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## Phase-II turnout 1.3% less than 2014

67.84 polling registered; sporadic violence in Bengal, C'garh, Manipur; EVM snag at some places

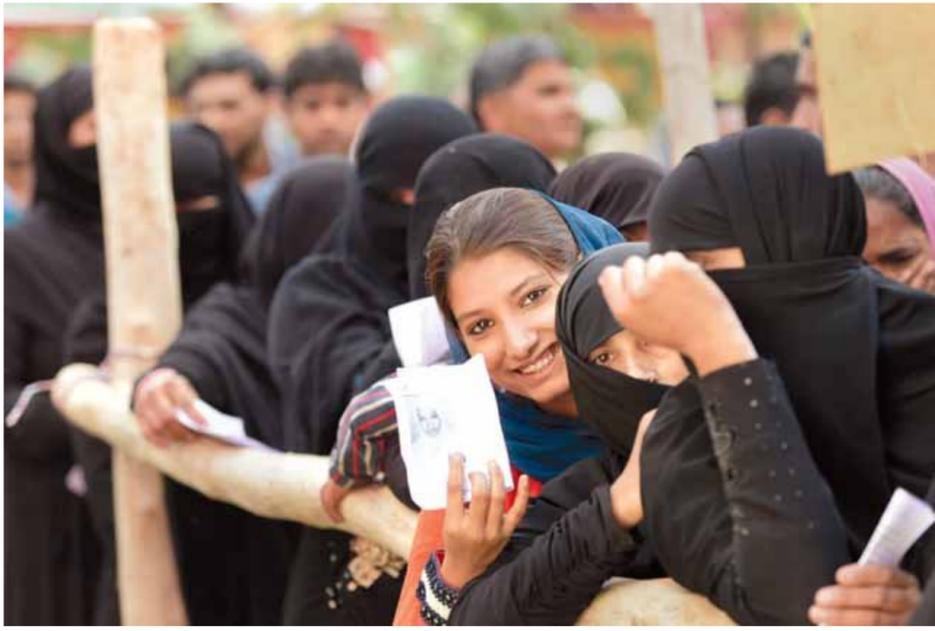
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The turnout for the second phase of polling on Thursday interestingly turned out to be an exact contrast to that of the first phase. According to the Election Commission, the second phase turnout at 67.84 per cent was 1.28 per cent lower than 69.12 per cent registered in 2014. Sporadic violence was reported from West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Manipur even as EVM glitches were reported from some places.

The second phase of Lok Sabha elections was held for 95 seats across 11 States and Union Territory of Puducherry. With this, the poll process has been completed in 14 States and Union Territories. In all, polling has been completed in 186 Lok Sabha constituencies.

Tamil Nadu went to polls for 38 of 39 constituencies with DMK's A Raja and Kanimozhi being the prominent candidates in the fray. BJP's Hema Malini and Congress leader Raj Babbar among others were among the notables who contested on the eight seats that went to polls in Uttar Pradesh. Former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda from Karnataka and National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah in Jammu & Kashmir too tested the ballot power.

Union Ministers Jitendra Singh, Jual Oram, Sadananda Gowda and Pon



Voters await their turn at a polling booth in Bulandshahr on Thursday

Radhakrishnan were in the fray in the second of the seven-phased Lok Sabha poll which would conclude on May 19.

Voting picked up in the second phase by afternoon which was marred by an IED blast by Naxals in Chhattisgarh, police firing in West Bengal on

stone pelters and EVM glitches at some places. CPI(M) candidate from Raiganj Md Salim claimed that his car was attacked by unknown persons when he went to a polling booth at Islampur in Uttar Dinajpur in West Bengal. According to EC, UP reg-

istered 62.3 per cent polling, Assam 78.27 per cent, Bihar 62.52 per cent, Chhattisgarh 71 per cent, Karnataka 61.80 per cent, Maharashtra 62 per cent, Manipur 74.69 per cent, Odisha 64 per cent, Puducherry 78 per cent, Tamil Nadu 72 per cent and West

Bengal 76 per cent.

The first phase of polling on April 11 included 91 constituencies, registering 69.43 per cent of polling, three per cent more than recorded in 2014 general elections.

