off

There were more than a few sniffles from the audience at the premiere of *Avengers: Endgame* in Los Angeles, which Chris Evans and Chris Hemsworth proudly admitted contributing to.

"I don't know about you, but I cried like six times," Evans said standing alongside dozens of his Marvel Cinematic Universe co-stars like Scarlett Johansson, Brie Larson and Robert Downey Jr after the first public screening of the film.

Hemsworth chimed in too, "I cried more than six times, Chris."

It was an emotional affair for many as the film closes the book on the first 11 years and 22 films of the MCU, and ends the year-long cliffhanger of *Infinity War*, in which half of humanity turned to dust. And, as Hemsworth reminded on the purple carpet, "this grouping may never happen again."

Marvel and Walt Disney Co held the premiere in a fittingly massive setting, taking over the Los Angeles Convention Center and constructing a 2,000-seat movie theater, including a large format screen and Dolby sound, inside.

Disney Chairman and CEO Bob Iger kicked off the evening with a special thanks to two people — Downey, "the person who really helped to start it all," and Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige, who he called, "our own superhero."

The event was a who's who of Marvel and Hollywood, with actors and directors from MCU films past and present turning out to see the film, including the likes of Natalie Portman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Bradley Cooper, Jon Favreau and even Matt Damon, who some may remember had a cameo in *Thor: Ragnarok*. Luke Hemsworth, Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus also came out to see the film and support their family.

Initial reactions from press and insiders were largely positive with the words "epic" and "emotional" being tossed out by



many. Letitia Wright, who plays Shuri in *Black Panther*, tweeted, "Wow, I feel like crying... it was amazing."

The *New York Times*' Dave Karger wrote that he was, "Not prepared for the range of emotions that #Endgame put me through, from utter despair to pure elation."

Entertainment Weekly's Anthony Breznican added, "Epic is the word. Epic multiplied by a decade of emotion, excitement and investment. This is the payoff. It left me with a full heart."

And People Magazine's Kara Warner said to "see it as soon as you can and go in as blind as possible."

The film has been kept under wraps until the very last minute in the hopes of allowing general audiences to go into it spoiler free. Even still, some spoiler-y footage leaked on social media last week before being taken down.

"I wasn't pleased," Feige said. "But the response was what I expected, which was everybody turning it off, dismissing, don't watch it, don't spoil it for anybody else. People are excited to see the movie fresh. People are excited to see the movie for the first time. That's what they've been waiting a year, or 12 years, depending on where you joined us. So, I'm excited that that day is finally here." —AP

demise. But the send-offs, tender and sincere, capture something about the *Avengers* films. At their root, they are about family. Never has that been more apparent than in the daughters, fathers, sons, mothers, sisters, brothers and spouses that populate *Endgame*, making up the connections that bind this fantasy realm — one that, for all its turmoil, is far more unified than ours.

Other farewells are more legitimately sombre. The late Stan Lee here makes his final cameo, and it's a good one. Lee's swan song, as much as anything, verifies

that *Endgame* marks the end of an era. The conclusion of this chapter in the MCU, of course, won't last long; Marvel's assembly lines are already humming. And I suspect it will be some time before we understand just what Marvel has wrought with these movies. At their worst, they are colossal, inhuman products built for a supersized form of binge-watching. At their best, they are grand, mega-sized Hollywood spectacles. It's not a spoiler to say that *Endgame* verges more on the latter. —AP

The myth and the reality

GAURAV CHOPRA's new show, *Aghori*, changes the perceptions about this little-known cult, says AYUSHI SHARMA

The mere mention of Aghoris triggers an image of fear, intrigue, mystique and bafflement in our minds, simply because little is known about this reclusive cult of *sadhus*. The instant visual that floats before the eyes is that of an ash-smeared man with intense eyes, sporting dreadlocks, reciting verses and, the most intriguing aspect of all, practising cannibalism. But there's so much more to them than what meets the eyes. Did you know that a man who looks just like us, has a job and seems well-adjusted socially could also be a worshipper of Aghora? Well, actor Gaurav Chopra's forthcoming show *Aghori* revolves around the same concept. He appraises us that Aghoris, contrary to their general perception, are actually healers.

He explains that the impression that we have of them is based on misconception. "An Aghori is somebody who follows a life of an Aghor, which is disciplined and does not demarcate between oneself and another human being. Practitioners are the purest and can feel you like a beehive. Many Aghoris are part of modern society but at the same time also follow the discipline of an Aghor. Just the way there are all kinds of people — Hindus, Christians, Muslims — similarly all kinds of Aghoris exist. They are the victims of stereotypes. There are convictions that get exaggerated

over a period of time. And once exaggerated, they become a type-cast for the entire community. This show will reveal what they are meant to do and how they actually are."

The *Uttaran* actor clarifies that Aghoris are followers of Shiva. And the God has two forms — of the maker and of the destroyer. As a manifestation of the latter, they practise their craft on cremation grounds which have an all-pervasive sense of death.

"Everything comes from the God who kills and he kills because he has to give you another life," says the actor with finality ringing in his voice.

However, he disagrees with those people who might argue that shows like this feed myths and make them grow bigger. "I don't want to talk about myths. I'm trying to explain the truth. Within them also there are good and bad versions. There are those who go towards the cult and others who go towards *tantra*. This can happen to anybody just like people get corrupted in office

with the sense of power. In a similar manner, when they acquire these powers, some Aghoris direct their energies towards *tantra*."

People often refer to them as super humans and they do have immense powers as compared to an ordinary person. "But it's up to them where they channelise the power. It is nothing but energy. And that's exactly what this story is centered around — the fight between good and evil. Even if Ravan wouldn't have abducted Sita, Ram, the protector of the good, would have killed evil," he adds.

