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IMPORTED  
JIHAD

**WORLD 12**  
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ARRESTED BUT RELEASED

**SPORT 15**  
CITY BEAT UNITED 2-0  
IN MANCHESTER DERBY

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## Patnaik to probe SC 'fixer' claims

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

"Do not think that the Supreme Court can be remote controlled by anything on the earth, whether money power or

political power," the Bench said. "We are anguished with the way this institution is being treated in the last three-four years and we must say that it will die and it will not survive if this will happen. There is systematic attack, systematic game to malign this great institution," the court said.

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

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

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

claimed a larger conspiracy which concerns the administration of justice.

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

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

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

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

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

Justice SA Bobde, who is heading the panel and is the senior-most judge after the

CJI, has appointed Justice Malhotra to the committee. Justice Indira Banerjee is also part of the panel.

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



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

PTI

## Varanasi echoes with Modi during roadshow

DEPAK K UPRETI ■ VARANASI

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

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

raining flower petals on him.

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

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

Madanpura is largely a Muslim populated part of the city where the Prime Minister passed through in the evening. Modi, who will file his nomination papers on Friday at about 11.30 am in the presence

of NDA alliance partners, including Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena chief Udhav Thackeray and former Punjab CM Prakash Singh Badal, was accompanied by UP CM Yogi Adityanath, Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Sushma Swaraj, and JP Nadda during the roadshow.

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

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

### AAP manifesto promises full Statehood for national Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

## Arsenal storage tunnels to secure regions along China

Indian Army ropes in NHPC to build caverns along LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

Each ammunition bunker has the capacity to store more than 200 metric tonnes of ammunition and will also be

safe from the vagaries of weather including ammunition getting damaged due to dampness.

Explaining the significance of the project, officials said China already has built similar storage tunnels in the Tibet region.

While India also has similar underground caverns in the plain regions of the country, this pilot project, if successful, will pave the way for constructing similar dumps in the inaccessible mountain regions facing China, they said.

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

### Maruti to pull plug on diesel cars from April next year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

### Congress ends suspense around Priyanka, picks Rai against Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

While Modi got over 5.81,000 votes, Rai managed about 75,000 votes.

The party also fielded Madhusudan Tiwari from Gorakhpur against BJP's Ravi Kishan, a popular Bhojपुरi film star.

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

### CAPSULE

#### 2 HIZBUL TERRORISTS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

Srinagar: Two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, including one pursuing Bachelor of Physiotherapy, were killed on Thursday in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir.

#### NEED TO BOLSTER 'TECH ASYMMETRY', SAYS IAF

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

# PM rally in Giridih to heat up political temp

PNS ■ RANCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold his second rally in Jamua in Giridih on April 29, soliciting support for National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidates. Through Jamua rally, Modi will try to connect with three Lok Sabha constituencies—Giridih, Koderma and Hazaribag.

On April 24, Modi carried out a road show in State Capital, with a mega rally next day in tribal district of Lohardaga connecting with people of Lohardaga, Chatra, Palamu and Khunti Lok Sabha areas. The Prime Minister Office has given its confirmation for Modi rally. Modi will reach Koderma from Gaya in a chopper

and then proceed to rally venue.

State BJP general secretary, Deepak Prakash said, "The PM will address the rally in Jamua giving a positive message about BJP vision for 2019 elections." Apart from BJP star campaigner, Modi, the rally will be attended by Chief Minister Raghubar Das, State BJP in-charge Mangal Pandey and candidates from Koderma, Giridih and Hazaribag. In Koderma, the BJP has put former RJD state president, Annapurna Devi against JVM heavy weight Babulal Marandi. The Koderma seat is lively to witness triangular contest as CPI (ML) candidate and Dhanwar sitting MLA Raj Kumar Yadav is also in fray from the seat.

Similarly, in Giridih seat the



CM Raghubar Das addressing an election rally for BJP's Rajmahal candidate Hemlal Murmu ahead of Lok Sabha polls at Sahibganj on Thursday

BJP has replaced its sitting MP Ravindra Pandey with AJSU party candidate Chandra Prakash Choudhary. Choudhary is also drinking water and sanitation minister in Raghubar Das' cabinet. Choudhary is pitted against JMM Dumri MLA Jagannath Mahto.

In Hazaribag, the party has fielded union minister of state for civil aviation Jayant Sinha. He is contesting against senior Congress leader Gopal Sahu, who is younger brother of former Congress MP from Ranchi Shiv Prasad Sahu.

Sources said that the BJP has planned Modi's rally in all four phases which includes—April 29, May 6, May 12 and May 19. The BJP star campaigner rally is to build the tempo of BJP cadres with

an attempt to repeat the show of 2014 election. In 2014, the BJP won 12 out of 14 seats, however, this time the BJP is in sticky wicket after four parties Congress, JMM, JVM and RJD forming Mahagathbandhan.

A senior BJP leader requesting anonymity said, "As the party is facing anti-incumbency in many seats, with many MPs unpopular, the State BJP depends upon its star campaigner Modi to create a magic for BJP candidates."

Apart from Modi, BJP national president Amit Shah will address public rallies in Daltonganj and Ranchi. The Daltonganj at Shivajee Maidan is scheduled on April 27, the Ranchi rally will be held at Harmu Maidan on May 3.

# JAMSHEDPUR LS SEAT Aspirants work hard to woo voters



**Development of the constituency remains main poll plank of contestants**

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Candidates in fray for Lok Sabha elections from Jamshepur seat are putting their best effort to woo voters. With D-day inching closer for the Jamshepur seat, the contestants in fray have stepped up their campaign, knowing that it would be a tough contest. Development of the con-

stituency is the main poll plank of all the contestants. According to BJP candidate Bidyut Baran Mahto "I have full faith on the voters of Jamshepur. They will be electing their MP on the basis of performance of candidates. I openly ask the voters to judge my tenure as the MP and then decide to vote. The people are only going to cast their vote on the basis of performance of the candidates and the Government. I am here seeking votes of the people for the work that I have done so far in the last five year of my tenure as the MP of Jamshepur.

During my tenure as MP I have toured every nook and corner of my constituency and understand issues concerning the people. Whether it was new trains or roads, I have ensured an over all development of my constituency area. I have several future plans to ensure sustained development of the region. If voted to power I will try my best to start a pension scheme for two lakh labourers in the area". JMM candidate Champai Soren said: "First of all let me tell you that I belong to this area. I am the son of the soil and have been a part of the

movement for separate state Jharkhand. I understand the pulse of the people of the region.

I have been active activist and have been crusading for the rights of the people even before I was elected MLA. I want to be their voice and ensure that they reap the benefits of different projects. I am also concerned about migration of labourers from our region to different states. This is a vital issue that needs to be addressed. If voted for Lok Sabha I will raise issues of tribals in the house to draw attention of the Government. Our party has envisaged roadmap for equal and sustainable development of the urban and rural periphery of the Jamshepur parliamentary constituency. I am aware of the problems of the city here since my earlier days as political activist. If, I get an opportunity to represent the city (Jamshepur LS seat) than certainly, I will even take up the issues which I couldn't as party activist. I want to work with the people and make a difference. I see a lot of potential in Jamshepur".

Former MLA and founder of AJSU ( All Jharkhand Student's Union ) Surya Singh Besra too said that he will work for the development of the Lok Sabha area.

# Additional bogies in trains to meet ticket booking rush



Rush of passengers at Tatanagar Railway Station

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Passengers travelling during the summer vacation in May will not have to face berth pangs, thanks to South Eastern Railway (SER). After announcing three summer special trains - Shalimar-Jaipur Summer Special Express, CSTM-Shalimar Superfast Summer Special and Tatanagar-Kacheguda Summer Special, SER has decided to provide additional bogies in long distance trains facing huge ticket booking rush. SER headquarters in Garden Reach issued a notification for introduction of one extra AC-3 tier coach. The trains which will get the facility of an extra AC-3 tier coach include UJ and Howrah-Sambalpur Express, which travels via Tatanagar railway station

**Sources in Garden Reach said that keeping in view the rush, a summer special train might be introduced for New Delhi in the second week of May**

and Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Intercity Express. According to a notification, the facility beginning today will be extended till June 30 in both the trains. Sources in Garden Reach said that keeping in view the rush, a summer special train might be introduced for New Delhi in the second week of May. Officials at the Tatanagar computerised railway booking

counter revealed that waiting lists in several trains like Puri-New Delhi Neelanchal Express, Purushottam Express and Howrah-Ahmedabad Express is rising for the entire May and June month.

An official said every year during the summer vacation such rush is witnessed. Steps are being taken to ease the rush. He went on to inform that South Eastern Railway has decided to attach extra coaches to several long distance trains passing through Tatanagar to accommodate passengers.

Chief reservation supervisor at Tatanagar C.S. Rao confirmed the heavy rush to book tickets in advance. "Yes the waiting lists in several trains such as Howrah-Mumbai Geetanjali Express, Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Express and Howrah-Ahmedabad

Express have crossed the century mark for second and third weeks of May," he said. He added apart from Tatanagar, bookings for other places under Chakradharpur railway division were also in demand.

The Tatanagar railway station is the only A1-category railway station under Chakradharpur division of South Eastern Railway (SER). The footfall at the station is gradually on the rise because of increasing number of trains and also because of the fact that Tatanagar falls on the Howrah-Mumbai main line. Several important trains travel via Tatanagar, including the high-profile Rajdhani Express and Duronto Express. The station sees a daily traffic of 90 mail, express and passenger trains, besides a footfall of more than 60,000 passengers.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
Dhanbad, dt. 22/04/2019 E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad:-	
(1) E-Tender No. 35-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-01 for General, Pipe & Sanitary and wood work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Sr. Asstt. Engineer(1), E. C. Railway, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 6706120.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 134100.00	(23) E-Tender No. 57-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-23 for General, wood and Pipe & sanitary work of BRKA Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Barkakana. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3088490.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 61800.00
(2) E-Tender No. 36-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-02 for General, Pipe & Sanitary and wood work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Sr. Asstt. Engineer (1), E. C. Railway, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 7888000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 157800.00	(24) E-Tender No. 58-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-24 for General, Pipe & sanitary, wood and Road work of Latehar Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Latehar. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 5781250.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 115600.00
(3) E-Tender No. 37-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-03 for General, Pipe & Sanitary and wood work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Sr. Asstt. Engineer(1), E. C. Railway, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 9781350.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 195600.00	(25) E-Tender No. 59-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-25 for General, Pipe & sanitary, wood and Road work of Latehar Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Latehar. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 4073950.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 81500.00
(4) E-Tender No. 38-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-05 for General, wood and Pipe & Sanitary work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(2), E. C. Railway, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 7614650.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 152300.00	(26) E-Tender No. 60-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-26 for General, Pipe & sanitary, wood and Road work of Daltonganj Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Ry, Daltonganj. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 6059915.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 121200.00
(5) E-Tender No. 39-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in zone No-06 for General, wood and Pipe & Sanitary work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(2), E. C. Ry, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 5319800.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 106400.00	(27) E-Tender No. 61-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-27 for General, Pipe & sanitary, wood and Road work of Daltonganj Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Ry, Daltonganj. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 6059915.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 121200.00
(6) E-Tender No. 40-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-07 for Road work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Sr. Asstt. Engineer (1), E. C. Railway, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3280480.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 65600.00	(28) E-Tender No. 62-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-31 for Bridge work of Latehar & Daltonganj Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Latehar & Daltonganj. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 2426970.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 48500.00
(7) E-Tender No. 41-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-07(A) for Road work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(2), E. C. Ry, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3280480.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 65600.00	(29) E-Tender No. 63-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-29 for General, wood & sanitary and wood work of Renukoot Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Ry, Renukoot. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 7455470.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 149100.00
(8) E-Tender No. 42-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-08 for Horticulture work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Sr. Asstt. Engineer (1), E. C. Ry, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 514200.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 10300.00	(30) E-Tender No. 64-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-30 for General, Pipe & sanitary and wood work of Chopan Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Chopan. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 4713125.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 94300.00
(9) E-Tender No. 43-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-09 for Bridge work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer (2), E. C. Ry, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3187100.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 63700.00	(31) E-Tender No. 65-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-31 for General, Pipe & sanitary and wood work of Chopan Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Chopan. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 4532900.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 90700.00
(10) E-Tender No. 44-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-10 for General, Pipe & Sanitary, wood and Road work of Gomoh Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(1), E. C. Ry, Gomoh. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3271120.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 65400.00	(32) E-Tender No. 66-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-32 for Road work of Renukoot Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Renukoot. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 1644450.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 32900.00
(11) E-Tender No. 45-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-11 for General, Pipe & Sanitary, wood and Road work of Gomoh Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(1), E. C. Ry, Gomoh. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3195970.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 63900.00	(33) E-Tender No. 67-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-33 for Road work of Chopan Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Chopan. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 1978470.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 39600.00
(12) E-Tender No. 46-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-12 for General, Pipe & Sanitary, wood and Road work of Gomoh Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(1), E. C. Ry, Gomoh. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3992640.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 79900.00	(34) E-Tender No. 68-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-34 for Bridge work of Renukoot & Chopan Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Renukoot & Chopan. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 1925700.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 38500.00
(13) E-Tender No. 47-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-13 for General, Pipe & Sanitary, wood and Road work of Gomoh Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(1), E. C. Ry, Gomoh. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 6892050.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 137800.00	(35) E-Tender No. 69-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-35 for General, wood & sanitary, wood work and Road work of Koderma Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Koderma. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 5644250.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 112900.00
(14) E-Tender No. 48-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-14 for General, Pipe & Sanitary, wood and Road work of Gomoh Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(1), E. C. Ry, Gomoh. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 7017505.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 140400.00	(36) E-Tender No. 70-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-36 for general, wood, road and pipe & Sanitary work of Koderma-Kanwar section of KQR Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Koderma. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 4584930.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 91700.00
(15) E-Tender No. 49-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-15 for General, Pipe & Sanitary, wood and Road work of Gujhandi Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Ry, Gujhandi. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 6141315.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 122800.00	(37) E-Tender No. 71-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-37 for General, wood and Pipe & Sanitary work of Dhanbad Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(2), E. C. Railway, Dhanbad. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3000000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 60000.00
(16) E-Tender No. 50-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-16 for General, Pipe & Sanitary, wood and Road work of Gujhandi Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Ry, Gujhandi. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 6197020.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 123900.00	(38) E-Tender No. 72-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-38 for General, Pipe & Sanitary and wood work of Gomoh Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer (1), E. C. Ry, Gomoh. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 2000000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 40000.00
(17) E-Tender No. 51-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-17 for Bridge work of Gomoh & Gujhandi Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer (1), E. C. Ry, Gomoh & Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Ry, Gujhandi. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 2437500.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 48800.00	(39) E-Tender No. 73-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-39 for General, wood and Pipe & sanitary work of BRKA Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Barkakana. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3000000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 60000.00
(18) E-Tender No. 52-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-18 for General, wood and Pipe & Sanitary work of Gomoh Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer (1), E. C. Railway, Gomoh. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 1676860.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 33500.00	(40) E-Tender No. 74-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-40 for General, Wood, Pipe & sanitary and Road work of Daltonganj Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Ry, Daltonganj. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 4000000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 80000.00
(19) E-Tender No. 53-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-19 for General, wood, Pipe & Sanitary and Road work of Gomoh Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer(2), E. C. Railway, Gomoh. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 7317310.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 146300.00	(41) E-Tender No. 75-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-41 for General, wood and Pipe & sanitary work of Chopan Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Chopan. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 4000000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 80000.00
(20) E-Tender No. 54-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-20 for General, wood, Pipe & Sanitary and Road work of BRKA Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Barkakana. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 8029840.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 160600.00	(42) E-Tender No. 76-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-42 for Bridge work of Koderma Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Koderma. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 5163000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 103300.00
(21) E-Tender No. 55-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-21 for General, wood, Pipe & Sanitary and Road work of BRKA Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Barkakana. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 11479120.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 229600.00	(43) E-Tender No. 77-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-43 for General, Wood, Pipe & sanitary and Road work of Koderma Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Koderma. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 4500000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 90000.00
(22) E-Tender No. 56-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Zonal contract in Zone No-22 for Bridge work of Gomoh & Barkakana Sub-Division under Asstt. Engineer (2), E. C. Railway, Gomoh & Asstt. Engineer, E. C. Railway, Barkakana. (30.06.2020) Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.): 3085940.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 61700.00	