Besides Tamil Nadu, voting took place in 14 seats in

Karnataka, 10 in Maharashtra, eight in Uttar Pradesh, five each in Assam, Bihar and Odisha, three each in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, two in Jammu & Kashmir and one seat each in Manipur and Puducherry. Elections were also held in 35 Assembly constituencies of Odisha and in 18 Assembly seats in Tamil Nadu.

A total of 1,600 candidates were in the electoral battle for 95 seats which would be crucial for the BJP as for the Opposition to keep the tempo of the fight for the New Delhi which has still 357 Lok Sabha seats to go to poll before the final verdict is announced on May 23.

The AIADMK holds the maximum of 36 seats of the 95 seats which witnessed polling in 2nd phase, followed by the BJP with 27 seats. The Congress had won 12 of these seats in 2014, the Shiv Sena and the BJD 4 each, the JD(S) and the RJD two each and the AIUDF, the NCP, the JD(U), the PDR, the AINRC, the PMK, the CPM and the TMC one seat each.

Electoral key State of Uttar Pradesh with 80 LS seats has completed polling in 16 seats of western UP.

Polling was conducted in Srinagar Parliamentary constituency of Jammu & Kashmir to decide the fate of 10 candidates, including NC president Farooq Abdullah who is seeking a re-election.

Security personnel have

been deployed in strength in and around polling stations in all three districts — Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal — of the constituency, officials said. The polling for Udhampur-Doda and Srinagar seats recorded 43.3 per cent at 5 pm.

Polling in Chhattisgarh witnessed violence with an ITBP jawan suffering minor injuries after Naxals triggered an IED blast in Rajnandgaon district.

Long queues were seen at polling booths in Tamil Nadu, with Chief Minister K Palaniswami and DMK chief MK Stalin among the early voters.

Sporadic incidents of violence were reported in some areas of Bengal. A reporter and a camera person of a local news channel were allegedly man-handled when they went to cover polling at Kataphulbari in the Raiganj constituency, they said.

Voters in Uttar Dinajpur district's Chopra under the Raiganj constituency reportedly put up a road blockade, complaining about the absence of Central forces at the polling stations, the sources said.

Police fired in the air and lobbed tear gas shells to control a mob, after stones were pelted at them and bombs were hurled by unknown persons in Chopra, a senior EC official in the district said. At least three persons were detained by police in this connection, he said.

### CAPSULE

**2 NAXALS INVOLVED IN MLA'S MURDER KILLED**  
Raipur: Two Naxals, involved in the killing of a BJP MLA and four security personnel in Dantewada, were gunned down in a fierce encounter with police on Thursday in Dantewada, officials said. The killed Maoist cadres, identified as Vargese and Linga, were involved in the ambush in which BJP MLA Bhima Mandvi and his four security personnel were killed on April 9.

**MICHEL BAIL PLEA FOR EASTER REJECTED**  
New Delhi: A Delhi Court on Thursday dismissed the plea of AgustaWestland chopper scam middleman Christian Michel, who sought 7-day interim bail to celebrate Easter with family, noting that he may tamper with evidence and abscond if released. The court refused to grant the relief to Michel and said there are serious allegations against him of grave economic offence.

**₹3 CR EXPIRED BEER DESTROYED IN NOIDA**  
Noida: Over 1.24 lakh litres of beer worth ₹3 crore kept at a Government godown in Gautam Buddha Nagar was destroyed on Thursday after it reached its expiry date, officials said. The beer worth an estimate ₹3 crore belonged to three companies — United Breweries, IndoSpirit and Jasmeent Chaddha — an excise department official said.

**4 OF FAMILY DIE IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN UP**  
Muzaffarnagar: Four of a family, including a woman and her two children, were crushed to death by a vehicle here on Thursday under Shahpur Police Station in the district, said police.

## Pragya launches poll campaign, hurl personal attacks on Diggi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Narrating the horrible tale of alleged custodial torture against her, BJP Bhopal candidate Pragya Thakur, launched her campaigning in Bhopal on Thursday. She also indulged in personal attacks on Digvijay Singh, the Congress candidate from the parliamentary seat.

Addressing the party workers of Huzur assembly segment in Bhopal, Thakur broke down while narrating the alleged custodial tortures inflicted on her after being arrested in connection with 2008 Malegaon blasts. "On day one I wasn't asked anything and was beaten up by leather belts and wasn't offered food for 24 hours and only was given water," said the sadhvi. I was bashed with belts round the clock for several days and they just wanted to make me accept involvement in blasts.