Gaurav explains further that it is also the attitude which makes them different. He says, "As an Aghori, I don't see a difference between you and me or on account of colour and creed. I don't have anger, vengeance or jealousy. All the powers and the *siddhis* that he acquires is used for healing. For instance, there's pain in my wrist and it's bothering me, I'll do something about it, probably go to a doctor. Similarly, if you have a pain in your wrist, I'll



do something about that too. Your pain is my pain."

What if a girl happens to fall in love with a seemingly ordinary man and later discovers that he is actually an Aghori? What if he has consciously held back his true identity for a hidden motive? Gaurav tells us that it is a story of love, mysticism and deceit. "It will shatter all the stereotypes surrounding love and happy endings. It will also present a saga which is set against the backdrop of the Aghori world," he says.

Gaurav had his reasons for signing up for the show. He says, "When you have been around for so many years and have given successful shows, people start slotting you. Every time they construct another character which is similar to what you have played before, they call you. However, as an actor, you feel trapped because how will you explore and do new things? The whole point of being an actor is to be versatile where one can play different roles and live different lives."

To play such a character requires a lot of research. Gaurav

had 100 questions when he heard the script and he says, "I didn't want to misrepresent Aghoris. I definitely don't want to wreck something which is so sacred. I watched many documentaries and did the groundwork. I was surprised to see that there are Aghoris who are engineers and are well-educated. It is just a way of life. It doesn't have to be in a form of a *sadhu*."

Did his opinion change after doing this show? Well, he says that he had to modify his outlook even before he started doing it because "how will I play with conviction if I do not get myself into the skin of the character?"

However, this show is not the only thing that he has up his sleeve. Gaurav teases us about *Avengers: Endgame*, by saying that he is probably the only person who has seen the much-hyped film as "I am the official voice behind the character of Thor in the Hindi version," he chuckles.

(The show will soon premiere on Zee TV.)

NEW ENERGY ALLIANCE

The 4th Trans India Law Associates (TILA) International Energy Conference was recently organised by Dr Gopal Energy Foundation (DEGEF) and brought together key stakeholders from across the world to boost the power sector

The 4th Trans India Law Associates (TILA) International Energy Conference was organised by the Dr Gopal Energy Foundation (DEGEF) at New Delhi recently. The international event was inaugurated by the director general of the International Solar Alliance, Upendra Tripathi. The chief guest on the occasion released the 'Right to Energy Declaration' and launched the 'TICE Achievers Award 2020', for institutions and/or individuals who contribute to accelerate the pace of energy revolution through various innovative means. The dignitaries present on the occasion included the managing director of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), J N Swain, the managing director of PTC, Pawan Singh, the managing director of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), KS Popli, Anjali Chandra from Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) and Ramesh Chaudhry from BEREC, among others.

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

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



among others. The international community, including representatives from the Solar Alliance, Electricity Regulatory Commission, public sector undertaking units, energy funding agencies and various financial corporations, participated in this conference.

The convener of the conference, Raj Singh Niranjani, who is also an energy law expert and the managing partner of TILA, said that the objective of the conference is to bring about an 'energy revolution' by bringing together all key stakeholders on a single platform. This would allow them all to discuss the existing government's initiatives, policies and innovative ideas and to suggest potential measures for a wholesome implementation of the Indian government's initiative (Urja Kranti) to remove the course of



energy poverty in India. Some of the themes on which the delegates deliberated included sovereign fund/lending to the power sector and state regulatory bodies. During the conference, the delegates and

energy experts from across the globe resolved to observe April 15th as 'Right to Energy Day' every year. Keeping in view the above, the 5th TILA International Conference on Energy 2020 will be convened on

April 15 in New Delhi. The conference was supported by leading companies in the energy sector like Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), IREDA, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation India Limited (THD-CIL), Satluj Jal Vidut Limited (SJVNL), Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMCL), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC), Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO), Patel Engineering, Jakson, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Gujarat Metro, Maharashtra Metro, PTC Financial Services and others. Trans India Law Associates, the legal adviser to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was the knowledge partner of the conference.

Ayurveda keeps your liver healthy

According to Dr Partap Chauhan, the director of Jiva Ayurveda, natural herbs are the best remedies to keep the body functioning perfectly

The liver (Yakrit), is a vital organ. It converts *rasa dhatu* to *rakta dhatu* (blood). It also produces bile (*ranjak pitta*) and detoxifies the body, eliminating *ama* from the blood. Wrong diet and lifestyle damages the liver tissues and leads to diseases like jaundice, fatty liver and hepatitis. Thankfully, Ayurveda can help. Include these five simple Ayurvedic herbs in your life to keep your liver healthy.



contain guduchi. The herb also has known benefits in treating *Kamala* (jaundice), hepatitis and fatty liver. Guduchi should be taken under the guidance of an Ayurvedic doctor.

KUTKI: This bitter tasting herb is cooling in nature and has a cleansing effect on the liver and the gallbladder. In Ayurveda, *kutki* is prescribed to improve the appetite and to



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

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



cools down the body and balances all *tridoshas* in the body. *Triphala* churna can be taken by anyone every night before bed.

TURMERIC: This yellow herb supports liver functions and cleanses the blood. It can also aid the process of transforming *rasa* into *rakta*.



Turmeric also promotes elimination of toxins from the body. In most cases, you do not need to take any additional turmeric if you already use it in your meals.

ALOE VERA: Aloe vera juice flushes toxins out of the liver (hepatotoxicity) and promotes



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

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

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

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

India-Russia to strengthen bilateral trade

In an attempt to fulfill the aspirations of the Indo-Russian business fraternity, the first ever national level participation in the sixth edition of the Irkutsk International Trade Fair, Irkutsk, Russia (August 21 to 24, 2019) is being organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) at the Irkutsk Exhibition Complex in Russia.