**कार्यालय- जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी सह उपायुक्त, लातेहार (उत्पाद शाखा)**

**आदेश**

सरकार के सचिव, उत्पाद एवं मद्य निशेध विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची के पत्र संख्या 583 दिनांक 19.03.2019 एवं मंत्रिमंडल (निर्वाचन) विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची के पत्र संख्या 1207 दिनांक 11.03.2019 के आलोक में लोकसभा चुनाव, 2019 के अवसर पर लातेहार जिलान्तर्गत सभी प्रकार की मदिरा तथा मादक पेय पदार्थों की बिक्री को प्रतिबंधित करने हेतु झारखण्ड उत्पाद अधिनियम 1915 की धारा- 26 के अन्तर्गत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए मैं **राजीव कुमार, भा.प्र.से., जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी सह उपायुक्त, लातेहार** लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम 1951 की धारा 135 (ग) के आलोक में आदेश देता हूँ कि चत्तरा लोकसभा क्षेत्र में मतदान की निर्धारित तिथि 29.4.2019 के अवसर पर लातेहार जिला के अन्तर्गत सभी प्रकार की खुदरा उत्पाद दुकानें तथा अन्य उत्पाद अनुज्ञापित परिसर मतदान समाप्ति के 48 घंटे पूर्व से अर्थात् दिनांक 27.4.2019 के 4.00 बजे अपराह्न से मतदान की तिथि 29.4.2019 के 4.00 बजे अपराह्न तक पूर्णतः बन्द रहेगी। साथ ही उक्त अवधि में लातेहार जिलान्तर्गत किसी होटल, क्लब, भोजनालय, पाकशाला, दुकान तथा किसी निजी अथवा सरकारी स्थानों में कोई भी स्पीरिटयुक्त, किण्वित या मादक पदार्थों की बिक्री, लेन-देन और वितरण प्रतिबंधित रहेगी।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी सह उपायुक्त, लातेहार

PR 206052 (Latehar)19-20'D

**कार्यालय निर्वाची पदाधिकारी, 06-गिरिडीह संसदीय निर्वाचन क्षेत्र -सह- जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, बोकारो (निर्वाचन शाखा)**

**प्रेस विज्ञापित**

एतद् द्वारा 06-गिरिडीह लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के राजनीतिक दलों/ आम जनों को सूचित किया जाता है कि भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा विधानसभावार पुलिस प्रेक्षक की प्रतिनियुक्ति की गयी है, जिनका आगमन संबंधित जिले में हो गया है। पुलिस प्रेक्षक का नाम, दूरभाष संख्या एवं आवासन निम्नवत् है:-

क्रमांक	पुलिस प्रेक्षक का नाम	सम्बद्ध विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र का नाम	आवासन	मोबाइल नं०
1	श्री एस०के०जेन (भा०पु०से०) 06-गिरिडीह लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र	32-गिरिडीह, 33-डुमरी, 34-गोमिया, 35-बेरमो, 42-दुण्डी एवं 43-बाघमारा	बोकारो निवास, बी०ब्लॉक, कमरा नं०-26 (नर्मदा) बी०एस०सिटी	6204738652

सभी अम्थरी / निर्वाचन अभिकर्ता / राजनैतिक दल के प्रतिनिधि एवं आम मतदाता उक्त दूरभाष पर प्रेक्षक से सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

निर्वाची पदाधिकारी 06-गिरिडीह संसदीय निर्वाचन क्षेत्र -सह- जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, बोकारो

PR 206046 (Election)19-20'D

**कार्यालय, जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी -सह-उपायुक्त, रामगढ़ (प्रेक्षक कोषांग)**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2019 के निमित्त 14-हजारीबाग लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के लिए भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के द्वारा प्रतिनियुक्त पुलिस प्रेक्षक का आगमन हो गया है। विवरणी निम्नवत् है:-

क्र०	प्रेक्षक का नाम	विधानसभा क्षेत्र	मोबाइल संख्या	आवासन स्थल	सम्पर्क पदाधिकारी का नाम
1	Mr. RajaShekar N Police Observer	22-बडकागांव 23-रामगढ़ 24-माण्डू	8987791108	परिसदन भवन, रामगढ़ कमरा संख्या-02	Dr. Sajal Kumar, BAO, Gola Mob-9431362503

अतएव 14-हजारीबाग लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के सभी आम नागरिकों/ राजनैतिक दलों के जिलाध्यक्ष/ प्रतिनिधियों से अपील है कि निर्वाचन विधि-व्यवस्था से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के शिकायत/ सूचना उपरोक्त मोबाइल संख्या पर दी जा सकती है तथा प्रतिदिन 10:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से 12:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न तक पुलिस प्रेक्षक से मिलकर शिकायत दर्ज कराया जा सकता है।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी -सह-उपायुक्त, रामगढ़।

P.R.206042 Election(19-20)-D

# 3 Bokaro students bag KVPY scholarship

PNS ■ BOKARO

Proving their mettle three Bokaro students maid their mark in national talent scholarship KVPY (Kishore Vigyan Protsahan Yojana).

The first round of this examination was held in November 2018 while the final stage of this examination was held in February 2019.

Rahul Shreshtha, Pranshu Gaur and Mohammad Hasnain Raza qualified for national talent scholarship with high grades. All of them are student of Delhi Public School Bokaro.

The Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) is an on-going National Programme of Fellowship in Basic Sciences initiated and funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, to attract exceptionally motivated students for pursuing basic science courses and research career in science.



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# Raghubar blames JMM for Santhal distress



BJP senior leader and Khunti Lok Sabha candidate seeks blessings of Congress party Khunti candidate Kali Charan Munda's mother during his door to door campaign at Khunti district on Thursday



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate from Rajmahal Lok Sabha Hemlal Murmu files his nomination papers in presence of Chief Minister Raghubar Das and MLA Anant Ojha ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in Sahibganj on Thursday

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Minister Raghubar Das on Thursday coined Jharkhand Mukti Morcha as Jharkhand Mudra Mochan party targeting JMM president Shibu Soren and his family members. Das claimed that JMM's entire politics revolves around minting money on the pretext of fooling innocent tribal of State. The Chief Minister was addressing a rally at Rajmahal after BJP candidate Hemlal Murmu filed his nomination paper from the Santhal Pargana seat.

For BJP, Santhal Pargana assumes importance as in 2014 despite Modi wave the party lost Dumka and Rajmahal seat. The Rajmahal seat is presently held by JMM Vijay Hansdak while from Dumka, JMM patriarch Shibu Soren is party MP.

Das said, "In last five years nothing has changed in Rajmahal only the property of JMM MP has increased by five times." Targeting JMM MP Hansdak, Das said, "The JMM MP has tried to stop drinking water schemes worth Rs 200 crore in Santhal region."

Highlighting the welfare schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Das said that the construction work of inland port in Sahibganj will be completed soon. Das said, "The inland port will be operational by May this year which will boost trade activities in the region leading to flow of money in the region."

Meanwhile, campaigning in State has intensified with several leaders carrying out campaign in support of BJP candidates. BJP candidate from Khunti and former chief minister Arjun Munda today visited var-

ious areas in Khunti. The BJP candidate also visited the house of his rival and Congress candidate Kalicharan Munda at Mahil village. Arjun Munda, touched the feet of Radhika Munda mother of Congress candidate Kalicharan Munda.

The Congress candidate Kalicharan Munda is brother of Khunti MLA Neelkant Singh Munda, who is minister of rural development in Raghubar Das' Cabinet.

The BJP candidate during his campaign also visited the house of 93-year-old woman, Laxmi Devi at Dalwa village. The woman also presented Munda with Rs 1,100, Dhoti and Gamcha and gave her blessings for victory in election. Arjun who was glad after meeting also posted a remark in his face book stating that it was a special experience for him to get the gifts from the elderly woman.

BJP candidate from Ranchi Lok Sabha seat, Sanjay Seth too today carried out campaigning in Chutia area of the Ranchi seat. During his campaign, the BJP candidate attacked the Mahagathbandhan blaming the Congress, JMM, RJD as dynastic parties. Seth said, "In the election the opposition is fighting to save their families. While the Congress is party of mother-son, JMM father-son and RJD a party of father-son. Only BJP is a party which is cadre based party."

He said, "In BJP a simple tea seller can become a Prime Minister, a labourer can become chief minister, and an ordinary party leader can me can become party candidate from an important seat like Ranchi."

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- 'Nal se Jal' to ensure piped water for every household by 2024
- Every Gram Panchayat will be connected with high-speed optical fibre network by 2022
- Free annual medical treatment of upto Rs. 5 Lakh each for 50 crore poor people
- Minimum wage of labourers will be increased

Do Vote. Voting is also nationalism.

PHIR EK BAAR MODI SARKAR Modi Once More

Press the Lotus Button Vote for BJP

# RU paves way for Priyanka's Italy camp

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi University (RU) on Thursday prevented the dreams of a young long jump champion from getting shattered due to lack of financial backing. It shelled out a sum of Rs 2.26 lakh to ensure that the budding talent gets a chance to prove her mettle on a global platform.



Priyanka Kerketta from Mandar (Ranchi) selected for World University Games

Mandar's Priyanka Kerketta, 21, a student of Doranda College got short listed for the World University Games to be held in Italy, but could not deposit a sum of Rs.2.26 lakh required for the same till the penultimate day of the deadline. RU on Thursday, which happened to be the last day for depositing the amount, directly transferred the sum on behalf of Kerketta to Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar.

An athlete at the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Ranchi Centre, Kerketta is a national record holder in long jump. In 2017 at the 15th Federation Cup National Junior Athletic Championship held in Lucknow, she made a record of 6.30 meter and proved her mettle. Apart from this, she has also won various medals at national level tournaments and is an election icon for Ranchi.

Kerketta was selected for the World University Games after winning a medal at the national level and a trial round which was held at KIIT University. The tournament in Italy will be held from July 3 to July 14. A total of 22 athletes have been selected from across the country for the games.

"The university has decided to sponsor her trip to Italy for the games. All the required expenses will be taken care of by the varsity. I wish her all the

best and pray to the Almighty for her success and a bright future," said Professor Ramesh Kumar Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, RU.

A total sum of Rs. 2.26 lakh has been approved and funded by the university. The amount has been directly transferred by RU to KIIT University, Bhubaneswar.

"There was a trial round from April 2 to April 5 at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. For long jump the qualifying standard was 5.95 meter and I covered 6.23 meter," said Kerketta. She thanked RU for sponsoring her trip to Italy and said that she will try her level best make the varsity proud.

"I make it a point not to miss any practice session. My parents have always supported me and are very happy that I am now going to represent the country at an international event. My aim is to win a gold medal at the Olympics," she said.

This amount has been released by the university as per the proposed budget. "The university is willing to pay for additional expenses too. Presently the total amount approved is Rs 2.26 lakh approximately," said PK Jha, public relations officer, RU.

# 'Govt agencies ensure participation of employees'

PNS ■ RANCHI

Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Manish Ranjan on Thursday asked representatives of Railways, banks, post office and CISF to ensure 100 per cent participation of employees working in these departments in the upcoming 17th General Elections.

Chairing a meeting with representatives of the aforementioned organizations in Ranchi, he said that all stakeholders must ensure maximum participation of voters in the elections by using all possible means of effective communication.

"You must constitute a voters' awareness forum and encourage voting through rallies, signature campaigns, sports events, banners and posters," Ranjan said.

Besides, Ranjan also asked all the officials concerned to monitor smooth functioning of the various platforms made for voters' awareness and fair



Additional Chief Electoral Officer Manish Ranjan alongwith senior officials during a meeting at Chief Electoral office in Ranchi on Thursday

elections this year. All Model Code of Conduct violation cases reported on e-Vigil App should be taken seriously and addressed within 100 minutes, he added.

He also asked the officials attending the meeting to make sure that differently-abled voters come out in large numbers

ently-abled voters and officials must keep a tab on the availability of these facilities.

Jharkhand goes to polls on April 29. Elections for the 14 constituencies here will be conducted in four phases and the final polling will happen on May 6.

Meanwhile, a total of 10 nomination forms were sold on Thursday for the fourth phase of elections in Rajmahal, Dumka and Godda, taking the total count of nomination forms sold for the three constituencies till date to 56.

As many as 12 nominations were filed on Thursday, taking the total count of nominations filed in the constituency till date to 17. By now, 12 nomination forms have been sold in Rajmahal and six filed; 12 sold in Dumka and five filed; and 32 sold in Godda and five filed.

# 'Overwhelming footfall at PM's rally evidence to BJP's popularity'

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday said that the crowd present in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting at Lohardaga on Wednesday has proved that the slogan of the party 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas' is getting an overwhelming support from public.

Addressing a press meet in Gumla, State BJP Spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said that the overwhelming presence of supporters at the Prime Minister's rally is evidence to BJP's popularity in Jharkhand. This support, he added, will reflect in the ballot and ensure a comfortable win for the party in the General Elections here.

Applauding development work done by the BJP-led NDA Government, Shahdeo said that BJP is focusing on welfare programmes such as Ayushman Bharat Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Kisan



State BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo alongwith others during a press conference at Chattrra on Thursday

Samman Nidhi, Kaushal Vikas, Swacchta Abhiyan, Jan Dhan Yojna which are changing lives of commoners. On the other hand, the party has never compromised with national security, he added.

"BJP will give proper answer to those who will raise finger on defense forces. BJP

stion, Shahdeo said that opposition parties were shot of issued for the election and were therefore trying to create issues.

He accused former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad's family and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren's family of illegally acquiring acres of land from the poor.

He said that Prasad's family has acquired illegal property worth crores through shell companies and shopping malls. "Similarly, Soren family has duped poor tribesmen and acquired land worth millions," he added.

The BJP government, Shahdeo said, has always protected land and forest belonging to the tribal community.

On the issue of reservation, Shahdeo said that BJP has never intended to make any changes to the reservation policy. "Prime Minister himself said that the present system of reservation will continue," he added.

# '90 % hospitals flouting BMW disposal norms'

PNS ■ RANCHI

At least 90 per cent of hospitals in major cities across Jharkhand are flouting rules of bio-medical waste management and contributing to a major public health concern, an independent survey by a New Delhi-based NGO Toxics Link revealed on Thursday.

A team of experts from the organization surveyed 31 hospitals in Ranchi, Jamshepur, Dhanbad, Bokaro and Deoghar and found that medical wastes were dumped along with municipal solid wastes in different parts of the city. The survey was conducted over a period of six months in govern-

ment as well as private hospitals.

The NGO released a report, titled 'FAILED OR IGNORED' on Thursday at a city-based hotel, inviting suggestions from experts to address the problem which apparently looms large over cities in Jharkhand.

"We found rag-pickers rummaging through yellow and red colour coded bags containing body parts, used syringes and gloves in Jamshepur and Deoghar municipal waste dumping area," said Shalini Samvedna, Founder Director, Lok Swar, a Jharkhand-based organization that worked along with Toxics



Associate Director Satish Sinha addresses at the workshop on Biomedical Waste Management in Jharkhand, in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

Link in the survey. According to Jharkhand

Pollution Control Board, the state produces 12,000 Kilogram of bio-medical waste daily, totaling to 4,700 tonnes annually.

During the survey it was found that 42 per cent of wards, 13 per cent nursing stations, 39 per cent laboratories and six per cent OPDs did not have waste bins. Many health care facilities transported wastes without trolleys or used open trolleys, a practice considered unsafe. Around 55 per cent health care facilities did not maintain any record of bio-medical waste generation, the report highlighted.

Besides, a majority of hospital staff here have not under-

gone any training in bio-medical waste management, it added. Moreover, around 39 per cent of health workers were not immunized in Jharkhand, which increases the risk of infections contracted during occupational exposure. The surveyors found that none of the hospital staff used protective equipment like gloves and masks.

"The state of bio-medical waste management is worrisome and needs immediate attention. Regulatory bodies must strengthen the system and take actions against health care facilities that are not following proper norms," said Satish Sinha, Associate Director,

Toxics Link.

As per rules laid down for bio-medical waste management, hospitals must segregate their waste in four categories - yellow for infected body parts, blood-soaked cotton, gauzes and bandages; red for intravenous tubing, saline bottles, catheter, syringes and gloves; puncture proof container for sharp wastes and a cardboard box for glass wastes.

The report pointed out at the importance of segregation, highlighting that only 15 to 20 per cent of hospital wastes are infectious but mixing them with other wastes makes 100 per cent bio-medical waste infectious.

# INBRIEF

## VOTER AWARENESS IN GARHWA

To ensure 100 per cent poll in Lok Sabha election, SVEEP Cell, Garhwa, organised a series of voter awareness programmes in the district. In this episode, a programme called 'Journey of Democracy' has been started at the Garhwa railway station to Nagar Untari railway station under which people associated with SVEEP Cell took the Palamu Link Express from Garhwa Railway Station to Nagar Untari station and distributed, voter awareness purcha, hand bills among the passengers. They also filled voter affidavit by the passengers. During travelling awareness activists also made discussion and debate on voting related issues. In returning from Nagar Untari to Garhwa by Shakupunj Express also make aware to the passengers about the voting.

## IMS ANNOUNCES ASSESSMENT DATES

As per the Institute of Management Studies, Ranchi University, viva voce of MBA third semester will be held at the institute on April 27 for marketing and HR and for finance on April 29, 10 am onwards. Students will have to carry their admit cards, a hard copy of the project report along with a CD of the soft copy. The internal assessment test of MBA second semester students will be held on May 1 and May 2 from where as for MBA fourth semester it will be held on May 3 and May 4 from 10 am. All the students will be required to carry their identity cards.

