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CHARGE IN JAPAN

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Final phase polling today

1.27 crore voters to decide fate of 123 candidates in 7 LS seats

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh is all set for the final phase of polling on Tuesday in which over 1.27 crore voters will seal fate of 123 candidates in seven parliamentary seats though the main contest is between the BJP and the Congress candidates.

Voting will be held from 7am to 5pm in Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Korba, Raigarh, Surguja and Janjgir Lok Sabha seats amid tight security arrangements.

The first phase of polling was held for Bastar seat on April 11 while in the second phase on April 18 Rajnandgoan, Mahasamund and Kanker Parliamentary constituencies went to polls.

Chhattisgarh's chief electoral officer Subrat Sahoo informed that a total of 1,27,12,816 electors will cast their votes in the seven parliamentary seats on Tuesday for which Election Commission has allowed 12 documents as identity proof.

In Raigarh and Bilaspur 25 candidates each are in the fray. In Raigarh 14, Korba 13, Janjgir-Champa 15, Durg 21 and Surguja 10 candidates are vying for the seat.

A total of 15,408 polling centers have been set up for the final phase of voting. Raipur has 2343, Bilaspur 2221, Raigarh 2327, Korba 2008, Janjgir-champa 2173, Durg 2183 and

Surguja 2153 polling centres.

Over 67,796 polling personnel have been deployed while 617 polling centres have been declared as sensitive. In seven PCs a total of 288 'Sanghwari' (all women) polling booths have been established. A total of 333 model polling centres and 60 centres for differently-abled voters have been made. Webcasting will be done from 3,200 polling centres.

The total electors in Raigarh PC is 21,11,104, Bilaspur has 18,75,904 electors, Raigarh has 17,31,655 electors, Korba has 15,07,779 electors, Janjgir-Champa has 18,95,232 electors, Durg has 19,38,319 electors and Surguja has 16,53,283 electors.

The smallest polling centre 143 of hamlet Sheradand under Chandha village Panchayat of Koriya district has four electors while in Bharatpur-Sonhat area



at Kanto and Revla polling centre, the number of electors are less than 20. Polling teams after collecting election materials leave the distribution centre at DIET, Shankar Nagar on Monday in Raipur. Pioneer photo

Voter's slip no longer valid ID proof for voting

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Election Commission of India has listed 12 documents, out of which the voter will have to carry at least one to exercise their franchise.

The voters slip alone is no longer a valid identification document that can be used to vote, officials informed here on Monday.

One will not be allowed to vote if their name is missing in the voting list. Voters can check their names in electoral roll in the website of Chief Electoral Officer Chhattisgarh, through toll free call centre (1950) or SMS service and also via voter helpline application.

The document that can be used at the time of voting include Electoral Photo-Identity

Card (EPIC), Aadhar card, passport, driving license, centre and state government, government institutions issued photo-identity card, bank or post office issued passbook with photograph, PAN card, MGNREGA job card, health insurance card, photo-based pension document, MP, MLAs issued photo-identity card and Smart card issued by Registrar General of

India. Non-Resident Indians can produce their passport as their identity card.

Election Commission has made it clear that earlier voter's slip was being allowed as an identity paper which was being published after the final publication of electoral roll. But there was no guarantee of identification as there is no photo of the bearer attached to a voting slip.



A Sri Lankan woman living near St. Anthony's shrine runs for safety with her infant after police found explosive devices in a parked vehicle in Colombo on Monday. AP

SL fears Thowheed got foreign terror aid

7 of its fideen carried out Easter blasts, 87 bomb detonators found at bus station

PTI/AGENCIES ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan Government on Monday accused a previously little-known Islamist

outfit called the National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ) of having carried out the Easter Sunday attacks, and said an international terror group might have been behind the atrocities, the worst in the country's history.

However, neither the NTJ, nor any other group, has admitted carrying out the wave of bombings which tore through the island nation, killing 290 people and injuring nearly 500 others.

Seven suicide bombers of

the NTJ carried out a series of devastating blasts, authorities said on Monday. As many as 87 bomb detonators were found on Monday at a bus station in Colombo, police said.

Police have so far arrested 24 people — mostly members of NTJ — in connection with the blasts that also killed eight Indian nationals.

Police said that 9 out of the 24 arrested for involvement in the blasts were ordered to be remanded by the Colombo magistrate's court till May 6.



YOUR VOTE WILL DECIDE

TERROR WILL GET A BEFITTING REPLY
or valour will keep getting questioned

INDIA WILL BE CORRUPTION FREE
or the corrupt will rule again

DEVELOPMENT WILL GATHER MOMENTUM
or will get derailed

HARDWORKING GOVERNMENT WILL PREVAIL
or a government for commission will take over

PATRIOTS WILL TAKE CHARGE
or supporters of tukde-tukde gang will rise to power

TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE WILL CONTINUE
or scamsters will make a comeback

HONEST LEADERSHIP WILL PREVAIL
or individuals on bail will rule

SABKA SAATH SABKA VIKAS WILL CONTINUE
or the poison of casteism will spread again

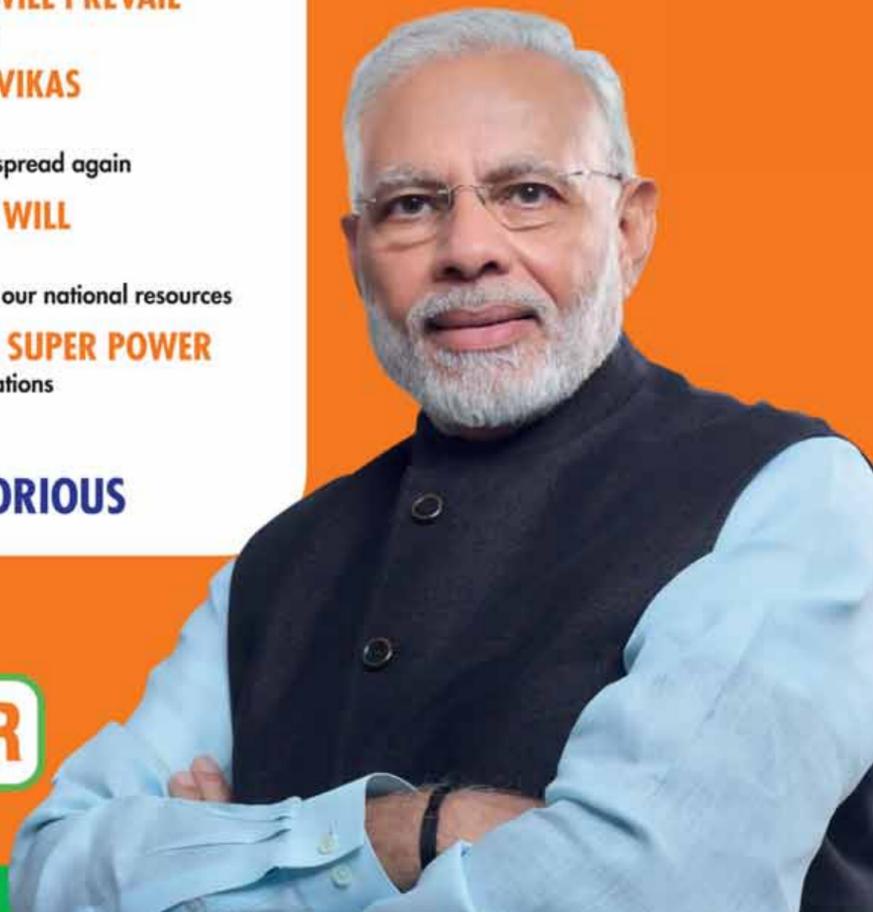
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE OUSTED
or continue to be a burden on our national resources

INDIA WILL BECOME A SUPER POWER
or remain indebted to other nations

EVERY VOTE COUNTS. DO VOTE.
PRESS THE LOTUS BUTTON, MAKE BJP VICTORIOUS



PHIR EK BAAR
MODI SARKAR
Modi Once More



Coast Guard on alert after Easter blasts in Lanka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the serial blasts in Sri Lanka on Sunday, the Indian Coast Guard has intensified patrolling to prevent terrorists responsible for the dastardly act from escaping from there and sneaking into India through the sea route. The precautionary step was taken on Sunday itself after the enormity of the situation became clear and more fast patrol boats besides surveillance planes and helicopters were deployed.

Maintaining high alert, the Coast Guard has mounted round the clock vigil all along the Indian maritime boundary with Sri Lanka to thwart any attempt by the terrorists to avoid the security dragnet in Sri Lanka and infiltrate into India through sea, officials said here on Monday.

They also said all ships from Coast Guard stations at Tuticorin, Mandapam and Karaikal were pressed into service for heightened patrolling along the sensitive sea lanes. Medium range maritime surveillance aircraft were providing aerial support to the ships in an effort to detect any hostile movement and alert the patrol boats for interception.

Vigil was increased soon after Sri Lanka said a local extremist group National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ) may be responsible for the blasts

which claimed nearly 290 lives. Sri Lanka President Maithripala Srisena declared a nationwide emergency on Monday.

The preventive measure in India was also taken to avoid a repeat of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008 when Pakistani terrorists managed to reach the metropolis through sea and launch a series of attacks in which 166 people were killed. There were concerns that terrorists escaping from Sri Lanka

may try to engineer terror attacks in India, sources said.

Keeping this in view, security was ramped up around all defence and other vital installations including naval bases in coastal region, they said. Moreover, all the stake holders in coastal security including the local police increased patrolling at all landing points in the coastal region especially in Tamil Nadu and deployed security pickets to prevent infiltration.



India alerted Colombo 2 weeks ago of terror attack

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Over two weeks before the deadly suicide bombings in Sri Lanka, India had alerted Colombo of possible terror hits at churches and preliminary findings suggest the slain suicide bomber and chief of the National Thowheed Jamath Whavan Hashim alias Zahran Hashim had attempted to carry out blast at the Indian embassy and at the US embassy earlier this month.

However, given the tight security at these two installations, the bomber decided to hit three luxury hotels and two major churches taking a toll of over 200 and injuring about 500 others.

The National Thowheed Jamath is a breakaway faction of Sri Lanka Thowheed Jamat, branch of Tamil Nadu Thowheed Jamat under the scanner of the Intelligence agencies at least since 2016.

Sources in the security agencies said the Indian embassy in Sri Lanka is heavily fortified and armed with anti-aircraft batteries of a Central paramilitary force and

Following the inputs of the impending terror strike, the Lankan police had also issued an alert to the effect but could not assess the magnitude of the problem that was in the making

has put in place a tight security cordon and sophisticated access control paraphernalia. Following the inputs of the impending terror strike, the Sri Lankan police had also issued an alert to the effect but could not assess the magnitude of the problem that was in the making. Initial assessments here suggest the serial suicide bombings in and around Colombo were essentially an outcome of Islamist versus Buddhist conflict.

Hashim is said to have undergone treatment earlier for mental illness and wanted to become a social worker in 2011. However, Hashim joined religious groups like the Sri Lanka Thowheed Jamat and subsequently got in touch with the ISIS especially those based in the UAE and went on to become the chief of Khorasan

Sri Lanka of ISIS.

Estimates here suggest Hashim has a follower base of nearly 400 radicals and the attack on the churches could be a tactical ploy to deflect attention of the aggrieved Buddhists against the Muslims who are lesser in number in the island nation than the former, sources said.

Pakistan's covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in Colombo might have provided facilitation for logistics supplies to Hashim through its terror proxies like the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and its humanitarian assistance arm Jamat-ud-Dawah that has been present in Sri Lanka since the 2005 tsunami. The JuD had purchased a number of orphans for the purpose of radicalization from Sri Lanka and other countries hit by tsunami.

The terror targets which include three luxury hotels-Shangri La, Kingsbury and Cinnamon Grand-and St Anthony Church Zion Church and St Sebastian church were identified after the failed bids at the Indian and American missions in Colombo.

Blasts could have TN repercussions: Security experts

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The repercussions of Sunday's serial blasts in Colombo that claimed more than 200 lives could have a major effect in Tamil Nadu, according to intelligence and security experts in the State. Thowheed Jamath, an Islamic terrorist organisation, the name of which is linked to the serial blasts in Sri Lanka, has a strong presence in Tamil Nadu. The open sea between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka offers immense scope to the volunteers of this organisation to shift from one place to another. It is an open secret in Tamil Nadu that all anti-national and extremist organisations work in unison.

The fact that Thowheed

Jamath is a name which causes fear and terror in the minds of the people was made known by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu J Jayalithaa herself while speaking to reporters in January 2013.

"There are more than 7.5 lakh active Thowheed Jamath activists in Tamil Nadu," Jayalithaa had told a Press meet specially convened by her to explain the reasons behind banning Viswaroopam, a Tamil movie produced by Kamal Haasan. About 24 Islamic organisations had expressed their opposition to the release of the movie because they alleged that the film contained anti-Islam references and they wanted such scenes to be deleted from the film.

Of the scenes were not deleted, the organisations, led by Thowheed Jamath had threatened to stage demonstrations in front of the 524 theatres where the movie was to be released. "We need 56, 440 policemen to ensure security and law and order in these theatres on a round-the-clock basis and hence we decided to effect the ban in the movie under Section 144 of the IPC," Jayalithaa had told during the press briefing.

She said she was very much worried about the law and order situation at that time as there were many instances of throwing of petrol bombs and vandalising film theatres. But the frequent shuffling and transfer of intelligence officials (both in State and Central

services) is coming in the way of tracking the real activities of Thowheed Jamaath which are shrouded in mysteries, according to insiders in these departments.

Since then the strength of Thowheed Jamaath has increased manifold in Tamil Nadu. Though the organisation is not visibly active in the State, it is very much present in areas of conflict between caste Hindus and Dalits. The Thowheed Jamaath is actively propagating Islam among the Dalits by distributing the Holy Books and religions literature.

A status report prepared by a Chennai based intelligence think tank for the union home ministry has this to tell about the state of affairs in Tamil Nadu.

IN SHORT

LOKPAL TO WORK FROM 5-STAR LUXURY HOTEL
New Delhi: The country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, will work from the five-star luxury hotel, The Ashok, in Delhi. The Lokpal chairperson PC Ghose, all of its eight members and support staff are being allocated space in the hotel premises

SC REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN PLEA ON BRIBING IN POLLS
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea which alleged that people were being bribed on a massive scale for the Lok Sabha polls in Tamil Nadu. A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said it was not inclined to hear the matter since the elections in the state were already over.

NGO AROH CELEBRATES WORLD EARTH DAY
New Delhi: NGO AROH Foundation celebrated World Earth Day by organising plantation drives, awareness rallies and competitions in schools and villages in different States. Neelam Gupta, president AROH Foundation said, "World Earth Day is a day on which millions of people across the globe participate to accelerate work towards conservation and sustainability."

PM'S COPTER ROW: OFFICER SENT BACK TO KARNATAKA
New Delhi: The Election Commission general observer, Mohammed Mohsin (1996-batch IAS officer), who was suspended for checking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's helicopter in Odisha's Sambalpur in violation of norms for dealing with SPG protectees, has been sent back to Karnataka.

SC SEEKS REPLIES OVER RESTRICTION ON TRAFFIC
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and Jammu & Kashmir on a plea seeking quashing of an order which restricts civilian traffic two days a week on the national highway (NH) stretch from Udhampur to Baramulla for movement of security forces.

Explain why infiltration, casualties highest under BJP Govt: PC to Jaitley

New Delhi: After Arun Jaitley criticised him for his recent remarks on Pakistan, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram Monday hit back saying that the Union minister must explain why infiltration, the number of infiltrators and casualties last year were highest under the BJP government.

Slamming former Union minister P Chidambaram's statement that India must "change its behaviour" towards Pakistan, Jaitley said, "Why Mr P Chidambaram is siding with Pakistan by asking India to change its behaviour? Should we remain victim of terrorism & not do anything?"

BJP says Rahul 'liar of first order' after he expresses regret in SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the BJP demanded an apology from Rahul Gandhi and called him "liar of the first order" in public opinion after the Congress president expressed regret in the Supreme Court on Monday over his remarks in connection with the Rafale judgment, the main opposition party described the saffron interpretation as "blasphemous" amounting to criminal contempt of court proceedings even as it insisted "ek hi chowkidar chor hai".

Addressing a press conference here, BJP spokesperson GVL Narsimha Rao said, "Today, by filing an affidavit in the honourable SC, Rahul Gandhi accepted that he had lied on his allegations against PM Modi on the Rafale deal." "This was an attempt by Rahul Gandhi to manufacture a lie and create a controversy in the Rafale deal... He should apologise to the people of this country," he said adding "In public opinion, Rahul Gandhi is a liar of the first order".

Stating that Rahul stands



guilty in the "court of public opinion", Rao added that all Congress cadres across the country hang their heads in shame that there leader has been blatantly lying on the Rafale jet deal. While senior BJP leader and union defence minister Nirmala Sitaraman said the Congress leader's lie has given a big hit to his credibility in the public eye, BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi said Rahul expressing "regret" over his remarks on Rafale verdict was an "admission of his guilt" and "wrong-doing" by him. It was Lekhi who had filed the criminal contempt petition against him.

The Congress, however, said it did not agree with BJP's interpretation of Rahul's regret as submitted with the apex court.

"Issue is sub-judice, stop passing verdict today! We reiterate -- ek hi chowkidar chor hai (only one watchman is a thief)!", said Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala.

Surjewala hit out at the BJP saying, "Fakery has no boundaries. Lies no limitations, disinformation no confines! BJP's blasphemous misrepresentation of Rahul ji's reply to the SC is itself a criminal contempt of court proceedings."

PM's nuke-boast not in interest of national security, says Congress

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday attacked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks on nuclear arsenal, saying his "boastful claims" of being "ready for an atomic missile attack" on Pakistan are uncalled for and not in the interest of national security.

Slamming Modi for his remarks, the party said PM's election speeches and irresponsible statements point to a growing desperation in the BJP. Modi, at an election rally in Rajasthan's Barmer on Sunday said India is no more afraid of nuclear threats of Pakistan. "Otherwise, Pakistan used to give nuclear threats. What do we have? Have we kept it for 'Diwali'?" the PM had said.

Anand Sharma said the Congress would like to remind Modi that these elections are about unemployment, farm distress and the betrayal of the voters on electoral promises. Every Indian is proud of the valour of our forces and our nuclear capabilities, but the government cannot hide behind this, he said.

Sharma targeting the PM for his "boastful remarks" was also in reference to Modi's comments in Gujarat's Patan in which he stated that after Indian Air Force pilot Abhinandan Varthaman was held by Pakistan, a senior American official on the second day said that "Modi has kept 12 missiles ready and might attack."

Apex court issues notice to Irani on Nirupam's plea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to Union Minister Smriti Irani that pertains to two cross defamation complaints filed by Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam and the BJP leader against each other.

In one case, the Delhi High Court had quashed the summons issued to Irani in a defamation complaint filed against her by Nirupam.

The High Court had however dismissed a similar plea of Nirupam seeking to set aside the summons issued against him in a cross defamation complaint filed by Irani.

The High Court, on December 19 last year, had said the case against Nirupam will continue.

On Monday, a Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi issued the notice to Irani on two appeals filed by Nirupam.

The Congress leader had challenged a magisterial court's March 11, 2013 order summoning him in Irani's defamation complaint against him.

He had also sought quashing of the January 1, 2013 complaint filed by Irani. In her plea, Irani had sought quashing of the summons issued to her by a trial court on June 6, 2014.

SC directs Madras HC to decide TikTok plea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Madras High Court to decide on April 24 a plea of TikTok app seeking vacating of its ban order.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said if the Madras High Court fails to decide on the plea of TikTok app then its ban order will stand vacated.

The apex court had earlier refused to stay the Madras High Court order that directed the Centre to ban the "TikTok" app over concerns about access to pornographic content through it.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the Chinese company ByteDance, had told the top court earlier that there were over billion downloads of the mobile app and ex-parte orders were passed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

He had said the court did not even issue notice in the matter and an order was passed without hearing them.

The High Court had on April 3 directed the Centre to ban mobile application "TikTok" as it voiced concern over "pornographic and inappropriate content" being made available through such apps.

EC submits detailed report on Modi biopic to Supreme Court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday submitted its detailed report to the Supreme Court on the biopic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi took the EC's report on Modi's biopic and asked the poll panel to supply a copy of the report to the producer of the movie.

The bench, which also comprised justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna, has now fixed the plea of producers challenging the EC's ban on the movie for hearing on Friday 26.

The apex court had on April 15 directed the Election Commission to re-examine its earlier order and take an informed decision on banning pan-India the release of the biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi after watching the full movie.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for film producers who have challenged the EC's ban on the biopic's release till the current general elections are over, had told the

top court that the poll panel has taken the decision after watching the promo, and not the entire movie.

EC's counsel Amit Sharma

had said that the entire movie was not available and a decision to ban the release was taken after watching the trailer.

Notification for last phase of LS polls issued

New Delhi: The EC on Monday issued the notification for the seventh and last phase of the Lok Sabha elections in which 59 constituencies spread across eight states and union territories will go for polls. While the first phase of election was held on April 11, the last phase will be held on May 19. So far, two phases have taken place, while the third phase of polling is on Tuesday. All the 13 seats of Punjab, four in Himachal Pradesh and one in Chandigarh will go for polls in a single phase on May 19.

Ex-deputy EC appointed special observer for Tripura

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former deputy election commissioner Vinod Zutshi was on Monday appointed as special observer for Tripura where the Lok Sabha polls to one of the seats was postponed in view of the law and order situation. On Tuesday last, the Election Commission had postponed

polling in the Tripura (East) Lok Sabha seat to the third phase on April 23 (Tuesday) from April 18, saying the prevailing law and order situation there is not conducive for holding free and fair polls. EC sources said, the Commission has issued orders appointing Zutshi as special observer for Tripura.