The event aims to carry forward the momentum to further strengthen the bilateral trade relations and provide an excellent business platform to the Indian companies in Russia's untapped Balkan region. The event will feature bonhomie of the people of Russia towards Indian products as they have a special place in their hearts. Significantly, the event will be visited by the companies from main cities of Siberia, Russia and India's neighboring countries like China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belorussia and so on.

India's participation assumes special significance as both the countries have made a resolution to set a target for US\$ 30 billion in bilateral trade by 2025 and both the countries are working together towards developing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to facilitate this target. This also includes the sale of commodities along with civil nuclear energy and defense equipment. The multi-product B2B and B2C event is being held with the support of the Embassy of India in Russia, the Government of Irkutsk Region, the East Siberian Chamber of Commerce and the Industry and City Administration of

the Irkutsk city. India's country level participation will bring the two countries together to work jointly towards integrating them into a regional value chain, thereby promoting mutual trade and investment.

The multi-product display profile includes goods and industries including engineering goods, information technology, renewable energy, electronics, building and construction industry (hardware, sanitary ware, ceramics, tiles, interior and décor), pharmaceutical, chemicals, medical and surgical equipment, apparel, textiles and handloom, jewellery, handicrafts,

THE EVENT AIMS TO STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING PACTS AND PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT BUSINESS PLATFORM TO INDIAN COMPANIES IN RUSSIA'S UNTAPPED BALKAN REGION

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

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



INDIAN COAST GUARD COMMISSIONS NEW SHIP



A new coast guard vessel — AC-441—was commissioned at the Vizhinjam Harbour by the chief secretary of the Government of Kerala, Tom Jose. He commissioned the ship into the series in a ceremonial function hosted under the aegis of the Regional Commander Western Region, Inspector General Vijay D Chafekar, PTM, TM. The function was witnessed by senior officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, BSF, police, Airport Authority of India, Central and state authorities and the National Cadet Corps. It was conducted with full ceremony of parading the guard and the band. The Indian Coast Guard ship C-441 is capable to undertake multifarious tasks such as close coast sur-



veillance, interdiction, search and rescue and rendering assistance to boats and crafts in distress at sea. It will enhance the search and rescue capacity of Kerala seas.

The ship is commanded by Assistant Commandant Amit K Choudhary, TM and has a 13 member crew onboard with specialisation in various fields.

'Muthoot Vishwaas Ki Tijori' bags Silvers at Abby Awards



At the recently concluded Goafest 2019, Muthoot Finance's 45-day mega activation effort at the Prayagraj Kumbh 2019 called 'Muthoot Vishwaas Ki Tijori', bagged the Silver Medal at the Abby Awards 2019. Abhinav Iyer, DGM (Marketing and Strategy) accepted the award on behalf of the brand.

Partnered with Radio Mirchi, 'Muthoot Vishwaas Ki Tijori' offered technology-enabled, free locker services for all devotees. This is for the first time in the history of the Kumbh Mela, that locker services were offered to all visitors to keep their personal belongings safe before they proceed to have their holy dip.

It was observed that more often than not, people coming for the festival found it a major challenge to keep their valuables safely and had to leave their personal belongings unattended on the banks of the

river and thus were unable to focus or enjoy having a peaceful holy dip. Identifying this problem, Muthoot Finance decided to leverage on its core asset of 'trust' and offer this unique solution.

Powered by a specially designed mobile App, online e-KYC was done while availing this service. Photographs of their belongings were taken and a physical confirmation document along with the photograph of their belongings was given to the depositors, providing them an added layer of assurance. The lockers were also equipped with 24x7 CCTV surveillance systems, security guards, metal detectors, alarm systems, fire extinguisher and other essentials to ensure added safety. On their return, their belongings and identity was re-verified and handed over to them in the same pristine condition. To sweeten

their experience, all their belongings were returned in Muthoot branded biodegradable non-plastic bags along with some interesting goodies.

To add to this, the exterior design and overall look and feel of the locker too was like that of an actual golden vault which by itself became a spectator's delight. During the activation, more than 10,000 beneficiaries availed this free service thereby, letting more than 50,000 family members have a peaceful holy dip during their Kumbh visit.

In addition to the above, innovative Muthoot Boat Services were also introduced to ferry people. Free transit shelter homes were also organised at multiple cities for devotees, free of cost. For overseas visitors who converged for this festival, Muthoot Forex helped them with instant foreign exchange services.

First knowledge-sharing workshop between PRSI chapters in Bhopal

The first knowledge sharing workshop between the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) Chapters was conducted in Bhopal recently, under the patronage of Pushendra Pal Singh, the chairman of the Bhopal Chapter and Naresh Kumar, the chairman of the Delhi Chapter. The former general manager (PR) of the Airport Authority of India, G S Bawa, was also present on this occasion. The workshop was organised by the Bhopal Chapter of PRSI on the occasion of the National Public Relation Day. The event was attended by professionals from the industry and students of the Makhlanal Chaturvedi University.



IndianOil's Northern region observes safety week



IndianOil's Northern Region kicked off the 'Safety Week' celebrations by observing the 'National Fire Service Day' to create awareness on fire prevention, fire protection and renew its employees' commitment towards safety. The company's employees undertook the safety pledge which was followed by various safety awareness events and competitions. A safety training program for contract workers of the Northern Regional office was also organised during

the week, wherein, inputs were provided to all the workers on usage of various fire and safety equipment, fire chemistry, fire organogram and emergency evacuation procedure. An exhibition of fire and safety equipment, inaugurated by Harsh Sachdev, Executive Director (Regional Services), IndianOil, Northern Region, was also set up to refresh the operating knowledge. He also released a booklet on 'Safety Briefing'.

PU CHITRA GIVES 3RD GOLD

Palakeezh defends 1500m title to win yellow metal; Ajay wins Silver as Dutee settles for Bronze

PTI ■ DOHA

PU Chitra led the charge with a Gold in women's 1500m race as India picked up four medals on the fourth and final day of competitions to end at fourth at the medal tally in the Asian Athletics Championships here on Wednesday.