## JCI ORGANISES SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN



The women wing of the JCI is organising a three day summer camp 'Akaar Bakaar' for the children of Ranchi from May 13 to May 15 for the age group 5 to 13. The admission fee for the camp is Rs 1800 and will be organized at Rock Garden, Kanke Road locality. It includes activities such as Zumba, cooking without fire, rain dance and meditation. Children will also be taught about good touch, bad touch and self dependency. With chances to win a lot of exciting prizes, the camp starts at 9:30 till 3:30pm. The coordinators for this programme are Muni Jenani, Asha Modi and Renu Gadodiya.

## RANI MISTRI INITIATIVE RECEIVES SANITATION AWARD



Rani mistri initiative of government of Jharkhand received ISC-FICCI sanitation award and in India sanitation conclave Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS), Rural Development Department, Jharkhand government has received special Recognition Award for Government. JSLPS got the award for its initiatives under Dindyal Antyodaya Rashtriya Gramin Aijvika Mission.

## STUDENTS VOW TO END MALARIA

In commemoration of this year's World Malaria Day, the primary wing students of DPS Ranchi organised a special programme to spread awareness with this year's global theme 'End Malaria for Good' targeting at combating malaria. On this occasion, Dr. Vinay Kumar Dhandhanika (MBBS, D. Diabetology, Mumbai) visited the school for giving more insight to the students about Malaria. He suggested students to maintain a clean and healthy environment in the school premises, clean their house and neighbourhood, wear full sleeves dress while playing in park or field, use mosquito repellent and more such measures to prevent this fatal disease. It was a good learning session and motivated students to lead a healthy life.

# lecture on 'Civilisation, Culture: Inter-Dependence'



PNS ■ RANCHI

Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Regional Centre Ranchi organized a lecture on the topic of 'Civilisation and Culture: Inter-dependence' at Department of Hindi, Ranchi University here on Thursday. Dr. Jang Bahadur Pandey, Former HOD, Department of Hindi, Ranchi University was the speaker of the lecture session. The lecture was chaired by Dr. Ramesh Kumar Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Ranchi University. Honoured guests namely, Dr. Kamal Bose, Head of the Department, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi; P.K. Jha, Former Director, Doodardharan Kendra, Ranchi; Dr. Rameshwar Sahu, Head of Department, Department of Hindi, Ranchi University and Dr. Heera Nandan, graced the occasion.

**The programme was organized under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Ajay Kumar Mishra, Regional Director, IGNSA, Regional Centre Ranchi. Dr. Mishra welcomed all the eminent guests and participants present and gave a brief introduction about the importance of culture in the development of a society and its civilisation**

about the importance of culture in the development of a society and its civilisation. The Chairman of the afternoon, Dr. Pandey, expressed his immense pleasure to be present during the session and also congratulated IGNSA, Regional Centre Ranchi for the venture. He also explained that not only human beings but also the animals and plants communicate with each other and that they also have a civilization and culture of theirs. Also, humans and animals interact to form a bond where inspite of belonging to different species they become related.

complementariness of culture ad civilization. He stressed on how civilization is dependent on culture. Culture of a society gradually grows with time, education, knowledge and wisdom. Through cultural development, a civilization is formed. If civilization is the body of a society, culture is its soul. He gave important references of Kalidas' life, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's works and other important texts related to culture and society. The session was interactive and the students showed great interest by participating with enthusiasm. It was an informative and successful session. After the lecture, Shri Anjani Kumar Sinha thanked the Speaker, Chief Guest and all the respected personalities present on the dias.

# Workshop on CBM, CMM concludes on high notes

PNS ■ RANCHI

On the second day on Thursday of two-day workshop organized on 'Optimum Utilization of CMM and CBM in India' experts discussed on various issues for better utilization of CBM as coal and CBM both are equally important.

On the concluding day experts participated in interactive session. They exchanged opinions of each other on optimal use of CBM and CMM in coal mining. They have decided that such kinds of technology should be used so that coal mining should be safe.

**ON THE CONCLUDING DAY EXPERTS PARTICIPATED IN INTERACTIVE SESSION. THEY EXCHANGED OPINIONS OF EACH OTHER ON OPTIMAL USE OF CBM AND CMM IN COAL MINING. THEY HAVE DECIDED THAT SUCH KINDS OF TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE USED SO THAT COAL MINING SHOULD BE SAFE**

It has also been decided that Coal India will identify CBM on fast track and Government of India will facilitate the company. The company will be tender for Mundihi mines in Jharia. The two-day International workshop on began on Wednesday, which has been jointly organized by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) - Coal India Limited (CIL) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) - Global Methane Initiative (GMI) under the aegis of India CMM and CBM clearing house on behalf of Ministry of Coal.

# Illegal liquor furnace destroyed

PNS ■ GARHWA

In view of the Lok Sabha election scheduled on April 29, police team led by Bardiha police station in charge Bhuvanamani Pathak raided the illegal liquor furnace running on a deserted spot in Lava Champa village near the Sukhani River Ghati. Police demolished the illicit liquor furnace and making tools. Anti social elements, who made the liquor, fled from the spot. Although the people fleeing the police tried to catch them, but all took advantage of darkness and managed to escape. During this raid, the police seized two motorcycles (black colored CD deluxe and TVS star) of the accused, two big gas cylinders, big stove, big utensil of aluminum and 30 liters of country made liquor. After this, the police destroyed a large quantity of

java mahua put in big drums. Police have registered a case under section 272, 273, 290, IPC and 47 (A) of Excise Act under Bardiha police station case no. 21/19, against four accused. These accused includes Awadhesh Paswan, Chunu Yadav, Guddu Yadav and Munnalal Sao, all residents of village Tarhe village of Majhiaon police station. Apart from the thana in charge in the team were SI Ramesh Das, Nizam Khan, Naseem Khan, Rajesh Kumar Chaudhary, Vinay Manjhi and Narendra Mehta. were involved in the charge. In this regard, Police station in-charge of the Bardiha police station said that the action was taken on a tip off. He said that four people from Tadhe village of Majhiaon police station were running illegal liquor furnace. The raids are being conducted for the arrest all fled accused.

# Police claim solving honour killing case

PNS ■ BERMO

Bokaro Thermal police on Thursday claimed to have solved the mystery of the brutal killing of a 28-year-old businessman of Lalkuta basti in Gomia, who was axed to death allegedly by her brother and two others in the name of honour in Bokaro Thermal, Officer in-Charge Umesh Kumar Thakur said on Thursday.

**Disclosing this here today 'ASP R. Ramkumar of the Bokaro police that according to the preliminary investigations carried out so far Abrar Ahamd of Lalkuta basti has been arrested from Bokaro thermal railway station while Md Imteyaz Khan of Hindpiri and Tipu Khan of Lalkuta basti in Gomia have been arrested from Ranchi on Wednesday night and they have confessed, he added**

The businessman identified as Aharar Ahamed was axed to death when he was coming back home after dues collection from Pannk village in Nawadhi on April 18, some 5 km from Bokaro thermal. According to Thakur, the main accused Abrar Ahamd, own brother of the deceased, had been in dispute over a property and also having affair with elder brother's sister-in-law. Disclosing this here today 'ASP R. Ramkumar of the Bokaro police that according to the preliminary investigations carried out so far Abrar Ahamd of Lalkuta basti has been arrested from Bokaro thermal railway station while Md Imteyaz Khan of Hindpiri and Tipu Khan of Lalkuta basti in Gomia have been arrested from Ranchi on Wednesday night and they have confessed, he added.

# Congress vision to make farmers debt-free: Baghel



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday said that making farmers debt-free is the vision of Congress and the loan waiver of defaulting farmers is just a mile stone in that regard. Baghel said this while interacting with media persons in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh where he had gone to campaign for the Congress candidate Vivek Tankha. On this occasion he recalled the ancient and historic relation of Mahakaushal (Jabalpur region) with Dakshin Kaushal (Chhattisgarh). He accepted that the relation between the two places was badly hampered as connection was interrupted after the separate state of Chhattisgarh was carved out of the undivided Madhya Pradesh. Speaking on this occasion Baghel came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Center. He claimed that none of the promises made by them were delivered in their five year's tenure. Mocking Modi, Baghel said, "He (Modi) handed over 'brooms' to the people and then he kept himself busy for five years in touring foreign countries". Baghel also criticised Modi for not addressing a single press conference in his five years tenure. "Right from Pt Nehru to Manmohan Singhji, every Prime Minister had addressed the media. This was the first time any Prime Minister avoided the media interaction", he said. Comparing Modi with Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Baghel said the latter interacts with people and shares his views with media persons wherever he goes. "This testifies that Congress is the only political party which believes in democratic traditions", he said.

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**"सुदृढ प्रजातंत्र हेतु वृहदार सहभागिता"**  
**समाहरणालय, सिमडेगा**  
**(जिला निर्वाचन शाखा)**

**अपील**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि लोकसभा आम चुनाव, 2019 के निमित्त सिमडेगा जिलान्तर्गत 11-खंडी (अ0ज0जा0) लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र का मतदान दिनांक 06.05.2019 को निर्धारित है। सभी मतदाताओं से अपील की जाती है कि वे निर्भीक होकर शांतिपूर्वक अपने मताधिकार का प्रयोग करेंगे। भारतीय दण्ड संहिता की धारा 171 ख के अनुसार जो कोई व्यक्ति निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया के दौरान किसी व्यक्ति को उसके निर्वाचन अधिकार का प्रयोग करने के लिए उत्तेजित करने के उद्देश्य से नगद या वस्तु के रूप में परिशोधन देता है या लेता है वह एक वर्ष तक के कारावास या जुर्माने या दोनों से दण्डनीय होगा। इसके अतिरिक्त भारतीय दण्ड संहिता की धारा 171 ग के अनुसार जो कोई व्यक्ति किसी अशुभ या निर्वाचक या किसी अन्य व्यक्ति को किसी प्रकार की चोट पहुँचाने की धमकी देता है, वह एक वर्ष तक के कारावास या जुर्माने या दोनों से दण्डनीय होगा।

रिश्तवत देने और लेने वालों दोनों के विरुद्ध मामले दर्ज करने एवं ऐसे लोगों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई करने के लिए उडन दस्ता दल गठित किया गया है। सभी नागरिकों से अनुरोध है कि किसी प्रकार की रिश्तवत लेने से परहेज करें और यदि कोई व्यक्ति किसी रिश्तवत की पेशकश करता है या उसे रिश्तवत और निर्वाचकों को डराने/धमकाने के मामलों के जानकारी है तो उन्हें शिकायत प्राप्त करने के लिए गठित प्रकोष्ठ के टॉल फ्री नंबर 1950 तथा 06525-225106 पर सूचित करना चाहिए।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी,  
 -सह-उपायुक्त, सिमडेगा,  
 PR 206053 (Simdega)19-20#D

**झारखण्ड राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर्वद**  
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**सूचना**

पर्वद द्वारा अधिसूचित लाल, नारंगी एवं हरी श्रेणी के सभी उद्योगों को सूचित किया जाता है कि सभी उद्योगों को जल (निवारण एवं नियंत्रण) अधिनियम, 1974 की धारा 25 तथा वायु (निवारण एवं नियंत्रण) अधिनियम, 1981 की धारा 21 के अन्तर्गत झारखण्ड राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर्वद से "संचालन सहमति (Consent to Operate)" लेना अनिवार्य है। इस तरह जिन उद्योगों के पास वैध संचालन सहमति नहीं है, उन्हें निदेश दिया जाता है कि इकाईयों का झारखण्ड राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर्वद से संचालन सहमति प्राप्त किये बगैर संचालन नहीं करें।

संचालन सहमति बिना प्राप्त किये उद्योगों को चलाने पर जल (निवारण एवं नियंत्रण) अधिनियम, 1974 की धारा 44 तथा वायु (निवारण एवं नियंत्रण) अधिनियम, 1981 की धारा 37 के तहत कम-कम से छः माह अथवा अधिकतम छः वर्ष का कारावास अथवा ₹0 5000/- (पाँच हजार रुपये) प्रति दिन का जुर्माना या अथवा दोनों का प्रावधान है।

अतः यह निर्देशित किया जाता है इस सूचना के निर्गत होने के दस दिनों के अन्दर Online Portal <http://www.advantage.jharkhand.gov.in> द्वारा संचालन सहमति आवेदन समर्पित करें अन्यथा कानूनी कर्रवाई प्रारम्भ की जायेगी।

(राजीव लोचन बक्शी)  
 सदस्य सचिव  
 PR206060 Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board(19-20)D

**जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, चतरा**  
 -:(कार्मिक कोषांग):-

**प्रेस विज्ञापित**

04-चतरा लोक सभा निर्वाचन 2019 के लिए चुनाव कार्य में लगाये गये सभी पदाधिकारी/पीठासीन पदाधिकारी/मतदान पदाधिकारी/जोनल मजिस्ट्रेट/सेक्टर मजिस्ट्रेट/माईक्रो ऑबजरवर एवं अन्य कर्मियों को निदेश दिया जाता है कि दिनांक 27.04.2019 को प्रातः 07:00 बजे चतरा महाविद्यालय, चतरा में उपस्थित होकर अपना दायित्व का निर्वहन करना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

निर्देशित है कि निर्धारित समयावधि तक उपस्थित नहीं होने की स्थिति में लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम-1951 की सुसंगत धाराओं के तहत अग्रतर कार्रवाई की जायेगी।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी  
 -सह-  
 उपायुक्त, चतरा  
 P.R.206062 Election(19-20):D

**जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, लोहरदगा**  
**(जिला निर्वाचन शाखा)**

**आम सूचना!**

**लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन, 2019**

**लोहरदगा जिला के सभी मतदातागण, कृपया ध्यान दें**

लोहरदगा जिलान्तर्गत 72 लोहरदगा विधान सभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के कुल 324 एवं 69- विधुनपुर विधान सभा क्षेत्र (अंश) के 104 कुल 428 मतदान केन्द्रों में दिनांक 29.04.2019 को पूर्वाह्न 7.00 बजे से अपराह्न 4.00 बजे तक मतदान कार्यक्रम निर्धारित है।

2. उक्त अवसर पर लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 135 'ग' में निहित प्रावधान के आलोक में लोहरदगा जिला अन्तर्गत मतदान के लिए निर्धारित क्षेत्रों में (27.04.2019 के अपराह्न 4.00 बजे से) मतदान की तिथि के लिए निर्धारित मतदान अवधि (29.04.2019, 7.00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से 04.00 बजे अपराह्न) की समाप्ति के 48 घंटे पूर्व से मतदान समाप्ति तक के लिए मद्य निषेध (Dry Day) घोषित किया जाता है।

3. उक्त अवधि में मतदान क्षेत्र में किसी निर्वाचन के लिए मतदान समाप्त होने के लिए नियत समय के साथ समाप्त होने वाली अदृश्यायुक्त घंटे की अवधि के दौरान उस मतदान क्षेत्र के भीतर, किसी होटल, भोजन, पाठशाला, दुकान में अथवा किसी अन्य लोक या प्राइवेट स्थान में कोई भी स्प्रिटयुक्त, किण्वित या मादक लिक्वर या वैसी ही प्रकृति का अन्य पदार्थ न तो विक्रय किया जाएगा, न दिया जाएगा और न वितरित किया जाएगा।

4. तदनुसार दिनांक 23.05.2019 - मतगणना की तिथि को सम्पूर्ण लोहरदगा जिला क्षेत्र में मद्य निषेध (Dry Day) घोषित किया जाता है।

अवधि, उत्पाद इस आदेश का अन्तर्गत अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करायेंगे।

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 135 'C' का उद्घरण निम्न प्रकार है :-

**135C. Liquor not to be sold, given or distributed on polling day. (1) No spirituous, fermented or intoxicating liquors or other substances of a like nature shall be sold, given or distributed at a hotel, eating house, tavern, shop or any other place, public or private, within a polling area during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in that polling area.**

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी  
 -सह-उपायुक्त, लोहरदगा।  
 PR 206039 (Lohardaga) 19-20 (D)

**समाहरणालय, गढ़वा**  
**(उत्पाद शाखा)**

**आदेश**

सचिव, उत्पाद एवं मद्य निषेध विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के पत्र संख्या - 583 दिनांक- 19.03.2019 एवं मंत्रीमंडल (निर्वाचन) विभाग के पत्र संख्या 1207 दिनांक 11.03.2019 के आलोक में लोकसभा चुनाव 2019 के अवसर पर गढ़वा जिलान्तर्गत सभी प्रकार की मदिरा तथा मादक पेय पदार्थों की बिक्री को प्रतिबंधित करने हेतु झारखण्ड उत्पाद अधिनियम 1915 की धारा-26 के अंतर्गत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए मैं **हर्षमंगला, मा0प्र0से0, जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त, गढ़वा** लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम 1951 की धारा-135 (ग) के आलोक में आदेश देता हूँ कि पलामू लोकसभा क्षेत्र में मतदान की निर्धारित तिथि-29.04.2019 के अवसर पर गढ़वा जिला के अन्तर्गत सभी प्रकार की खुदरा उत्पाद दुकानें तथा अन्य उत्पाद अनुज्ञापित परिसर मतदान समाप्ति के 48 घंटे पूर्व से अर्थात् दिनांक - 27.04.2019 के संध्या 4:00 बजे से मतदान की तिथि- 29.04.2019 के संध्या 04:00 बजे तक पूर्णतः बन्द रहेगी।

साथ ही उक्त अवधि में गढ़वा जिलान्तर्गत किसी होटल, क्लब, भोजनालय, पाकशाला, दुकान तथा किसी निजी अथवा सरकारी स्थानों में कोई भी स्प्रिटयुक्त, किण्वित या मादक पदार्थों की बिक्री, लेन-देन और वितरण प्रतिबंधित रहेगी।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी  
 -सह-उपायुक्त, गढ़वा।  
 P.R.206064 Excise(19-20):D

# IIM Raipur conducts its 8th annual convocation

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Indian Institute of Management, Raipur conducted its 8th annual convocation on Thursday. The institute graduated a total of 179 students from the 2017-19 batch and 54 students from the 2016-18 batch. In addition to this, 8 PhDs were granted at the convocation this year. The graduating students donned their well-deserved graduating robes after two years of continuous hard work and efforts towards self-betterment. The atmosphere in the auditorium was filled with excitement as the students were ready to finally receive the fruits of their success. The ceremony was attended by eminent personalities such as Dr. Ram Sewak Sharma, Chairman, Telecom Regulation Authority of India, who presided as the Chief Guest of the event,

Shyamala Gopinathan, BoG, Chairperson, IIM Raipur and Prof. Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIM Raipur. Dr Sharma in his address said, "Life is uncertain and it gets difficult at times, but this is where the opportunities for greatness arise." Dr Sharma concluded his speech by advising the students to be proud of their backgrounds, be true to themselves as pretending to be someone you are not is only wasteful and useless. Chairperson of the Board of Governors, ShyamalaGopinathan began her address by expressing her compliments to Prof Bharat Bhasker on winning the Best Director award. Professor Bhasker was conferred this award earlier this year at the Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute's 12 annual conference.