2 lawyers' bodies of SC disapprove of CJI's handling of allegations

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two lawyers' bodies of the Supreme Court on Monday disapproved of the manner in which Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi dealt with the sexual harassment allegations against him, calling it "procedural impropriety" and "violation" of procedures.

As the apex court reassembled after the weekend recess in the backdrop of the stunning allegations by a former court staffer, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCAORA) urged the Full Court to take all such necessary steps as may be required in law to deal with the charges.

The allegations cropped up against Justice Gogoi on Saturday prompting him to convene an urgent extraordinary hearing by a three-member bench headed by him during which he asserted that the charges against him were "unbelievable".

The allegations by the woman, who had worked at Justice Gogoi's home office in Delhi, dates back to October last year, days after he was appointed the CJI.

After an emergent meeting of its executive committee, the SCBA said in a statement that without prejudice to any enquiry which may be initiated the full court should collate all the materials and facts with



regard to the allegations from electronic, print, social media and other available sources for consideration at its next meeting.

"The executive committee has resolved that procedure adopted for conducting the court proceedings on April 20 in the matter of allegations made by ex-employee of the Supreme Court against the Chief Justice of India is in violation of procedure established by law as well as principles of natural justice," SCBA Secretary Vikrant Yadav said.

In a resolution, the SCAORA, the top court lawyers'

body, said in a resolution that the allegations against the CJI have to be dealt with as per the established procedure of law and law must be applied in each and every case uniformly.

The Supreme Court Employees Welfare Association on its part came out in support of Justice Gogoi, claiming that the allegations were "false and fabricated".

The association, in a resolution, said it strongly condemned the "false, fabricated and baseless allegations" against the CJI which is aimed at maligning the institution of judiciary.

But apex court Employees Welfare Association comes out in CJI's support

"The Supreme Court Employees Welfare Association on behalf of all the employees strongly condemns the false, fabricated and baseless allegations against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi," it said.

The SCAORA, which is a body of lawyers comprising advocates empowered by the apex court to file pleadings on behalf of parties in the top court, sought immediate appointment of a committee headed by full court of the apex court to impartially investigate and inquire into the allegations and give an independent finding.

"Supreme Court Advocates On Record Association expresses its deep reservation against procedural impropriety shown by Justice Ranjan Gogoi in the suo motu proceedings held on April 20 in the issue relating to allegations of sexual harassment against Justice Ranjan Gogoi, by an ex-Supreme Court employee," the SCAORA resolution said.

"It is therefore resolved that the SCAORA strongly disapproves the manner in which the complaint was dealt with and seeks enquiry and action in the above matter..." it added.

Justice Gogoi said during the Saturday hearing that the allegations were part of a conspiracy by some "bigger force" to "deactivate" the CJI's office.

The CJI also said he would not stoop too low even to deny them.

Baghel returns Raman's barb, dubs former CM, family corrupt

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday launched a personal attack on his predecessor Raman Singh and his family in respond to an offensive remark the latter made on him.

Singh on Sunday had said that Baghel was also a convict and so he should not make comments on Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur. "He was also jailed and is currently on a bail from a CBI court", Raman said about Baghel.

In a counter attack, Baghel said Raman was an accused in



civil supplies scam worth Rs 36000 crore. He also said the former chief minister's son-in-law Dr Punit Gupta was at

present absconding and his son Abhishek had been named in Panama Papers. "Even his (Raman) wife

and cook are also named in serious allegations of corruption and the people of state are now going to teach them a lesson once again in the ongoing general elections," the CM said.

Baghel also criticised Raman Singh for his remark on Congress candidate from Raigarh Laljeet Singh Rathia. The former CM had said Rathia's stature was too low to comment on Prime Minister.

It was not only an insult to a tribal leader but to the entire tribal populace, Baghel said.

Electors can check their name in electoral roll

RAIPUR: Election Commission of India has urged the electors to check themselves their names in the electoral roll before going to register their vote in respective polling booths. To facilitate the electors, Commission has made different arrangements for it. The elector can use the Election Commission website <https://electorsearch.in/> through the national electoral roll site. It would provide all the basic necessary details of the elector. The elector if goes to the map, then can find the place of polling centre. The elector can also print the slip. Similarly, elector can also browse the Chief Electoral Officer, Chhattisgarh website <http://election.cg.nic.in/elecsh/> and search the name in the electoral roll. The elector can search their name after which they can go in ceochhattisgarh.nic.in and tally their name in the electoral roll. In addition to these, nationwide helpline numbers 1950 and state helpline number 180023311950 are made available, where elector can make a call to seek information.

Polling officer killed in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ BALRAMPUR

A polling party on its way to a polling booth met with an accident in which a polling officer lost his life on Monday, police said.

"The incident happened in the noon hours when the Mahindra Scorpio in which six people were on their way to Raghunath Nagar after taking polling materials from Balrampur hit a roadside tree at a place under Basantpur police station limits," Superintendent of Police (SP) Balrampur TR Kosima said.

The deceased was identified as

Ganesh Ram who was posted as primary school teacher in government primary school Tower Pani in the district, the SP informed. "The accident occurred near Kamardiha village about 10 km from Basantpur police station.

Of the six persons travelling in the SUV four were polling officers, one security personnel and a driver," Station House Officer (SHO) Basantpur Anuranjan Lakra informed.

The injured were rushed to Ambikapur medical college for better treatment, he said, while adding a case has been registered in this regard.

BJP misleading on gram & salt scheme: Congress

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A Congress delegation led by its legal cell chairman Kiranmayi Nayak on Monday evening called on Chief Electoral Officer Subrat Sahoo to complain that BJP leaders are misleading the voters by claiming that Congress government in the state has scrapped the free distribution of gram and salt to tribal people.

The delegation handed over a memorandum and charged that the BJP leaders including former Chief Minister Raman Singh, Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik and State BJP



Congress lodges complaint with ECI

President Vikram Usendi have violated the model code of conduct by giving baseless and misleading speeches in their public rallies.

A similar effort was done by it during the assembly elections by trying to mislead people on farm loan waiver of defaulting farmers, the

delegation said demanding stern action against them.

The delegation said that there was delay in distribution of salt and gram by the government because it wanted to provide them "good quality" stuff and taking benefit of it the BJP leaders were misleading the people.

Raipur to have 34 'Sangwari' polling centres

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Raipur District Electoral Officer and Collector Dr Basavaraju S reviewed the preparations for the third phase of polling on April 23.

DEO said that in Raipur district there are 41 model polling centres, eight centres for differently-abled voters and 34 'Sangwari' polling centres specifically for women where all the polling parties will also be females.

Raipur DEO reviewed the availability of drinking water, power, toilet, shade and other basic requirements of electors in the polling booths.

He then interacted

with the Janpad Panchayat Chief Executive Officers, Urban body officers and Zone commissioners on status of preparation.

The collector directed that keeping in view extreme heat conditions, cold drinking water arrangement should be ensured, if necessary, pots can be utilised.

All the polling centres will have ramps and wheelchair and wheelchair bound electors will be assisted by assistants. All the officials should physically visit the polling centres and remove shortcomings. Even the polling teams should be provided all the facilities, he directed.

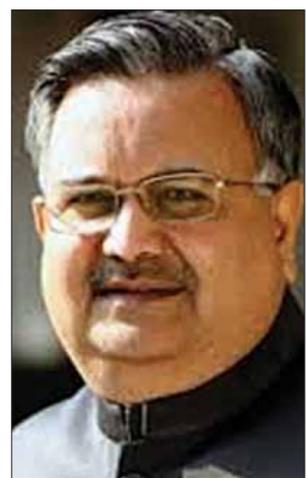
Rahul Gandhi's apology proved how childish he was: Raman

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

BJP national vice president and former Chief Minister Raman Singh had said that the apology tendered by the Congress President Rahul Gandhi for attributing his political slogan 'chowkidar chor hai' to the Supreme Court proved how childish he was in making such an insulting comment on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Talking to media persons here at party's state headquarters Ekatma Parisar Raman said after being admonished by the Supreme Court the Congress President ultimately apologised before the court for his comment on PM.

Entire life of Prime Minister was unblemished and



such a derogatory and baseless remark on flawless nationalist person was widely opposed across the country, he said.

On the other hand, state BJP president Vikram Usendi in a statement commenting on the apology said the Congress president was repeatedly telling lie and was trying to mislead the people on Rafale issue. Not only the Congress president but the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister too were a liar and were attempting to misguide the people, he said.

"It was like playing with the dignity of Prime Minister and all the Congress leaders from state to the national level should now apologise unconditionally", he added.

Smallest polling centre with just 4 electors ready for voting

STAFF REPORTER ■ BAIKUNTHPUR

Koriya district electoral officer and collector Bhoskar Vilas Sandeepan ensured all preparations were completed for voting at the state's smallest polling centre 143 of Sheradand under Chandha village Panchayat of the district.

The village has only four electors. Of them three are from the same family. The three are Devraj Cherva, Ram Prasad Cherva and Singora Bai Cherva. The other elector is a forest department fire watcher, Mahipal Ram Rautia.

The DEO during this tour to

different polling stations had visited the Sheradand polling centre and interacted with the Cherva family. He made enquiry of different issues and problems in their day to day life. He sought details of power supply, water, ration, old-age pension and source of livelihood. He briefed them about different government schemes.

Being a remote area, government has installed solar panel to provide power supply, toilet under cleanliness mission and a hand pump for drinking water. The village is situated at around 95 kilometres from district headquarters Baikunthpur.

Visually impaired electors can use PwD app to cast vote

RAIPUR: To facilitate electors with disabilities, the Election Commission of India is offering customised services through mobile application.

The move aims at making the polling process easy and accessible for people with disabilities (PwD).

The mobile application provides details of the PwD electors, their registration and status of their application, polling centre and its location and other information which are useful for them. Now, new facility has also been added, through which they can also know about the candidates in their constituency. The PwDs can through mobile application know about details of ballot paper with names of candidates in the series as fixed in the EVM. They can hear it before the polling or reaching before the polling station. This will facilitate them to cast their vote as per their choice of candidate. Along with the PwD app, voter helpline app has been added as additional feature.

Naxalism, terrorism promoted by BJP: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Congress on Monday accused the BJP of promoting Naxalism and terrorism in the country.

Naxals spread their tentacles during the BJP's 15-year regime in the state and now the party also roped in a terror accused, Sadhvi Pragya to contest Lok Sabha elections only testified how the BJP nurtured such elements.

In a statement, Congress's state

general secretary and chairman communication wing PCC Shailesh Nitin Trivedi said that red menace had increased by many-fold under the BJP rule in the state whereas terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir as well as cross border terrorism had doubled during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The death toll of Jawans as well as civilians also increased threefold, he said, adding terror attacks in Pathankot,

Uri, Gurdaspur and Pulwama were the hallmark of the BJP regime.

Trivedi also accused BJP of having double standard. He said it allied with pro-separatist People's Democratic Party (PDP) with a secret pact that Article 370 of the Constitution would not be scrapped, which spiked terrorism in J&K.

"Just ahead of elections by snapping ties with the PDP, the BJP is now attempting to polarize the votes in the country," he alleged.

Polling officer with disability gets rose from DEO, joins duty

BEMETARA: A differently abled teacher on Monday approached Bemetara District Electoral Officer Mahadev Kaware urging him to relieve him of election duty.

But after meeting the DEO, the teacher left to join the duty with a smile on his face.

As per information received, Thakur Ram Nishad, a person with disability, has been deputed as polling officer under Saja assembly constituency.

He had approached the DEO with a request to cancel his duty. Instead DEO Mahadev Kaware interacted with him and reminded him of election rules. He then presented him a rose and asked him to join the duty.

Feeling relaxed, Nishad then left for his duty in the polling booth. In all the assembly constituencies under Bemetara district, one polling booth has been made for the PwDs.



वोट उसे दें, जो वादा निभाए

- ❖ देश के पांच करोड़ गरीब परिवारों को 'न्याय' योजना में मिलेंगे 72000 रुपए हर साल
- ❖ सरकारी और सूचीबद्ध निजी अस्पतालों में सबका जांच, इलाज और दवा मुफ्त देंगे
- ❖ मार्च, 2020 तक 24 लाख सरकारी नौकरियां मिलेंगी
- ❖ शिक्षा का बजट दोगुना कर जीडीपी का 6 % करेंगे
- ❖ सरकारी स्कूलों में बारहवीं कक्षा तक सभी को मुफ्त शिक्षा देंगे
- ❖ वर्तमान जीएसटी की जगह लाएंगे सरल और आसान GST
- ❖ लोकसभा, विधानसभा और नौकरियों में महिलाओं को 33% आरक्षण देंगे
- ❖ बेघर व भूमिहीन ग्रामीणों को आवास भूमि का अधिकार देंगे

अब होगा न्याय

छत्तीसगढ़ प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी

Dynasty politics rules the roost in Haryana

Selection of candidates by all political parties in Haryana suggests that it is dynasty which is the single most important factor in determining party nomination

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

"Blood is thicker than water"—the influential political families in Jatland-Haryana are swearing by this dictum in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

Cutting across political spectrum, the family lines remain a dominant factor in Haryana this election. The young generation of three famed Lals of Haryana—Devi Lal, Bhajan Lal and Bansil Lal—who served as Chief Minister of Haryana, are slugging it out in the general elections to preserve their political legacy.

In Haryana, five of the 10 Lok Sabha constituencies have at least one member of a political family contesting in the polls. And, be it BJP, Congress, Indian National Lok Dal or Jannayak Janta Party, all major political parties have given ticket to a slew of dynasts to take on their rivals in the election.

In fact, political dynasties in Haryana are not a new phenomenon and this time also, sons of three political heavyweights have been handed out tickets to make poll debut.

Hisar is one unique Lok Sabha constituency, which is witnessing the "mother of all poll battles" with three political dynasts in the fray. These

included the outgoing MP and JJP nominee Dushyant Chautala and political green-horns-BJP nominee, IAS Brijendra Singh and Congress candidate Bhavya Bishnoi.

Dushyant Chautala, a Jat, comes from Haryana's politically influential Chautala clan and represents the fourth generation of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal. He is the grandson of former Chief Minister and INLD's supremo Om Prakash Chautala.

His father Ajay Chautala is a former MP and mother Naina Chautala is a sitting MLA in Haryana Assembly. Dushyant's uncle, Abhay Chautala is also a sitting MLA and is spearheading the INLD.

Dushyant, while representing the Indian National Lok Dal in 2014 polls had defeated the BJP-HJC candidate Kuldeep Bishnoi to become the youngest ever elected MP to the Lok Sabha.

Dushyant, who is now leading the JJP, a splinter group of INLD, vows to take forward the legacy of Chaudhary Devi Lal and is seeking his re-election from Hisar.

To take revenge of his father's defeat in 2014 polls in Hisar, Kuldeep Bishnoi's son Bhavya, 26, will make his electoral debut on a Congress tick-

et and will take on Dushyant Chautala.

Bhavya, a young third-generation politician in Haryana and grandson of three-time former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal, holds a bachelor's degree in 'Economics and Government' from London School of Economics and Political Science and Master of Science from University of Oxford.

His father, Kuldeep Bishnoi is MLA from Adampur assembly segment while mother, Renuka is MLA from Hansi constituency, both assembly segments falls in Hisar Lok Sabha seat.

Bhavya's grandfather, former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal, was a prominent non-Jat leader, who had managed to become a potential non-Jat option for the voters and led the Congress for years, bringing together non-Jats like Dalits, Yadavs and other Hindu castes in Haryana.

Another 'son' who has bagged a ticket is IAS Brijendra Singh, son of Union Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Birender Singh.

A Haryana cadre IAS officer of 1998 batch, Brijendra, 46, will contest his maiden election on a BJP ticket from Hisar constituency, which his father had won in 1984 by defeating for-

mer Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala.

Brijendra's father Birender Singh is the grandson of Sir Chhotu Ram, one of the tallest Jat and farmer leaders of pre-Partition era. His mother, Prem Lata is a sitting MLA from Uchana Kalan, which falls in Hisar Lok Sabha constituency.

The IAS officer has voluntarily retired from the Haryana Government to carry on the political legacy of his great grandfather and peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram.

Interesting, the general elections are witnessing three youth candidates from Chautala clan, divided in two parties—JJP and INLD.

After the split in Chautala family last year, the election has paved way for the launch of Arjun Chautala, younger son of INLD secretary-general Abhay Chautala, in the electoral politics.

Arjun, 26, is a national chief of party's students' wing ISO (INLD students' organization) and will contest from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency. He is pitted against BJP's nominee Nayab Saini, Minister of State for Labour and Congress candidate former Minister Nirmal Singh.

Notably, the INLD had split last November following a power struggle between two brothers Abhay Chautala and

Ajay Chautala, grandsons of Chaudhary Devi Lal. The JJP, a splinter group of INLD was formed by Ajay Chautala and his two sons- Dushyant and Digvijay.

The bitter feud in the INLD was the biggest political spectacle of Haryana in 2018. Both, OP Chautala and his elder son Ajay are serving a 10-year jail term in connection with the teachers' recruitment scam.

Amid the Chautala clan feud, another member of the family has also thrown his hat into the poll ring. JJP has fielded Dushyant's younger brother Digvijay from Sonipat Lok Sabha constituency.

Digvijay, 27, who had earlier this year made his political debut in Jind bypoll and finished at second spot, will now face a tough poll battle against former Chief Minister and Congress nominee Bhupinder Singh Hooda and BJP's Ramesh Chander Kaushik (outgoing MP) in Sonipat constituency.

Congress veteran and a prominent Jat leader, Bhupinder Singh Hooda's son Deepender is also in the fray from the Rohtak constituency for the fourth time. Chaudhary Ranbir Singh, father of Bhupinder Hooda, had won the Rohtak seat twice, Hooda had won it four times while

Deepender has made a hat-trick of victory in Rohtak, known as Hooda's bastion.

In this election, Deepender is facing ruling BJP's Arvind Sharma, a Brahmin candidate in Jat dominated Rohtak Lok Sabha seat.

In Bhiwani-Mahendragarh constituency, Congress has fielded another dynast—former MP Shruti Choudhry, granddaughter of former Chief Minister Bansil Lal, who is also known as the 'architect of Haryana.'

A third-generation politician, Shruti Choudhry has the responsibility of carrying forward a legacy passed down from her grandfather Bansil Lal to her father late Surender Singh and down to her. Her mother Kiran Choudhry is CLP leader and an MLA from Tosham assembly segment.

Shruti made a successful debut in politics in 2009 general election but had lost the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. She will face the outgoing MP and BJP's nominee Dharambir in the poll battle.

Haryana goes to polling in a single phase on May 12 and it remains to be seen how these young generation politicians influence the psyche of voters using their last name and whether they will emerge victorious or not.

Punjab CM writes to Modi

Seeking relaxation in wheat specifications for procurement

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In view of the crop losses suffered by the state farmers due to unseasonal rains, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday written to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking relaxation in the specifications for wheat for procurement in the current season.

The Chief Minister has also asked the Prime Minister to direct the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to depute a team of experts to visit Punjab to assess the loss in quality of wheat due to the rains so that suitable revised specifications can be laid down.

He has urged the Prime Minister to order appropriate relaxation in specifications without any value cut, which would compound the problems of the farmers who had already suffered significant crop losses due to the rains and winds that lashed the state from April 16 to 18.

Capt Amarinder pointed out that such rains, at the time of maturation of wheat crop,

had caused damage to the standing crop and also affected the quality of the wheat grains because of water logging, leading to loss of lustre or blackened grains.

He mentioned that the frequent rains and slightly lower temperatures in the State in the month of March had already delayed the process of harvesting, because of which the arrival of wheat in mandis was delayed and commenced only from April 11.

Approximately three lakh MT of arrival of wheat has been reported in the mandis so far, which is significantly lower than arrivals in the past.

Although the arrival of wheat is likely to increase in the coming days, it has been reported by the field officers that the quality of wheat arriving in the mandis of the State does not fall into FAQ (Fair Average Quality) specifications. Therefore, prescribed uniform specifications of wheat with regard to damaged, slightly damaged, shrivelled and broken grains, lustre and moisture content would require relaxation by the Government of India, he said.

The Chief Minister urged Modi to immediately resolve the issue to ensure hassle-free procurement of wheat in the larger interest of the farming community.

2019 to be Cong, and Capt's last election in Punjab: Sukhbir

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

SAD president Sukhbir Badal on Monday said that the 2019 Lok Sabha elections would be the "last election not only for the present Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, but also for his party".

"Like SS Ray in West Bengal, Capt Amarinder's ineptitude for and total disinterest in working for the people and his arrogance and penchant for leisure and pleasure culture have already driven the last nail in the Congress coffin here. SAD and the people of Punjab are merely going to perform the last rites for the dead body called INC," said Sukhbir adding that the SAD-BJP alliance is poised to sweep all 14 seats in Punjab and Chandigarh.

Sukhbir, while addressing the party workers in ward-wise meetings in Sangrur from where former Finance Minister Parminder Singh Dhindsa is the alliance candidate, said that the Congress in Punjab was haunted by divine wrath because of the false oath taken by the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder in the name of the sacred charan of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji.

"This and the total and humiliating neglect of development and welfare priorities of the State as well as the Chief Minister's complete indifference to the problems and sufferings of the people has left the Congress cadre completely frustrated, disheartened and disillusioned with their own party and its government," he said, adding that the average Congress worker has now sensed that the poll in the state is a 'no contest'.

Sukhbir also addressed members of the Sangrur Bar Council where he appealed to the intellectual fraternity in the state to see through the Congress government's tactics of distracting people's attention from the real issues being faced by the common man in the state.

"The Congress govt is deliberately prolonging inquiries into emotional issues because they don't want people to question them on their government's non-performance and absolute absence of good governance...The Congress government has gone back on each and every promise which Amarinder had made to the people under a sacred oath. Now, they are using alibis like lack of funds," he said.