Chitra defended the title she had won in the 2017 edition to give India its third Gold medal while Ajay Kumar Saroj (men's 1500m) and the women's 4x400m relay team clinched a Silver each at the Khalifa Stadium.

Sprinter Dutee Chand added a Bronze in women's 200m to take India's medal tally to 3 Gold, 7 Silver and 7 Bronze.

But there was a late drama as India was initially declared to have won a Silver in men's 4x400m relay with a time of 3:03.28, behind Japan (3:02.94) but the jury later disqualified the team for impeding an athlete after protest by China. The disqualification was done under rule 163.2.

India filed an appeal against the jury's decision to disqualify its team from the 4x400m relay race but it was rejected.

China, who initially finished third, was given the Silver while Qatar was upgraded to Bronze from fourth position.

The jolt reduced India's total medal by one from 18 to 17 but did not, however, result to any changes in India's standing in the medal tally.

India had won 29 medals (12 Gold, 5 Silver, 12 Bronze) in the last edition in Bhubaneswar in 2017, topping the medal tally for



Lili Das, right, hugs compatriot Chitra Unnikrishnan Palakeezh for winning Gold in the women's 1500m-race final at the Asian Athletics Championships in Doha

the first time. This time, Bahrain topped the medal tally with 11 Gold, 7 Silver and 4 Bronze, followed by China (10 Gold, 13 Silver, 7 Bronze),



Indian athletes celebrate after winning Silver in the men's 4x400 relay race

AP did that in 2017 while Bahrain did the same this time.

India's tally of 17 medals can be considered creditable as the team was a depleted one without some of the medal contenders, including star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, due to injuries.

The championships as usual did not see some of the best athletes in the world who preferred to focus on the World Championships to be held at the same venue in September-October.

For India, the spotlight of the final day fell on Chitra as she beat two Bahraini runners to clinch the Gold in the women's 1500m race. She overtook Bahraini runner Tigest Gashaw just a few metres before the finishing line to win the race in 4 minute 14.56 seconds.

While Chitra defended her title, her male counterpart Saroj (1500m) and the women's 4x400m relay team failed to do the same.

Saroj, who had won Gold in 2017, clocked a season best time of 3 minute 43.18 seconds to clinch a Silver behind Bahrain's Abraham Kipchirchir Rotich who clocked 3:42.85.

The women's 4x400m relay quartet of Prachi, Poovamma, Saritaben Gayakwad and VK Vismaya finished second with a time of 3:32.21, behind the Bahraini quartet who clocked 3:32.10.

Dutee, who had finished a disappointing fifth in the 100m final on Tuesday after smashing national record twice, clocked 23.24 seconds to win the Bronze in the women's 200m.

After falling behind in the first 100m, she covered a lot of ground in the final 100m stretch and got past three competitors at the finish line.

The 23-year-old Dutee, who had won a 200m Silver in the Jakarta Asian Games, still missed the World Championships qualifying mark of 23.02. She has a personal best of 23.00.

Wrestlers bagged five medals

PTI ■ XI'AN

Indian wrestlers reaped a rich-harvest of five medals in men's freestyle events but a Gold medal eluded them on the second day of the Asian Championships here on Wednesday.

All the five wrestlers who competed on Wednesday won a medal each but none could add Gold on the second day after Bajrang Punia clinched a yellow metal in 65kg men's freestyle on Tuesday.

Amit Dhankar and Vicky lost their respective Gold medal bouts in the 74kg and 92kg respectively. Rahul Aware (61kg), Deepak Punia (86kg) and Sumit (125kg) swelled the Indian medal tally with a Bronze each.

With the two Silver and three Bronze medals on Wednesday, India's medal tally went up to one Gold, three Silver and four Bronze.

Dhankar, who won a Gold in 66kg in the 2013 edition, lost to Daniyar Kaisanov of Kazakhstan 0-5 in the final.

"It is a little disappointing to not have got the Gold for India once again. This loss will motivate me to strive further and give my very best for the upcoming tournaments and try to secure the Olympic berth at the World Championships later this year," said Dhankar after his bout.

Vicky got a walkover in the quarter-finals as his opponent — Muhammad Inam of Pakistan — did not turn up for the bout. In the semifinals, he had a narrow 3-2 win over Xiao Sun of China.

But in the Gold medal bout, Alireza Mohammad Karimimachiani of Iran was too good for Vicky and the Indian was completely outplayed in a 0-11 Victory by Technical Superiority verdict.

"I wish I could have changed the score but my opponent was unfortunately too good. I hope to put in hard yards at training and make India proud in the next few tournaments coming up," said Vicky on his Silver medal.

Aware, who won a 57kg Gold at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, produced a dominant display to beat Jincheol Kim of Korea 9-2 in the men's 61kg freestyle Bronze medal play-off.

After beating Jahongirmirza Turobov of Uzbekistan by technical superiority (10-



0) in the qualification round, the 27-year-old Indian lost to Behnam Eshagh Ehsanpoor of Iran in the quarterfinals in a Victory by Fall verdict.

But since Ehsanpoor reached the final, Aware was up against Siripong Jumpakam of Thailand in the repechage round which he won 12-1 by virtue of technical superiority.

In the 86kg freestyle, Bronze medal play-off, Deepak beat Bakhodur Kodirov of Tajikistan 8-2.

For Sumit, it was a lucky Bronze as he lost straightaway in the quarterfinals against Zhiwei Deng of China 0-3. But since Deng reached the final, Sumit made his way to the Bronze-medal play-off, where he crushed Farkhod Anakulov of Tajikistan 8-2.