# US agencies to visit India to unravel Thowheed

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## IN SHORT

### ARMY STARTS PROCESS TO INDUCT WOMEN AS JAWANS

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

### RAPE CASE: SAD SEEKS EC'S INTERVENTION

**New Delhi:** The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Thursday urged the Election Commission (EC) to direct the Punjab Police to take prompt action against a school board member accused of raping a minor girl. In a complaint submitted to the EC, the SAD urged the poll panel to get the issue probed by a senior police officer keeping in view the seriousness of the charges. **New Delhi:** Having been banned by the EC from holding public rallies for 48 hours over his derogatory remarks against Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Himachal Pradesh BJP chief Satpal Satti has been issued another notice by the poll body on why action should not be taken against him for making "derogatory" and "inciting" remarks against his political opponents.

### SC DIRECTS EC TO ACT ON COMPLAINT OF TMC

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

### SC IRKED OVER ASSAM'S RESPONSE ON FOREIGNERS

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

## OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY DISCUSSED 3-day Navy commanders' meet ends

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Inaugurating the conclave, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman complimented the Indian Navy for maintaining a



high operational tempo and its ability to not only safeguard India's interest in the maritime domain but also coerce an adversary into submission as was evident during the recent standoff.

During the interaction, the Defence Minister reviewed the combat readiness, pace of modernisation and progress of various acquisition and infrastructure related cases. While praising the Indian Navy's foreign cooperation efforts to support the Navies in the region, she urged the Naval Commanders to optimally utilise available resources to

build a strong Navy that is ready and vigilant to counter any challenge that may emerge in the maritime domain.

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

Functional Reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving Operational efficiency and 'Optimal Manning'

formed the core of discussions towards finalising the long term road map of the Navy.

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

During the proceedings here on Thursday, the centre sought four weeks times regarding the appeal filed by Verma on April 23 and the

matter will now come up for hearing again on May 20, Verma's daughter Rhea said. She also said the central government has to positively decide on the complaint by May 15.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Ex-Army chief appointed Indian envoy to Seychelles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Though directions in this regard were issued on October 10, 2018, the rule is being used for the first time in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. EC officials said political parties have been informed

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

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

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



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

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

Parties which fail to comply, face the prospects of getting their recognition withdrawn or

suspended. Candidates have to submit clippings of their declaration published in papers and parties have to submit details about the number of such candidates in a state.

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

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

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

## CBI calls TDP leader for questioning in bank fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Obesity in young age can lead to premature death from

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

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

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



The WHO said children between one and four years old should spend at least three hours in a variety of physical activities spread throughout the day. "Infants under one should interact in floor-based

play and avoid all screens," it said as it noted that being inactive is fueling a rise in the numbers of obese or overweight people worldwide.

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

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

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

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

MAMATA ON KURTA REMARK

‘PM using my civility for political gain’

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

The Prime Minister had in an interview to film star Akshay Kumar said that “though this may cause some



political flutter I must concede that Mamata Didi often sends me choicest kurta mostly selected by her personally. In fact after learning that I had liked the sweets sent to me by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, she did the same by regularly sending me some delicious Bangali Mithai.”

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

The Prime Ministerial interview was televised on Wednesday causing an immediate reaction in the ruling

Trinamool Congress circle even as Banerjee’s nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee said “had such gifts been sent to him why he did not make it public earlier and why is he telling it now?”

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

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

The Left leaders like Sujan Chakrabarty also demanded to know from the Prime Minister as to “reveal what more she has been sending to you,” or “whether she has gifted you her

right hand Mukul Roy, and many other leaders of the TMC and whether she has gifted you away the entire TMC in Tripura to win power there.”

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

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

Woman forced to drink acid after voting for Cong

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

Makhan Biwi, the victim was fighting for her life in hospital, son Rafzal said. “My mother was pulled back home by her hair after she emerged from inside the booth. I tried to protect her but my father,

grandfather and uncles locked me inside a room. From there I saw them forcing apart her mouth and pouring acid in it.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

“This alliance will give a new prime minister to the country and we will make a new Bharat,” the SP chief said. He added that the opposition alliance is aimed at ensuring social justice and taking forward the ideals of B R Ambedkar, Ram Manohar Lohia, Kanshi Ram and Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Criticising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government over demonetisation, Yadav

said, “Has demonetisation eradicated corruption? Where is the black money? They have made the country hollow with their policies.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

“These ‘mahamilavati’ people talk about the country, Akhilesh, Mayawati and Congress cannot keep the country safe,” he said.

Shah said the BJP cannot do “ilu-ilu” with terrorists, an apparent reference to the popular short form of ‘I love you’.

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

“I could not find out as to why they were so sad. Why were

they moving about with long faces? Were those terrorists their maternal or paternal cousins?” he said.

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

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

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

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

Attacking the previous UPA

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

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

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

Omar had recently suggested separate prime minister for Kashmir.

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

PM did ‘injustice’ with people in last 5 years: Rahul

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

“Five years ago, there was a slogan ‘acche din ayenge’ (good

days will come). Now people say ‘chowkidar chor hai’ (watchman is a thief) everywhere in the country,” he said.

Addressing a gathering in Ajmer, Gandhi said, “On one side there is Narendra Modi who speaks lies one after the other wherever he goes and on the other side, there is truth. Depositing Rs 15 lakh in bank

accounts, two crore jobs every year, reasonable price for farmers’ crops were all lies.”

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

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

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

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

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

TMC announces candidates for Assembly bypolls

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

The by-polls to the four assembly seats necessitated after resignations of sitting MLAs who are contesting the



Lok Sabha elections will be held on May 19, the date for the last phase of election to the Lok Sabha.

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



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

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

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

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

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



everything.”

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

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

It also said: “We will not go into the SPG protectees guide-

lines as per the bluebook right now but the rule of law must prevail.”

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

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

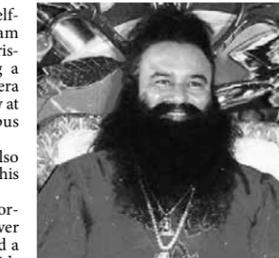
After the incident, Mohsin was attached to the Sambalpur headquarters and subsequently sent back to Karnataka where he was attached with state chief electoral officer. PTI

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

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

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

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



During the 2007 Punjab

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

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

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

in an election.” INLD leader Abhay Singh Chahtala too has said his party will seek the Dera’s support.

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

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

“There used to be public meetings and then a decision was taken. It used to be of course not binding but suggestive in nature. But this

time, everyone is clueless about who will the Dera support,” said Chinder Kaur, whose family has been the sect’s supporter for decades.

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

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

Several Dera followers, who did not wish to come on record, said the political affairs wing is almost redundant and hence the followers

will have to make their individual choices.

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

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

In August 2017, a special CBI court sentenced the 50-year-old Ram Rahim to 20 years of impris-

onment for raping two female followers.

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

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

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

# 2 Hizbul terrorists killed in Anantnag

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

Police spokesman said, "security forces on Thursday

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up along the 300 km long Jammu-Srinagar

National Highway ahead of the shifting of the Durbar move offices from April 27.

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

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

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

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

## IN BARMER'S LAST BORDER VILLAGE

# Farmers mortgage jewellery to feed their cattle

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

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

Shortage of fodder is a major poll issue in the Thar district Lok Sabha constituency. Ali says in every election, candidates of political parties come to the village to seek votes, but after winning polls, they never return.

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

In Bandasar and 150 villages nearby, small and big — such as Munabav, Ramsar, Bhigusi, Gagaria, Bhajpur, Derasar and Bikusar, when there is no rain, farmers have to



look for other things, including working under MGNREGA and going to Ahmedabad, around 500 kilometers from Bandasar, in search of work to feed both family and cattle.

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

He says he has around 100 acre land in Bandasar, but it is lying useless as he cannot use it

because of the drought-situation.

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

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

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

Ramesh Chand, a former

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

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

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

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

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

"Not only Barmer, the

entire Thar desert area of Rajasthan has been facing water scarcity. But government is doing nothing. Being far-reach areas, candidates come only for campaigning, and once elections are over, nobody comes to these villages," says Changa, who goes by his first name.

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

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

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

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

# Giriraj booked for violating model code of conduct

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Amid fresh dissidence, HDK meets Cong leaders

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

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

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

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

"We have discussed politics also, but we also have information that there are no such developments (threatening the

Government)," the Congress leader told reporters.

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

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

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

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

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

both the parties.

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

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

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

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

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

# BJP is not politicising soldiers' valour, says Nirmala Sitharaman

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

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

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

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

"The Congress feels hesitant to talk about political will, hence it thinks we are politicising (the valour of soldiers)," she said. "We are not politicising the

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

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

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

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

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

# Bengaluru under security blanket after blasts in Lanka

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"New Delhi will have our respect, only if they respect the people of this State. No one should dare tinker with our self

esteem for the Kashmiris have always responded to the brickbats thrown at them with determination," he said.

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

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

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

"Any move to scuttle the articles will have far reaching consequences on the people of the state. So it is imperative for

the people across the state, in particular the people of south Kashmir to vote. Every vote you cast will set the recourse of our State for the next half a decade," he added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nine suicide bombers, believed to be members of local Islamist extremist group named National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ), carried out the series of blasts that tore through three churches and three luxury hotels. However, the NTJ has not

claimed responsibility for the attacks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The outcome of by-polls

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

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

The last date to file nomination is on April 29.

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

It will be finalised tomorrow and from Delhi the candidates will be announced.

We will win both the seats and we are making all preparations."

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

# Mumbai: An electoral battleground for many political stalwarts

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

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

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



ed into Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburb in 1990.

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

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

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

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

1,23,576 votes. In 1957, Defence Minister V K Krishna Menon of the Congress won from Mumbai North.

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

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

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

Another top Sena leader, Wamanrao Mahadik, had contested on a BJP ticket from Mumbai South Central in 1984. Communist and socialist leaders have left their deep imprint on the political landscape of the financial capital of the country, which was once home to a large number of textile mills. Communist stalwart

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

In 1984, trade unionist Datta Samant was elected to the Lower House of Parliament from Mumbai South-Central as an independent. The metropolis now has half a dozen Lok Sabha seats — Mumbai North, Mumbai North-West, Mumbai North-East, Mumbai North-Central, Mumbai South-Central and Mumbai South — which go to the polls on April 29. **PTI**

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

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

By Order: **Sh. Manoj Kumar** Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 292, 2nd Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi  
DP/217/OD/19

PAPER WITH PASSION

## New face of terror

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



The terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, the largest in the history of South Asia, are a reminder of how militant groups are now sparking up new hotspots where they had no influence before. And they are doing them on a visually soulless scale, like attacking faith shrines, to attract global shock and awe besides working up least expected touch points in the Philippines, Indonesia, New Zealand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. That also explains why the Islamic State (IS) chose the relatively calmer Sri Lanka to imprint its signature

despite having an operative base in neighbouring Maldives. Besides, most of South and Southeast Asia are multi-cultural and eclectic societies, which may not host the idea of a monolithic socio-religious identity but where divisions can be fomented by playing on latent communal fears and insecurities. The mosque attacks in Christchurch or the church blasts in Sri Lanka are the manifestations of a global trend of an increasing pattern of hitting at faith shrines in South Asia, a sort of theatre for the new-age crusades, according to the University of Maryland's Global Terrorism Database. The study shows that the region alone accounts for about 24 per cent of all terror strikes on places of worship worldwide between 2000 and 2017. Of the total 1,909 terror attacks on religious institutions globally, 458 incidents have been recorded in the South Asian region, which comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. After Pakistan and Afghanistan, India is reportedly the third-most affected country in the region with 63 terror attacks on religious shrines.

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

## Don't talk and drive

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



A study by the World Health Organisation (WHO) says in no uncertain terms that those people who use a mobile phone while driving, even with hand-free aids, are four times more likely to have an accident than those who do not. This report emerged on the day when footage went viral of a Delhi resident, who was driving an SUV, running over his three-year-old nephew because he was distracted by his mobile phone. Across the country people are being killed and injured

everyday because car drivers cannot get off their mobile phones in an utter desperate need to stay connected. And are you innocent yourself? Chances are that even you, dear readers, have used a mobile phone while driving. Everyone, car drivers, motorcycle drivers, auto-rickshaw drivers and even rickshaw pullers and pedestrians are on their phones while on public roads, thinking matters need to be attended to immediately than wait. Mobile phones are clearly making matters worse on Indian roads that are downright dangerous with over 150,000 fatalities reported every year.

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

## Imported jihād

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



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

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

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

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

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

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

The Easter bloodbath, on the other hand, does not seem to be an outgrowth of natural politics. It was directed against Christians (regardless of ethnicity) and foreigners, who stay in plush hotels like Shangri-La, Cinnamon Grand and



Kingsbury in Colombo. The blasts coincided with the US-Sri Lanka Naval exercise off the Hambantota Port, owned by China on a 99-year lease.

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

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

Various Prime Ministers and Presidents of Sri Lanka, right from DS Senanayake to Mahinda Rajapaksa, have had a Christian family background. Christian presence in Sri Lanka goes back to Portuguese invasions in the 16th century. Various Sinhalese (Buddhists) and Tamil (Hindus) had con-

verted to Christianity. But as the Donoughmore Commission (1931) recommended franchise base on territory, many of those leading families re-converted to Buddhism to ingratiate themselves to the masses. They are generally referred to as "Donoughmore Buddhists."

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

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

the aggressive "Buddhisation" of Sri Lanka. But the attempt was exposed and neutralised.

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

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

were descendants of Arab traders, who settled down in the island centuries ago and gradually adopted Tamil while forgetting Arabic.

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

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

## SOUNDBITE

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



TMC candidate —Moon Moon Sen

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



Actor —Arbaaz Khan

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



Chinese spokesman —Ren Guoqi

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



Army Chief —Bipin Rawat

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A leader's character

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

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

### Let's face some home truths

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

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



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

Haridasan Rajan  
Kozhikode

### Time will heal

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Terror returns" (April 23). Churches and luxury hotels in and around Colombo were targeted during Easter Sunday. The bomb attacks must be condemned in the strongest terms. This was, perhaps, the biggest terrorist attack in Sri Lanka

since the cessation of Civil war. The bloodshed would certainly have an adverse impact on trade and tourism in the island nation. It is baffling that the island nation did not take warnings about a possible terror attack seriously enough.

Some of the blasts took place in places of worship. This goes to show, once again, that terror has no respect for religion.

Terrorism can be battled only through coordinated efforts by the international community by sharing intelligence, choking financial support of terrorists and greater collaboration of preventive measures are reliable strategies. Simultaneously, the investigation into the blasts should be speeded up.

Ramesh G Jethwani  
Bangaluru

### Dikshit is worthy

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

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

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

R Narayanan  
Navi Mumbai

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

## A new vehicle for real estate growth

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



RK **ARORA**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

**AS PER THE HIGH COMMAND'S DECISION, MINISTERS IN PUNJAB, WHO DO NOT ENSURE VICTORY FOR THE CONGRESS, WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CABINET.**

—PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER  
 CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH



**I WELCOME THE HIGH COMMAND'S DECISION. BUT, IN THE END, IT IS THE STATE LEADERSHIP THAT MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.**

—SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER  
 PARTAP SINGH BAJWA

# Roots of Islamophobia

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



NADEEM **PARACHA**

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

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

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

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

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

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



towards their Muslim subjects.