Capt dubs PM's nuke remark 'highly irresponsible'

Terms LS polls a 'jung' for India's future

PNS ■ JALANDHAR

Lambasting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "highly irresponsible statement" on India's nuclear arsenal, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday appealed to the people to support the Congress party's 'jung' for protecting the future of the nation, which the BJP-led government at the Centre had plunged into a state of ruin and devastation.

Kick-starting the process of filing of nominations by the Congress candidates in the State from Jalandhar, where he accompanied Punjab Congress candidate Santokh Singh Chaudhary to file nomination papers at the District

Administrative Complex, the Chief Minister told media persons that the Prime Minister's threat to trigger a nuclear war, clearly as a tool to be re-elected, was highly responsible.

"This is a jung (war) for the future of the nation. We are fighting a party that made tall promises but failed to deliver on even a single one of them," the Chief Minister said while addressing a public meeting in Chaudhary's favour at the PUDA grounds after filing the nominations.

Capt Amarinder lashed out at the BJP for ruining the nation with its anti-people policies, such as demonetization, Goods and Services Tax (GST) etc.

Pointing out that unem-

ployment rate was at an all-time high, Capt Amarinder ridiculed Modi's promise of 'achhe din', saying that "acche din us din aayenge jis din enna da bhog payega" (good days will come only when their rule is brought to an end).

People are sick and tired of their 'jumlas' and lies, said the Chief Minister, adding that people want jobs, industry etc. The people of India will overthrow the Modi government, which has spent the last five years misleading and lying to them, he said.

Playing the Prime Minister for his blatant and shameful politicization of the armed forces, the Chief Minister said that the Army and the forces are not Modi's personal property and any government of the day would have done what he did in the wake of the Pulwama attack.

Every day, army and paramilitary personnel are dying

in the line of duty, and yet the Prime Minister has the audacity to take credit for their actions, he added.

The Chief Minister came down heavily on the BJP for giving a ticket to Sadhvi Pragya, who has been openly going around making divisive and hate speeches, and insulting the men in uniform. "Such people are deliberately being given tickets by BJP in order to divide the people of India," he said, asserting that the people would not allow the ruling party to destroy the nation's peaceful fabric to promote their petty political interests.

The government's job is to ensure the welfare of the people, not divide them, said Capt Amarinder, adding that the government must understand and work towards mitigating the problem of the people.

The Congress in Punjab,

he pointed out, was continuously working for the betterment of the people and working for upliftment of all sections of the society.

He cited the examples of farm loan waiver for 10.25 lakh marginal and small farmers, as well as landless labourers, and the facilitation of youth to get employment/self-employment as part of his government's flagship 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar aur Karobar' scheme.

Unfortunately, the government cannot give jobs to everyone and was trying, therefore, to get more and more industry and private enterprise into the state for the creation of employment opportunities, the Chief Minister said.

He indicated the establishment of an industrial circle in Jalandhar to bring in new industries and promote further industrial development.

Haryana CM attacks Congress

PNS ■ ROHTAK

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Monday said that the BJP is in favor of removal of Article 370 and protection of rights of the defence forces personnel besides taking steps to safeguard the security and integrity of the country.

On the other hand, the opposition Congress wanted to retain Article 370 and repeal sedition laws, he said while addressing a gathering at Rohtak.

Manohar Lal cautioned the people against the policies of the Congress which would only weaken the country.

During its long rule, the Congress has been repeatedly given the slogan of Garibi Hatao in every election since the regime of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru without doing anything concrete for the eradication of the poverty in the country, he said.

The Chief Minister urged the electorate to press the button of Lotus on May 12 to ensure the return of Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister for the second term so that the BJP government could further accelerate the pace of development for the welfare of all sections of the society, including poor and downtrodden, women, farmers and unemployed youth.

He said that nobody sees Congress chief Rahul Gandhi as a serious contender for the Prime Ministership. He is not aware of the ground realities in any sector, Manohar Lal said.

The Chief Minister said that the BJP has one regret that the saffron party could not win the Rohtak seat, which is political capital of the state, during the 2014 elections. But this time all party men have to ensure that the BJP wins Rohtak and other 9 seats in the state, he added.

Akalis playing into ISI hands by sabotaging sacrilege probe: Tewari

PNS ■ ROPAR

Congress candidate from Sri Anandpur Sahib Manish Tewari on Monday alleged that the Akali Dal leaders were playing into the hands of Pakistan and its notorious intelligence agency, ISI,

the Press' programme organized by the Ropar Press Club, said that the Akalis were misinforming the Election Commission of India by complaining against the officers involved in investigation.

"The Bargadi sacrilege was the handiwork of those who wanted to

are getting the officers removed from the investigations and getting these derailed," he asked.

Questioning the locus standi of the Akali candidate Prem Singh Chandumajra in describing him as an "outsider", Tewari said: "Let Mr Chandumajra explain whether he

nothing to his credit that he could claim he had done during the last five years as an MP, he is trying to divert the issue," he said.

At the same time, Tewari challenged Chandumajra to debate as whose contribution towards Punjab was greater. "I am a third generation Punjabi who has been involved with politics starting from my grandfather Sardar Tirath Singh Guram, who was a Minister, my father Prof Vishwanath Tewari who was an eminent Punjabi scholar and writer and an MP and now myself," he said, while asking Chandumajra to tell Punjabis what was his role in Punjab when his father (Prof Tewari) was fighting to save Punjabiyat and in the process,, laid down his life.

On the occasion, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) spokesperson Satbir Singh Ahluwalia also joined the Congress.

Capt-Badal all set to repeat friendly match they played in 2017: Mann

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

AAP's Punjab unit president and Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann on Monday said that the candidates fielded by both the Congress and SAD in Bathinda and Ferozepur Lok Sabha constituencies "after much hair-splitting has brought forth the bonhomie between both of them".

Mann alleged that Badals and Capt Amarinder fielded their candidates in Patiala, Lambi and Jalalabad constituencies to ensure each others' win by defeating AAP candidates there. "This time, both have repeated the same formula to stay in power," said Mann while alleging that had Captain not contested election from Lambi and fielded Raveen Singh Bittu from Jalalabad, both the Badals would not have been able to make it to the Assembly.

Accusing them both of conniv-

ing with each other to stay relevant in power, Mann said that under the well-planned design, the Badals had pitched weak candidate from Patiala constituency to seal the deal with Captain.

"These were not allegations levelled by AAP but one could find it written on the wall. These allegations were ratified by the candidates of SAD and Congress, including SAD nominee for the Lok Sabha elections, Sher Singh Ghubaiya and other leaders," he said.

Mann said that the Congress, under dubious arrangement, fielded a young, non-serious and motor-mouthed candidate from Bathinda constituency, Raja Warring, and Sher Singh Ghubaiya, who recently joined the party fold from Ferozepur amid raging opposition from the local party leaders, thereby clearing the deck for the Badal family to register a comfortable win in the election, he said.

Development, from Gurugram, and former Zila Parishad member Jai Bhagwan Sharma alias DD Sharma from Kurukshetra.

The lone Muslim candidate from Gurugram, Mehmood Khan is pitted against the BJP's nominee and Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh and Congress' Captain Ajay Yadav.

A day before, the AAP-JJP had announced the candidature of AAP state chief Naveen Jaihind from Faridabad. Jaihind is considered a confidant of AAP national chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.



by trying to sabotage the ongoing probe into the incidents of sacrilege that took place during their tenure. Tewari, speaking at the 'Meet

himself belongs to Sri Anandpur Sahib parliamentary constituency."

"Since Akali candidate has

JJP fields Digvijay Chautala from Sonipat constituency

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after Congress sprang a surprise announcing candidature of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda from Sonipat parliamentary constituency, Jannayak Janta Party, has fielded Digvijay Chautala, a fourth generation politician from the Chautala clan from the constituency.

The fledgling JJP, which is contesting the Lok Sabha polls in an alliance with Aam Aadmi Party in Haryana, on Monday,

announced three more candidates for the general elections. The candidates included Digvijay Chautala from Sonipat, Jai Bhagwan Sharma from Kurukshetra and Mehmood Khan from Gurugram.

Founded by Ajay Chautala, father of Digvijay Chautala, the JJP is contesting on seven seats while the AAP is contesting on three seats in the state.

Digvijay, 27, will be taking on Congress veteran Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who is more than double his age and the outgoing MP and BJP's nominee

Ramesh Chander Kaushik in Sonipat.

Digvijay's elder brother, Dushyant is seeking re-election from Hisar constituency in the polls. Both are the great grandson of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal. Sonipat parliamentary constituency is a Jat dominated seat and had seen Devi Lal making his Lok Sabha debut in the year 1980.

After JJP's good performance in Jind assembly bypoll earlier this year, when party candidate Digvijay had secured second spot leaving behind

candidates of Congress and INLD, he is seen as JJP's safe bet for Sonipat parliamentary seat. The polling arithmetic in Jind bypolls had suggested that Jat voters favoured Digvijay more over Congress' heavyweight Jat candidate Randeep Surjewala and INLD's Umed Singh Redhu.

Jind assembly segment falls under the Sonipat parliamentary seat.

In 2014 polls, BJP's Ramesh Chander Kaushik, a Brahmin candidate, had defeated Jagbir Singh Malik, another Jat candidate of Congress in Sonipat.

With two Jats including Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Digvijay Chautala and a Brahmin candidate in the fray, Sonipat will be witnessing a fierce three-cornered electoral battle this time.

The Jat community has more than 5 lakh voters in Sonipat and there are more than 1.5 lakh Brahmins as well. The main Khaps including Malik, Dahiyas, Rathis etc in the area also play a key role in deciding the fate of candidates in the fray.

Two-time former Chief Minister Hooda is a sitting leg-

islator from Garhi Sampla Kilo in Rohtak district. Sonipat parliamentary constituency lies adjacent to the Rohtak Lok Sabha seat, where Bhupinder Singh Hooda's son Deepender is seeking the mandate for the fourth time.

Notably, Hooda who was hopeful of retaining Jat dominated Sonipat and Rohtak seats in 2014 had lost Sonipat due to anti-incumbency factor coupled with the Modi wave.

Meanwhile, the JJP has fielded Mehmood Khan, who retired as global leader of Unilever Innovation Process

Sri Lanka's Christians afraid to attend church

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Members of Sri Lanka's Christian minority have been left afraid to go to church after deadly attacks that hit Easter services, killing nearly 300 and stoking fears of communal violence.

"Some people might be afraid to go to church now. At this moment I have no idea what to say," Father Lour Fernando told AFP by St Sebastian's in Negombo, one of three churches targeted Sunday.

"We have to remain strong and keep going to church and keep praying. We can't stop," Ranjan Christopher Fernand, a 55-year-old taxi driver from Negombo, said he was nervous about attending church after the attacks, which killed his friend's 11-year-old son.

"Tonight we (my family) will all go to church to pray for the victims," he said.

"Of course I feel afraid... but we have to go to church, we have to pray for the injured to get well soon." The suicide bomb attacks were the worst atrocity in Sri Lanka since the country's 37-year conflict with Tamil rebels ended a decade ago.

Sri Lanka's Christians, who make up just seven percent of the 21-million population, had been largely spared the worst of



Sri Lankans living near St. Anthony's shrine run for safety after police found explosive devices in a vehicle, seen behind before it exploded in Sri Lanka

the country's violence, including recent tensions between right-wing Buddhists and Muslims.

"We never thought we would ever be targeted. We never thought we would ever need protection," said a priest in the grounds of St Sebastian.

But others said there had been warnings, and documents seen by AFP showed the country's police chief had issued an alert on April 11 that warned a radical Muslim group planned to hit "prominent churches."

The government said Monday it believed the National Thowheeth Jamaath was behind the attacks.

A pastor at People's Church in Colombo, who declined to be

named, said police had told churches last week that they should brace for possible "incidents" and stay vigilant.

"We increased security at our church last week. We have also been checking vehicles coming into the church premises," he said.

"Although there was a generic warning to stay vigilant, some churches adopted a lax attitude because there were no details offered, like a possible timeline," he added.

"I feel more deaths could have been prevented if we were more alert." For some in the shaken Christian community, the attacks also raise the spectre of more widespread communal violence.

Buddhist monks visit bombed church

'WE DON'T HAVE ANY ANGER' AGAINST OTHER RELIGIONS: LANKAN MONKS

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A small group of monks in saffron robes visited the bombed St Anthony's Church

here on Monday and said they don't have any anger or ill will towards anyone of any other religion in the Buddhist-majority nation. The Buddhist monks visited the historic Catholic church located at Kochchikade, a day after a suicide bomber reportedly triggered a huge blast, killing many worshippers who had gathered for the Easter Sunday morning mass.

Venerable Prof Pitigala Vijitha Thero was outside St

Anthony's Shrine said he was "extremely saddened and grieved" by the incident.

"Since the (civil) war, people belonging to all religions and faiths had been co-existing and living together in unity and harmony. This is not something that anyone could have anticipated," he told the BBC.

He said he condemned the attacks, but "we don't have any anger or ill will towards anyone of any other religion."

"I pray that peace prevails - not only in this country, but in the whole world," he said.

Sri Lanka is a country of great religious diversity that crosses ethnic lines, and the monks' presence at the church was a sign of this, CNN commented.

Sunday's attacks are the deadliest seen in Sri Lanka since the end of the country's civil war in 2009. The civil war ended with the defeat of the Tamil

Tigers, who had fought for 26 years for an independent homeland for the minority ethnic Tamils. The war is thought to have killed between 70,000 and 80,000 people.

The nation has seen some sporadic violence since. In March 2018, a state of emergency was declared after hard-line members of the majority Buddhist Sinhala community attacked mosques and Muslim-owned properties.

Relatives endure grim screening to identify dead at Colombo morgue

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Some hid their eyes, some collapsed in tears as gruesome images of victims from Sri Lanka's Easter massacre were projected on to a screen in front of distraught relatives at a Colombo morgue on Monday.

The pictures of some of the 290 dead are disturbing, with faces battered and bodies missing limbs. A Roman Catholic priest and a Buddhist counterpart waited in the corner of the courtyard to intervene when one of scores of people in the audience recognised a mother, brother or child.

Many of the dead from attacks on three churches and

three luxury hotels have been taken to the government morgue and people queued in the heat to get into the heart-wrenching identification slideshow. Eighteen bodies were released on Monday morning after relatives recognised a victim from the gruesome images shown in a corner of the morgue courtyard.

Identification is painstaking, physically and emotionally. Many badly mutilated bodies will only be identified with the DNA of relatives, officials said.

Janaka Shaktivel, 28, father of an 18-month-old son, sat in shock outside the building waiting for the body of his wife to be handed over.



Three of the four children of Danish business tycoon, Anders Holch Povlsen, who is allegedly the Nordic country's richest man and a major private landowner in Britain have died in the Sri Lanka bombings on Sunday

A Catholic town at the center of Sri Lanka's deadly attacks

PTI ■ NEGOMBO

The seaside Sri Lankan fishing town of Negombo has long been called "Little Rome," a reference to its abundance of churches and its place at the center of the

country's small Catholic community.

On Monday, it was a town in mourning.

Small white flags flew in a house after house near St. Sebastian's Church, a sign that someone who lived there had

died. Groups of people visited, paying their respects.

On Easter Sunday, a bomb blast ripped through St. Sebastian's, one of a half-dozen coordinated attacks on churches and high-end hotels that killed nearly 300 people.

At least 110 were killed at St. Sebastian's, said Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, making it the day's most deadly bombing.

Charles Fernando, 32, who was among the neighbourhood residents walking between houses, pointed to a home where he said nearly everyone had been killed or injured.

"We had war for 30 years but there were no bomb blasts in Negombo," he said.

Pompeo vows fight on 'Islamic radical terrorism' after Sri Lanka attacks

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo vowed on Monday that the United States will keep fighting "radical Islamic terrorism" after devastating attacks in Sri Lanka that targeted churches and hotels on Easter.

"Radical Islamic terrorism remains a threat. We are continuing to do real work against these evil human beings," Pompeo told reporters.

"This is America's fight, too," added Pompeo, who said he had spoken by telephone with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

US, Canada issue travel advisories to citizens travelling to Sri Lanka

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The US and Canada have issued travel advisories to their citizens seeking to visit Sri Lanka, citing threats of terrorism, a day after the calm of Easter Sunday was shattered by gruesome bombings targeting the country's churches and hotels that killed at least 290 people.

According to advisories, travellers should exercise a high degree of caution in Sri Lanka due to the current security situation.

The US Embassy said terrorists may attack with little or no warning targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, local government facilities, hotels,

clubs, restaurants, places of worship, parks, major sporting and cultural events, educational institutions, airports and other public areas.

The US citizens travelling to or residing in Sri Lanka were advised to enrol in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) in order to receive the latest security updates, the Sunday Times reported.

The situation remains volatile in Sri Lanka after eight explosions rocked churches and luxury hotels, killing up to 290 people, including six Indians, and with over 500 sustaining injuries.

The Canadian government also issued a travel advisory to its nationals.

"The decision to travel is your choice and you are responsible for your personal safety abroad," the advisory said.

"We take the safety and security of Canadians abroad very seriously and provide credible and timely information in our Travel Advice to enable you to make well-informed decisions regarding your travel abroad," it said.

The death toll Monday sharply rose to 290, including six Indians, from the blasts - the worst terror attack in the country's history.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but police on Monday arrested 24 people and declined to give further details.

GLOBAL TROTTERING

BUS CRASH KILLS AT LEAST 17 IN BOLIVIA

La Paz (Bolivia): Bolivian police say a bus has crashed head-on with another vehicle and plunged down a deep ravine, killing 17 people, leaving 15 others injured.

TRUMP: CONGRESS 'CAN'T IMPEACH' HIM

Washington: President Donald Trump said Monday that Congress "can't impeach" him over the findings of the Mueller report into Russian election meddling and his attempts to hamper the investigation.

BUILDINGS COLLAPSE IN PHILIPPINE QUAKE, 5 DIE

Manila: Five people were killed when at least two buildings collapsed as a strong earthquake rocked the northern Philippines, a local official said. Three bodies have been pulled out of a collapsed building in the town of Porac, while an old woman and her grandchild were crushed to death by another building in the town of Lubao, provincial governor Lilia Pineda told ABS-CBN television.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown male, Age about 65 years, Height 5'2", Complexion Wheatish, Oval Face, Weak Build, White Hair, Wearing Red colour T-shirt, white colour coat and blue colour check nikhar was found at Shantivan Red Light Bus Stand, Daryaganj, Delhi on 15.04.19. In this regard a DD No. 16-A dated 15.04.19 U/S 174 Cr.PC has been lodged at PS Daryaganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification at Maulana Azad Medical College mortuary for 72 hours.

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

SHO
PS : Daryaganj, Delhi
Ph.: 23274683, 23279331
DP/6214/CD/19

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE, GROUND WATER DIVN, BAGH ALI MARDAN NOWSHERA, SRINAGAR KASHMIR

GIST of E-Tender
NIT No: PHE/GWDS 03 of 04/ 2019 Dated 22-04-2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited for the job detailed below in two cover system from registered Contractors:-

S.No.1. Description of Job :- Unloading, Stacking Handling/Re-handling /Head Load of the Departmental material i.e 125mm dia pipes/Hand pump sets in the Divisional office Stores at Nowsheera Srinagar.

Cost of Tender Document :- Rs.200/-
Cost of EMD :- Rs. 3600/-
Validity of Rates :- 180 Days
Critical Dates /Information.

1. Publishing Date :- 23-04-2019
 2. Document Downloading Start Date :- 23-04-2019(09:00 A.M)
 3. Document Downloading Last Date :- 02-04-2019(04:00 P.M)
 4. On Line Document Submission Start Date :- 23-04-2019(09:00 A.M)
 5. On Line Document Submission Last Date :- 02-05-2019 up to (4:00 P.M)
 6. Date of opening of Tender :- 03-05-2019 at (11:00 A.M)
 7. Tender Receiving Authority :- Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.
 8. Document Cost : Rs 200/= (Two Hundred only) for each well (Non-Refundable) in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Sadder Treasury Srinagar).
 9. Earnest Money: for an amount shown in Gist of NIT against the job in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar 190011.
 10. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days
- Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPK-NB-300/19
Dated: 22.04.2019

Trump lawyer attacks Mueller report

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump's top lawyer Don Sunday attacked "calumny, lies and distortions" in the Mueller investigation report, and said there is "nothing wrong" with taking hacked information from Russia.

Rudy Giuliani mounted a combative defense of the president in Sunday talk show appearances that took aim at Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigators, the evidence they amassed and the witnesses they cited.

The former New York mayor heaped special scorn on Senator Mitt Romney, a former Republican presidential candidate who said Friday he was "sickened" by the report's findings and "appalled" that Trump's election campaign "welcomed help from Russia."

"What a hypocrite. What a hypocrite. Any candidate in the whole world in America would

take information," Giuliani said of Romney on CNN's "State of the Union."

He was referring to Democratic emails that were hacked by Russian operatives and disseminated by WikiLeaks in 2016 to hurt Trump presidential rival Hillary Clinton.

"Who says it's even illegal?" Giuliani added. "Does the information turn out to be false, by the way? The information that was gleaned and disseminated, every newspaper printed it."

Trump publicly encouraged Russia and WikiLeaks while top campaign officials, including his son and son-in-law, met in Trump Tower with a Russian promising dirt on Clinton.

"There is nothing wrong with taking information from the Russians. It depends on where it came from," Giuliani said, adding that as a lawyer he would have advised against it.

"This didn't become an international scandal because of immorality. It became an international scandal because the president was accused of violating the law falsely," he said.

His comments echoed Trump, who mocked Romney on Twitter Sunday, after lashing out Friday at the "bullshit" Mueller report. The president was in Palm Beach, Florida where he attended Easter services.

The special counsel's 22-month-long investigation concluded that Trump and his team did not collude with the Russian effort to sway the elections in his favour.

But it detailed 10 episodes of potential obstruction by Trump, including his firing of FBI director James Comey and demands that Mueller himself be removed.

MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl, Namely: Priyanka, D/o: Virender, R/o: H.No. 227, Gali No.-01, Basti Bakner, Narela, Delhi has been missing/Kidnaped since 01.04.2019 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard, a Case Vides DD No. 94-A Dated 01.04.2019, has been registered at P.S. Narela, Delhi. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the girl could not be traced.

The description of the missing/ kidnaped girl is as under:

Name: Priyanka, D/o: Virender, R/o: H.No. 227, Gali No.-01, Basti Bakner, Narela, Delhi, Age: 20 years, Height: 4'10" feet, Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit & Salwar with Chundi and Blue Colour Chappal in feet. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnaped girl, then please inform P.S. Narela, Delhi.

email: clic@cbl.gov.in S.H.O
Fax: No.011-24368639 P.S. Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph.: 011-27282350, 27285839
DP/199/ON/19.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of female Age: Approx 70 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 4'10", was wearing Red Saree, Cream Blouse and Bare feet, was found near Kali Mata Mandir, Outer Ring Road, Pitam Pura, Delhi at 08:05 AM. In this regard a FIR No. 387/19 u/s 279/304-A IPC, dated 12.04.2019, has been registered at P.S. Mangol Puri, New Delhi.

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

SHO
P.S. Mangol Puri, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-27921168, 27922186
DP/2162/OD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: Approx 40 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'10", Built: Strong, Face: Round, ID Mark: Divansh/Rivansh Tattoo on Left Hand & OM Tattoo on Right Hand, wearing white colour shirt (Tailor Denizen) & Black colour Jeans Pant (Recrvit) and chappal in feet, was found unconscious at DBG Road Near Central Bank, Pahar Ganj, Delhi. Doctor declared him dead vide MLC No. 75144/19 in LHMC Hospital, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 12PPST, dated 18.04.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Pahar Ganj, New Delhi.

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

SHO
P.S. Pahar Ganj, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23520787, 23524746
DP/6216/CD/19

AXIS BANK Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001. Also Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Washwan, Noida (U.P.)-201301. Retail Asset Centre, Ghaziabad: BF-1A, 2, 3, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, Nih Khanda-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201012. Retail Asset Centre Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec. 16, Faridabad, Haryana-121002. Retail Asset Centre Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd. - ASC Gurgaon, SG-107, DLF Galleria Complex, Near Post Office, DLF City Phase 4, Gurgaon-122009 Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurangh/Bukhari Marg, Mumbai-400025. Registered Office: Trishar, 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

Whereas POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) 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 Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower/Co-borrower	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice
1. M/S Dhalav Impex, Through Proprietor Mr. Siddharth Jain 1118 Diamond Palace Shop No. 11chhatta Madan Gopal Mallwara Chandini Chowk, Delhi-110006	A Residential Plot Bearing No. 16 In The Lay Out Plan Of I.M.D. Chbs Ltd. Measuring 202.66 Sq. Yds. Musamam Vihar, New Delhi	16-Jan-19
2. Mr. Siddharth Jain S/o Kamal Prasad Jain 16, Mausam Vihar Delhi-110051	North- Road 45 West South - Drain East - Plot No. 1 West - Distt. Park	28-Apr-19
3. Mr. Kamal Prasad Jain S/o Bimal Prasad Jain 16, Mausam Vihar Delhi-110051		Rs. 7456416/-Interest, incidental expenses and cost
4. Mrs. Ashok Jain W/o Kamal Prasad Jain 16, Mausam Vihar Delhi-110051		

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 22-04-2019, Place: Delhi

Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL II, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001 (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

PROCLAMATION OF SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Property will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI BANK LTD v/s DPL BUILDERSPVT LTD AND ANR O.A No. 790/2018 & I.A.No: 549/19

1.Description of Property: Make: Land Rover Freelander 2 Se. Reg No: DL1CS4142

Manuf Year: 2015 Km: 1.15 Lakh Reserve Price- Rs. 12, 60,000 EMD- Rs. 1, 26,000

2. Date and Time of Auction: 30.04.2019

3. Auction Venue: Ridhi Godara Yard, Kataria Chowk Sector 17, Sukhrani Gaon Behind Air Force Station, Gurgaon

4. Manager: Shankar Kapoor Mob No: 9650193259

Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.

Interested bidders shall be required to deposit an Earnest Amount mentioned above against the respective vehicle by way of pay order/Demand Draft payable at Delhi and in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd, Delhi. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit balance amount within 5 days from the approval shared with them.

In Case of failure to deposit the amount as mentioned above, the amount of Earnest Money deposited shall be forfeited.

Interested participant/s are requested to participate 30 April, 2019 for physical auction or call Bank Manager Shankar Kapoor.

Terror returns

Sri Lanka has enjoyed a tremendous peace dividend. This momentum shouldn't be lost after the Easter attacks



First things first, any attack on a house of worship, no matter which religion's, by someone who claims to be a religious supremacist is not an attack by an individual who believes in God. It is an act by a cowardly individual who does not believe in any ideology of humanity. Whether those strikes happen in Varanasi, Christchurch or as it happened this past Sunday, in Colombo. These blasts shattered the peace of the last decade in the island nation, a peace achieved after a two-decade civil war that cost thousands of lives, including those of 1,200 Indian soldiers between 1987-1990 who were part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF), an unmitigated disaster of our foreign policy and military intelligence, likened by some as India's Vietnam. A hard-handed and brutal approach by the Sri Lankan military wiped out the Tamil separatists in the north of the country, who had through several high-profile terrorist targets, killed hundreds of civilians and completely devastated the nation's economy. But following their rout, the country has enjoyed a huge peace dividend with rapid economic progress as well as a revival of the tourism sector.

However, there is little doubt that Sri Lanka, like India and many other countries, has underlying religious tensions. These have only accelerated over the past few years with the rise of fundamentalist forces such as the Islamic State as well as religious fundamentalism in South and South-East Asia. While this attack is a symptom of this rising wave of fundamentalism, it is strange that the killers targeted the Christians in the nation, since neither the Tamil separatists nor the Sinhala majority ever zeroed in on them during the civil war. But Sri Lanka's really small Muslim population on its eastern seaboard was singled out by both Tamil and Sinhalese forces. There have been rising tensions between Sinhalese Buddhists and Muslims for some time now. Though Buddhism is seen as a religion that advises mindfulness and the Middle Path, fact is the Sinhalese have, like their counterparts in Thailand and Myanmar, linked it to issues of identity and they justify violence when they are under threat. With the Tamil issue gone, these people have latched on to Islamic fundamentalism as the new threat. This is something for the government of Ranil Wickremasinghe to address, although with polls scheduled later this year, the situation could easily degenerate. It is also important for India to help Sri Lanka with intelligence and information at this time. The scale and coordination of the attacks make it obvious that a small band of terrorists could not have pulled this off without support from forces abroad. It is likely that some of the executors could have an Indian connection, which means India itself should be on guard to ensure that violence does not spread to its mainland or that the island doesn't become a festering launchpad. Most importantly, it is important that Sri Lanka's bountiful years of peace are not brought to an end. These terrorists clearly wanted to send not just a message of religious fundamentalism but also one that punctured the nation's burgeoning tourism economy with scare-mongering. They wanted to make a splash. They must fail.

A matter of honour

Whatever the allegations against the CJI, a due process needs to be followed to expose the truth. For every citizen's sake



Social activist Swami Agnivesh summed up the controversy over sexual misconduct allegations against the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi with a rounded statement embodying what the judiciary, facing a crisis of confidence, should do. "The maturity, authenticity and stature of the Supreme Court will be tested on how this crisis is weathered and how the majesty of law is upheld without fear or favour," he said. For there is a gathering cloud of judgements swirling around the case already, one that has

to be dispelled convincingly. Is this another attack on an institution, as has been suggested by the CJI himself, to deactivate a position that is tasked with fair dissemination of justice on the eve of crucial rulings that can have a cascading consequence on polity, not too favourably may be for certain political parties? Is this a motivated attack, using the old trope of blackmail by a victimised woman, on a man who has been largely known for his personal decency for the most part of his judicial career and is looking to bow out with the same grace? Or is it comeuppance for moments that are unrecorded in the legal chambers? Is some vested interest taking advantage of the fact that there is no legal framework within the top court's rulebook whereby a CJI could be investigated on allegations such as these, his removal being only possible through parliamentary impeachment? Finally, in the age of #MeToo, this charge by a junior staff against the topmost office-bearer at the workplace ought to be dealt with high standards of objectivity and due process so that working women demanding justifiable rights are not trivialised anymore or subjected to innuendos of "I told you so." For the sake of all women out there, if the accuser is guilty of fabrication, coercion and mala fide intent, she should be booked, too. And for the highest court, which has been guaranteeing women's rights, it becomes imperative its highest office-bearer be seen as acting justly in matters concerning women employees.

Gogoi has already been in the public eye for joining three of his colleagues in the collegium last year for questioning the process of case allocations by the office of the then CJI and the independence of the institution. He risked his elevation by taking a public stand on the internal workings of the court, something which many believe should not have played out in the public space. Which is why he cannot afford a similar public jury verdict on the propriety of handling another delicate matter. Already some experts are saying that the CJI might have just hastily launched his defence through a suo moto hearing. Assuming he is right, a knee-jerk reaction only raises more questions and doubts. In the absence of a credible mechanism, the woman had no option but to appeal to the Justices of the Supreme Court to create a Special Inquiry Committee comprising retired judges. Besides, the top court's "In-House Procedure" lays out the process to deal with allegations of sexual harassment, instructing an inquiry committee to take cognisance of complaints and initiate proceedings only after giving notices to the respondent (the CJI in this case) and the complainant (the woman). However, this is yet to happen. Neither did the CJI's special hearing in court include the complainant, though remarks were passed about her and her faulty legal record. So this imputation that the allegations were a proxy war against the judiciary would look one-sided without meaning to be so. In the end, the Supreme Court is the country's most honourable institution, upholder of Constitutional morality and a protector of the citizen's rights. And if it is indeed under attack, then its justices should set an example why one should never attempt to defile it. If not, then they need to restore faith in its infallibility in a manner that there is no room for doubt.

opinion

Money rules the roost

Although muscle power has been brought under control, electoral spending has reached monstrous proportions. The Election Commission must come face-to-face with this reality



A SURYA PRAKASH

Although the use of muscle power to capture booths and intimidate voters belonging to vulnerable social groups has drastically come down in recent years, the percentage of candidates with criminal records still remains a matter of concern. But the bigger worry is money power. During a recent tour of some constituencies in Karnataka, this writer heard from political leaders and those in the know that in most constituencies, candidates have to spend upwards of ₹20 crore to be in the reckoning. There was also near unanimity that some candidates in the old Mysore area had spent over ₹100 crore! With top contenders in every Lok Sabha seat spending phenomenal sums of money, the democratic process is now out-of-bounds for an average citizen.

The National Election Watch (NEW) and the Association for Democratic Rights (ADR) have been providing detailed analysis of the information provided by candidates in their sworn affidavits while filing their nominations. Their analysis of the 521 members of the outgoing Lok Sabha, based on their affidavits, should be a matter of deep concern.

The NEW-ADR analysis found that 174 of the 521 MPs had declared that criminal cases were pending against them, constituting one-third of the Lok Sabha. Further, among them, 106 MPs (20 per cent) were facing serious criminal cases like murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping and communal disharmony among others. Thirty-five per cent of the MPs belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and 16 per cent of the Congress and AIADMK MPs in the outgoing Lok Sabha have criminal backgrounds. However, the Shiv Sena topped the list with 83 per cent of this party's MPs having criminal records.

As regards the financial muscle of candidates, the survey showed that of the 521 sitting MPs, 430 (83 per cent) were crorepatris in 2014 and they had average assets of ₹14.72 crore. Eighty-seven per cent of the BJP MPs are crorepatris, as against 82 per cent in the Congress and 78 per cent in the AIADMK. The average asset base of BJP MPs was ₹12 crore, while that of Congress MPs was ₹15.47 crore.

A recent report by NEW-ADR, after examining the affidavits of candidates in the fray in the first two phases of the current Lok Sabha election, is also revealing. Out of the 2,923 candidates, the NEW-ADR analysis of 2,856 affidavits shows that 464 have criminal records, constituting 16 per cent of the total. Of them, 313 candidates have serious criminal cases. As regards the net worth of candidates, 824 of them — 29 per cent — are crorepatris and they have, on an average, assets of over ₹5 crore. But this is the average of 2,856 candidates. The net worth of successful



candidates will be much, much higher when you look at the amount of money being spent in each constituency.

A comparison of criminal records of outgoing MPs and candidates in this election shows that the new House will have its share of such individuals. Although statistically speaking, criminal record of candidates in the present election is lower than that of successful candidates in 2014, one must remember that the winnability of candidates with criminal records is higher than those who come with a clean slate. Therefore, we must await the results and see what percentage of the members of the new Lok Sabha have criminal cases pending against them.

What do we do with the fact that one-third of our MPs have criminal records and 20 per cent of them are facing serious criminal cases like murder, attempt to murder and kidnapping? This needs to be reversed and the best way to do it is to bar all those, against whom serious criminal charges have been framed in a court of law, from contesting elections until they are acquitted. In order to prevent vindictive prosecution, the courts must dispose

“
WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE FACT THAT ONE-THIRD OF OUR MPs HAVE CRIMINAL RECORDS AND 20 PER CENT OF THEM ARE FACING SERIOUS CRIMINAL CASES? THIS NEEDS TO BE REVERSED AND THE BEST WAY TO DO IT IS TO BAR ALL THOSE, AGAINST WHOM SERIOUS CRIMINAL CHARGES HAVE BEEN FRAMED, FROM CONTESTING ELECTIONS UNTIL THEY ARE ACQUITTED
 ”

of these cases on a priority basis as recommended by the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, which was headed by former Chief Justice of India, MN Venkatachaliah.

Five decades ago, there would be large scale violence during elections in the country. States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh were notorious for booth capturing. Prominent candidates in the fray would have their own armed gangs to disrupt polling in booths which were not favourable to them. The gangs would open fire, chase away election officials and electors, capture the booths and burn the paper ballots. This is now a thing of past

But the other big issue — money power — has reached monstrous proportions. Although muscle power has been brought under control, spending in elections has gone completely out of control and the Election Commission appears to be totally helpless despite huge deployment of observers and seizure of cash, gold, liquor and drugs meant for bribing voters. In the first two phases of this election, the Election Commission already seized close to ₹700 crore in cash, liquor worth ₹218 crore

and drugs and narcotics worth ₹1,152 crore. They have also seized gold and precious metals worth over ₹500 crore. Although this is unprecedented, it is still the tip of the iceberg.

Having travelled in some States and heard reports of voter bribing, one can safely say that although the Election Commission has raised the permissible expenditure in a Lok Sabha constituency in larger States to ₹70 lakh, the spending is upwards of ₹20 crore per candidate. Thus, if we have two main contenders for each of the 543 elected seats in the Lok Sabha, the candidates and their parties would have splurged over ₹20,000 crores, mostly to bribe voters in this election.

With feudal, caste-based political families loaded with such huge, ill-gotten resources playing the game, democracy is becoming a no-entry zone for an average citizen. The Election Commission must come face-to-face with this reality and find ways to stop the bribing of voters. Failing which, democracy will be reduced to an absolute farce.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

Whatever we do, we have to make Pakistan change its behaviour. That means we must also change our behaviour towards it.

Congress leader —P Chidambaram



Getting into an unknown and uncharted territory today. Doing something I have never done before. Excited and nervous both.

Actor —Akshay Kumar



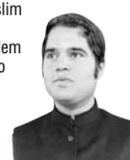
Common interests far outweigh differences between China and India. Both sides should sustain the positive momentum of sound and steady relationship.

Chinese Foreign Minister —Wang Yi



I will be very happy if Muslim brothers vote for me. But even if you don't, no problem at all. You can still come to me for your work.

BJP MP —Varun Gandhi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congress revolt

Sir — Priyanka Chaturvedi's exit is definitely a loss to the Congress. However, she could have given those she had grievances against another chance to express their standpoint. The party leadership could have ensured this. Further, she should have waited to see further developments without quitting the party in a huff. The fact that she rushed to join the Shiv Sena soon after leaving the Congress is shocking. People have lost faith in her and will consider the entire episode a pre-planned farce.

Shalini Gerald
Chennai

Stand firm on terror

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "On Easter, violence resurrects in Lanka" (April 22). A series of explosions in churches and hotels in Sri Lanka during an Easter Sunday by suicide bombers linked to a Muslim organisation, Jamaat, has shaken the conscience of the world. Since it was a well-planned attack, it is disappointing that despite the intelligence having alerted the Government about the

Regional parties must bury the hatchet

This refers to the editorial, "A Mulayam transition" (April 22). Initially, when the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) announced a poll pact to fight Lok Sabha elections, speculation was rife that Mulayam Singh Yadav might not have agreed to this formula due to the old animosity between him and Mayawati. But Mayawati and Mulayam Singh Yadav turned the tables by not only sharing the stage at a historic rally in Mainpuri but also heaping praises on each other. It seems both have come very far from the guest house episode days.

Indeed, the need of the hour is for the alliance to put forth a united face and wage a coordinated fight against the ruling party to stand a chance of reaping maximum seats from the largest State of the nation. After the Karnataka State elections — where an unprecedented alliance between the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) was forged — the way regional party leaders came together to join hands, it was assumed that



the mahagathbandhan would be a pan-Indian affair. But only SP-BSP have walked the talk. On the other hand, the Congress has not shown any pragmatic approach. If Mulayam and Mayawati can join hands, it's not impossible for other regional leaders to forget past differences. They should move on with changed ground realities.

Bal Govind
Noida

impending disaster, no preventive measures were taken by the authorities to thwart the nefarious designs of religious fundamentalists. Further, it is distressing that more such attacks will be planned in the near future at different places across countries.

Along with the churches and the hotels, the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, too, was on the attack list but thank-

fully the terrorists missed the target. The modus operandi of the perpetrators is very clear. The Islamist terrorists want to bleed not only India but the rest of the world. India must take the lead in fighting terrorism and urge world leaders to take decisive action to prevent catastrophes instead of just condemning incidents.

KR Srinivasan
Secunderabad

Versatile singer

Sir — Amar Pal, the renowned folk singer, passed away at the age of 98. He was the first folk musician, whose song was broadcast over the All India Radio in 1951.

I will always remember him for the songs he sang in one of Satyajit Ray's legendary films, HIRAK RAJAR DESHE. All the 12

songs in this movie were written as well as composed by Satyajit Ray himself. Ray got many awards for the best music direction for this film. One of these songs, 'Kotoi Rongo Dekhi Duniyay' (the world is full of wonders), was sung by Amar Pal. Amar means immortal in Bengali. Indeed, his voice has immortalised the powerful words of Ray in this song.

Sujit De
Kolkata

Restore the judiciary

Sir — It is regretful that the sanctity of the highest court of the land has been under threat since the last five years. Earlier, it was an unprecedented January 2018 revolt by four sitting judges of the Supreme Court and now, the CJI has been accused of sexual harassment by a former woman staffer. The incident highlights the fact that even the office of the CJI can easily be tarnished. A thorough investigation is the need of the hour.

Ravi
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

‘Orwellian’ state of an island nation

There are several harrowing facets to Brunei’s administration that resemble a backslide into archaic intolerance. The new stoning law is one among them



PRASHANT SINGH

MEGHNA SHARMA

In his book, *1984*, George Orwell narrated a claustrophobic tale of a dystopian and totalitarian society through the eyes of his protagonist Winston Smith. Though the book was written over 70 years ago, it seems more relevant today than ever. No wonder, the sales of this book has seen a significant surge around the world lately. Renewed interest in dystopian literature has emerged primarily because it serves to remind us to look out for signs around us that have the potential to bring out the fictional hell into life.

Early this month, Brunei, a small island state, became the centre of attention as it introduced a Shariah law at the national level that makes gay sex and adultery punishable by stoning to death. The Sultan of Brunei had announced these changes in 2014 but amendments came into effect only this year. Since these changes go against the decades of progress made under the international human rights law, this move has drawn fierce condemnation from the global community. The Human Rights Watch has characterised this law to be “barbaric to the core.” Regardless of growing international pressure from all quarters, including the UN, the country has no plans to halt the implementation of these laws. In this context, the themes discussed by Orwell have regained relevance, courtesy the totalitarian regime of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

The ministry of love in Brunei: The Sultan’s aim is to transform Brunei into the same ‘Orwellian’ state as described in *1984*. It isn’t surprising, therefore, that he described these amendments as a “great achievement.” Parallels do not, however, end here. The “big brother” in Brunei exercises complete authority over public and private life of the individual. Sexual autonomy is not the only sphere of private life that is controlled here. The same penal punishment is also provided for adultery, abortion and alcohol consumption. The harsh forms of punishment, apart from death of stoning, include amputation of limbs and flogging. While homosexuality is being decriminalised in several nations, Brunei has managed to enter the league of those states that consider it to be a capital offence. The state of Brunei or rather, the monarch of Brunei, has not just retained death penalty but ensured that it is provided in the most cruel and vicious way — death by stoning.

Thought control: Another major theme from *1984*, which has found a second wave in Brunei, is through control. While the recent amendments have generated outrage across the international level, the people of Brunei are strangely silent about the entire episode. The Sultan has maintained a firm grip over the media and its right to free speech. Thus, any medium through which such criticism can be manifested is curbed. Quratul-Ain Baidul, in *Brunei Times*, said that although there is no censorship body in Brunei, the extent of self-censorship is such that everybody is afraid of overstepping their line. Journalists have become mere stenographers at the hands of the Government. While traditional media has ceded space for dissent, critics have turned to the Internet and social media. Anticipating these changes, the Government has planned to regulate online speech as well. The imposition of the current penal code was also preceded by a warning that online critics will be dealt with harshly once it is implemented.