On Thursday, the women wrestlers will begin their challenge. Seema (50kg), Lalita Shrawat (55kg), Manju (59kg), Divya Kakran (68kg) and Pooja (76kg) will be in action.

SINGLES

L'POOL REVEAL PRE-SEASON US TOUR

LIVERPOOL: Premier League title contenders Liverpool will head to the United States for their pre-season tour ahead of the 2019-20 campaign, the club announced on Tuesday. Liverpool, currently leading the Premier League by two points, have announced three friendlies in the US to fine-tune their preparations for next season. The Reds will take on manager Jurgen Klopp's former club Borussia Dortmund in the first competitive match in Indiana, on July 19. Liverpool then fly to Boston where they will play Sevilla on July 21 at Fenway Park. Their final match of the tour is against Sporting Lisbon on July 24 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

INIESTA NAMED CAPTAIN AT VISSSEL KOBE

TOKYO: Barcelona legend Andres Iniesta has been handed the captain's armband at J-League outfit Vissel Kobe, the club announced, part of a shake-up following the sacking of their manager last week. The club tweeted a picture of Iniesta holding the armband announcing him as the new captain, with defender Daigo Nishi and midfielder Hotaru Yamaguchi named as co-captains. World Cup-winning Iniesta, who lifted 32 major trophies with Barcelona, signed for Kobe last May in a historic J-League deal worth a reported \$30 million a year. The 34-year-old plays alongside fellow veterans former Germany striker Lukas Podolski and former Barca and Spain team mate David Villa.

ATP FINALS SET FOR TURIN FROM 2021

PARIS: The ATP Finals, the annual event bringing together the top eight men's players in the world, will take place in Turin, Italy, from 2021 to 2025, the ATP said on Wednesday. The elite showdown which closes the men's tennis season has been held in London since 2009. "The five-year agreement will see the world's greatest players in men's professional tennis compete for the biggest indoor tennis title in the world at Turin's Pala Alpitour stadium, Italy's largest indoor sporting arena," the ATP said in a statement. Turin will be the 15th venue and the first in Italy to host the event introduced in 1970 as the biggest men's tennis tournament of the season after the four grand slams.

SARRI CHARGED WITH MISCONDUCT

LONDON: Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association following his late dismissal in Monday's 2-2 draw with Burnley. The 60-year-old Italian has until Friday to answer to the charge. Sarri's assistant Gianfranco Zola claimed after the match that the decision to send his compatriot to the stands was unfair as he "was just trying to tell our players to get in position". Maurizio Sarri has been charged with misconduct in relation to his behaviour in the 94th minute of Monday's (22/04/2019) Premier League fixture between Chelsea and Burnley, read an FA statement. "The Chelsea manager has until 18:00 (1700 GMT) on Friday (26/04/2019) to provide a response."

MANU, HEENA FAIL TO MAKE FINAL

BEIJING: Teen sensation Manu Bhaker and the seasoned Heena Sidhu looked off colour as both failed to make the final in the 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup here on Wednesday. In the qualification round, Manu shot 575 to end in 17th the spot while Heena shot 572 to finished at the 26th position. Korea's Kim Minjung won Gold in the event with a score of 245 in the final on day 2 of the competition. In the Men's 3P event, Chain Singh's qualifying round effort of 1165 got him 27th place while Parul Kumar shot 1164 for the 33rd position. Senior marksman Sanjeev Rajput was languishing at the 58th spot with a score of 1145. In the two medal events of the day Yashaswani Singh Deswal's 10th place finish in the women's 10m Air Pistol was the best Indian performance.

Pugilists aim to continue marauding run in semis

PTI ■ BANGKOK

The men have already equalled their best ever medal haul, while the women have maintained their consistent domination to put India on top of the standings ahead of the semifinals of the Asian Boxing Championships here on Thursday.

Thirteen of the country's boxers — seven men and six women — are assured of at least Bronze medals after advancing to the last-four stage of the marquee continental championship.

The performance has placed India ahead of powerhouses Kazakhstan (seven men and four women) and China (two men and eight women).



The men in medal rounds are Deepak Singh (49kg), Amit Panghal (52kg), Kavinder Bisht (56kg), Shiva Thapa (60kg), Ashish (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg) & Satish Kumar (+91kg).

Nikhata Zareen (51kg), Manisha (54kg), Sonia Chahal (57kg), L Sarita Devi (60kg), Simranjit Kaur (64kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) make up India's representation in the women's semifinals.

Wednesday is rest day in the tournament, being held simultaneously for men and women for the first time.

"So far we have done exceptionally well but now comes the big test. All these semifinals are being treated as finals," India's High Performance Director Santiago Nieve said.

The best performance by men was in 2009, which led to seven medals in India's kitty, including one Gold. The best by women was back in 2005 in Taiwan when India finished overall champions with 11 medals, seven of them Gold.

The Indian juggernaut has been unstoppable so far and national coach C A Kuttappa said rediscovering the aggressive streak has been vital to the success.

"It's good to be cautious when you are faced with a tough opponent but overall it is better if you make a statement from the word go. That's what we have succeeded in doing consistently here," he said.

Indian challenge ends at Worlds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian challenge at 2019 ITTF World Championships came to an end when G Sathiyam lost to Hugo Calderano of Brazil in men's singles round of 32 in Budapest on Wednesday.

The Brazilian, ranked No 7 in the world, took less than 30 minutes to put it across the top-ranked Indian 11-6, 11-3, 11-9, 11-9 and move into the pre-quarterfinals.

However, it was creditable that Sathiyam had reached the round of 32 in this prestigious event.

Sathiyam, who had secured a berth in the Chengdu World Cup, had finished sixth in the Asian Cup held at Yokohama recently.

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Nadal battles back to beat Mayer

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Rafael Nadal survived a nearly scare at the Barcelona Open on Wednesday by coming from a set down to beat Argentina's Leonardo Mayer and seal his place in the last 16.