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

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

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

Neo-fascist outfits accused their Governments of allowing non-white migrants to steal "white jobs." It really wasn't a clash of cultures as such. Or not yet. According to Khader, till the early 1980s, Muslim migrants

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

were not very public or exhibitionistic about their faith. For example, they were happy with a few basement mosques.

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

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

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

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

(Courtesy: The Dawn)

# Establish the rule of law

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



ANJU **KAPUR**

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

Under the Indian law, complaint(s) of sexual harassment at the workplace are required to be addressed in accordance with the procedure, as established under the Sexual Harassment of Women

at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act). The Act mandates that every organisation — with more than 10 employees — must set up an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), comprising at least four members and 50 per cent of them should be women. Further, it also states that the presiding officer of the ICC should also be a woman.

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

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

However, in gross violation of the procedure as established by the law and in absolute negation of the

'rule of law', the Supreme Court on April 20, held a *suo moto* hearing of the complaint. The Bench comprised three male judges, presided by the CJI himself.

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

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

In setting up a predominantly male Bench, headed by a male judge

(even though there are three sitting women judges at the Supreme Court) the court has side-stepped and corroded the sanctity of the predominantly women-led ICC.

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

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

To facilitate, enable and create a conducive environment — where victims are encouraged to speak

freely in the presence of other women — POSH insists on this specific composition which must necessarily be strictly and scrupulously adhered. Any breach would only further perpetuate injustice.

In not providing more representation to women in the committee and by not including an external member, the Supreme Court has undermined the sanctity of the POSH Act. The apex court has been the torch-bearer of women's right to equality and safe spaces. The court itself laid down the Visakha Guidelines in 1997 to protect women against sexual harassment and abuse at workplace. Even thereafter, it took almost 15 years for the POSH law to be enacted.

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

Without getting into the merits of the allegations levelled against the CJI, it is imperative that a fair and impartial hearing of the mat-

ter be conducted that is based on the settled principles and the procedure established by the law. This is a *sine qua non* for upholding the rule of law.

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

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

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



**FOREIGN EYE**



**WHEN HUNGER STRIKES...**

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

# Maruti to stop diesel vehicle sales from April 1, 2020

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest car-maker Maruti-Suzuki today clearly announced that they will stop sales of all diesel-engined cars from April 1, 2020. This is the day that Bharat Stage 6 (BS6) emission norms come into force in India and no old Bharat Stage 4 diesel engine vehicles will be allowed to be registered. During the car-makers annual results conference, Chairman R C Bhargava made this unequivocal statement about diesels and announced that this would apply to all Maruti-Suzuki products including hatchbacks, sedans, SUVs and commercial vehicles. Bhargava said that this was because making existing diesel engines BS6 compatible was not technically possible and new engines and costs for a BS6 diesel option on smaller cars would add at least ₹1 lakh to the existing cost of a diesel car. He felt that alongside factors such as higher cost and the fact that

diesel vehicles will be deregistered in the National Capital Region within ten years, a plan which might be implemented nationwide and with diesel prices rising, the demand for diesel vehicles would collapse. "The Supreme Court has made it clear that it will not allow the sale and registration of any BS4 from April 1, 2020", Bhargava said explaining this decision. This had a negative impact on the Maruti's share price which crashed after this announcement after having climbed earlier after the company beat investor expectations with a relatively positive



result. This is because 23 percent of Maruti's sales are of diesel vehicles, almost all are of the 1.3 litre diesel engine that Maruti licenses from Fiat, and the company recently announced a new 1.5 litre diesel engine for the Ciaz sedan. Bhargava however said that the company continued to work on hybrid vehicles and while no 'strong hybrids' will be launched in the coming year, Maruti-Suzuki continues to work on the technology for a potential future launch.

Bhargava expressed negativity on the possibility of more electric vehicles being launched in the small car space given costs and without a comprehensive study on commodities and carbon costs. Unit sales for the year climbed to 1,862,449 units including exports, a growth of 4.7 per cent and thus net sales stood at ₹83,026.5 crore a growth of 6.3 per cent. However with foreign exchange volatility and rising commodity prices, net profit declined 2.9 per cent to ₹7500 crore, and thus the company only declared a dividend of ₹80 per

share. One other reason for declining profitability were the increase in customer discounts which rose from ₹15,849 per vehicle on average in 2017-18 to ₹18,277 per vehicle in 2018-19. The company also said that while the last few quarters have been weak, sales in the fourth quarter declining 0.7 per cent over the previous year this was in line with most pre-election years in India. That said, Maruti-Suzuki expected sales to grow between 4-8 per cent in Fiscal Year 2020.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

While a Government push has helped digitise the economy, private sector firms such as Reliance Jio has helped bring down data costs by more than 95 per cent since 2013, it said, adding the cost of one gigabyte fell from 9.8 per cent of per capita monthly GDP in 2013 (roughly \$12.45) to 0.37 per cent in 2017 (the equivalent of a few cents). "Private-sector innovation has helped bring internet-enabled services to millions of consumers and made online usage more accessible. For example, Reliance Jio's strategy of bundling virtually free smartphones with subscriptions to its mobile service has spurred innovation and competitive pricing across the sector," the report said.

As a result, monthly mobile data consumption per user is growing at 152 per cent annually — more than twice the rates in the United States and China. Average fixed-line download speed quadrupled between 2014 and 2017. "India will increase the number of internet users by about 40 per cent to between 750 million and 800 million and double the number of smartphones to between 650 million and 700 million by 2023," it said, adding the potential for India's internet subscriber base could reach 835 million by 2023. McKinsey said India's

internet user base has grown rapidly in recent years, propelled by the decreasing cost and increasing availability of smartphones and high-speed connectivity, and is now one of the largest in the world. The average Indian social media user spends 17 hours on the platforms each week, more than social media users in China and the United States. The share of Indian adults with at least one digital financial account has more than doubled since 2011, to 80 per cent, thanks in large part to the more than 332 million people who opened mobile phone-based accounts under the Government's Jan-Dhan Yojana — a mass financial-inclusion programme.

"By many measures, India is on its way to becoming a digitally advanced nation," McKinsey said. "Just over 40 per cent of the population has an internet subscription, but India is already home to one of the world's largest and most rapidly growing bases of digital consumers. It is digitising activities at a faster pace than many mature and emerging economies." India's core digital sectors, comprising of IT-BPM, digital communication services and electronics manufacturing, accounted for about \$170 billion — or 7 per cent — of GDP in 2017-18.

## Business Corner



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



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

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

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

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

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

DP/2170/OD/19

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION OF UIP (LADY)

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



CHANDA

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

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
Sd/- S.H.O.  
P.S. Rahnola, Delhi  
Ph. 011-28363001

DP/2140/OD/19

**HDFC BANK** Department for Special Operations  
Hind Floor, Indian Express Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

**POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**  
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

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

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

Place: Delhi  
Date: 25.04.2019  
Authorised Officer  
HDFC Bank Ltd.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

On a year-on-year basis, non-food bank credit increased by 13.2 percent in February 2019 as compared with an

increase of 9.8 percent in the year-ago period.

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

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

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

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

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

# Ghosn wins bail in Japan but banned from seeing wife

AFP ■ TOKYO

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

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

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

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

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

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

His lead defence lawyer Junichiro Hironaka said the conditions also included an "approval system" to see his wife Carole, whom prosecutors

believe has made contact with people involved in the case.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Realme 2 Pro launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

## IT MIN WRITES TO WHATSAPP OVER REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE VIDEOS

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

# India's crude oil production drops 4% in FY19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

and less than the production at Santhal and Balol fields in Gujarat.

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

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

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

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

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

# Dish TV forays into OTT segment with Watcho

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

## TRAI pulls up Dish TV India

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

Bharti Airtel, TCS and Bajaj Auto were the only gainers, surging up to 1.06%. Domestic markets made new highs during the month but could not sustain there due to profit-

booking at higher levels, analysts said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Of this, 1,08,749 units were exported, the company said.

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

## LINES UP ₹4,500 CRORE CAPEX FOR CURRENT FISCAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11735.70	11796.75	11624.30	11641.80	-84.35
ULTRACEMCO	4450.50	4466.60	4448.50	4450.00	-20.35
GRASIM	876.10	900.00	876.10	923.00	42.45
DREDDY	2851.65	2940.00	2839.45	2936.70	77.30
BHARTIARTL	322.80	320.00	321.00	327.00	8.20
BPCL	348.95	359.45	347.60	357.80	8.80
UPL	960.50	973.90	946.00	969.75	21.55
TCS	2175.00	2205.00	2168.05	2203.19	29.55
WIPRO	293.05	295.95	292.85	295.20	2.15
BAJAJ-AUTO	3073.95	3110.00	3027.60	3095.10	19.20
BAJAJFINSV	7663.50	7735.95	7625.00	7671.00	33.05
ONGC	168.35	170.00	166.55	169.00	0.35
HEROMOTOCO	2618.00	2638.00	2597.65	2610.85	-1.05
CIPLA	58.70	56.95	55.15	58.25	-0.30
ASIANPAINT	1450.00	1460.00	1438.10	1449.00	-1.05
ITC	307.25	309.80	302.00	306.30	-0.50
COALINDIA	254.85	255.20	248.30	253.00	-1.45
LT	1366.85	1380.55	1352.15	1357.90	-2.75
BRITANNIA	2988.00	2999.00	2962.65	2972.00	-6.20
HCLTECH	1141.00	1151.00	1129.05	1136.00	-2.95
TITAN	1155.00	1165.00	1135.40	1146.55	-3.50
NTPC	134.00	135.35	132.30	133.40	-0.45
TECHM	820.00	827.00	813.45	816.00	-2.75
BAIFINANCE	3099.80	3114.40	3072.65	3081.95	-11.15
ZEEL	419.45	424.25	412.40	416.10	-1.75
IOC	153.60	155.45	151.85	153.10	-0.70
M&M	671.80	673.60	664.00	665.00	-3.15
POWERGRID	192.20	195.80	190.70	191.00	-0.95
KOTAKBANK	1368.90	1377.00	1355.00	1359.00	-7.75
ADANIPORTS	390.00	392.90	387.65	389.25	-2.75
HDFCBANK	2286.90	2298.80	2257.95	2262.25	-17.50
YESBANK	241.00	250.40	236.05	237.25	-1.90
INFE	736.45	737.65	727.05	730.65	-6.40
HINDUNILVR	1756.00	1762.60	1727.20	1737.15	-15.45
EICHERMOT	20510.45	20630.00	20300.00	20390.00	-81.55
GAIL	346.00	349.00	341.10	342.80	-3.25
TATAMOTORS	223.40	225.90	220.25	221.20	-2.40
SUNPHARMA	465.25	474.00	459.50	463.25	-6.10
ICICIBANK	409.00	402.40	394.30	395.65	-5.45
RELIANCE	311.00	312.00	305.40	306.50	-4.25
SBIN	1389.10	1412.40	1362.60	1370.90	-19.50
INDUSINDBK	1716.00	1724.00	1673.00	1675.00	-24.25
HDFC	1987.25	1998.80	1946.55	1951.45	-28.95
AXISBANK	754.00	758.55	738.55	741.30	-11.50
IBULHSFIN	733.00	741.00	724.00	733.00	-13.50
JSWSTEEL	291.50	294.50	285.50	286.70	-5.65
HINDALCO	200.85	202.65	195.75	196.30	-3.90
MARUTI	7014.75	7144.95	6865.00	6880.10	-136.70
VEDL	174.60	175.25	170.00	170.35	-4.45
TATASTEEL	522.00	529.30	509.00	511.00	-14.25
INFRAEEL	287.35	298.00	265.65	272.90	-29.00

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	28993.65	28186.30	27824.95	27914.95	-142.90
SRECCHEM	1940.00	2014.05	19281.60	19930.50	535.05
URL	1427.00	1466.40	1425.30	1461.50	32.65
HINDPETRO	269.50	279.00	266.10	274.85	6.05
SIEMENS	786.95	1201.80	1165.80	1200.90	23.30
AUROPHARMA	786.00	815.00	785.10	800.00	14.70
ICICIPRULI	362.00	380.25	362.00	368.25	5.05
INDIGO	1480.00	1511.00	1473.00	1493.00	20.40
BIOCAN	621.05	623.70	614.50	620.15	6.70
ACC	1606.00	1667.65	1603.00	1623.10	17.10
LUPIN	860.00	874.90	853.10	873.10	8.85
HDFCCLAMC	1587.05	1625.00	1587.05	1607.40	15.15
SBILIFE	609.60	619.70	608.05	613.45	4.05
PETRONET	236.00	237.80	234.20	235.50	1.45
ICICIGI	1078.90	1090.00	1065.00	1076.00	5.55
ABB	1498.00	1499.80	1475.00	1498.00	6.65
DMART	56.25	56.90	55.90	56.65	0.20
NSDL	1399.00	1381.95	1320.25	1334.95	3.80
PGH	10570.00	10649.00	10380.00	10570.00	20.45
HAVELLS	778.10	780.50	770.50	773.40	-0.65
OFSS	3548.00	3575.05	3520.00	3536.00	-2.70
DLF	177.00	178.70	173.00	175.50	0.55
HDFCLIFE	400.80	402.00	396.40	398.40	-1.60
MOTHERSUMI	149.20	150.50	146.80	148.10	-0.75
BOSCHLTD	18010.00	18199.00	17900.00	17916.60	-89.15
MRF	5090.00	5492.95	5590.00	5530.00	-32.40
GICRE	250.00	250.20	244.20	248.00	-1.65
PIDILITIND	1223.50	1238.30	1205.00	1213.00	-8.95
HINDZINC	274.35	275.65	271.40	273.10	-2.10
DABUR	386.65	401.70	393.80	395.10	-3.55
PEL	2578.00	2578.00	2531.30	2582.20	-27.50
BAJAJHLDNG	3326.90	3328.00	3251.25	3265.00	-35.45
NIPCL	23.35	23.55	23.00	23.10	-0.25
MCDOWELL-N	554.50	556.80	544.80	548.80	-6.20
COLPAL	1218.00	1218.00	1198.20	1210.10	-13.75
AMBUJACEM	222.35	228.85	219.50	221.35	-27.20
DIVISLAB	1736.25	1742.50	1710.55	1720.50	-22.20
IDEA	16.75	17.25	16.30	16.90	-0.25
NIALCL	185.00	186.00	180.00	182.00	-2.70
CADILAC	329.55	331.35	323.00	324.30	-5.25
ASHOKLEY	91.45	92.50	89.55	89.75	-1.50
NMDC	102.50	102.95	100.25	100.65	-1.70
LIFTH	140.25	140.80	136.60	137.25	-2.35
BHEL	507.85	515.15	510.70	512.10	-1.30
CONCOR	307.60	307.60	288.50	289.40	-9.55
MARICO	344.00	344.85	335.60	336.00	-4.90
SIRANSFIN	1184.95	1194.00	1146.00	1156.00	-23.00
PACIND	2370.00	2374.95	2300.95	2315.00	-40.50
BANDHANBNK	607.00	613.00	587.30	592.10	-33.00
BANKBAROD	125.20	125.75	121.50	122.00	-1.10
GODRECP	675.00	677.50	647.25	650.90	-23.45

## BSE 500

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
BSE 500	784	825	782	794	-84.35
RPOWER	127.00	133.45	126.80	131.50	4.70
SPICEJET	241.40	250.15	236.20	237.70	-7.70
YESBANK					

# BLASTS IN SRILANKA Suicide bomber was earlier arrested but released

IAN S ■ COLOMBO

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Lanka intensifies crackdown on terror suspects

### 16 more held

PTI ■ COLOMBO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Sir Lanka Defence Secretary resigns

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

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

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

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

## Scared Muslim refugees flee homes over attack fears

AFP ■ COLOMBO

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

At least 359 people died in Sunday's coordinated suicide blasts, including more than 100 Christians attending mass at St

Sebastian's church in Negombo on the island's west coast. The attacks have been condemned by leaders of the country's Muslim minority, but the community has been left in fear of a backlash.

Scores of Ahmadi Muslims who settled in Negombo after fleeing persecution in their home countries have been thrown out of their accommodation by landlords, according to officials. "Today these

refugees have become refugees again in Sri Lanka. They have been displaced for a second time," Ruki Fernando of Inform, a Sri Lankan human rights group, told reporters.

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

## SIDELIGHTS

### LANKA SUSPENDS VISAS ON ARRIVAL PROGRAMME

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

### LEAVE SL OVER 'CONCRETE THREAT': ISRAEL TO CITIZENS

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

### 1 OF SUICIDE BOMBERS HAD OZ VISA: PM MORRISON

Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison said one of the suicide bombers had been in Australia years earlier. Prime Minister Morrison said the person had been in Australia on a student and a graduate skilled visa with a spouse and child visa as well. The individual left in early 2013.