Much like the “Orwellian” state of Oceania, Brunei’s Sultan insists on presenting his own reality. While the Sultan “does not expect other people to accept and agree with it, but it would suffice if they just respect the nation in the same way that it also respects them.” The recent changes giving effect to harsh penalties are part of the Sultan’s effort to impose conservative Islam in the country based on the restrictive interpretations of Shariah. Amnesty Journal reported that the proposed amendment seeks to impose further restrictions on women, like making it mandatory for them to stay at their guardian’s house till marriage.

There are many other harrowing facets to Brunei’s administration that resemble the ‘Orwellian’ state. The Government has also arrogated the power to ban any religious practice it considers “deviant” to Shariah principles. It does not allow workers to strike or participate in collective bargaining. Child marriage over 14 years of age is allowed. No civil society organisation in Brunei is allowed to raise concerns about human rights violations. As per the Human Rights Report 2018 released by the US Government, every humanitarian organisation here is required to work directly under the Government. Similar to the Orwellian dictator, the big brother, Hassanal Bolkiah has sweeping powers and continues to rule Brunei since 1961. Unfortunately, there is no end in sight. He has been able to assuage discontent among people with free healthcare and education, zero taxes and free housing. For the sake of the people in Brunei, one can only hope that this backslide into archaic intolerance doesn’t go unnoticed and the bleakness of the Sultan’s dystopia gets exposed.

(Prashant Singh is research fellow and Meghna Sharma is research intern at the Centre for Human Rights Studies, OP Jindal Global University)

EVERY OTHER DAY PAKISTAN USED TO GIVE NUCLEAR THREATS. WHAT DO WE HAVE? HAVE WE KEPT IT FOR ‘DIWALI’?

—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



PRIME MINISTER’S BOASTFUL CLAIMS OF BEING READY FOR A NUCLEAR ATTACK ON PAKISTAN IS UNCALLED FOR AND NOT IN NATION’S INTEREST.

—SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER ANAND SHARMA

No outsiders in Kerala

The Congress and the CPI(M) pretend to be arch rivals in the State even as they work together at the Centre. They alternate power in the State to keep a third entity out



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Every election in Kerala, whether it is to the Lok Sabha or the State Legislature, brings to mind the famous play *Ezhu Rathrikal* (Seven Nights), directed by Kaladi Gopi in 1963. *Ezhu Raathrikal* must have been the first play in Malayalam that was based on the lives of the marginalised and oppressed sections of society. The play is set in a street-side bus shelter that is home to a group of beggars, roadside vendors and anti-social elements. The central character of the play is Pazhanam Varkey, a professional beggar. “*Pazhanam*” is the Malayalam word for “poison.” One, therefore, need not elaborate about his character.

Varkey’s style of begging is unique and that’s the reason behind the success of the character. Even 50 years after its first show, the play and Varkey remain engraved in the minds of theatre buffs in the State. Varkey wears a scapular that has two pendants. One is a crucifix and the other is that of Lord Krishna. When Varkey goes to Christian houses, he wears the scapular in such a way that the crucifix is visible to the people. Whenever he goes to the house of Hindus, he displays the locket with Lord Krishna.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) is the new Varkey of Kerala because of the twin roles played by it in and outside the State. While in Kerala, the CPI (M) considers the Congress to be its main enemy, outside the State, it mingles freely with the latter. The CPI(M) is, perhaps, the best defender of the Congress, especially the Nehru-Gandhi clan, when reports of scams featuring the family members surface in the public domain.

But why is that both parties pretend as if they are at loggerheads and that, too, for the consumption of the public? Since the formation of Kerala in 1956, by merging the old princely States of Travancore, Kochi and parts of the Madras province, the political centrestage has been monopolised by two fronts led by the Congress and the communists. Supporting characters differ, depending on the political wind blowing across the State. But the two fronts, known in modern parlance by the names of the United Democratic Front (UDF), led by the Congress and the Left Democratic Front (LDF), led by the CPI(M), are the central characters.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or its previous avatar, the Jan Sangh, were never a force to reckon with in this State that has a split religious demography. The State consists of nearly 51 per cent Hindus, 26 per cent Muslims and 23 per cent Christians. Without active support from the minority communities, no front can win any election in Kerala.

Interestingly, the CPI(M)’s vote bank is the powerful Ezhava community, the society which gave birth to Sree Narayana Guru, the most revolutionary social reformer of the 20th Century. It was his teachings and uncompromising stance that led to the eradication of social evils like untouchability and marginalisation of the oppressed classes in the State. He could inspire the people to agitate for the right to walk along the roads leading to the temples which ultimately culminated in the Temple Entry Proclamation of 1936. At one stage, the communists had hijacked the agitation launched by the Guru and,

“WHAT MAKES THE 2019 LOK SABHA ELECTION IN KERALA UNIQUE IS A SERIES OF REPORTS ABOUT THE BJP-LED NDA OPENING ITS ACCOUNT. THE SABARIMALA AGITATION AND THE CPI(M)’S ACTIONS, TARGETTING HINDU PLACES OF WORSHIP AND INSULTING THE ACHARYAS, HAVE HURT HINDUS AND HAS RESULTED IN THE POLARISATION OF THE COMMUNITY. ONE MUST NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE BJP WINS ONE OR TWO SEATS



thus, they could mobilise the Ezhava community under the communist flag.

Over the years, however, the CPI(M) has lost its proletarian image and become a party promoting crony capitalists. It also ensures that the State does not progress an inch, economically or socially. The much-hyped Kerala model of development has ended in a disaster. The last six months have seen more than 40 farmers committing suicide because of the debt trap they have fallen into following crop failure. And the Marxist Government has done nothing to revive the fortunes of either the farmers or the marginal entrepreneurs. Three small entrepreneurs based in Kollam, too, committed suicide because they could not withstand the harassment of their party bosses.

Though there is a change of guard in Thiruvananthapuram every five years, what generally happens is that the CPI(M) and Congress-led fronts alternate between themselves. The two parties do not provide space for a third alternative because they know it well that their relevance will be lost the moment a third party finds space here. Hence, all elections in the State have followed a match-fixing arrangement between the Congress and the Marxists. Though the two may act as if they are arch rivals, both have an unseen umbilical chord between them. Prime Minister Narendra Modi exposed the same while he addressed a public rally at the State capital recently. He said, “It is *kusti* in Kerala and *dosti* in New Delhi. The CPI(M) and the Congress are the two faces of the same coin.”

Whenever there is a remote possibility of the BJP winning a seat in the State, the CPI(M) transfers its share of votes *en masse* to the Congress. This has been happening with active connivance of the local media. P Narayanan, octogenarian journalist, reminiscences how

Mathrubhumi, a leading Malayalam daily, violated all media ethics during the Assembly election held in 1960. “There was a big speculation that TN Bharathan, the Jana Sangh candidate from Guruvayur, would romp home because of the excellent work he had done to save the Manathala Temple from miscreants. But on the day of polling, *Mathrubhumi* came out with a banner headline proclaiming that Jan Sangh supporters would vote for the Congress. This upset the party workers. This has been the style of Kerala media since then,” said Narayanan.

What makes the 2019 Lok Sabha election in Kerala unique is a series of reports about the BJP-led NDA opening its account in this State. The Sabarimala agitation and the CPI(M)’s actions, targeting Hindu places of worship and insulting the *acharyas*, have hurt Hindus and has resulted in the polarisation of the community. So it is advantage BJP in two or three constituencies of the State. Congress chief Rahul Gandhi will definitely win from Wayanad because the LDF has fielded a “decoy” candidate against him as part of a game of match-fixing between the CPI(M) and the Congress. The Marxists want the Congress to win the 2019 Lok Sabha election and that’s about it. Card-holding members of the CPI(M) had the audacity to ask this writer to vote for Benny Behanan, the

Congress candidate from Chalakudy. The comrades want to ensure that the Congress’ candidate is elected with a big majority though the CPI(M) has fielded cine actor, Innocent Vareed Thekkethala, in the constituency.

TP Senkumar, former Chief of Kerala police, articulated the Hindu angst: “It is time the majority community, too, gets the same rights and freedom that is enjoyed by the minorities. Sabarimala is the beginning. The next in line is Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in the State’s capital.” Kerala is the only State that issues monthly pension to widows belonging to minority communities. Social benefits should be all inclusive.

More than 4,000 people, who took part in the Sabarimala agitation, are still in jail under various charges that are non-bailable offences. KP Sasikala, the frail looking leader of the Hindu United Forum, has 475 criminal cases slapped against her, including that of murder, attempt to murder, stone-pelting and other such criminal offences. These things have happened even as those, who chopped off the right hand of Prof Joseph, are out. This Friday saw the Marxists publicly silencing the chanting of God’s name at a temple in the capital city because the Chief Minister does not like it. Varkey would beg in Kerala displaying one-half of the scapular featuring the crucifix. He can show the other half with Lord Krishna’s pendant while in New Delhi and the rest of India.

(Kerala goes to the polls today to elect 20 members to the Lok Sabha. (The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)

The bottom line on free electricity

For a State where agriculture is largely based on ground water, provision for round-the-clock power supply may not be the best policy. Instead, the Telangana Government’s scheme has led to increasing farm distress. Alternatives such as recharging wells, water harvesting and conservation must be explored



JIN KATHRINE FOSLI

A AMARENDER REDDY

Sattaiha, a farmer in Shivampet village of Medak district in Andhra Pradesh, dug another borewell to save his standing crop from drought as his existing borewell had dried up in January. Like his previous one, the new alternative, too, failed and he incurred huge losses. Studies conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the World Bank prove that groundwater-irrigated farms have twice the crop productivity as compared to rain-fed farms. However, groundwater must not be over-exploited as it is a natural resource with limited availability.

In this context, is the Telangana Government’s scheme to provide round-the-clock power supply to 2.3 million farmers for free just another populist policy? Or is it a predominantly agricultural

State’s desperate response to climate change? Or will it really help the farmers in the long run? Similar policies have been launched in many other States, including Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra since the late 1970s.

Never mind the answer, more power does not equal more water in the long run. Water being a limited resource, free electricity for agriculture can lead to over-extraction, failed investments and worse still, borewell failures rather than making this scarce resource cheaper. Depletion of groundwater levels to 1,000 feet and more has been reported in some drought-prone areas due to excessive digging of borewells. The Telangana Government’s move to provide 24x7 free electricity to farmers is lopsided and neglects other water sources such as farm ponds and village tanks. Complementary water sources and recharging systems are left to dry up, rather than being maintained. In the current situation, every farmer must fend for himself, in contrast to the traditional systems which usually required cooperation, whether voluntary or forced through regulation.

Due to the geology of our States such as Telangana, which have underlying hard

rock formations, farmers are competing in a game they cannot win. According to figures from the Central Ground Water Board, farmers are not likely to hit major water-bearing fractures below 100-110 feet. Groundwater levels had already sunk beyond that level in many places due to extensive well drillings when the 24x7 free electricity policy was implemented.

Besides poor and erratic rains, over-exploitation of water without sustainable recharge options has led to a decline in groundwater levels in villages. The unfortunate outcome is the diminishing of the common resource base, losses on investments, crop failures and possibly, drinking water shortage. As of today, about 31 per cent of blocks in India are at a semi-critical, critical or over-exploited stage in terms of groundwater exploitation.

Fiscal costs to the Government: The central electricity authority, which announced the details of the progress of various States in the power sector for the year 2017-18, observed that Telangana secured the first place in the country in power consumption and per capita power consumption. The free electricity scheme was introduced with an aim to reduce farm distress but has in turn financially dis-

tressed the discoms. Distribution companies were already heavily in debt when the 24-hour free electricity scheme was introduced from December 31, 2017. With groundwater table declining, electricity use is bound to increase because of the extra power needed to pump water from deeper levels.

Discoms all around the country are adversely affected by subsidies such as free electricity. This is one of the factors that contributes to the widening gap between income and cost of supply, according to the Central Electricity Authority. One can even say that falling groundwater levels lead to higher levels of debt for electricity companies or levels of expenditure that are hard to recover.

Electricity consumption for agriculture in Telangana amounted to 29 per cent of the total consumption in 2016. The same sector contributed only three per cent to revenues for the electricity board. Still, there has been no policy shift to bridge the gap between electricity consumption and revenue generation. There are many other options that are more viable, environmentally and economically, such as construction of farm ponds, reviving village tanks and promoting micro-irrigation systems.

Look for alternatives: While the policy has been around too short to draw any definite conclusions, on their own account, farmers must shift their cropping patterns to sowing water-intensive crops such as paddy. This is not to say that it is a sustainable policy or that the farmers’ response is viable. High informal debts due to investments in digging borewells was one of the causes for farm distress. Although free electricity contributes to reduced input costs, it does little to address the risks and losses faced by farmers. There is a need to strengthen institutions where farmers can acquire low-risk formal loans and facilitate viable payment conditions.

Farmers need information and education on which crops they should opt for in water-scarce conditions. They should be given incentives to grow suitable variants. Instead of blindly digging borewells on farmers’ fields, they must be given assistance by hydrologists or technical experts. Many farmers also hold the opinion that instead of a 24-hour electricity, about five hours of uninterrupted electricity are enough to pump water for crops. Promoting groundwater recharging structures like farm ponds and village tanks,

which reduces risk of borewell failures, is another alternative that can be explored.

In an attempt to discourage over-exploitation of groundwater and ensure a more robust regulatory mechanism in the country, the Government has proposed to slap for the first time a Water Conservation Fee (WCF) on extraction by all users of groundwater in the country, barring the armed forces, farmers and individual households.

There are questions that are hard to address for State politicians but should be addressed at the national level. Faced with the consequences of climate change and disintegration of the rural resource base, how can farmers and the landless rural population make a living in a sector dependent on monsoon rains, frequent failures of rains, prolonged dry spells, lack of water and decreasing hopes of livelihood? Should these forces be left to live their own lives? Without any concerted effort, the common rural inhabitant will drift like a splint in the open seas tossed by the forces of climate change, market fluctuations and shifting policy regimes.

(A Amarender Reddy is Principal Scientist, Agricultural Economics, ICAR and Jin Kathrine Fosli is with the University of Oslo)

TOP CANDIDATES

ASSAM
DHUBRI
Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, AIUDF vs Abu Taher Bepari, Congress

BIHAR
MADHEPURA
Sharad Yadav, LJD (RJD alliance) vs Pappu Yadav, Jan Adhikar Party vs Dinesh Chandra Yadav, JD(U)

CHHATTISGARH
DURG
Vijay Baghel, BJP vs Pratima Chandrakar, Congress

GOA
NORTH GOA
Shripad Yesso Naik, BJP vs Girish Chodankar, Congress

GUJARAT
GANDHINAGAR
Amit Shah, BJP vs CJ Chavda, Congress

J&K
ANANTNAG
Mehbooba Mufti, PDP vs Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Congress vs Hasnain Masoodi, NC

KARNATAKA
KALABURAGI
Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress vs Umesh Jadhav, BJP

UTTARA KANNADA
Ananth Kumar Hegde, BJP vs Anand Annotikar, JD(S)

SHIMOGA
BY Raghavendra, BJP vs Madhu Bangarappa, Congress

KERALA
WAYANAD
Rahul Gandhi, Congress vs Thushar Vellappally, BJP ally Bharath Dharma Jana Sena vs PP Suneer, LDF

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Shashi Tharoor, Congress vs Kummanam Rajasekharan, BJP vs C Divakaran, LDF

ODISHA
PURI
Sambit Patra, BJP vs Satya Prakash Nayak, Congress vs Pinaki Misra, BJD

MAHARASHTRA
BARAMATI
Supriya Sule, NCP vs Kanchan Rahul Kul, BJP

RAIGAD
Anant Geete, Shiv Sena vs Sunil Tatkare, NCP

UTTAR PRADESH
MAINPURI
Mulayam Singh Yadav, SP vs Prem Singh Shakya, BJP

RAMPUR
Jaya Prada, BJP vs Azam Khan, SP

PILIBHIT
Varun Gandhi, BJP vs Hemraj Verma, SP

FIROZABAD
Shivpal Singh Yadav, Samajwadi Party Lohia vs Chandrasen Jadun, BJP vs Akshay Yadav, SP

WEST BENGAL
JANGIPUR
Mafuja Khatun, BJP vs Abhijit Mukherjee, Congress vs Khalilur Rehman, TMC

MALDAH
UTTAR
Khagen Murmu, BJP vs Isha Khan Chowdhury, Congress vs Mausam Noor, TMC

MURSHIDABAD
Humayun Kabir, BJP vs Abu Hena, Congress vs Janab Abu Taher Khan, TMC

Buses to ferry 206 voters of Guj village bound by river, sea

Vadodara: A small hamlet bound by Narmada river and Arabian Sea in Gujarat's Bharuch, where villagers previously used boats to reach their polling booth to cast votes, will this time be provided buses, a senior poll official said. Aliabet, part of Bharuch Lok Sabha seat, has 206 voters whose polling booth is almost 65 kilometres away in Vagra tehsil in the district, around 80 kilometres from here. This year, the water level in the Narmada river is low and using a boat would not have been possible, the official said. PTI

Anantnag
Lok Sabha Constituency

Electoral Performance 2014
Winner: PDP Mehbooba Mufti
Runner-up: JKN Mirza Mehboob Beg

Vote %
PDP: 53.4, JKN: 36.0, Others: 10.6

Gandhinagar
Lok Sabha Constituency

Electoral Performance 2014
Winner: BJP Lal Krishna Advani
Runner-up: Cong Kiritbhai Ishvarbhai Patel

Vote %
BJP: 68.0, Cong: 25.5, Others: 6.5

Gulbarga
Lok Sabha Constituency

Electoral Performance 2014
Winner: Cong Mallikarjun Kharge
Runner-up: BJP Revunaiik Belamagi

Vote %
Cong: 50.8, BJP: 43.3, Others: 5.9

Jangipur
Lok Sabha Constituency

Electoral Performance 2014
Winner: Cong Abhijit Mukherjee
Runner-up: CPM Muzaffar Hossain

Vote %
Cong: 33.1, AITC: 18.5, BJP: 8.6, Others: 6.0

Madhepura
Lok Sabha Constituency

Electoral Performance 2014
Winner: RJD Pappu Yadav
Runner-up: JD(U) Sharad Yadav

Vote %
RJD: 35.7, JD(U): 30.2, BJP: 24.4, Others: 9.7

Pilibhit
Lok Sabha Constituency

Electoral Performance 2014
Winner: BJP Meneka Gandhi
Runner-up: SP Budhsen Verma

Vote %
BJP: 52.1, SP: 22.8, BSP: 18.7, Others: 6.4

Shimoga
Lok Sabha Constituency

By-Election Result 2018
Winner: BJP B. Y. Raghavendra
Runner-up: JD(S) Madhu Bangarappa

Vote %
BJP: 50.7, JD(S): 45.9, Others: 3.4

Thiruvananthapuram
Lok Sabha Constituency

Electoral Performance 2014
Winner: Cong Shashi Tharoor
Runner-up: BJP O. Rajagopal

Vote %
Cong: 34.1, BJP: 32.3, CPI: 28.5, Others: 5.1

Saurashtra to be real test for BJP

Ahmedabad: With memories of the 2017 Assembly polls fresh in mind, the Saurashtra region, which has seven Lok Sabha seats, will be the real test for the ruling BJP when balloting is held in Gujarat tomorrow. The region, which used to be a BJP bastion since 1995, gave jitters to the ruling party in the Assembly polls held just over 17 months back, as it lost 14 of the 35 seats it had won from among the total 54 seats in the region in the 2012 Assembly elections. In those polls, the Congress had doubled its tally to 32 seats from 16 it had won in the previous elections. Because of the reverses in this region in the December 2017 Assembly polls, the ruling BJP had come close to losing power in the state for the first time in three decades. In the 182-member Assembly, the party won 99 seats, just 7 more than the simple majority and 16 less than the previous time. The key reasons for this reversal were farm distress, unemployment and adverse impacts of demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the small scale and medium sized industry as well as the trading class. The Congress kept harping on these issues which are still very much alive. Besides this, firebrand youth leader Hardik Patel's massive agitation for reservations to his Patidar (or Patel) community made a huge impact in Saurashtra which has sizeable population of the Patidar community. And now Hardik Patel is in the Congress. Clearly cognizant of this, the BJP pulled out all stops in Saurashtra this time, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself holding as many as seven rallies in this region only. Electoral performance of the BJP in Gujarat is a personal prestige issue for Modi who was the CM of the State for three consecutive terms before he became the PM. IANS



JAYA-AZAM RAMPUR POTBOILER

Abuses, insults, melodrama galore in electoral battle

Rampur: "Am I a nachne wali, am I an amrapali?" BJP candidate Jaya Prada asked at a rally, her question referencing SP leader's Azam Khan's derogatory remark about her as a dancing girl and testimony to how the electoral contest here has become more about personal insults than anything else. The crowd at the public meeting in Mat Khera village responded to her posers with a loud "no" and the actor-turned-politician went on to narrate the harassment she faced from the Samajwadi Party candidate. The contest between the two one time buddies and now arch rivals was always expected to be fierce but the saga of acrimony took an ugly turn with the SP veteran's "khaki underwear" jibe. Rampur, which goes to the polls on Tuesday, was propelled into the national spotlight with the furore that followed and the political discourse has since centred on just that. While Jaya Prada has been reminding the public about it in every meeting, Khan has played the victim card after the Election Commission's 72-hour campaign ban was imposed on him. As Jaya Prada turned this election into a fight for women's dignity, Khan gave it a religious colour with speeches seemingly intended to appeal to Muslims. PTI

Why 2nd phase of elections is crucial for BJP

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

The second phase of elections is a crucial test for the BJP in Karnataka. Mumbai Karnataka, Central Karnataka and Hyderabad Karnataka will go to the polls in the second phase on April 23. Riding on a Modi wave the BJP bets big on 14 seats in these areas, a space the saffron party thinks it can do well. They are in a process of consolidating votes against the united might of the Congress and the JDs. For the first time the BJP is facing the challenge of two forces, one is a vokkaliga (Gowda) party and second one is the secular Congress. It means Congress leader Siddaramaiah and Kumaraswamy are betting big to lure minorities (politics of AHINDA) and other communities in the name of secularism to take on and break the BJP's vote bank, the Lingayats. Congress hopes to with the united force and Rahul Gandhi and Deve Gowda, break the supremacy of the "communal party BJP", in the northern districts of the State. The 14 parliamentary constituencies which are going to polls are Chikkodi, Belgaum, Bagalkot, Bijapur (SC), Gulbarga (SC), Raichur (ST), Bidar, Koppal, Bellary (ST), Haveri, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada, Davanagere and Shivamogga where BJP is hopeful of maintaining the lead. The PM Narendra Modi being the mascot of the party has campaigned many times in the name of Rashtravad. He also raked up the dynasty politics and politics of "gathbandhan" Amit Shah, SM Krishna, Deve Gowda, Kumaraswamy, Siddaramaiah DK Shivakumar and host of other leaders are camping there as last leg of elections which are crucial for both BJP and Congress. The back to back campaign by Modi and Rahul shows the importance of these constituencies. The parties also think that the add-up number will play a crucial role in national politics and government formation. While BJP hopes for "agali baar Modi sarkar" and Congress with "mahagathbandhan" pitching for "Make Rahul the next prime minister". With Deve Gowda's acumen in politics Karnataka became a platform for opposition unity. With political permutations and combinations Gowda hopes to play a major role in the next Government formation. The BJP is contesting all 14 seats, while the Congress in 11 and JD(S) in 3. In 2014 general elections, BJP had won 11 seats and Congress remaining 3, with none going to JD(S). Congress is contesting in Chikkodi, Belgaum, Bagalkot, Gulbarga (SC), Raichur (ST), Bidar, Koppal, Bellary (ST), Haveri, Dharwad and Davanagere. The JD-S is contesting from Bijapur (SC), Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada.