Nadal, who is attempting to win the tournament for a record 12th time, was made to work hard for his 6-7 (7/9), 6-4, 6-2 victory as the world number two avoided a surprise defeat ahead of the start of the French Open next month.

Fellow Spaniard David Ferrer now awaits Nadal in the next round, with a place in the quarter-finals at stake. Nadal has won all of his last four meetings with Ferrer.

Mayer, ranked 63rd in the world, had never beaten a top-five opponent in 15 attempts but was more than a match for a nervous-looking Nadal in the opening set.

Nadal will be gunning for title number 12 at Roland Garros too and this recovery

will have given him much relief, after the 17-time major champion also made an early exit in Monte Carlo earlier this month.

A poor game allowed Nadal to break to love at 4-3 in the first set but Mayer hit back for 5-5 and held on for a tie-break.

Nadal looked in control after recovering from 3-1 and 4-2 down to set up two set points but he squandered both before Mayer took his chance at the first time of asking, a booming forehand enough to clinch the set.

An early break at the start of the second set Nadal on his way and he served out at 5-4 to take the match to a decider. Mayer seemed to have lost belief as he dumped a simple backhand volley into the net, allowing his opponent to seize a crucial break at 2-2.

From there, the momentum was set as Nadal whipped a forehand down the line for 5-2 and then served out to complete a hard-fought win.

ANKITA STUNS FORMER US OPEN CHAMP STOSUR

PTI ■ ANNING

India's top women's singles player Ankita Raina shocked former US Open champion Samantha Stosur for the biggest win of her career, progressing to the second round of Kunming Open here on Wednesday.

The Indian, an Asian Games Bronze medalist, shocked the fabled Australian 7-5, 2-6, 6-5 in a gruelling two hours and fifty minutes battle at the WTA 125K event.

This is the second time the two faced off, with Stosur winning their last encounter in straight sets.

The 26-year-old Indian struggled to hold her and managed only three aces throughout the match compared to Stosur, who smashed seven aces. However, the world No 77 made more errors — 18 double faults — compared to Ankita's six.

She will face Kai-Lin Zhang of China in the second round.

Petkovic sets up duel with Kerber

AFP ■ STUTTGART

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

World number five Kerber was granted a bye to the second round after Simona Halep withdrew from the tournament with an injury, and will now face her friend and compatriot in an all-German duel on Thursday.

"I will send Angie a SMS or two this evening," said Petkovic after beating Tormo 6-3, 6-4.

"Usually, the loser has to buy the other one dinner," she added.

In the other ties Belgium's Greet Minnen sprung a surprise when she beat Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova, ranked 159 places above her, to set up a second round meeting with world number three Petra Kvitova.

Laura Siegemund became the third German to reach the second round when she beat Ukrainian Lesia

Sindhu, Saina enter 2nd round, Srikanth exits

PTI ■ WUHAN

Top Indian shuttlers P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal notched up contrasting wins to enter the second round but Kidambi Srikanth suffered a shock defeat in the Asia Badminton Championship here on Wednesday.

Olympic and world championship Silver-medallist Sindhu eased past Takahashi Sayaka of Japan in straight games.

Sindhu looked in command from the beginning and registered a thumping 21-14, 21-7 victory in just 28 minutes. The fourth-seeded Indian will next face Choirunnisa of Indonesia.

World number nine Saina had to work hard to get the better of China's Han Yue.

The seventh-seeded Indian came back strongly to pull off a thrilling 12-21, 21-11, 21-17 win after conceding the first game. She will next square off against Kim Ga Eun of South Korea.

In men's singles, fifth seed Srikanth lost to Indonesia's Shesar Hiren Rhustavito in 16-21, 20-22 in a match that lasted 44 minutes.

Sameer Verma notched up a hard-fought 21-13, 17-21, 21-18 victory over Sakai Kazumasa of Japan.

It was end of the road for the men's doubles pair of M R Arjun and Ramchandran Shlok, who went down 18-21, 15-21 to the duo of He Jiting and Tan Qiang.

In the women's doubles event India's campaign came to end as all three pairs lost their matches. Meghana Jakkampudi and Poorvisha S Ram lost 21-13, 21-16 to the Thai pair followed by Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh going down 21-13, 12-21, 21-12.

Aparna Balan-Sruthi K were ousted after a 12-21, 10-21 loss in just 25 minutes to the unseeded Singaporean pairing of Jin Yujia and Sugiarto and Barkah Yulifra.



Tsurenko, while Anna-Lena Friedsam went down fighting in two sets against Dutch sixth seed Kiki Bertens.

Earlier in the day, Elise Mertens of Belgium was knocked out by Russia's Darya Kasatkina, and Anastasiya Sevastova overcame fellow Latvian Jelena Ostapenko in a rollercoaster battle over three sets.

LEADERBOARD

RUNS	574	David Warner (SRH)
WICKETS	23	Kagiso Rabada (DC)
6S	539	WE HAVE THREE AWAY GAMES NOW OUT OF FOUR AND WE HAVE TO WIN THOSE GAMES TO QUALIFY.
4S	1198	— BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

IPL 2019



Up Next

Struggling KKR seek turnaround

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2

HEAD TO HEAD

M 19

KKR 10

RR 9

KOLKATA

THURSDAY 8:00 PM

PTI ■ KOLKATA



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

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

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

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

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

The famed trio of Kuldeep

AB POSITIVE

De Villiers (82* off 44 balls) and 3 spectacular catches help RCB beat Kings XI Punjab by 17 runs and complete hat-trick of wins

PTI ■ BANGALORE

Naveed Saini's fabulous penultimate over kept Royal Challengers Bangalore afloat as they beat Kings XI Punjab by 17 runs in an Indian Premier League encounter here on Wednesday.