### DRONES, UNMANNED AIRCRAFT BANNED AFTER BOMBINGS

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

### LANKA STILL FACES POSSIBLE TERROR ATTACKS: PM

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

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

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

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

By Order  
Ms. Kadambari Awasthi, Metropolitan Magistrate  
Room No. 110, Rohini Courts  
Delhi

DP/2769/RD/19-(Court Matter)

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

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

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

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

## UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Corporate Identity No. UTM/1801/2019/SC0205867/2358  
Victoria Cross Vijaya Gopal Singh Ujra Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun - 248001  
Telephone : 0135-276372-76, Fax : 0135-276228

## E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE-Ist

This office e-tenders specification No. CCP-1/69/2018-2019 invited previously, for supply of 11 KV XLPE Cable AL, 3x185 Sq.mm and 11 KV XLPE Cable AL, 1x630 Sq.mm are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tenders can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs of 3.5.2019. Part-I of the e-tenders shall be opened on 4.5.2019 at 15:30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, Please visit our website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in).

No. : 214/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Superintending Engineer  
Date : 24.04.2019 Corporate (C & P-I)

## "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONS" Use L.E.D. Bulb to Save Electricity

(Toll Free : 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org)"  
(For information on Electricity Theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4165 / Fax No. 0135 276391)

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that an unknown Male person was found Unconscious Condition he was admitted in SGM Hospital, Mangol Puri Vide MLC No.5602/19 Dated 15.04.2019 and during treatment declared dead by Doctor. In this regard Case DD No. 43-B, Dated 17.04.2019 Time 03.40 PM has been lodged at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown Age: Approx 85 Year, Height: 5'6" Approx, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt-Black Colour Pajama. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

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

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

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

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

## FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

## FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF M/s SIKKA PAPERS LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of corporate debtor	SIKKA PAPERS LIMITED
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	21st September, 1984
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Delhi, India, under the Companies Act, 1956
4 Corporate Identity No./Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U21012D11984PLC128665
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	B-3 M Block AVG Building Connaught Circus New Delhi, Central Delhi
6 Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	24th April, 2015
7 Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	29th October, 2019
8 Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Name- Ajit Kumar Reg No- IBI/PA-03/IP-N00062/2017-18/10548
9 Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Reg. Ad - 1A, Sanskriti Apartment G4-22, Sector 56, Gurugram, Haryana & Punjab, 122011 Email - <a href="mailto:amaajitpa@gmail.com">amaajitpa@gmail.com</a>
10 Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Address - Sun Resolution Professionals Pvt Ltd, B3, National Media Centre, Shanker Chowk, Nr. Ambience Mall/ DLF Cyber City, Gurugram - 122002. Email - <a href="mailto:corp_sikkapapers@gmail.com">corp_sikkapapers@gmail.com</a>
11 Last date for submission of claims	8th May, 2019
12 Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	NOT APPLICABLE
13 Names of insolvency professionals identified to act as Authorized Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	NOT APPLICABLE
14 (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	(a) <a href="http://www.ibbi.gov.in">www.ibbi.gov.in</a> (b) NOT APPLICABLE

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the SIKKA PAPERS Limited on 24th April, 2015. The creditors of SIKKA PAPERS Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 08th May, 2019 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit their claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means. A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorized representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No. 13. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claims shall attract penalties.

Sd/  
Ajit Kumar  
Interim Resolution Professional  
Reg No- IBI/PA-03/IP-N00062/2017-18/10548

Date: 25th April, 2019  
Place: Gurugram

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (through e-tendering)	
Name of work with its location	Provision of interlocking at L-Xing No.109 & 133 in section of ADSTE/ROK of DLI Division.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 50,85,862.38/- only
Tender Document Fee (₹)	₹ 5,900/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 1,01,700/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi - 110 055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time 22.05.2019 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Notice Board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110 055.
Tender No.	558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1269 Dated : 25.04.2019 1219/2019

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (E-Procurement Systems)	
Tender No.	25.8.597.DSL.SSB @
Name of work	Provision of supply and maintenance of indoor well developed ornamental flower pots, Qty-2745 nos. at DEMU-shed, Shakurbasti, Diesel Training Centre, Shakurbasti and Heritage steam shed Rewari and development of other plantation activities at Heritage Steam shed. Rewari for a period of one year.
Approximate cost	₹ 65,23,132/- (₹ Sixty Five Lacs Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Two only)
Earnest Money	₹ 1,30,500/- (Note : It should in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
Completion period of the work	12 Months
Cost of tender document	₹ 5,900/- with GST @18% (Note : It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs on 20.05.2019 opening of tender at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender is available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
Tender No.	25.8.597.DSL.SSB (R) Dt. 25.04.2019 1217/19

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## Ex-Vice President Joe Biden launches 2020 WH bid

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

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

"We are in the battle for the soul of this nation," Biden said. "If we give Donald Trump eight years in the White House, he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation — who we are. And I cannot stand by and watch that happen." The 76-year-old Biden becomes an instant front-runner alongside Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is leading many polls and has proved to be a successful fundraiser.

Among Democrats, Biden has unmatched international and legislative experience, and he is among the best-known faces in US politics. He quickly racked up endorsements on Thursday morning, becoming the first Democrat running for president with the backing of more than one US senator.

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

## Trump questions Biden's intelligence to wage winning primary bid

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

## GLOBE TROTTER

### CHINA VISIT WILL TAKE TIES TO NEW HEIGHTS: PAK PM

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

### N KOREA READY ONLY IF IT GETS GUARANTEES: PUTIN

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

### ASETOD IMPACT: NASA TO CONDUCT 'MOCK DRILL'

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

### HK RIGHTS MUST BE 'FULLY RESPECTED': BRITAIN

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

## Appeal for Identification

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

K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

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

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

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

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

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

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

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

SHO  
PS: K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi  
Ph.: 27571162, 8750870327  
DP/2766/RD/19

Trend Blazer

Parineeti lip-syncs Nick's Sucker

Actress **PARINEETI CHOPRA** was seen lip-syncing Jonas Brothers' new song titled *Sucker*. Sharing a video of herself singing, Parineeti gave a shoutout to Nick, who sang the song with his brothers Joe Jonas and Kevin Jonas. "My jam to get into the mood for the scene yesterday! Haha, Nick Jonas. Whatsay!" she captioned the video. Replying to Parineeti, Nick commented, "Haha love it!" while her cousin and Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra, who featured in the music video and is married to the American singer, said she too loved the video.



**'The way we conceive, develop and make films today is completely different from how we did 20 years ago. The makers and the audience as well have evolved and we are making films that are breaking genres. It's a great time to be an actor and experiment with various characters and different kinds of films.'**



—Kunal Kemmu

Veteran actor **ANUPAM KHER** will be with actor-turned-politician and Chandigarh MP Kirron Kher when she files her nomination papers for the Chandigarh seat.

In a short video, the actor is heard saying, "Once again Kirron Kherji is getting a chance to become a member of parliament from Chandigarh. We will take part in this event of democracy and

will go to the office of the Deputy Commissioner to file the nomination."

He captioned the video, "Looking forward to be with the BJP candidate Kirron Kher and the people of Chandigarh to participate in the nomination filing ceremony. Good luck to everybody. Let's participate in this amazing and the largest festival of democracy."

Rami joins James Bond 25

Oscar-winning actor **RAMI MALEK** has bagged a role in the new James Bond film, which is tentatively titled *James Bond 25*.

Producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson together with director Cary Fukunaga revealed that Malek along with other new faces Ana De Armas, David Dencik, Lashana Lynch and Billy Magnussen have joined Daniel Craig in his fifth and final 007 outing.

Malek will play the role of a villain in the film. He said, "I promise you all I will be making sure Mr Bond does not have an easy ride of it in this, his 25th outing." The film is scheduled to release in April 2020.



'A BUMP DOESN'T STOP YOU'

Designer **CÉCILE REINAUD** tells **AYUSHI SHARMA** that there is a huge demand for maternity fashion on a global level from what it used to be a few years ago. It started in America, trickled into Europe and it has now reached India

**F**rumpy, loose, unbecoming and not in the least stylish — these are some words that are associated with maternity fashion. However, pregnancy doesn't have to mean dressing up in sacks or its closest equivalent. Celebrities like Kareena Kapoor Khan and Beyonce amping up the fashion quotient during pregnancy has ensured that there is no flagging in the social pressure to look good even during this time.

It's true that fashioning clothes for a changing body is a daunting task but designer Cécile Reinaud apprises us that there is a huge demand for maternity fashion on a global level compared to what it used to be a few years back. It started in America, trickled into Europe and it has now reached India, a nation that has spread its arms wide to welcome this niche segment. The consumers demand something comfortable yet fashionable, so it will definitely flourish exponentially in the coming years.

Just like traditional fashion, many trends exist in maternity garments as well. She notes that denim wear is extremely popular because most women love to dress up their closet with the fabric. From skinny jeans to denim dresses and shirts, this is a favourite across the globe. The other trend is floral prints — from pale pinks to light blues, these never go out of fashion. It is not just the safest to follow but also a classy style to adopt during that phase.

There has been a substantial change in the way expectant mothers live their lives as compared to yesteryears. This sensibility too has to be blended into designs. She says that women are educated, well-travelled and they believe in being always on point. The same attitude can be seen even when they are pregnant. Every woman wants to look stylish and elegant no matter whether it is in office or at a party — a bump doesn't deter



**'IN A PROFESSIONAL SPACE, IF YOU DON'T DRESS UP WELL, PEOPLE DON'T TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY, ESPECIALLY WITH A BIG BELLY. IT BECOMES EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO DRESS SHARP TO SHOW YOU ARE ON TOP OF THINGS. THIS PHENOMENON STARTED 15 YEARS AGO IN THE UK AND NOW IN THE NEW GENERATION OF CAREER-DRIVEN INDIAN WOMEN'**

them. Since, it is a new chapter in a woman's life, nothing should detract them from enjoying it to the fullest. The designs are created keeping in mind the modern woman's desire to look chic everyday and also be able to re-use these apparel post-pregnancy.

Dressing in the way you like can keep you positive, happy and comfortable, even as you face this big change in life. Fancy maternity outfit is becoming a necessity as compared to the past, especially in India. She says that women in metros have a career and they want to look smart and sophisticated as they head out. "In a professional space, if you don't dress up well, people don't take you seriously, especially with a big belly. It becomes even more important to dress sharp to show you are on top of things. This phenomenon started 15 years ago in the UK and now has gained prominence among the new generation of Indian women who are career-driven. With the advent of the social media, women take inspiration from the way celebs and influencers dress up, regardless of the situation or their phase of life. This has driven the demand for more comfortable clothes for every stage of a woman's life, including pregnancy," adds Cécile, who has also designed outfits for many royals including the future queen of England, Kate Middleton.

She believes that the maternity fashion scene in India is not very different as compared to other countries. However, Cécile further adds, "Indian women like to dress up more modestly, so they avoid low cut V necks. They are more comfortable with sleeves attached to their dresses and tops. Weather too plays a role. It is hot most of the months in the country so we look for fabrics that are light and that will keep you cool, while making you feel adequately covered and elegant."

(The designer is also the founder and the managing director of Séraphine.)



Living with electricity

Spending a week with an electric car can change one's outlook towards such vehicles but upfront costs are an issue



KUSHAN MITRA



**A**t the outset, I should make one thing clear that the BMW i3s is a luxury car, it might be an eco-friendly BMW with recycled plastic being used as well as environmental-friendly fabric for the seat and the few bits of (fake) leather were offcuts from the production line, but this is a BMW nonetheless. This is therefore, not a car for everyone, but is one of the most popular electric vehicles in Europe. Priced at around 40,000 Euros, if it were to come to India, if incentives are offered for the import of electric vehicles, such as no additional excise, it will still cost at least ₹35 lakh, only a bit less than a brand-new BMW 3-series or X1. However, driving one for a week, complete with its new green registration plates that electric vehicles are allowed to use was an eye-opener for this writer.

To be fair, this column had been written about the i3s when we had driven it in Portugal a year and half ago, but that was a media drive where one did not have to deal with the nitty-gritty of living with an electric vehicle, that is charging. Now, we know that India does not have enough charging infrastructure as yet, and more on that later. But I could charge the i3s at home, thanks to a couple of reasons. Firstly, I had covered parking and a plug-point as well as a three-phase power connection. While charging from a low amperage point meant that the car took over twelve hours to charge from empty and on 'Comfort' mode it took twelve hours.

In 'Comfort' mode, the default mode of the car had 218 kilometers of range on full charge. On 'Eco Pro' mode, the car had around 250 kilometers of range and in 'Eco Pro+' over 300 kilometers of range. I, however, kept the car on 'Comfort' most of the time as it allowed me to use the air-conditioner without any issues, it is summer in Delhi after all. I'd also plugged in my mobile phone so as to listen to music and actual range was a lot higher than the initial indicated one because the i3s has a very good regenerating system that charges the battery whenever you lift your foot off the pedal so much so that you rarely end up using the brakes.

So what are the headline numbers. The car claimed that it was consuming 12.9 kilowatt-hours (units) of electricity for every 100 kilometers of driving. Now, in Delhi, residential power costs ₹7.75 per unit at maximum rates, this means that the i3s has a running cost, if you buy power at the peak rate, of just ₹1 per km. That, frankly, is unbeatable by any petrol or diesel car. Keep in mind that fixed costs remain the same, any few



households fall into the peak charge for electricity. So overall costs will, using a back of the envelope calculation, be around 80 paise per kilometre. A small petrol hatchback such as the Hyundai i20 or Suzuki Baleno would have a per-kilometre cost of ₹5.5. Even with BMW's 1,00,000 kilometre warranty on the battery and rising fuel prices going forward, which is almost certain, savings on running cost over that period will be ₹8 lakh at best, not enough to make up the difference. Maybe if you considered this over a BMW X1 for example, you might save money but that is all dependent on a benevolent government which wants to promote electric car usage in India and keeps import duties low or at zero at least

initially to seed the market.

But this does not preclude the fact that the i3s will, even if not charged import duties, cost 3.5 times that of a standard hatchback. And then there is an issue with infrastructure, there are some charging stations built in and around Delhi by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for the fleet of government electric vehicles, including one at Jor Bagh Market near the offices of the Environment Ministry. But guess what, that charging system is not compatible with that of the BMW. This is like needing an iPhone charger and finding a Micro-USB charger. So well, I could not try that out. This incompatibility issue is something that the industry and govern-

ment will need to deal with.

The i3s is actually an amazing car to drive around the city. For one the instant power delivery and almost perfectly linear acceleration means that it overtakes with surprising ease, it can be rather quick if you want it to be and thanks to its excellent centre-of-gravity, it handles like you expect a BMW should. But this is just a technology-demonstrator brought here by BMW to showcase their technology and train their service engineers. However, I do wish that the car-maker does share this car with someone in the government and let them drive around and get some idea of how to formulate and get some idea of how to formulate electric vehicle policy going forward.



Chinese artist writes book using only emoticons

**Book from the Ground** is a novel written using only emoticons by a Chinese artist Xu Bing that illustrates the ability to create a universal language using graphic symbols, he said.

Xu's aim to create the book, which so far has only been published in the US, is for any person anywhere in the world to be able to understand the story without having to know any given language in advance, since the emoticon symbols are universally shared and used. This preoccupation with language, which permeates all of Xu's work, stems from his childhood. When he was 11, the Cultural Revolution erupted in China and he had to learn new, simplified Chinese characters in order to be able to read and write according to the government's new guidelines.

"It's the first book that everyone in the world can read, since it needs no translation," said the artist, adding that currently, by using a very simple system of signs, emoticon users, especially young people, enjoy the ability "to communicate on the international level." "The idea for the book began 13 years ago, when I was having exhibitions all over the world and I spent a lot of time on airports," said Xu.

The book includes 24 chapters. Xu presented his new book at the Art for People exposition, where on display is a banner given to him by the Museum of Modern Art in 1999 on which can be read the slogan "Art for the People" with the English letters grouped in a way that simulates Chinese writing.

Using the same calligraphic technique, the artist has also adapted or translated the 15th century poem *El bon poble* by Ausias March in a work inspired by the Valencian culture.

—IANS



# Trick or treat

There are certain skills that make life easier. Here are six shortcuts that every cook should know to make things trouble-free in the kitchen

There are certain small skills that make life better and easier. I'm well aware that many of them take place outside of the kitchen, and I probably don't know as many of those as I should. I'm of no use if you have a flat tire or need to calculate the circumference of something or want to find your way out of the woods.

But after many years of clanking around in the kitchen, I have collected a fair arsenal of cooking tips and shortcuts. Here are a few that everyone should know:

## HOW TO QUICKLY RIPEN AVOCADOS

If you have a hard avocado and you need it to be soft in a day or so, simply place it in a brown paper bag with a banana or apple and fold the top to close it up. The natural ethylene gases emitted by the other fruit will cause the avocado to ripen faster. Depending on how hard your avocado is, it might take a couple of days.