UP to decide fate of four members of Mulayam's clan

Lucknow: The third phase of polling for ten Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh will decide the electoral fate of four members of the SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav's clan besides those of senior party leader Azam Khan and film actor and BJP candidate Jaya Prada. The polling for the third phase is to be held on April 23 for ten Lok Sabha seats in the Rohilkhand region of the state along with 105 other seats across 13 other States. The BJP, which had won seven out of the ten seats in this region in 2014, has a huge stake in this phase in Uttar Pradesh as the area is considered a SP stronghold as three of the total five members of the Yadav family had won from this region despite a Modi wave in the last elections. The three Yadav family members who are seeking re-election respectively from Mainpuri, Badaun and Firozabad in this phase are Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and his two nephews, Dharmendra Yadav and Akshay Yadav. Pitted against Akshay Yadav, son of Mulayam Singh Yadav's cousin Ram Gopal Yadav, is another brother of the party patriarch, Shivpal Yadav, who has fallen out with SP president Akhilesh Yadav, and fighting from Firozabad after floating a new political outfit, Pragatiseheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia). In 2014, Mulayam Singh had won both the Mainpuri and Azamgarh seats, but had vacated the first one, which was won by his another family member Tej Pratap Singh in the subsequent bye-election. The electoral fortunes of senior SP leader Azam Khan will also be decided in this phase from Rampur which witnessed a new low in campaigning this time. Known for his controversial statements, Azam Khan made an "indecent" remark, targeting his BJP opponent Jaya Prada in Rampur by allegedly speculating on the colour of her underwear and attracting the saffron party wrath, besides that of the National Commission for Women. The other political heavyweights, whose fate are in the poll balance in the third phase of elections here, include Union minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar, who is fighting from Bareilly and BJP's Varun Gandhi from Pilibhit. PTI



Wayanad hogs limelight in poll season, courtesy Rahul Gandhi

Wayanad: All eyes are on the Wayanad parliamentary constituency on the slopes of the Western Ghats in Kerala, chosen by Congress chief Rahul Gandhi to seek people's mandate, besides his family bastion Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. He is facing CPI's PP Suneer fielded by Kerala's ruling LDF in the April 23 election on the soil of legendary king Pazhassi Raja who fought a guerilla war against British colonialists. The NDA has fielded Thushar Vellappally of Bharat Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS) from the constituency comprising seven assembly segments in Wayanad, Malappuram and Kozhikode districts. The Wayanad seat, which was created in 2009, shares its borders with the Nilgiris of Tamil Nadu and the Mysuru region of Karnataka. It is predominantly rural and of its seven assembly segments, three are in Wayanad district, three in Malappuram and one in Kozhikode district. Two Assembly segments in the constituency — Sulthan Bathery and Mananthavady — are reserved for tribals who constitute around 18 per cent of the Wayanad's population. Vandoor in Malappuram district is reserved for Scheduled Caste. Female voters are more in number compared to male voters in the Lok Sabha seat which has a total of 13,57,819 electors. There are 6,84,807 females, there are 6,73,011 male voters. While the difference is 11,796, there is only one third gender elector in the constituency. Out of the 13,57,819 voters, 2,951 are overseas electors. Senior Congress leader MI Shanavas, who died last year, had been winning the seat ever since the constituency was carved out in 2009. He had trounced CPI's M Rahmatullah by over 1.5 lakh votes in 2009 and defeated CPI leader Sathyan Mokeri by a margin of 20,000 votes in 2014. Political analysts say Wayanad, a bastion of Congress-led UDF, is a safe seat for Gandhi. According to them, the one thing that matters is the winning margin. Senior Congress leader and INTUC state president R Chandrasekharan, who campaigned for his party chief in Wayanad, said Gandhi's candidature has given a new dimension to the constituency. His vision is upliftment of people dependent on farm, labour and rural sectors. "People have faith in Gandhi. Many of them are small and marginal farmers, who grow mostly hill produce and coffee, in Wayanad. Gandhi understands their problems due to the fall in prices of agriculture produce and crop loss caused by natural disasters and extreme weather events," Chandrasekharan told PTI. CPI(M) leader P Krishna Prasad, who is campaigning for Left's candidate Suneer, said it is not going to be easy for

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Wayanad
Lok Sabha Constituency

Electoral Performance 2014
Winner: Cong M. I. Shanavas
Runner-up: CPI Sathyan Mokeri

Vote %
Cong: 41.2, CPI: 38.9, Others: 19.9

policies of both the Congress and the BJP governments at the Centre. "There is no Congress wave in Wayanad. The Congress or its leader Rahul Gandhi have no specific plans for addressing their problems. Farmers are on the verge of suicide due to the wrong policies of the Governments led by the Congress and the BJP," Prasad, a former MLA, told PTI. What Rahul is seeking is a lifelong relationship with the people of Wayanad, Chandrasekharan said, referring to the Congress president's speech at an election rally at Sulthan Bathery Assembly segment on April 17. "I just don't want to have a relationship of just few months. I want a lifelong relationship with you. I want the sisters of Wayanad to say that I am like their brother, the fathers and mothers to say that I am their son," Rahul had said. Wayanad has significant Muslim and Christian populations.

CAPF in 92% booth in all 5 seats of Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

As an uneasy lull prevailed a day ahead of the third phase of polling for five Lok Sabha constituencies in Bengal the Election Commission made a massive bandobast covering more than 92 per cent of booths by Central Armed Police Forces leaving the remaining about 8 per cent to be manned by State armed police. The lathi-wielding policemen have been asked to remain at least 200 metre away from the booths, sources said. The fate of 61 candidates would be decided on Monday as five constituencies of Balurghat, North Malda, South Malda, Jangipur, Murshidabad go for polls. Traditionally a Congress belt with the Left place in the second slot things tended to have changed in the past couple of years with both the TMC and the BJP having come up in a big way replacing the two traditional outfits. About 80,23,000 electorates will decide the fate of the 61 candidates. About 324 companies of CAPF will be deployed for the five constituencies. Additional CEO Sanjay Basu said. As of now Balurghat has the sitting TMC MP in Arpita Ghosh while former Congress MP and now a TMC candidate Mausam Benazir Noor is contesting from North Malda. Her uncle and outgoing MP AH Khan Chowdhury is contesting against TMC's Muazzam Hussein and BJP's Srirupa Chowdhury. Noor is pitted against her own cousin and Congress candidate Isha Khan Chowdhury and BJP's Khagen Murmu, a vocal former CPI(M) MLA.



PM: Have taken strong action against terrorists

PTI ■ UDAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his Government had taken strong action against terrorism and that the Congress does not understand the importance of the issue because of its "narrow mindset".

"Modi is taking action against terrorism. Modi is hitting them in their homes," the prime minister said, in an election rally here. He said national security is "very much" the issue of Lok Sabha elections, but the Congress, due to its "narrow mindset", does not understand this.

"Congress and its 'mahamilavati' (wordplay on mahagathbandhan) say Modi should not talk about national security and terrorism in elections. Someone else may get deceived but not Modi," he said. It is okay if issues like national security are not highlighted in local elections, but in Lok Sabha polls it is very much an important issue, Modi said.

"They (opposition) have narrow mindset. Even after 60 years, they do not understand what the issues of the country are. They are roaming around the country with five-six abusive words," Modi said.

Targeting Congress leaders for asking for evidences of surgical strikes, Modi said the 'saboot gang' has put the country down, but people have now given the Opposition 'saboot' (evidence) in the initial phases of polling in the country. "Will you be trusting 'saboot' (soldiers) or those who demand 'saboot'?" he asked.

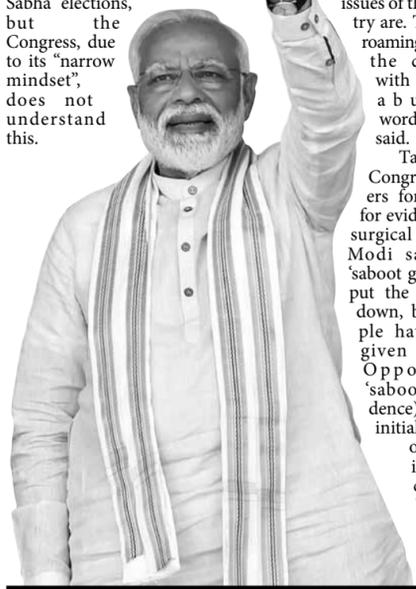
The Prime Minister targeted the previous UPA Government, saying that it pressured the banks to give loans to "its millionaire friends, but our Government gave loans to the poor, tribals and youths under the MUDRA scheme".

"Now, if someone has fled abroad, either he will have to return or he will be extradited just like Michel 'mama' of Naamdars. If any rich does not return money taken as loans from bank, then he will not be able to sleep comfortably," he said, referring to British-national Christian Michel, alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper case who was arrested after his extradition from Dubai.

He said the NDA Government has showed that running an honest Government in the country is possible. Modi said the foundation which will be laid in the next five years will decide the future of the 21st century.

"The upcoming polls are very important for those who are going to vote for the first time. Those who are born in the 21st century will nurture dreams and realise them in this century. A strong foundation will be laid in the next five years," Modi said.

The PM said the Congress knows very well how to spread lies and do manipulations. In the rally, Modi highlighted the achievements of his government and sought vote for the BJP.



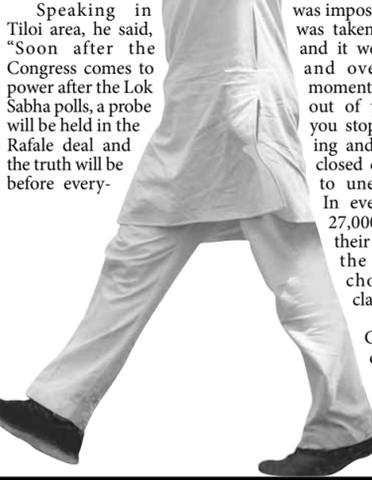
Rahul: Ask PM what he got in return for helping Ambani

PTI ■ AMETHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday exhorted the people to ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi what he received in return for "giving" Anil Ambani Rs 30,000 crore under the Rafale deal.

Addressing a poll meeting in his parliamentary constituency here, Rahul said, "When the Prime Minister comes and makes false claims, ask him one question. Why has he given Rs 30,000 crore to Ambani and what has Ambani done in return for him?"

Speaking in Tiloi area, he said, "Soon after the Congress comes to power after the Lok Sabha polls, a probe will be held in the Rafale deal and the truth will be before every-



one...What ex-French President Francois Hollande said and what is in the French defence files will come out...Only two persons' names will come out, first Anil Ambani and second Narendra Modi."

Asking if anyone has seen chowkidar in front of a farmer or labourer's house, he said for the past some time, every farmer has been forced to do 'chowkidari' of his agriculture field. "Modiji had stated that he does not want to be made a prime minister but a chowkidar... When his theft has been caught in the Rafale deal, he says 'hum sab chowkidar hain,'" he claimed.

Rahul also hit out the PM over the Goods and Services Tax, saying when the 'Gabbar Singh Tax' was imposed, the money was taken from people and it went to thieves and overseas. "The moment money went out of your pockets, you stopped purchasing and the factories closed down, leading to unemployment... In every 24 hours, 27,000 youths lost their jobs... This is the work of chowkidar," he claimed.

The Congress president said after 2019, 33 per cent women will be seen in legislature and Govern-

ment jobs. He promised that recruitment will be initiated for 22 lakh vacant posts and 10 lakh youths will get jobs in Panchayats.

Rahul said after coming to power, the Congress will see to it that all the people who have been harassed in the past five years are compensated.

Addressing an election meeting in Barabanki earlier, he said the Congress will take historic decisions for farmers and bring a separate budget for them. Campaigning for party candidate Tanuj Punia, he alleged that Modi ran a Government which helped just 15 people in the last five years.

It also took a sudden decision on demonetisation and made the entire country stand in queues, the Congress president alleged.

"The BJP conducted surgical strikes on poor people of the country, while we will conduct surgical strikes on poverty. If the Congress is voted to power, it will give 22 lakh jobs to youngsters," he said addressing an election meeting in Prashedpur in Rae Bareilly.

Rahul also claimed that 'chowkidar' has meted out injustice to the people of Amethi and Rae Bareilly.

Later, the Congress president told reporters, "If Prime Minister Narendra Modi sits for a face-to-face conversation for 15 minutes, everything will be clear."

DEORA RAKES UP SAWANT'S CRIMINAL CASES

The Congress' Mumbai South Lok Sabha candidate Milind Deora on Monday referred to criminal charges against his opponent and sitting Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant and asked voters if they wanted to be represented by a person with such a record. Pointing to Sawant's affidavit, Deora said there are 13 criminal charges against the Shiv Sena leader and demanded that the sitting MP explain if he tried to "abuse and misuse" his influence in the Maharashtra Government to get the cases withdrawn. According to Deora's affidavit, there is no criminal case pending against him.

PM, ADVANI TO VOTE TODAY IN AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Arun Jaitley and BJP patriarch LK Advani are among top leaders who will vote Tuesday in Gujarat, which will have a single phase polling for its 26 Lok Sabha seats. The BJP, in a release here said, all its key leaders, including Modi and Advani — who are registered voters in Gujarat — will exercise their franchise in morning hours. The PM, who is expected to land in Ahmedabad on Monday night, will cast his vote at a booth set up inside a school in the Ranip area of the city, which falls under the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, it said.

RAHUL'S NOMINATION FOR AMETHI FOUND VALID

The Amethi returning officer (RO) on Monday set aside objections on Congress president Rahul Gandhi's nomination papers for the seat and held the document valid, after scrutinising allegations of discrepancies over citizenship and other issues. After hearing Gandhi's counsel, Returning Officer Ram Manohar Misra declared his nomination papers for the Amethi Lok Sabha seat as valid.

SECURITY BEEFED AHEAD OF POLLS IN MAHARASHTRA

Security has been beefed up in Maharashtra for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections for 14 constituencies, scheduled to be held on Tuesday. Besides local police, companies of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), personnel from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and those from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are also roped in to ensure that no untoward incident takes place, a police official said Monday.

NC, PDP LEADERS PLAYING EMOTIONAL CARD: BJP

BJP leader Kavinder Gupta on Monday accused the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party of playing emotional card to seek votes instead of focussing on development and maintaining peace in Jammu & Kashmir. The former Deputy Chief Minister also alleged the two regional parties are "targeting" security forces to please Hurriyat and Pakistan.

CLASH BETWEEN SUPPORTERS, VILLAGERS: FIRS LODGED

Cross FIRs were lodged on Monday in connection with an incident of clash between supporters of CPI candidate from Bihar's Begusarai seat Kanhaiya Kumar and a group of locals, police said. Two complaints have been lodged by both sides at Gadhupura police station about Sunday's clash, which erupted after the former JNU students' union president was shown black flags at Koray village here during a roadshow.

FATMI WITHDRAWS NOMINATION FOR MADHUBANI

Former Union Minister Mohd Ali Ashraf Fatmi, who had quit RJD and had entered the fray from Madhubani Lok Sabha seat on a BSP ticket, on Monday withdrew his nomination citing the refusal of rebel Congress nominee Shakeel Ahmed to do so and apprehending a split in votes benefiting the BJP candidate. "I took the decision (to withdraw) based on the feedback by my close supporters on whose insistence I had filed nomination papers. It was observed that the reluctance of Ahmed to withdraw would have led to votes getting split between us. This would have helped the BJP," Fatmi told PTI-Bhasha over phone.

LAND ACQUISITION WORRIES FARMERS IN GUJARAT

Standing in his sugarcane farm in Navsari's Sadlav village with his arms stretched wide apart, Pinakinbhai Patel explains that in 3.5 kilometers of his "fertile land", three major infrastructure projects have been planned. "Right through this land, the Bharatmala road project will pass. One kilometer to the left (the Vadodara-Mumbai) expressway will be constructed and 2.5 kilometers to the right, the bullet train will pass," he said. "Out of the 16 acres of my land, Government wants seven acres for the Bharatmala project, but it is offering only four times the 'jantri rate', which is way lower than the market rate," he added. "Jantri rate" is the minimum price of the land notified by the Gujarat Government for a particular area. Months ahead of the polls, the BJP-led Gujarat government suspended the land survey for the Bharatmala project — a centrally-sponsored scheme to construct 83,677 km of highways across India, in January.



Bharatiya Jan Kranti Dal candidate from Patna Sahib Basant Singh Rajput rides a horse on the way to file his nomination papers for the Lok Sabha elections, in Patna, on Monday

Shah, Mamata in war of words over NRC, rigging

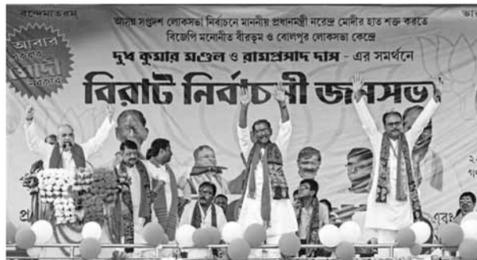
SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ ULUBERIA

Mamata Banerjee and Amit Shah engaged in a ruthless war of words former accusing the latter of manipulating the elections by communally dividing the electorate and the latter hitting out saying she was running a Government of the mafias in Bengal devouring whatever democracy that was left by the Left regime.

Addressing rallies at Uluberia in Howrah and Burdwan Shah said, "Mamata Didi's TMC stands for Tolabaji (extortion) Mafia raj and Chit fund scam," adding if BJP returned to power it would "send all the perpetrators of the chit fund to jail in 90 days' time."

Reminding Banerjee of the strong actions taken by the Election Commission in 2009 and 2011 that eventually catapulted TMC to power Shah said "when the ECI acts against your goons you feel hurt but when it took against the goons of the earlier regime that helped you ride to power you were happy."

The Chief Minister has strongly reacted to ECI Special Observer Ajay Nayak's statements that Bengal resembled a situation in which Bihar was 15 years ago adding the law and order machinery had completely collapsed in the State.



BJP president Amit Shah addresses an election campaign rally in at Ganpur in Birbhum on Monday

Banerjee had said "the BJP is running a parallel Government in Bengal without taking the State Government into confidence which is an attack on the federal structure. They have some retired IAS officers to kill democracy here. Let them bring 5 crore personnel from Delhi. Still we win."

However, Shah on Monday retorted saying, "Didi is crying because her goons are not able to rig the elections," adding "Bengal is going to see a big change after May 23 the TMC's citadels will fall one after the other." The BJP had converted Bengal into a lawless State where only the writ of TMC's goons run, he said adding "this situation will change soon as only the BJP can remove the



TMC from power." Attacking the TMC for winning the panchayat elections by rigging which was why "37 per cent of the seats during the panchayat elections were won uncontested," he said "CRPF has plugged that hole."

For the rest of India this election is about taking the country to new heights but "for

Bengal, it is about establishing democracy," Shah said adding "It's high time people stood against TMC's misrule. This election is not only the election for a Government in Delhi but this election is also an election for the people of Bengal."

On the Citizenship Amendment Bill Shah said if his party came to power for the second time it would invoke the National Register of Citizens throughout India. "I can assure you that the NRC will be implemented not only in Bengal, but all over the country if we come to power again," adding however the "refugees will be safe because they will be given citizenship."

Coming back hard on the BJP president Banerjee said "in Bengal the BJP has joined hands with the Congress and the Left but the people have understood their intentions and they will defeat all of them. The TMC will win all the 42 out of 42 seats," Banerjee said during Shah to invoke NRC in the State."

They implemented NRC in Assam, "then they were telling that they will invoke it in Bengal and now they are telling that they will do it in all over the country. I will never let that happen because all Indians are equals and have democratic rights protected by the Constitution. I will not let them destroy the constitution."

"This is why I am telling that BJP is a dangerous party and if they come back to power they will take away all your rights, make the citizens of this country foreigners like they have done in Assam."