AB de Villiers' unbeaten 82 off 44 balls took RCB to a healthy 202 for 4 and things could have gone awry with young Nicholas Pooran (46 off 28 balls) hitting five sixes at the rear before Saini sealed it in the 19th over. Kings XI Punjab finished at 185 for 7 as RCB are now on eight points with three games left.

Needing 30 off the last two, Saini (2/33), who is one of India's fastest bowlers produced a hostile over in which he removed the dangerous David Miller and Pooran but more importantly gave away only three runs.

Saini bowled fast and into the body of the batsmen, who couldn't really get going and his aggression became the defining factor in the end.

Defending 27 runs off the final over, Umesh Yadav (3/33) was better than the other night against CSK as he got a couple of wickets.

With four wins in the last five games, RCB will hope to win the remaining three and expect a few favourable result to make it to the play-offs as rank outsiders.

Kings XI Punjab started the chase in earnest as KL Rahul (42 off 27 balls) and Chris Gayle (23 off 10 balls) added 42 in less than four overs to set the ball rolling.



Mayank Agarwal (35 off 21 balls) continued the flurry of fours during his 59-run stand with Rahul.

Rahul and Mayank were out in quick succession before Pooran and David Miller (24) took charge with some lusty hitting added 68 off 8 overs as it boiled down to 30 off the final two overs. However both Saini

and Umesh did well to get another two points for the RCB.

Earlier, AB de Villiers' scintillating half century and a 121-run stand with Marcus Stoinis propelled Royal Challengers Bangalore to 202 for four after being put into bat.

Sent into bat, De Villiers scored a brilliant unbeaten 82 off 44 balls with three fours and

seven sixes, while Stoinis hammered 46 off 34 balls with two fours and three sixes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Kuldeep's IPL form won't impact his WC performance'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kuldeep Yadav's sudden loss of form in the ongoing IPL will not in any way impact his performance in the World Cup where he will have ample chance of a comeback, feels senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

Kuldeep, who is expected to be a vital cog in India's World Cup campaign, has got only four wickets in nine games for Kolkata Knight Riders and was dropped in the last game against Sunrisers Hyderabad due to "poor form".

"There is no doubt that Kuldeep is going through a rough patch in IPL. T20 is a format which can destroy the confidence of any bowler but let's not compare formats. One-day (match) is a different ball game and you will see a very different Kuldeep," Harbhajan said.

Harbhajan said from what he has seen Kuldeep bowling in the IPL, the wrist spinner has no technical problems as such.

"I have watched a bit of his bowling and I don't think there is any technical problems. And please check who all are hitting Kuldeep? The Indian guys are primarily hitting him. Virat (Kohli) in two games, Mayank (Agarwal), Mandy (Mandeep), Prithvi Shaw, Shreyas Iyer, Shikhar Dhawan.

"Leave aside Virat, who is in a different league, all these guys are competent players of spin bowling. They read Kuldeep's wrists much better than foreign batsmen. So in World Cup, Kuldeep will be bowling mostly to those who are still not reading him well. I think you will see a different Kuldeep," said Harbhajan, who has played two World Cup finals.



Spurs on course for top 4 finish

Eriksen's 88th minute strike help Tottenham beat Brighton 1-0; Long nets fastest PL goal against Watford

AFP ■ LONDON

Mauricio Pochettino admitted his tired Tottenham stars are pushing themselves to their limits after Christian Eriksen's superb late strike sealed a hard-fought 1-0 win over struggling Brighton on Tuesday.

Pochettino's third-placed side dominated from start to finish at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, but a combination of brave Brighton defending and poor finishing kept the match in the balance until the 88th minute.

Eriksen finally ended Brighton's stubborn resistance with a sensational long-range drive that lifted Tottenham three points clear of fourth-placed Chelsea and four ahead of Arsenal in fifth.

"The team are not as fresh as we wanted, not just legs, but minds, so we have to congratulate the players. I'm so proud of them," said Pochettino.

"Brighton were a really brave opponent. The most important thing is we believed, we didn't give up."

Although Arsenal can close the gap to one point if they win at Wolves on Wednesday, this was a vital result



in Spurs' bid to qualify for next season's Champions League via a top four finish.

Tottenham have now won all four games in all competitions at their plush new arena, scoring eight goals without reply.

This was the most frustrating fixture at the £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) ground as the hosts looked hamstrung without injured striker Harry Kane

until Eriksen came to the rescue with his ninth goal of the season in all competitions.

But Pochettino was delighted with the way his players kept plugging away right to the end despite the draining effects of their hectic fixture list.

"There were more than 20 attempts and the reward is massive," he said.



Tottenham can take another step towards securing their top-four berth in Saturday's crucial London derby against West Ham before focusing on the first leg of the Champions League semi-finals against Ajax next week.

FASTEST GOAL RECORD
SOUTHAMPTON: Southampton striker Shane Long scored the fastest goal in Premier League history on Tuesday

after netting just 7.69 seconds into his side's 1-1 draw at Watford, who snatched a point thanks to Andre Gray's late equaliser.

Long's record-breaking goal came immediately after the kick-off when he blocked a clearance from Watford defender Craig Cathcart, allowing the Republic of Ireland international to dink a cool finish over Ben Foster.

The 32-year-old's effort surpassed the previous fastest Premier League goal, scored by Tottenham defender Ledley King in 9.9 seconds against Bradford in December 2000.

"It's a record, is it?" Long told Sky Sports News with a grin after the game.

"Straight from the kick-off we wanted to put them under pressure. 99 times out of a hundred you block it and it doesn't work but this time it did."

Long's historic goal, just his fourth this season, didn't prove to be the winner at Vicarage Road after Gray's 90th minute equaliser for the FA Cup finalists but nonetheless moved them six points from the relegation zone with three matches remaining.