## HOW TO MINCE GARLIC SUPER FINE

If you are using minced garlic in a dish, particularly where the garlic is uncooked, big chunks are not what you are looking for. Just smash a clove or two (or five) with the side of a

heavy knife, slip off the papery skin and start chopping on a cutting board. As the garlic gets chopped, add a pinch or so of kosher or sea salt and keep chopping. The salt acts as an abrasive so the garlic gets minced fine. Every once in a while, use the side of the knife to smear the garlic against the cutting board, then scrape it back up and keep mincing. You can hear the salt crunching under the blade as it works to pulverise the garlic.

## HOW TO MAKE BUTTERMILK

Unless we are really planning ahead, when 'buttermilk' comes up as an ingredient in a recipe, it's unlikely most of us have it on hand. Easy solution — Make your own. Place one tablespoon lemon juice or white vinegar in a measuring cup and then fill it with milk to the one cup line. I like to use whole milk, but you can also use 2 per cent. If you see slight curdling, don't worry it won't affect the finished product. This may not be as thick as regular buttermilk, but the acidity in the milk will perform the same function — getting you to a tender, flaky and flavorful baked good.

## HOW TO PEEL GINGER WITH A SPOON

Ginger's skin is thin enough



to be scraped off with the edge of a teaspoon. In fact, it's easier to use a spoon than a vegetable peeler because the spoon can get into the crevices and navigate

over the bumps more easily. Also, this means you can have even a little kid help with this kitchen task, since they can't nick themselves with a spoon.

## HOW TO SOFTEN BROWN SUGAR

If you have a day or two, just place a piece of fresh bread in a container with the brown sugar, seal the container and your brown sugar will soften right up. If you are in a hurry, place the brown sugar in a bowl, place a damp paper towel over it, cover the bowl with a plate and microwave it for 20 seconds. Check to see if it's soft and if not, continue microwaving in 20 second bursts until it is. Use it pretty quickly, and when you store any leftovers, make sure to put a piece of fresh bread in the container with the sugar.

## HOW TO GET HONEY (OR MOLASSES, MAPLE SYRUP OR CORN SYRUP) OUT OF A MEASURING CUP

Anything sticky is just plain hard to measure. You pour it into the cup or spoon and then into your bowl or pot, and a thick coating is always left inside the measuring cup, drip-drip-dripping, but never fully getting out of the cup. The quick hack is cooking spray. Just spray the inside of the cup or measuring spoon with non-stick cooking spray, measure your sticky ingredient and it will slide right out. Cleanup is easier, too.

—AP

# CHEF TALK

## 'AWARENESS IS THE KEY'

Chef TARUN SIBAL tells AYUSHI SHARMA that our lifestyle choices are the exact opposite of what's required for a healthy body. The change needs to start with the use of local, seasonal produce and by restricting the intake of processed food options

### Given livestock, certain foods won't last beyond 2030-50 as predicted by Lancet, how do we change food culture to make sustainable choices?

This situation has become alarming. We need to go back to the consumption of local produce. The focus on westernised diets which are based on three crop varieties and an overconsumption of meat needs to be tackled. Refined sugars, saturated fats, dairy are areas where the restrictive approach can work in our favour. We will also need to inhibit wastefulness as a habit.



### What are the challenges to a sustainable food culture in India?

The sheer size and diversity of the country presents a huge challenge in terms of food. Indian food culture is an amalgamation of varied food interpretations. Sustainable culture will need education for the farmer and evolution of the consumer at various levels of the economy.

of the food ecosystem is maintained. But with an increase in the urban population that centres around a western diet, this balance is shifting.

### In what way do we need to change the way we eat, given our lifestyle choices?

It can only start with the understanding that we need to make a change, so awareness is the key. Our lifestyle choices are the exact opposite of what's required for a healthy body and mind. Hence the intake becomes the most important aspect we can work on. As I said, it will start with the use of local and seasonal produce. And by restricting the intake of processed food options.

### Has Indian cuisine made a mark on the global palate? Is it being appreciated by connoisseurs and the masses adequately?

You will be surprised if I tell you that Indian cuisine is classified as a heritage one by the UN, with Mexico and China being the other two countries with the same status. We have been eating the same for ages. Indian cuisine is a feast as it's rich, varied, seasonal and has all the elements that ensure that it is appreciated across the globe. International chefs have opened up to Indian cuisine and Indian chefs have started using global techniques while working with ingredients and flavours from the country. Indian chefs have made huge efforts in making the food look delectable.

### As the population grows and yields get squeezed, a growing number of farmers are switching to practices that conserve resources and at the same time are more productive. What do you have to say about the native crops that India has stopped growing?

It's a shame that we end up lapping what the West brings us with respect to super foods. We have always had abundance in terms of produce that is good for you. From ghee to barley, millet to coconut, moringa to rosella. We have it all. We need to make all of this mainstream and enhance its usage. We also have to create suitable demand and maintain a healthy rate of supply.

### Food preferences are subjective. Some may like a dish and some won't. How do you deal with negative criticism to your cooking?

I rather call it feedback. And no one can please everyone. But each guest is important and we try to match his/her expectations.

### What do you have to say about the current food culture in India?

We have a head start when it comes to sustainable food culture as a major chunk of the Indian population is vegetarian. By focusing on grains, legume, pulses, vegetables and fruits, the balance

### What is the biggest thing you stand for and support as a chef?

Kitchens are high stress ecosystems and chefs are burning out. I stand for creating an environment that's less taxing and is built on camaraderie and balance. My food logic is simple. I make the familiar exciting and the unfamiliar approachable. Having said that, seasonality, tastefulness and balance of flavours play a vital role.

## gorge us

As the city take a step forward towards the summer season, the craving for chilled shakes and drinks go up. Pablo — the food cartel is serving the most innovative shakes, mocktails and smoothies like Blueberry Green Tea, Avocado and Pineapple Smoothy, Pineapple Kiwi and Flaxseed Smoothy, Parle-G Shake among others. Price: ₹1,200 for two Date: April 30 Time: 8 am to 10.30 pm Venue: GL-19, Cross Point Mall, DLF phase 4, Gurugram.



Burma Burma, Bis all set to bring in the Burmese New Year festivities. On the menu are special dishes like Spicy Avocado Tea Leaf Salad, Quack Palata, 999 Noodles. Price: ₹1,500 for two, plus taxes Date: Till May 5 Time: Lunch — 12 pm to 4 pm and Dinner — 6.30 pm to 11.30 pm Venue: At Burma Burma outlets in Select City Walk, Cyber Hub and DLF Mall of India.

Swad presents an extensive new menu — SBedmi Poori with Aloo Sabji, Dilkhush Pizza Dosa, Vegetarian Cooker Meat, Mock Meat dish, Kathi Kabab with Roomali, Gulab Jamun and Tiramisu. Price: ₹750 for two Date: Throughout May Time: 12 pm to 11.30 pm Venue: 43, Chiranjivi Tower, Nehru Place.

Savour the flavours of tender and juicy Kebabs and grills at Farzi Cafe. From tender and succulent Tandoori New Zealand Lamb Chops rubbed with garlic and chill to signature Murgh Shorba, Pulled Chicken. Price: ₹1,500 for two, plus taxes Date: On till May Time: 12 pm to 11.45 pm Venue: 7-8, DLF Cyber City, Gurugram.



With the mercury shooting up, it's time to refresh and replenish the body with exotic summer sippers. UNO Chicago Bar and Grill has introduced cocktails like That's Amore, Towered Iced Tea, Cosmo Blood Orange, Classic Mojito. Price: ₹1,500 for two Date: Ongoing Time: 12 am to 12 pm Venue: Gardens Galleria Mall, Sector 38, Noida.



### HAZELNUT CHOCOLATE MUD SLIDE

#### WHAT YOU NEED

#### For the Pastry:

- Butter: 140 gm
- Golden caster sugar: 100 gm
- Plain flour: 225 gm
- Almond: 50 gm
- Egg (beaten): 1

#### For the Filling:

- Blanched hazelnut: 85 gm
- Golden caster sugar: 50 gm
- Dark chocolate: 200 gm
- Butter: 100 gm
- A splash of brandy
- Egg: 1
- Egg yolks: 3



#### METHOD

● Begin with pastry and mix the butter and sugar together, then add flour and almonds. Blend everything together with egg. If the pastry is very soft, chill it for 20 minutes. If not, roll out to fit in a deep 23 cm fluted flan tin; if the pastry breaks, press scraps of it into the gaps, leaving a slight overhang. Chill for 20 minutes.

● Heat the oven. Line the case with baking parchment and baking beans, then bake for 10 minutes. Remove beans and cook for another 10 minutes until golden. ● Meanwhile, toast the nuts in a dry pan until turns brown. Scatter over four tablespoon of sugar, cook until it caramelises. Then tip nuts onto a baking tray lined with parchment.

Leave to cool, then chop roughly.

● Over a pan of barely simmering water, melt the chocolate, butter and alcohol together, then set aside to cool slightly. Over the same pan, beat the egg yolks and remaining sugar until pale and fluffy. Take off the heat, then fold in the chocolate mix. ● When case is cooked, remove from oven and turn the heat down. Scatter most of the hazelnuts over the base, then tip in the chocolate mix, pressing it down slightly. Cook the tart for 15-20 minutes until the chocolate has almost set. Leave to cool, then serve with the remaining nuts.

Courtesy: Chef Sanjay Singh Yadav at Vapour Bar exchange, Gurugram.

### MARMALADE FRENCH TOAST

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Milk: 25 ml
- Egg yolk: 1
- Egg white: 1
- Caster sugar: 10 gm
- Marmalade: 20 gm
- Salt as per taste
- Bread toast: 2 slices

#### Accompaniments:

- Berry coulis: 25 gm
- Whipped cream: 200 gm
- Maple syrup: 30 ml

#### METHOD

- Make a smooth batter.
- Mix all the



ingredients other than the egg whites. ● Beat the egg whites stiff and fold into the mixture. ● Place two slices of bread toast into the

batter, cook on a griddle and serve with accompaniments.

Courtesy: Neelabh Sahay, executive chef at Novotel Kolkata Hotel and Residences.

## RECIPES



### JALAPENO CORNITOS WITH SOUR CREAM

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Cornitos jalapeno flavour nachos: 1 packet
- Cornitos chunky salsa: 1 jar
- Onion (finely chopped): 1
- Cornitos sliced jalapeno peppers
- Avocado: 1
- Tomato (finely chopped): 1
- Sour cream: 1 cup
- Coriander

#### METHOD

- Arrange layer of cornitos wasabi flavour nachos on a platter.
- Top it up with chopped tomatoes, onions, avocado and salsa.
- Repeat the same with another layer of nachos on top of it.
- Again top it with chopped tomatoes, onions, sliced fresh jalapeno chunky salsa and coriander leaves.
- Serve it fresh with sour cream on top.

Courtesy: Cornitos.

### MANGO MULE

#### METHOD

- Add ice to glass and pour mango juice.
- Add lime juice and vanilla syrup and stir well.
- Top up with Ginger ale and splash of grenadine syrup.
- Garnish with mint sprig and rosemary.

Courtesy: Puneet Kaushal, Bartender at The Deltin, Daman.



# Noisy Neighbours too loud for Utd

Manchester City go top of Premier League with 2-0 derby day win

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola believes his side has raised the bar in the Premier League after edging one point back ahead of Liverpool in a titanic title race with a 2-0 win at Manchester United on Wednesday.

Bernardo Silva and Leroy Sane struck for the visitors in 12 second-half minutes at Old Trafford to inflict a seventh defeat in nine games on United, who remain three points adrift of the top four.

City cannot match their record 100 points tally in romping to the title last season, but victories over Burnley, Leicester and Brighton will clinch the title on 98 points and ensure Liverpool's 29-year wait to win the league continues despite already posting a club record points tally in the Premier League era.

"We increased the level for the Premier League last season with 100 points. That's the level Liverpool are chasing. What they have done is incredible but it's in our hands," said Guardiola.

"Both teams deserve the title. But it can be just one. The team that is going to lose can't have regrets because they have given everything."

City's trip to Old Trafford was billed as the last big hurdle left for Guardiola's men to clear despite United's terrible run of form.

However, Guardiola warned of the tight turnaround before a very different type of test at Burnley on Sunday.

"Normally with this kind of victory you can enjoy it the most but we have to be calm,"



City's trip to Old Trafford was billed as the last big hurdle left for Guardiola's men to clear despite United's terrible run of form

added Guardiola.



"Now we go to Burnley and we know how tough it will be. It's important to be calm. We are still not champions with three games left — it's incredible with the points we have and Liverpool have."

### STANDARD BEARERS

United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer slammed his players' attitude after a 4-0 at Everton on Sunday and was rewarded with a far more energetic and committed performance, even if City's greater quality eventually shone through.

Raheem Sterling shot too close to De Gea after weaving through a host of United bodies inside the area before Sergio Aguero edged well when unmarked at the edge of the box as City went through the gears towards the end

"Today we didn't play like Manchester United. It's not right. The bare minimum is to work hard and give all for the badge, the supporters, the club and yourself." —Marcus Rashford

"Every one of us wants to do the back to back. We're really happy about this win because it is the derby, a special game, and also really important for the Premier League." —Leroy Sane

"I told them (Man City players) we needed to play to win, it doesn't matter if we concede." —Pep Guardiola

of the first-half.

But it was an enforced change early in the second-half that swung the game City's way as Guardiola boldly introduced Sane when the more defensive-minded Fernandinho went down injured.

David de Gea has been a rare model of consistent brilliance as United have fallen behind City in recent seasons.

But the Spaniard's dramatic dip in form of late continued as he could have done better for both goals.

Guardiola's positive change was instantly rewarded when Bernardo cut inside onto his favoured left foot and beat De Gea at his near post.

Sane has been scarcely used by Guardiola of late, but the German, whose winning goal inflicted Liverpool's only league defeat of the season in January, again showed his capability to make a difference in the biggest games.

Sterling led a City counter-attack before feeding Sane, whose powerful shot De Gea could not keep out.

# WOLVES INFLICT MORE AWAY-DAY PAIN

AFP ■ LONDON

Unai Emery refused to give up on Arsenal's Champions League hopes after seeing his side embarrassed by Wolves in a 3-1 defeat at Molineux on Wednesday.

Ruben Neves, Matt Doherty and the outstanding Diogo Jota scored the goals that condemned Emery's side to a third defeat in four Premier League games, severely denting their hopes of a top-four finish with just three games to go.

The Arsenal manager admitted his team were outplayed by Wolves, who scored three goals in the first half to give the visitors a mountain to climb.

Despite the chastening defeat the Spaniard said his side will keep striving for Champions League football, which they can achieve either through a top-four finish in



the Premier League or by winning the Europa League.

Defeat in the Midlands left Emery's men a point behind fourth-placed Chelsea.

"I usually am very critical with myself and I am angry with myself that we didn't do the gameplan we wanted — not with the players," said Emery when asked if he was angry with his team.

"First it is with me and after that my style and idea is to look in front and find a solution, not who is the player who is worst."

"First I am thinking about the solution and the solution for me is to take the possibility on Sunday at Leicester and get our best performance and the best possibility to take the three points."

# Pogba odd man out in PFA team of the year

LONDON: Manchester United's Paul Pogba is the only non-Manchester City or Liverpool player to be named in the Professional Footballers' Association's Premier League team of the year on Thursday.

The 26-year-old French World Cup-winning midfielder's inclusion is a surprise after an indifferent season, although he hit a purple patch after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer arrived at Old Trafford as interim manager.

City and Liverpool have been locked in an enthralling duel for the title, with City going top again after beating United 2-0, with Pogba unable to inspire his side to a much-needed win.

City provide six of the 11 players — goalkeeper Ederson, centre-half Aymeric Laporte,

midfielders Bernardo Silva and Fernandinho and forwards Sergio Aguero and Raheem Sterling.

The remaining four places are filled by Liverpool players — full-backs Andrew Robertson and Trent-Alexander Arnold, central defender Virgil van Dijk and forward Sadio Mane.

Van Dijk and Sterling are believed to be in the running for the player of the year award.

There is no place, though, for Liverpool's Egyptian star Mo Salah, who has scored 19 Premier League goals this season, Spurs pair Harry Kane and Son Heung-min or Chelsea playmaker Eden Hazard.

The PFA Team of the Year is voted for by members of the Professional Footballers' Association.

Manchester City had five players in the 2017/18 side but only Argentine star Aguero retains his place from the team of 12 months ago. AFP



## SINGLES

### ROONEY FIRES DC UNITED TO TOP

NEW YORK: Wayne Rooney fired DC United to the top of Major League Soccer's Eastern Conference standings on Wednesday, scoring the game's only goal in a 1-0 win over Columbus Crew. Former Manchester United and England star Rooney curled home a low free-kick in the 27th minute to give United all three points and their first win in Columbus since 2007. The victory leaves United three points clear of second-placed Montreal Impact at the top of the Eastern Conference standings with 17 points from nine games. Montreal kept pace with United after a 3-0 away win against the New England Revolution.