Regional parties to get more LS seats than Cong, BJP: Akhilesh

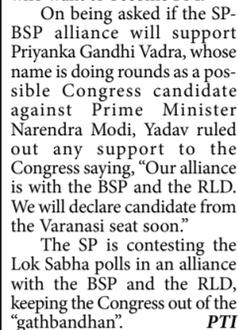
Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said regional parties will get more seats than the Congress and the BJP in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. "I think regional parties will get more seats than the Congress and the BJP. The next PM will be from the regional parties," he said at a Press conference here.

When asked whether he was in the race for the top post, Yadav said, "I am not in the race for prime ministership, but will be happy if next PM is from UP. I will support those who want to become PM."

On being asked if the SP-BSP alliance will support Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, whose name is doing rounds as a possible Congress candidate against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Yadav ruled out any support to the Congress saying, "Our alliance is with the BSP and the RLD. We will declare candidate from the Varanasi seat soon."

The SP is contesting the Lok Sabha polls in an alliance with the BSP and the RLD, keeping the Congress out of the "gathbandhan".

PTI



Mayawati: Why EC not cancelling BJP 'gem' Pragya Thakur's nomination

Lucknow: BSP president Mayawati on Monday asked why the Election Commission was not cancelling the nomination of Pragya Singh Thakur, the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate from Bhopal, despite the "BJP ratna" issuing controversial statements.

"Malegoan blast case accused and BJP candidate from Bhopal Sadhvi Pragya is claiming that she is contesting a 'dharma yuddh'. This is the real face of BJP/RSS which is being exposed continuously. But why is the Commission only issuing notices and not cancelling the nomination of BJP ratna (gem) Pragya?" Mayawati tweeted.

If the Election Commission is not able to work in an impartial manner to the satisfaction of people despite severe criticism in the media, it is an issue of grave concern for democracy and no one else but BJP and PM Modi, who are surrounded by serious electoral allegations." PTI

Tough electoral battle in picturesque Ladakh

SIANS ■ SRINAGAR

The electoral battle in the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat of Jammu & Kashmir has become interesting for poll watchers, but tough for contestants.

The constituency, spread over Leh and Kargil districts, is geographically one of the largest and population-wise one of the smallest in the country. Being one of the remotest areas of the country, the Ladakh division has its own issues, dissimilar to the Valley or the Jammu division.

Politically, Ladakh has always been closer to New Delhi than to Srinagar or Jammu, the two administrative capitals of J&K. It has faced no separatist movement, even as the Valley continues to remain in the throes of an unabated violence.

For over four months, from the middle of December to the end of April, each year, Ladakh remains emotionally and economically cut off from the rest of the state as snow in the Zojilla Pass area snaps it's only

surface link.

Of the 1,56,888 voters (85,763 in Kargil and 71,125 in Leh districts), 79,432 are men and 77,456 are women. They will vote on May 6 in the last phase of the five-phase parliamentary elections.

The nomination papers of Jamyang Tsering Namgyal (BJP), Rigzin Spalbar (Congress), and four Independents — Haji Asgar Ali Karbalai, Sajjad Hussain, Kacho Muhammad Feroz and Asgar Ali — were found valid in

scrutiny on Saturday.

But the contest is largely among the BJP, the Congress and the independent Sajjad Hussain. The regional National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have not fielded candidates in Hussain's support.

Traditionally, Buddhists and Muslims vote on different lines. With the Buddhist votes likely to be divided between Namgyal and Spalbar, both Buddhists from Leh, the NC and the PDP plan to consolidate Kargil votes

behind Hussain.

Hussain also has the backing of Kargil's powerful religious organisation, Islamia School. However, what's thrown a spanner into the NC-PDP plan is the presence of Karbalai, former Congress MLA from Kargil, as Independent.

Karbalai deserted the Congress after he was denied ticket. He is being backed by influential Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust. Hectic efforts are on to persuade him to withdraw from the contest on Monday, the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers in the constituency.

Ladakh's long-standing demand for grant of divisional status was fulfilled during the current Presidential rule in the state. Because of this Prime Minister Narendra Modi is quite popular among Buddhists and this will weigh in favour of Namgyal, also the chief executive of the powerful Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE, GROUND WATER DIVN.,
BAGH ALI MARDAAN NOWSHERA, SRINAGAR KASHMIR

GIST of E-Tender
NIT No: PHE/GWDS 01/of 04/ 2019 Dated 19-04-2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited in 02Cover System for Construction of Exploratory Test Bore Well and Construction of Production Tube Well for successful exploration at the following location/site from registered water well drillers/contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S.No.1. Site:- Construction of Production Tube Well at WSS Zadoora, Pulwama.
Cost of Tender Document:- Rs. 1000/-
Cost of EMD :- Rs. 40,000/-
Time of completion :- 30 Days
Validity of Rates :- 180 Days
Major Head:-NRDWP
Critical Dates /Information.
1. Publishing Date :- 20-04-2019
2. Document Downloading Start Date :- 20-04-2019(09:00 A.M)
3. Document Downloading Last Date :- 30-04-2019(04:00 P.M)
4. On Line Document Submission Start Date :- 20-04-2019(09:00 A.M)
5. On Line Document Submission Last Date :- 30-04-2019 (4:00 P.M)
6. Date of opening of Tender :- 01-05-2019at (11:00 A.M)
7. Tender Receiving Authority :- Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.
8. Document Cost :- Rs 1000/=(one thousand only) for each well (Non-Refundable)in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) on account of (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)
9. Earnest Money: for an amount shown in Gist of NIT against each well tender in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar 190011.
10. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days
11. Time of completion: Thirty days from the date of issuance of letter of intent/ allotment order.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

DIPK-NB-299/19
 Dated: 22.04.2019

Iran sanctions: India lines up alternative

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India, the second biggest buyer of Iranian oil, has lined up alternate sources to make up for the likely shortfall in supplies after the US decided not to give waiver from its sanctions for buying oil from the Persian Gulf nation.

The Trump administration Monday decided not to renew waiver that let countries like India buy Iranian oil without facing US sanctions.

"Our crude sources are wide. We have alternate sources lined up to make up for any shortfall," a top source said.

US President Donald Trump last year withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and revived a range of sanctions against the Persian Gulf nation. It, however, granted a six-month waiver from sanctions to eight countries - China, India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, Italy and Greece, but with a condition that they would reduce their purchases of Iranian oil.

India, which is the second biggest purchaser of Iranian oil after China, had agreed to restrict its monthly purchase to 1.25 million tonne or 15 million tonne in a year (300,000 barrels per day), down from 22.6 million tonne (452,000 barrels per day) bought in 2017-18 financial year.

"We have optional volumes (over and above the term contracts) from a number of supplier which we can exercise to make up for any shortfall from Iran," the source said. "We can also go to the spot (or current) market to source crude."

"As far as Indian Oil is concerned, supplies will not be a problem. We have already lined up alternate sources," he said adding the impact of the US decision may reflect on global oil prices which may temporarily go up.

The six-month waiver granted by the US to 8 countries was to expire on May 2. IOC has the option to take 0.7 million tonne of crude oil from Mexico on top of its committed purchase of 0.7 million tonne during the year. From Saudi Arabia, it has an optional volume of 2 million tonne on top of a term contract of 5.6 million tonne.

Similarly, it has optional volumes of 1.5 million tonne from Kuwait and another 1 million tonne from the UAE. "We have all the supplies tied up and I think globally crude will be readily available but it is difficult to say what the impact will be on price," the source added.

The price of Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose as much as 3.3 per cent to USD 74.31 a barrel on Monday, the highest intra-day level in almost six months.

When Trump first pulled out of the nuclear deal, oil shot up to over USD 85 a barrel and it fell to near USD 50 after the US administration unexpectedly granted the waivers.

US sanctions on Iran's oil

buyers snap back next month that will block the US financial system for importers.

India, the world's third-biggest oil consumer, meets more than 80 per cent of its oil needs through imports. Iran in 2017-18 was its third-largest supplier after Iraq and Saudi Arabia and meets about 10 per cent of total needs.

US President Trump in May withdrew from the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran, re-imposing economic sanctions against the Persian Gulf nation. Some sanctions took effect from August 6, while those affecting the oil and banking sectors were to start from November 5, 2018. A six-month waiver was granted that was to expire on May 2.

Iran was India's second biggest supplier of crude oil after Saudi Arabia till 2010-11 but Western sanctions over its suspected nuclear programme relegated it to the seventh spot in the subsequent years. In 2013-14 and 2014-15, India bought 11 million tonne and 10.95 million tonne, respectively.

Sourcing from Iran increased to 12.7 million tonnes in 2015-16, giving it the sixth spot. In the following year, the Iranian supplies jumped to 27.2 million tonne to catapult it to the third spot. Iranian oil is a lucrative buy for refiners as the Persian Gulf nation provides 60 days of credit for purchases, terms not available from suppliers of substitute crudes - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Nigeria and the US.

Trump decides not to grant waiver to India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In a move that could have implications on India's energy security, US President Donald Trump on Monday decided not to grant sanctions exemptions to any oil customers of Iran, further squeezing Tehran's top export commodity.

"President Donald J. Trump has decided not to re-issue Significant Reduction Exceptions (SREs) when they expire in early May. This decision is intended to bring Iran's oil exports to zero, denying the regime its principal source of revenue," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said.

The US re-imposed sanctions on Iran last November, after President Trump pulled out of the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The US' move which is seen as an escalation of President Trump administration's "maximum pressure" on Iran comes after it last year gave temporary 180-days waiver to eight countries, including India, China, Turkey and Japan among others.

As a result of this decision all countries including India would have to bring down its import of oil from Iran by May



global demand is met as all Iranian oil is removed from the market," she said.

In a statement, Sanders said the Trump Administration and its allies are determined to sustain and expand the maximum economic pressure campaign against Iran to end the regime's destabilising activity threatening the United States, its partners and allies, and security in the Middle East.

"The President's decision to eliminate all SREs follows the designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation, demonstrating the US' commitment to disrupting Iran's terror network and changing the regime's malign behaviour. We welcome the support of our friends and allies for this effort," Sanders said.

China and India are currently the largest importers of Iranian oil. If they don't go along with Trump's demands, that could cause tensions in both bilateral relationships and spill over into other issues, like trade, the Washington Post reported.

2. Greece, Italy, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan have already heavily reduced their oil imports from Iran.

Iran is India's third-largest oil supplier behind Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Iran supplied 18.4 million tonnes of crude oil during April 2017 and January 2018 (first 10 months of 2017-18 fiscal).

The US, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, three of the world's great energy producers, along with its friends and allies, are committed to ensuring that global oil markets remain adequately supplied, Sanders said.

"We have agreed to take timely action to assure that

Ghosn hit with fresh charge in Japan

AFF ■ TOKYO

Japanese authorities on Monday hit former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn with a fresh charge of aggravated breach of trust, the fourth formal indictment against the auto sector tycoon.

Public broadcaster NHK and local news agency Jiji Press reported that prosecutors filed the new indictment that paves the way for his legal team to apply for bail.

The 65-year-old strenuously denies all allegations against him and insists they have been cooked up in a "plot" by Nissan executives wary of his plans to bring the Japanese car giant closer to its French partner Renault.

Prosecutors are looking into allegations that Ghosn funnelled funds from Nissan to a dealership in the Middle East and siphoned off around five million dollars for his personal use.

Ghosn has already won bail once before - but under strict conditions such as agreeing not to leave the country and living under surveillance.

The rollercoaster case of the executive, once revered in Japan for saving Nissan from the brink of bankruptcy, has gripped the business world and shone a spotlight on the Japanese legal system that has come in for some criticism especially from abroad.

Japan's justice allows authorities to keep suspects in custody for prolonged periods

and trials almost always result in a conviction - sparking outrage from outside the country.

When Ghosn last won bail, he walked out of the detention centre in front of the world's media dressed like a Japanese labourer with a cap and a face mask in an apparent attempt to give reporters the slip.

Japan's Supreme Court has already rejected appeals by Ghosn's lawyers against his prolonged detention.

His wife Carole has also been questioned by prosecutors in Tokyo.

She has also denied any wrongdoing and been active in the media in recent days, writing an opinion piece in the Washington Post calling on US President Donald Trump to lean on Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe to allow her husband to obtain bail.

Ghosn's lawyers have expression reservations that he will receive a fair trial as 99 per cent of all cases that come to trial end in a conviction.

The executive has gone from a life of luxury and private jets as he ran three huge car companies to a small cell.

Nissan says an internal investigation has uncovered "substantial evidence of blatantly unethical conduct" by the former boss.

He has already been stripped of his position on the board at Nissan and resigned from the head of Renault and the three-way alliance the two companies share with Mitsubishi Motors.

Industry delegation calls on RBI Gov, discusses steps for MSMEs, NBFCs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A delegation led by PHD Chamber President Rajeev Talwar met RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das here on Monday and discussed concerns related to the growth of MSMEs, NBFCs, affordable housing and the real estate sector.

The chamber in its submission has also sought further cut in the repo rate in the coming quarters.

"PHD Chamber in its submission has urged RBI to increase the limit for classifying over dues of MSMEs to 180 days from the current level of 90 days as working capital cycle of MSMEs keeps prolonging due to delays in realisation of their bills/receivables," said Talwar.

It has also requested that at least one year period should be considered for eligibility of MSMEs" stressed and NPA accounts under the restructuring scheme.

All such Accounts which turned into defaulters or became NPAs after January 1, 2018 should be covered under the policy of RBI for being eligible for restructuring, said Sanjay Agarwal, Vice President, PHD Chamber.

The industry body said that infrastructure financing should ideally be carried out by specialist players like Infrastructure Finance Companies (IFCs).

Domestic air passenger volume crosses 171 m in FY19, up 14.25%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic air passenger volume grew 14.25 per cent to 171.25 million RPT in fiscal 2019 over the previous year, even as March posted the lowest growth rate in many years with a paltry 0.14 per cent, according to the data from the DGCA.

In FY18, the passenger volume had dipped at a higher 18.3 per cent to 146.84 million RPT 146.84 million.

However, the March numbers came as a shocker to the airline industry as the traffic though continued to grow in green but almost flat at 0.14 per cent to 11.59 million passengers up from 11.58 million a year ago, largely due to the huge capacity reduction following the troubles at Jet Airways in the month, show data released by the DGCA Monday.

The cumulative traffic of domestic carriers stood at 171.25 million for the full year to March 2019, registering a growth of 14.25 per cent.

Budget carrier IndiGo continued to be the largest player with a market share of 46.9 per cent ferrying 54 lakh passengers during the month, while its closest rival SpiceJet was a distant second with 13.6 per cent traffic pie as its ferried 15.81 lakh passengers in the reporting month.

The flat growth in traffic is a setback for the industry which had been clipping at over 20 per cent for more than four years in a row.

Significantly, betting on the double-digits growth in the past four years, the government in its vision document

released this January, has pegged the traffic volume to 1.1 billion by 2040.

Jet Airways, once the second largest airline after no-frills IndiGo, lost as much as nearly half of the market share at 5.37 per cent during March as against 10 per cent in the same period of last fiscal, according to the data.

Together with subsidiary JetLite, consolidated traffic of the now non-functional carrier was 6.71 lakh passengers in the month, whereas in the same period last year it had flown 15 lakh passengers.

Significantly, national carrier Air India, which has a number of aircraft on ground for quite some time now, had the dubious distinction of cancelling the most number of flights at 8.94 per cent of its scheduled departures followed by JetLite and new entrant Star Air, as per the data.

The national carrier, however, managed to get the third spot after IndiGo and SpiceJet in passenger volume, carrying 15.19 lakh passengers with a market share of 13.1 per cent in March.

The passenger load factor in the month has shown falling trend compared to February due to the end of the vacation period.

SpiceJet continues to clock the highest average seat occupancy at 93 per cent while smaller rival GoAir topped the on-time performance chart for the sixth consecutive month in March at 95.2 per cent.

Air India, on the other hand, was forced to pay the highest amount of ₹119.37 lakh to 2,508 passengers for denied boarding.

Jet employees appeal to Govt to bail out airline

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Around 100 staff members of the ailing Jet Airways Monday staged a demonstration here, urging the Government to intervene and bail out the airline.



Jet Airways had on April 17 announced temporary suspension of operations after it failed to receive emergency funds from lenders, leaving about 23,000 employees to face a bleak future.

This evening, the employees, dressed in their uniforms, staged the demonstration at Town Hall in the heart of the city.

Holding aloft placards, they raised slogans like 'Save our families, save Jet Airways', 'Don't make us cry, give a chance to fly' and 'Humko Tum Na Dhoka Do, Udne ka ek Mauka Do' (Don't ditch us, give a chance to fly).

'We pay loads of tax, Don't get us under the Axe and 'We have dependents to feed, please don't let our 9W bleed' read the

messages in some of the placards.

Milind Paradkar, an engineer with Jet Airways, urged the government to infuse some funds to keep Jet Airways afloat.

"We want the government to infuse some funds instead of our aeroplanes being taken over by other airlines and being flown over by them," Paradkar told PTI.

He said there were rumours that somebody has shown willingness to take over Jet Airways, but the employees have no information who that is.

"The Government has to be transparent. Presently

employees are not being informed. They are in the dark," Paradkar said.

Other demonstrators said they had not received salaries for the past three months and had somehow been managing their family needs.

Some among them said they had previously worked with the now defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

On April 20, the employees had written to President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking their intervention to recover outstanding dues as well as to expedite the process of emergency funds for the airline.

Jet Airways shares trim early losses; close over 6% lower

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Jet Airways, which has shut down operations temporarily, continued to fall for the third day in a row Monday, closing over 6 per cent lower.

The scrip nosedived 19.34 per cent to ₹132.20 - its 52-week low - during the day on BSE. However, at close of trade it recovered most of its sharp early losses. It closed the day at ₹154.60, 5.67 per cent lower.

At the NSE, shares plunged 6.15 per cent to close at ₹154.70.

In terms of traded volume, 56.19 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over five crore shares on the NSE during the day.

In three days, the scrip has plummeted 40.94 per cent.

Running into 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.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
 File No.: 23AC/393/Unfield Parking/2019/E-Tender
 DATED: 18 April, 2019
QUOTATION NOTICE
 The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Chg., Northern Railway, New Delhi invites sealed Quotations for the allotment of Access Control Rights, which includes 3 pick / drop lanes for passengers at New Delhi Railway Station (Ajmeri Gate Side) of Delhi Division on Quotation basis for 3 months or till the finalization of tender, whichever is earlier, to be opened on 30.04.2019. detail is as under:-

S	Railway Station	Stn Ctg	Type of Pkg.	*Reserve Price for three months (In Rs.)	EMD@2% of Total Contract value (In Rs.)
1	New Delhi Railway Station (Ajmeri Gate Side) (NDLS)	A-1	Access Control Rights of 3 lanes (Entry to exit)	15,96,875	32,000

*Applicable Taxes will be extra.
 In addition to above Reserve price, GST as applicable on date (Presently @ 18%) and TCS @ 2% or as applicable over the license fees has to be paid by parking contractor.
 Date and Time for submission of Quotation : up to 15:00 Hrs. on 30.04.2019 to be open immediately.
 For more information and obtaining Quotation forms, interested bidders may contact to the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, DRM Office, State Entry Road New Delhi From 22.04.2019 to 29.04.2019 in any working days between 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs and on 30.04.2019 Up to 13:00 hrs. The draft submitted for Earnest Money deposit should be in favour of "Senior Divisional Finance Manager Northern Railway New Delhi" and must be prepared from the bidders own bank account and in case found otherwise/ false, Railway Administration shall be at liberty to initiate any action, including termination as deemed fit at a later date also.
 Relevant information is also available on the official Web site of Railways i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in 1177/19
 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRLS

General public is hereby informed that these girls namely 1. Nisha @ Hunno and 2. Saniya both D/o Late Samsuddin R/o H.No. 1080, Gali No. 36, Jafraabad, Delhi

1. Nisha @ Hunno : Age : About 16 years 10 months, Height : 5', Face : Round, Build : Normal, Complexion : Wheatish, 2. Saniya : Age : About 8 years, Height : 4'1", Face : Round, Build : Normal, Complexion : Wheatish, have been kidnapped since 28.12.2016 from their house. In this regard FIR No. 490/16 dated 29.12.2016 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Jafraabad, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about these kidnapped girls may kindly inform to the following:-

E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in
 Website: http://cbi.nic.in
 Fax: 24368639,
 Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO - P.S. Jafraabad, Delhi
 Tel. No. : 011-22560191,
 22560192

SHO
 P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-27495198, 27497179

DP/6887/NE/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: 25 years, Complexion: Black, Height: 5'7", Face: Oval, Built: Thin, ID Mark: Old Cut Mark Over Right Eye Brow, was wearing Blue Jeans and White Shirt and Black Shoes, was found dead in bushes near Wall of Park of AC-Block, Near Azadpur Flyover, PS Shalimar Bagh, Delhi at 07:55 Hrs. In this regard a FIR No. 195/19, dated 20.04.2019, has been registered at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.

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

SHO
 P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-27495198, 27497179

DP/8894/NW/19

Finmin asks all departments to conduct review of Govt guarantee, submit details by Apr 30

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has tasked all departments to undertake a review of Government guarantees given by respective ministries to their CPSEs or entities.

The review should undertake aspects like the discharge of repayment obligations or interest obligations as per terms

of the loan agreement and covenants and conditions met, the Finance Ministry said in an office memorandum.

Besides, the details of CPSEs or entities due guarantee fee paid on time to the government should also be submitted.

The Finance Ministry has extended date for submission of these details to April 30 from

April 10.

Guarantees are contingent liabilities have the potential to impact the financial performance of the Government.

In another circular, the ministry said FRBM Rules stipulates that Government cannot guarantee more than 0.5 per cent of the GDP of the respective financial year to CPSE/entities.

GAIL emerges as highest bidder for IL&FS wind power plants

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Debt-laden Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) Monday said GAIL (India) has emerged as the highest bidder for its seven operating wind power plants.