GAYLE, RUSSELL HEADLINE WINDIES WORLD CUP SQUAD



PTI ■ ST. JOHN'S

The West Indies named star players Chris Gayle and Andre Russell in their 2019 World Cup squad on Wednesday, although all-rounder Kieron Pollard was among those left out.

Big-hitting opening batsman Gayle returned to the Windies one-day international side in their 2-2 series draw against top-ranked England earlier this year, scoring two hundreds and two fifties in four innings.

Russell did not feature against England and has been struggling with injuries, playing a limited role with the ball in the ongoing Indian Premier League for Kolkata Knight Riders.

But he has been in fine form with the bat, and will bring vital power hitting to the middle order for the two-time world champions in England and Wales.

"I spoke with Andre about four days ago and he assured me that he'll be OK for the World Cup," said West Indies chief selector Robert Haynes. "He just has a couple of niggling injuries."

Interim coach Floyd Reifer, who replaced the sacked Richard Pybus earlier this month, said Russell is in the squad mainly as a batsman for a team who had to come through qualifying.

"Looking at the IPL, he's been scoring a lot of runs, so we're going to use him as a batting all-rounder," said Reifer.

"We'll have to manage his injuries between games."

NARINE OUT INJURED

Despite the Windies changing their rules regarding international players needing to play in their domestic competitions to qualify for selection, there were no places in the squad for Pollard or spinner Sunil Narine.

Pollard, a veteran of 101 ODIs, and Narine both last played 50-over cricket for the Caribbean outfit in 2016.

Narine, who also opens the batting in the IPL for Kolkata, is suffering with a finger injury and does not feel able to play the longer limited-overs format.

"We had a lot of dialogue with Sunil and he assured us he would love to be playing for the West Indies, but he has a very sore finger," added Haynes. "He's getting treatment after every IPL game, and he cannot bowl 10 overs and is struggling to bowl four."

Other big names to miss out included Dwayne Bravo, who has been in the international wilderness since 2016, and Marlon Samuels.

Young batsmen Nicholas Pooran and Shimron Hetmyer were included, as was Evin Lewis, who missed the England series, at the expense of John Campbell.

Lewis is likely to open the batting with the 39-year-old Gayle, who is just 252 runs away from breaking Brian Lara's all-time ODI West Indies record and will retire from the format after the tournament.

The Windies, who won both their World Cup trophies in England in 1975 and 1979, get their campaign underway against Pakistan at Trent Bridge on May 31.

La Liga to be Real's No 1 priority next season: Zidane

AFP ■ MADRID

Zinedine Zidane said on Wednesday La Liga will be Real Madrid's top priority next season after they were mathematically ruled out of the title race with five games left.

Barcelona's victory over Alaves confirmed that Madrid cannot be crowned champions given they sit 16 points behind the Catalans with only 15 still to play for.

Despite incredible success in the Champions League, it means Real have now won the Spanish title only once in seven years while Barca are on the cusp of securing fourth in the last five, and eighth in 11.

"For us next year, the league must be our number one priority," Zidane said. "It's the longest competition, it's the one that cannot be missed and I'm going to put that in the heads of my players."



"It will be our bread and butter for sure, without devaluing the rest, because we try to fight on all fronts at this club, but our bread and butter will be La Liga."

Barcelona's 26th league title will be confirmed on Wednesday night if Atletico Madrid are beaten at home to Valencia. If Atletico avoid defeat, Barca can wrap it up with a win at home to Levante on Saturday.

"We had 33 titles," Zidane said. "Barca are doing well, I will admit when a rival is doing well, but in history, Real Madrid has more league titles."

"But they have been

doing better lately and we need to change the dynamic."

Madrid are likely to be busy this summer, with Gareth Bale heading a long list of players who could depart while Chelsea's Eden Hazard is among those expected to arrive.

"Even if we always work together with the club, the coach has a say in relation to players he wants," Zidane said.

"There has not been much recruitment during the last two or three years. This year there will certainly be a little more."

Barca edge closer to La Liga title

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona will win La Liga on Wednesday if Atletico Madrid lose to Valencia after a 2-0 victory over Alaves gave them a 12-point lead at the top of the table.

Lionel Messi started on the bench at Mendizorrotza on Tuesday in a move that made clear just how comfortable Barca are in this title race, its conclusion surely now only a matter of when rather than if.

Should Atletico avoid defeat to Valencia at the Wanda Metropolitano, the Catalans will still be crowned champions on Saturday at the Camp Nou with a victory over Levante.

They could even have it wrapped up before kick-off on Saturday if Atletico fail to take at least four points from Valencia and Real



Valladolid, the latter whom they face a few hours earlier on Saturday.

"It's an incredibly valuable win," coach Ernesto Valverde said. Real Madrid, who play their game in hand against Getafe on Thursday, sit 16 points adrift in third. Alaves stays eighth, their hopes of a Europa League spot fading fast.

Messi came on as a substitute in the 61st minute shortly after his team had scored twice,

Carles Alena guiding one to the corner before Luis Suarez, in Messi's absence, took and dispatched a penalty.

Valverde leaving out his captain and star player, presumably with an eye on next week's Champions League semi-final against Liverpool, was a luxury Barcelona have earned and can afford.

Liverpool, still jostling with Manchester City in the Premier League, are unlikely to

feel the same sort of confidence when they face



Huddersfield on Friday. Other players were preserved too. Jordi Alba, Clement Lenglet and Arthur Melo all began on the bench, allowing Samuel Umtiti more minutes as he recovers from a knee injury, while the struggling Philippe Coutinho started in a front three with Ousmane Dembele and Suarez.

Alena, the 21-year-old Spaniard, scored his second La Liga goal and showed again why many believe he could be a key figure for Barcelona in the years to come.

Suarez's goal, meanwhile, was his 21st in the league and marks the fourth consecutive season in which he has passed the 20 mark for Barca.