### LEE BOWS OUT OF SUDIRMAN CUP

SHANGHAI: Malaysia's badminton king Lee Chong Wei, under treatment for nose cancer, has withdrawn from next month's Sudirman Cup in China after doctors advised him against "exerting himself", an official said on Thursday. The decision to skip the May 19-26 tournament in Nanning marks the third time Lee, 36, fails to make a comeback and will probably dash his hopes to play in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. He had earlier skipped the All England Open in March and the Malaysia Open in April. "I would like to confirm that Lee Chong Wei will not compete in the Sudirman Cup mixed team event," Ng Chin Chai, secretary general of the Badminton Association of Malaysia. "He is on treatment. Lee is advised by his doctor against exerting himself and not to participate in competition yet."

### RANI NAMED IN WOMEN'S NAT'L CAMP

NEW DELHI: Star skipper Rani Rampal headlined a 60 player probable list for the women's hockey national camp, beginning in Bengaluru from Friday. Rani, who missed out the five match bilateral series with Malaysia due to injury, joins the two-week camp alongside goalkeeper Savita and defender Deep Grace Ekka. A selection trial will be held on May 4 to prune down the list to 33 core probables, a Hockey India media release said. "While I am looking forward to seeing and testing the new talent coming into the National Camp, the athletes will need to perform and show their capabilities," India's chief coach, Sjoerd Marjine said. "We are constantly looking to improve and good players posing a challenge to seniors will only increase the competition within the core group and also help create depth in the team."

### IND FACE RUSSIA IN FIH FINALS OPENER

NEW DELHI: Favourites India will open their campaign against lowly Russia in the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Series Finals, an Olympic qualifier event, to be held in Bhubaneswar from June 6 to 15. World ranked fifth India will take on world No 22 Russia in the final match of the opening day, which also features games between South Africa and United States and Poland and Uzbekistan. India are placed in Pool A alongside Poland (ranked 21), Russia and Uzbekistan (43rd), while Pool B consists of South Africa (16th), Asia Games Gold medalist Japan (18th), USA (25th) and Mexico (39th). After Russia, India will be up against Poland (June 7) and Uzbekistan (June 10) in their remaining pool matches. The final of tournament will be played on June 15 at the Kalinga Stadium. Agencies

# ATLETICO EDGE 5-GOAL THRILLER WITH VALENCIA

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid delayed Barcelona winning La Liga by a few days at least after Alvaro Morata and Antoine Griezmann each scored in a 3-2 victory over Valencia on Wednesday.

Defeat at the Wanda Metropolitano would have crowned Barca kings of Spain for a 26th time in their history, with the Catalans now set to celebrate at their own Camp Nou on Saturday instead.

A Barcelona win there over Levante will wrap up their fourth league triumph in five years and they could even be home and dry before kick-off, if Atletico fail to take a point at home to struggling Real Valladolid earlier in the day.

Regardless, success for Ernesto Valverde's side is sure-



ly now only a matter of timing given Atletico remain nine points behind the leaders with four games left to play.

Angel Correa's stunning strike in the 81st minute proved the winner after Valencia had fought back, Kevin Gameiro and a Dani Parejo penalty twice pulling them level after goals from Morata and Griezmann.

Morata's early strike continued his excellent form since his move to Atletico in January, his finish at the back post taking his tally to six goals in 13 games for the club.

Griezmann, meanwhile, back from suspension, now has 25 goals in all competitions this season, an impressive return, particularly in a side not renowned for its creativity.

# Lewandowski brace wins thrilling German Cup semis

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich will face RB Leipzig in the German Cup final next month after Robert Lewandowski fired them to a 3-2 win over a valiant Werder Bremen on Wednesday.

Lewandowski scored twice in a highly entertaining last-four tie to reach the final for the 23rd time. Bremen were unfazed by their role as underdogs, attacking Bayern all night and briefly overturning a two-goal deficit.

Yet Lewandowski's late penalty ultimately decided a fiery cup tie in Bayern's favour. "It was the tough game that we were expecting,"



man of the match Thomas Mueller told ARD.

"Football is fun in an atmosphere like this. I have to say, I'm a bit of a Bremen fan. I love watching them, and their fans are great."

Both sides threw

the sucker punch when he scooped in a second just after the hour mark.

Rashica, though, hauled Bremen back into the tie with two minutes of magic.

The Kosovan set up Yuya Osako to pull a goal back on 74 minutes, before tearing through Bayern with a brilliant solo run a minute later to net the equaliser.

Yet Lewandowski restored the lead from the spot on 80 minutes after Kingsley Coman went down in the box.

Bayern will face RB Leipzig in the final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on May 25, where they hope to win the trophy for the 19th time.

# Hamilton wary of rivals' street smarts in Baku

AFP ■ BAKU

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton is expecting his main rivals to give him a tough time on the demanding streets of Baku at this weekend's Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

The five-time world champion, who heads the embryonic 2019 title race by six points after three races, has struggled to master the Baku circuit in the past and won last year only after Mercedes' team-mate Valtteri Bottas had a puncture when leading with three laps remaining.

That disappointment was a body blow for Bottas who did not fully recover and failed to claim a win as Hamilton romped to his fifth drivers' crown. This time, Hamilton expects him, and Ferrari, to respond.

"I was fortunate to get the win here last year," admitted Hamilton, who has developed a habit of turning unpromising races into valuable podium finishes or wins.

"I wasn't quick enough really,



right through the weekend so it will be interesting this time.

"I'm expecting Valtteri to be quick and I expect the Ferraris to be particularly quick. It will be interesting. I'm going with a mind-set that I've got to improve on my previous performances."

Victory last year was Hamilton's first at the tricky track made up of the season's longest — and very fast — straight and tight corners, some with little run-off and walls.

# NADAL SEES OFF TEARFUL FERRER

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Rafael Nadal showed no mercy towards an emotional David Ferrer as he eased into the quarter-finals of the Barcelona Open on Thursday with a straight-sets victory.

Ferrer is set to retire after the Madrid Open next month and made a tearful exit on what was his last appearance at this tournament.

But there was no room for sentiment for Nadal, who won 6-3, 6-3 to take one step closer to a record 12th Barcelona title.

Four of those triumphs came after beating Ferrer in the final and, at the end of this latest victory, Nadal's 37-year-old opponent saluted the crowd before placing his pink headband down on the service line.

Ferrer reached a career-high ranking of number three in the world in 2013, the same year he went closest to winning a Grand Slam too, undone by Nadal again in the French Open final.

Nadal will be gunning for his 12th success at Roland Garros next month and this was more



like the sort of form expected of the world number two, who had won 30 consecutive sets in Barcelona before falling one behind to Leonardo Mayer on Wednesday.

Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff or the talented 20-year-old Greek, Stefanos Tsitsipas, now await in the last eight before a potential semi-final meeting with Dominic Thiem, whom Nadal beat in the French Open final last year.

# Osaka downs Hsieh in Stuttgart opener

AFP ■ STUTTGART

World number one Naomi Osaka defeated Hsieh Su-wei 6-4, 6-3 in her first clay court match of the season in Stuttgart on Thursday.

US and Australian Open champion Osaka, who lost to Taiwanese veteran Hsieh in Miami last month, secured a place in the quarter-finals against Croatia's Donna Vekic.

Osaka, 21, broke Hsieh three times in total to beat Hsieh for the second time in three attempts this year, having also defeated her on the way to lifting the title in Melbourne.

"She's a really tricky opponent. You never really know what she's going to do," said Osaka.

Osaka needed 84 minutes to dispatch the unconventional Hsieh, a win that ensures she will hold on to top spot for at least another week.

She is less than 200 points ahead of Simona Halep in the WTA rankings, although the Romanian pulled out of this week's tournament with a hip injury.

The Japanese star arrived in Stuttgart, where she last played in Stuttgart as a qualifier in 2017, after suffering early exits in her last three tournaments.

Osaka will meet Vekic, a 6-1, 7-5 seventh seed from Darja Kasatkina, for a spot in the last four, while winner seed Anastasia Sevastova defeated Germany's Laura Siegemund 6-4, 6-3.



LEADERBOARD

RUNS	574	David Warner (SRH)
WICKETS	23	Kagiso Rabada (DC)
6S	550	T20 IS ABOUT PRESSURE MOMENTS AND WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT IN THE LAST FEW GAMES
4S	1212	— R ASHWIN



# DK special gives KKR 175

KKR skipper hammers 97 not out as hosts recover after slow start



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Under-fire skipper Dinesh Karthik silenced his critics with a career-best 97 not out as Kolkata Knight Riders recovered from an atrocious start to post a competitive 175 for six against Rajasthan Royals in their must-win IPL fixture here on Thursday.

Under pressure to perform after a string of five straight defeats, the World Cup-bound Karthik promoted himself to No 4, shrugging off criticism, and smashed nine sixes and seven fours in his 50-ball unbeaten knock, as KKR hit top gear in the back end of the innings, scoring 126 from the last 10 overs and 75 off the last five overs.

On a day their impact player Andre Russell looked lacklustre in his run-a-ball 14, in which he was dropped twice, it was a one-man show from Karthik who went berserk against the likes of Jaydev

Unadkat and Shreyas Gopal.

Karthik seized the momentum in the 11th over when he hit Shreyas Gopal for a six followed by three boundaries in an over that yielded 25 runs and KKR did not look back since then.

Karthik completed his fifty from 35 balls and smashed Jofra Archer for successive sixes in the penultimate over before bettering his previous best of 86 when he went berserk against Unadkat by hitting him for two sixes and one four in the final over.

Unadkat conceded 50 runs for his one wicket and was the most expensive of the lot as he undid all the good work done by Varun Aaron (2/20) who had a fine new ball spell of 3-1-10-2.

Put in to bat, KKR got off to an atrocious start to be 32/2 in powerplay overs against an all out pace attack from Rajasthan Royals.

Playing his only sec-

ond match this season, Aaron extracted pace and swing from the fast-paced Eden track and removed both the openers Chris Lynn (0) and Shubman Gill (14) cheaply.

Aaron set up Lynn brilliantly with his first two balls before bowling a delivery that sharply came back as the Australian played it on to his stumps in a wicket- maiden first over.

Then the talented Gill had no answer to negotiate an inswinger as he was completely beaten by pace to see the ball clip his bails.

Archer capped a superb powerplay for Royals with another maiden as the dispirited KKR found themselves going nowhere and seemed to be losing the plot before skipper Karthik revived them at the back end of the innings.

## Up Next CSK look to dodge MI blues

PTI ■ CHENNAI

They might have already reached the cut-off limit of 16 points needed for the play-offs, but Chennai Super Kings would like to consolidate their position at the top when they take on an inconsistent Mumbai Indians in an IPL match here on Friday.

The MS Dhoni-led side roared back to form after two losses, with a six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Tuesday night, riding on Shane Watson's big hitting.

Come on Friday, the hosts would be looking to continue the momentum.

The visitors, currently in third spot with 12 points from 10 games, are coming off a defeat against Rajasthan Royals and will be keen to keep themselves in the hunt for the playoffs.

While CSK's must have welcomed Watson's return to form, the team would be hoping for Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu and Kedar Jadhav to get going ahead of the knockout phase.

It is important for Jadhav to get his touch back with the World Cup looming.

The bowlers have played a big role in CSK's success so far, especially at home, on sluggish tracks. The much-improved Deepak Chahar will be key in the matches to come with his intelligent bowling at the start and at the death.

Though Imran Tahir, who is the second highest wicket-taker with 16, went wicketless in



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the SRH match, the South African veteran will be expected to stymie the powerful Mumbai Indians batting line-up along with fellow spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Harbhajan Singh.

Mumbai have had a roller coaster season so far and they now need to be at their best in the last lap of the preliminary phase.

In Rohit Sharma, they have a shrewd captain who leads from the front, and a solid batting unit that includes Quinton de Kock, Kieron Pollard and the Pandya brothers — Hardik & Krunal.

Jasprit Bumrah & Co will be wary of CSK's batting with Watson having found his mojo again and the ever-reliable Dhoni.

An interesting battle looms between the two three-time champions.

## Steyn ruled out of IPL after brief stint

PTI ■ BENGALURU

After a brief two-match stint, Bangalore pacer Dale Steyn was on Thursday ruled out of the Indian Premier League owing to an inflammation in his shoulder.

The veteran South African fast bowler, who had recently joined RCB as an replacement for injured Nathan Coulter-Nile, was forced to sit out of the match against Kings XI Punjab

after he picked up a niggle.

"Dale Steyn has been prescribed with ample rest due to inflammation in his shoulder. On account of state of his health, Dale will not be available to take part further in the ongoing season of IPL," Sanjeev Churiwala, Chairman of RCB, said in a statement.

The injury-prone pacer had returned to the IPL after a gap of two years and straight away contributed to team's winning

cause by picking up four wickets in two games — against Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings.

"His presence has helped the team immensely and we are very thankful for the inspiration and passion that he brought to the squad. The team will deeply miss his energy and presence around. We wish him a speedy recovery and all the luck for all future endeavours," RCB Chairman said.

## Saina, Sindhu sail into quarters



ASIAN BADMINTON C'SHIP

PTI ■ WUHAN

As Indian women shuttlers Saina Nehwal and P V Sindhu registered straight-game wins to sail into the quarter-finals of the Asian Badminton Championship here on Thursday.

London Olympic Bronze medallist Saina, who was the last Indian to take the court on Thursday, needed just 38 minutes to get the better of Kim Ga Eun of Korea to enter the last eight round of the women's singles event.

Saina, seeded seventh, has a tough next encounter as she will be up against third seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan.

The other Indian in fray, Sindhu, seeded fourth, took just 33 minutes to beat Indonesia's Choirunnisa 21-15, 21-19 in another second round women's singles match.

The world number six will next play the unseeded Cai Yanyan of China in the quarter-finals.

Besides the female duo, Sameer Verma too continued his impressive run by progressing to the men's singles quarterfinals.

Sameer brushed aside Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus 21-12, 21-19 in his second round encounter.

But a Herculean task awaits Sameer in the last eight round as he will clash with second seed Shi Yuqi of China.

Among other Indians, mixed doubles pair of Utkarsh Arora and Karishma Wadkar crashed out in the second round after losing 21-10, 21-15 to Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja of Indonesia.

There was another defeat in store in the mixed doubles as the combination of Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan too perished in the second round after losing 10-21, 9-21 against second seeded Chinese duo of Yilyu Wang and Dongping Huang.

## India's shooter shine in WC

PTI ■ BEIJING

Young Indian shooters dominated the mixed team competitions by winning two Gold medals on day three of the ongoing ISSF World Cup to take the country on the top of medal tally here on Thursday.

The teenage pairing of Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won their second Gold in 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event in as many World Cup stages this year while another teenager Divyansh Panwar struck Gold in Air Rifle Mixed Team event partnering the more accomplished Anjum Moudgil to help cap a memorable day for India.

The start of the day was all about a new pair, a new format and a new result. Anjum partnered Divyansh, who was in only his second senior competition, for the first time to beat the formidable Chinese pair of Liu Ruxuan and Yang

Haoran 17-15 in a pulsating Gold medal match.

The win was even more creditable given that a new format was being tried by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) for the mixed events in Beijing.

The second Indian team in the event, Apurvi Chandela and Deepak Kumar also reached the finals but finished sixth eventually.

Then came the icing on the cake with Manu and Saurabh's victory in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event. The teenage stars comprehensively defeated yet another Chinese pair consisting of former Olympic champion Pang Wei and 2019 New Delhi World Cup finalist Jiang Ranxin, 16-6 in the Gold medal match.

Manu and Saurabh began from where they had left at the home World Cup in Delhi a couple of months back, beating top class opponents en route to the Gold.

## KAKRAN, MANJU HAND TWIN BRONZE

PTI ■ XI'AN

India's Divya Kakran and Manju Kumari bagged Bronze medals for the country in the women's competition of the Asian Wrestling Championships here on Thursday.

Asian Games Bronze-medallist Kakran defeated Battsetseg Soronzonbold of Mongolia via fall in the play-offs of the 68kg category to finish on the podium.

It was double delight for India as Manju also secured a Bronze medal earlier in the day by beating Vietnam's Thi Huong Dao 11-2.

Seema, who also made it to the play-offs, however failed to register a hat-trick of Bronze medals for India after losing to Valentina Ivanovna Islamova Brik of Kazakhstan 5-11 in the 50kg category.

Silver-medallist in the 69kg category at the 2017 edition of the Asian Championships, Kakran lost out on a place in the final of 68kg after going down to Feng Zhou of China 4-14 in the semi-finals.

In the 59kg category, Manju had lost to Battsetseg Altantsetseg of Mongolia 6-15 in the last four stage to settle for a place in the bronze-medal round.

Manju had earlier beaten Kazakhstan's



Madina Bakbergenova 5-3 in the quarter-finals.

In the 50kg category, Seema defeated Meng Hsuan Hsieh of Chinese Taipei 10-2 in her repechage bout. She had earlier lost to Yuki Irie of Japan in the qualification round but made the repechage after her Japanese rival reached the final.

However, India's campaign got over early in the 55kg and 76kg weight divisions when Lalita and Pooja lost their respective quarterfinal bouts to bow out of the event.

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