The bidding process to these assets having 12 sites spread across seven states was launched in November last year.

mately ₹4,800 crore for 100 per cent enterprise value contemplates no hair-cut to the debt of the SPVs, aggregating to nearly ₹3,700 crore, the company said in a release.

These wind power assets have a total generation capacity of 874 MW.

The proposal was approved by the committee of creditors of IL&FS Wind Energy (IWEL), majority owner of the SPVs, it said.

SENIORS GIVE CALL FOR ROAD & TYRE SAFETY

NEW DELHI: Members of Dignity Foundation, an NGO helping senior citizens live a life of dignity, took a pledge to spread the message of Road & Tyre Safety. Senior citizens from Delhi NCR region assembled at Bipin Chandra Pal Auditorium holding placards on tyre/ road safety and enlisting themselves as ambassadors of road and tyre safety.

India VIX jumps to 3-year high on election concern, high crude

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The India Volatility Index shot up to a three-year high of 24.05 on Monday, amid rising uncertainty over the new government formation and soaring crude oil prices.

The India VIX, the fear gauge for domestic equities, rose 5.76 per cent to settle at 24.05, after an intra-day high of 24.56.

"Crude and election uncertainties is pushing the India VIX up," IIFL co-promoter and MD R Venkataraman told PTI.

Besides the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, market sentiment was hit as macroeconomic worries resurfaced, following reports that the US will end sanctions waiver on Iranian oil imports, analysts said.

Global benchmark Brent crude climbed to a multi-month high of \$73.81 per barrel, a 2.56 per cent rise.

Gomathi wins India's first Gold in Asian Athletics C'ships

Marimuthu runs supreme in women's 800m to win yellow metal; Shivpal wins Silver in Javelin

PTI ■ DOHA

Unheralded Gomathi Marimuthu gave India its first Gold medal in the women's 800m race as the country added four medals on the second day of the Asian Athletics Championships here on Monday.

The 30-year-old Gomathi clocked a personal best time of 2 minute 02.70 seconds in the half mile event to win a surprise Gold for India.

Shivpal Singh then added a Silver in men's javelin throw by sending the spear to a distance of 86.23m, his personal best. In the process, the 23-year-old Shivpal also booked a berth for the World Championships to be held at the same venue in September-October as he crossed the qualifying mark of 83m.

Jabir Madari Palliyalil and Saritaben Gayakwad bagged a Bronze each in men's and women's 400m hurdles respectively to swell the Indian medal tally.

With the four medals on Monday, India's medal tally stood at 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 5 Bronze. India had won 2 Silver and 3 Bronze on the first day on Sunday.



India's Gomathi Marimuthu, left, competes in the women's 800-meters race final; Jabir Madari Palliyalil celebrates with his national flag after winning the bronze medal in the men's 400-meters hurdles; Saritaben Laxmanbhai Gayakwad rests after racing in the women's 400-meters hurdles final



Qatar won Gold with a world leading time of 47.51 seconds.

In the women's 100m dash, Dutee bettered her own national record of 11.28 seconds set on Sunday during the heats by clocking 11.26 seconds while winning her semifinal race on Monday. She is, however, yet to touch the World Championships qualification mark of 11.24.

However in the men's 400m, India suffered setbacks as defending champion Muhammed Anas and last edition silver winner Arokia Rajiv failed to win a medal.

Rajiv finished fourth with a personal best time of 45.37 seconds while Anas, who has been struggling after a leg injury in an accident last year, ended at eighth with a time of 46.10 seconds.

Sprinter Dutee Chand also shared some of the limelight as she smashed her own national record in 100m dash for the second time in two days.

The first Indian medal of the second day came from 24-year-old Gayakwad who clocked 57.22 seconds to

finish third in women's 400m hurdles, behind Vietnam's Quach The Lan (56.10) and Bahrain's Aminat Yusuf Jamal (56.39).

His male counterpart Jabir then added a Bronze by running the third fastest men's 400m hurdles by an Indian as he clocked a per-

sonal best of 49.13 seconds. In the process, the 22-year-old Jabir joined national record holder Dharun Ayyasamy as the second Indian to qualify for the World Championships 400m hurdles event to be held at the same venue in September-October. The

World Championships qualifying mark is 49.30 seconds. Dharun, who set a new national record of 48.80 during the Federation Cup last month, missed this Asian Championships due to injury.

Pre-race favourite Abderrehman Samba of

Qatar won Gold with a world leading time of 47.51 seconds.

Hockey coach Reid asks players to put team first

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India's newly-appointed men's hockey chief coach Graham Reid on Monday took charge of the national camp and asked his players to put the team first in his maiden address to them.

Reid, who arrived in Bengaluru on April 20, got down to business on Monday, meeting players for the first time at the SAI Centre.

"The turf here is world class. I addressed the players when I arrived and expressed my expectations as one unit, one team and that we always need to put the team first," the 54-year-old Australian said.

"We also spoke about the importance of trust and communication and to make sure it is both ways," he said.

Reid said the available talent in India makes him optimistic about the future.

"I am really glad that I also got to watch the 33 players from the Junior Core Group and being part of the National Trials this morning gives me a good sense of the talent that is available at the moment and it makes me feel very positive about the future," said Reid, a former player of the Australian national team.

Reid's first big assignment as chief coach will be the upcoming FIH Men's Series Finals in Bhubaneswar, starting June 6 where India will vie for top honours against Asian Games champions Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, South Africa, USA and Uzbekistan.

The Indian team will go for an exposure tour to Perth, Australia between May 6 and May 18 where it will



play a four-match series against the Australian national team as part of their preparations for the FIH Men's Series Finals in Bhubaneswar.

"We extend a warm welcome to Graham Reid on his arrival to India. Many players in the senior team are already familiar with him due to his stint as coach during Hockey India League," Hockey India President Mohd Mushtaq Ahmad.

"The Australia tour will be an ideal ground for him to understand further about the team and their temperament and short comings ahead of the crucial FIH Men's Series Finals in Bhubaneswar. We wish him the very best in his new role with the Indian Men's Hockey Team," he added.

Bajrang, Sakshi to lead India's challenge

PTI ■ XI'AN

Olympic Bronze medalist Sakshi Malik and World No 1 Bajrang Punia will spearhead India's campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships starting on Tuesday.

Besides Sakshi and Bajrang, Vinesh Phogat is another big names who would be vying for top honours during the mega-event.

Vinesh will hope to give a good account of herself in the women's 53kg — a relatively new weight category for her.

She had competed for the first time in that category at the UWW Dan Kolov-Nikola Petrov tournament in Bulgaria and had bagged a Silver medal.

In the same competition, Bajrang, who was competing in men's 65kg category, clinched a Gold.

Sakshi, the Bronze winner at the Rio Olympics, also settled for a Silver, in women's 65kg, while Pooja Dhandha won the yellow metal in women's 59kg category.

At the Asian Championships, Sakshi will go back to her 62kg category, while Navjot Kaur will represent India in women's 65kg.

Pooja Dhandha will fight in 57kg in this tournament.

Asian Games Bronze medalist Divya Kakran will return to competitive wrestling having recovered from an ankle injury and is all set to compete in women's 68kg category.

National champion Amit Dhankar will participate in men's 74kg in the absence of two-time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar, who decided to give the Championship a miss.

Dhankar is a former Asian Wrestling Championship Gold medalist at the 2013 New Delhi edition.

Rahul Aware, the wrestler from Maharashtra, is making a comeback to the Indian team and will compete in men's 61kg weight division.

In men's freestyle, Praveen Rana (79kg) and Satyavrat Kadian (97kg) are other key wrestlers from India who are expected to finish on the podium.

Kavinder stuns world champ, Panghal beats Dusmatov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kavinder Singh Bisht (56kg) upstaged reigning world champion Kairat Yerailyev, while Amit Panghal (52kg) edged past familiar foe and Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov, assuring themselves of medals at the Asian Boxing Championships in Bangkok on Monday.

In the women's draw, world Silver-medallist Sonia Chahal (57kg) advanced to the last-four stage at the continental showpiece.

Bisht clinched a split verdict over Yerailyev, who hails from Kazakhstan, in a high-intensity contest to assure himself of a

maiden Asian championship medal.

Panghal, who claimed a Bronze in the 2015 edition of the event, also secured a hard-fought 3-2 triumph over Dusmatov, the former world champion Uzbek he defeated to claim the Asian Games Gold just a few months ago.

Before that, the two boxers had also clashed in the world championship quarters where Dusmatov had emerged triumphant.

Sonia too fetched a similarly close victory over Korea's Jo Son Hwa.

Also making the semis was national champion Deepak Singh (49kg), who did not have to step inside the ring to fight for the spot



after Afghanistan's Ramish Rahmani gave him a walkover owing to injury.

However, world championship Bronze-medallist Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) bowed out of contention after a quarterfinal loss to reigning world champion Chen Nien-Chin of Taiwan.

In another women's bout, Seema Poonia (+81kg) lost to China's Yang Xiaoli 5-0, ending another disappointing international outing for her. Poonia had got a bye into the quarters.

In the last Indian bout of the day, Rohit Tokas (64kg) fought hard but could not avert a 2-3 loss to Mongolia's Chinzorig Baatarsukh in the quarterfinals.

Mbappe flattens Monaco in title party

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar joined the Paris Saint-Germain title party on Sunday when he made his first appearance since January as Kylian Mbappe swept aside Monaco with a hat-trick in a 3-1 win for the newly-crowned Ligue 1 champions.

Mbappe took his league tally for the season to 30 following his treble, which came just hours after PSG were crowned champions for the sixth time in seven years when closest challengers Lille dropped points.

Neymar's return at the start of the second half replacing Layvin Kurzawa is the cherry on the cake for Thomas Tuchel's side, who had been without the Brazilian superstar since January 23 with a right foot injury.

Edinson Cavani also returned to action as a second half substitute, having a late strike correctly ruled out for

offside, meaning that PSG's famed front three are back together following months apart.

Mbappe has thrived in the absence of his strike partners, and gave his side a 2-0 first-half lead with two neat finishes, the first coming in the 15th minute and the second seven minutes before the break after a beautiful pass from Dani Alves.

The World Cup winner then put the three points beyond doubt when he tapped in Alves' low cross nine minutes after the break.

Aleksandr Golovin rolled home a consolation for the away side, who remain in trouble in 16th place and are only four points away from the relegation play-off spot.

On Sunday afternoon Lille ended their challenge with a goalless draw at Toulouse that left them 16 points behind PSG with only five games to play and allowed capital club to cele-



brate the title after missing chances to seal it in their previous matches.

The Parisians have struggled with key injuries in recent weeks and they lost Italian international midfielder Marco Verratti with what looks like a

knock to his left ankle.

PSG took the field wearing a shirt with a large image of Notre Dame replacing the usual sponsor's logo. "Notre-Dame" replaced the player names on the back of the shirts. The iconic Paris cathedral was damaged in a spectacular blaze last Monday.

The club said that they would put a limited edition of the shirts on sale on line during the match for 100 euros each. The club said the money "will be donated to associations related to firefighters".

The club also posted a "Homage to Notre Dame" video on their web site in which players praised the team-work of the Paris fire brigade and made a gesture that imitates the two famous towers that form part of the cathedral's facade.

The club said it was also using Sunday's game to thank the firefighters.



Sissoko likely to miss Ajax opener

AFP ■ LONDON

Tottenham Hotspur suffered a fresh blow to their Champions League hopes on Monday when Moussa Sissoko appeared to be ruled out of the first leg of their semi-final against Ajax.

The midfielder, one of Tottenham's outstanding players this season, suffered a groin injury in the return leg of the quarter-final tie at Manchester City and Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino believes he will not be fit for another two weeks.

That would rule Sissoko out of the north London club's home leg against Dutch giants Ajax on April 30, with Tottenham already missing South Korea star Son Heung-min through suspension.

Son has been a key man for Spurs while England captain Harry Kane has been sidelined with an ankle injury.

"Moussa Sissoko is not going to be fit, maybe for the next two weeks, we hope he can recover before but I am not so optimistic," Pochettino said ahead of Tuesday's Premier League match at home to Brighton.

"Harry Winks we don't know because it is a problem that is one day very good, next day not very good, it is about assessing each day.

"We hope he will be available for Tuesday but we are not sure."

There are also doubts over the fitness of France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, with Pochettino saying: "Lloris I hope yes, we are going to assess, we have a training session and we hope it is not a big issue, we hope he is going to be available."

Former foes unite to lead France into Fed Cup final

AFP ■ PARIS

France set up a Fed Cup final against Australia on Sunday when Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic, who once were barely on speaking terms, teamed-up to crown a 3-2 victory over Romania.

Former Roland Garros doubles champions Garcia and Mladenovic beat Simona Halep and Monica Niculescu 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 to secure the winning point and a final date against Australia in November.

Victory was a diplomatic coup for France coach Julien Benneteau who teamed up Garcia and Mladenovic for the first time in Fed Cup since 2016 after which the pair had a bitter falling out which led to a self-imposed Fed Cup exile for Garcia, her country's top player.

"Every match was incredible," said Benneteau. "I am so proud of them. It was always my intention to put them together — and it was not hard to do."

Earlier on Sunday, French Open champion Halep won her second singles of the weekend, seeing off Garcia 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 6-4 for a 2-1 lead in the

semi-final. Veteran Pauline Parmentier then beat a hobbling Irina-Camelia Begu 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 to pull France level.

In a tense deciding rubber, Halep, whose doubles ranking is in the 400s, committed a double fault to concede the break in the ninth game of the final set before Garcia held her nerve to serve out the victory.

"We prepared ourselves as best as we could, we had a good training session at the beginning of the week, and we were ready, maybe at the beginning we made some mistakes," said Garcia.

"We really made the effort from start to finish together, it was intense on the court from the first point of the weekend to the last. But it was a great weekend and we can really be proud."

France, who won the last of their two titles in 2003, will travel to Australia for the final.

Six-time champions Australia, whose most recent title was in 1974, reached a first final in 26 years by seeing off Belarus 3-2 in Brisbane in a tie also settled by a three-set deciding doubles rubber.

Davies sets top four target for Spurs

AFP ■ LONDON

Ben Davies has challenged Tottenham to win their last four Premier League games as they aim to get their top four push back on track against Brighton on Tuesday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side suffered a setback in their bid to repeat their league finish for a fifth straight season when they were beaten 1-0 at Manchester City at the weekend.

It was a frustrating end to a memorable week that saw Tottenham reach the Champions League semi-finals with a dramatic away goals success at City.

Aided by Arsenal's surprise loss to Crystal Palace on

Sunday, Tottenham remain third, but they will drop to fourth if Chelsea defeat Burnley on Monday.

With the race to qualify for next season's Champions League heating up, Tottenham defender Davies knows his team have no margin for error in their remaining fixtures.

Davies believes only four successive victories will be enough to secure Tottenham's place in Europe's elite club competition.

"It's never easy to reflect but look, it's about kicking on and trying to win every game between now and the end of the season," Davies said.

"That's the target and it starts against Brighton on Tuesday."



Demanding Tottenham display a more predatory instinct in front of goal after missing a host of chances in the City defeat, Davies said: "It's always hard to see any positives straight after a defeat."

"We certainly created the chances but unfortunately we didn't take them this time."

"That's the difference between this game and Wednesday night, we were a bit more clinical."

Brighton are desperate for points as they battle to avoid relegation, but Davies hopes the feelgood factor from Tottenham's new stadium will continue to provide a welcome lift.

Pochettino's men have

won all three of their matches at the \$1 billion arena, scoring seven goals and conceding none.

"It will be tough, they are fighting for everything and they will go the full 90 minutes to try to get something out of the game. We have to be ready," Davies said.

"We've played well at the new stadium so far and we need to keep that momentum going for the rest of the season."

Brighton are just one place and three points above the relegation zone after Saturday's 0-0 draw at Wolves. Chris Hughton's side haven't won in their last six matches in all competitions.



LEADERBOARD

RUNS	517	David Warner (SRH)
WICKETS	23	Kagiso Rabada (DC)
6S	496	IF MS HAS A FEELING THAT HE'S GOING TO WIN IT THIS WAY, I'M GOING TO BACK HIM EVERY TIME
4S	1117	— STEPHEN FLEMING

IPL 2019



105 NOT OUT

Rahane smashes 2nd IPL hundred to help Rajasthan Royals post 191-6 against DC

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Blending panache with power, Ajinkya Rahane roared back to form with a scintillating century and propelled Rajasthan Royals to 191 for six against Delhi Daredevils in the Indian Premier League here on Monday.

Rahane remained not out on 105 off 63 balls, decorating his knock with three sixes and 11 fours, while Steve Smith contributed 50 off 32 deliveries.

Asked to bat after Shreyas Iyer called correctly at the toss, Rahane spearheaded Rajasthan Royals' innings after getting a life on 16, the culprit being Ishant Sharma, who dropped a sitter at sort fine-leg. The drop hurt the visitors, but Delhi did well to prevent RR from going past 200.

Entering the game with over 650 runs against Delhi in the league, Rahane chose his favourite opponents to find form, and when he walked back to the dressing room, he had over 750 to his name.

To start with, Rahane drove Ishant through a crowded off-side field for a boundary, a shot that had his characteristic elegance written all over it.

Stripped of captaincy last week following a string of poor results, the 30-year-old went



into attack mode and smashed Axar Patel for a six and a four at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium, which had a dash of pink.

Seeing the flight early, Rahane danced down the crowd to hoist's Axar ball over him and into the sightscreen.

Unfazed by the sight of pacer Kagiso Rabada steaming in, he smoked the South African's short of a length delivery down the ground for another maximum.

He reached his fifty by dispatching Chris Morris over the mid-wicket for a four and celebrated it with fist pumps. A flurry of boundaries followed as Rahane galloped along to bring up his second IPL hundred, the first coming seven years ago.

He raised his bat to acknowledge the applause from the crowd and his dugout that was as relieved as the batsman himself.

Meanwhile, Smith, who replaced Rahane as captain

hours before the start of their last match against Mumbai Indians, struck medium pacer Sherfane Rutherford for three consecutive boundaries to score his second successive half century of the season.

And even as Smith and Ben Stokes gout out in quick succession, Rahane was going strong, swiftly hitting Morris for a boundary over mid-off. At the other end, Ashton Turner fell for a third golden duck.



BCCI shifts IPL final to Hyderabad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League final scheduled on May 12 was on Monday shifted from Chennai to Hyderabad after the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) failed to get requisite permission from the government to open the three closed stands.

While the Chennai Super Kings still have a chance to play Qualifier 1 at home if they finish among the top two teams in the league but the Eliminator (May 8) and Qualifier 2 (May 10) has been shifted to Visakhapatnam.

"We had to shift the matches from Chennai to Hyderabad after TNCA intimated us that they have not procured the requisite permission to open the three stands I, J and K," Committee of Administrators (CoA) chief Vinod Rai said on Monday.

"Since the gate sales of the knock-out matches is BCCI's prerogative, we had to take a call. We would be having two knock-out matches in Vizag,"

he added. The three stands make up for more than 12,000 tickets and BCCI would have lost out on a few crores of gate money.

The stands have remained closed since 2012 save one international match between India and Pakistan when an exception was made.

Asked if all the knock-out matches' ticket sales are BCCI's prerogative, why was Qualifier 1 allotted to Chennai, Rai reasoned: "CSK, by virtue of being defending champions, were allotted the Qualifier 1 and final. Now if they finish in top two, you cannot take away all the games. They deserve to get at least one of the knock-out games."

Hyderabad only got the final and not the Eliminator or Qualifier because of the general elections in the Cyber city on May 6, 8 and 10.

The first three-team mini women's IPL will be held from May 6-10 in Jaipur with a new team Velocity being added to the existing Trailblazers and Supernovas.

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The wretched form of Chennai Super Kings' top three will be primary worry for Mahendra Singh Dhoni as Chennai Super Kings aims to arrest the mini-slide when they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League encounter here on Tuesday.

If CSK's problem is the non-performance of the top-order, Sunrisers Hyderabad's issues are that there are no performers in the middle-order with bulk of the runs being scored by openers David Warner (517 runs) and Jonny Bairstow (445 runs).

A win will almost ensure a play-off berth for the defending

CSK, SRH AIM TO SORT OUT BATTING WOES

champions, who lost back-to-back away matches against Sunrisers Hyderabad and RCB respectively.

While Dhoni's Herculean effort to pull off another miraculous chase has been the talk-

ing point, it is difficult not to shed light on the poor show of CSK's top three which is putting the skipper under unimaginable pressure.

Last season's hero Shane Watson (147 runs), Ambati

Rayudu (192) and Suresh Raina (207) haven't lived up to expectations. The pressure has been entirely on Dhoni, who leads the charts with 314 runs and the batting unit needs to step up.

"The top three needs to fin-

ish more matches," Dhoni said after CSK's one-run loss to RCB on Sunday.

Back at its den after a schedule of away games, Dhoni's men will be slight favourites as it will be Bairstow's

last game for the last year's runners-up as he heads back to England for World Cup preparations.

The Chepauk pitch has been sluggish in the games played so far and coach Stephen Fleming attributed it to being one of the reasons for top-order's poor show.

"We played on Chennai

tracks, where it is little bit difficult to find form. We are being little bit reckless and that comes about from guys who want to find form and do the job, but what is happening is we are relying heavily on Dhoni and Rayudu to patch things up and we won't win the competition if this continues," Fleming sounded a warning.

GET READY TO VOTE IN THE LOK SABHA ELECTION 2019



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1. You can vote at the Polling Station only if your name is in the Electoral Roll
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2. Passport
3. Driving License
4. Service Identity Card Issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies
5. Passbook Issued by Bank/PostOffice with photo
6. PAN Card
7. Smart Card Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour
8. MNREGA Job Card
9. Health Insurance Smart Card Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour
10. Pension Document with photo
11. Official Identity Card Issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs
12. Aadhar Card