My hands were dipped in salted water and was persistently threatened to be hanged upside down and also threatened to be disrobed, said the



BJP candidate for Bhopal Lok Sabha seat Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur gets emotional as she narrates the incident of alleged torture of jail officials in Malegaon bomb blast case in Bhopal on Thursday

46-year-old seer.

Thakur was inducted in BJP on Wednesday and named as Bhopal candidate. I was put under narco, polygraph test and brain mapping thrice each and it was because of the chemicals used in the process, I developed cancer, said Thakur who is out on bail in 2008 Malegaon blasts.

Describing her ordeal, Thakur alleged her backbone was broken and she was bedridden for nine years and could not even move. There were also

attempts to eliminate me in encounter, she alleged further. "I was resolute that you can beat me, break me, kill me but can't make me say what you wish to," she added.

Without naming Digvijay Singh, Thakur warned public against 'imported candidate' sitting in Bhopal who have distorted mindset and conspire against the nation. Our nation was in danger, Thakur said because of these traitors.

Continued on Page 4

## New Delhi suspends cross LoC trade as 'Pak misusing route'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday decided to suspend bilateral trade across the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan after NIA and Intelligence agencies found the routes were being "misused" to smuggle illegal weapons, drugs and take currency.

The Union Home Ministry's order issued on Thursday said a stricter regulatory and enforcement mechanism is being worked out and the issue of the reopening the trade routes will be revisited once they are implemented.

The Ministry order further stated that the action was taken on the basis of reports that the trade routes were being "misused" by the Pakistan-based elements for funneling illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency, among others.

The LoC trade, at present, is conducted through two trade facilitation centres located at



Salamabad in Uri of Baramulla district, and Chakkan-da-Bagh in Poonch district. This trade takes place four days a week and is based on barter system and zero-duty.

"Meanwhile, a stricter regulatory and enforcement mechanism is being worked out and will be put in place in consultation with various agencies. The issue of reopening of LoC trade will be revisited thereafter," the Home Ministry said in the statement.



Samajwadi Party candidate from Lucknow Poonam Sinha, with Patna Sahib Congress candidate and her husband Shatrughan Sinha and SP MP Dimple Yadav, during a roadshow on way to filing her nomination papers in Lucknow on Thursday

## Opp questions EC for suspending officer for checking PM's copter

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A major controversy has erupted after the Election Commission (EC) ordered suspension of a high-ranking poll official deputed to Odisha for checking Prime Minister Narendra Modi chopper in Sambalpur.

As per the EC guidelines, SPG protectees are exempted from such inspection. However, the Congress and the AAP on Thursday said what Modi was carrying in his helicopter that he did not want India to see. "The poll body's rules 'do not exempt' PM's vehicle from being checked," the Congress said.

According to the EC, a 1996 batch Karnataka cadre IAS officer Mohammed Mohsin didn't follow protocol

for checking SPG protectees. Modi had visited Sambalpur to address an election rally on April 16.

Recently, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's helicopter was inspected by EC flying squad in Rourkela. Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's chopper was checked at Sambalpur.

Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel took strong objection to the EC action against poll official. "SPG protectees can't be frisked personally. Why suspend an officer for checking PM's chopper? What message is being sent? Law is special for some," he tweeted.

The party said in a tweet that an official was suspended by ECI for doing his job of inspecting vehicles.

Continued on Page 4

## AAP tie-up hope dim, Cong may list candidates today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid continuing "flip-flop" over the pre-poll alliance for the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress on Thursday said there is almost no prospects of any tie-up with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). However, sources said the party may wait for any fresh move by the AAP till the announcement of the list of its Lok Sabha candidates in Delhi.

As the alliance talks headed nowhere, AAP's candidate from West Delhi Balbir Singh Jakhar filed his nomination papers.

"They (AAP) had agreed for an alliance with us in Delhi alone on Wednesday night. On Thursday morning, they raised the full Statehood issue. I told them we are ready, full Statehood was in our manifesto for 2015 (Assembly) election. But, later I received Sanjay



AAP's West Delhi candidate Balbir Singh Jakhar on way to file his nomination papers in New Delhi on Thursday

Singh's message that Kejriwal had said the alliance was not possible unless it covers Haryana also," said PC Chacko, the All India Congress Committee in-charge of Delhi. Singh, AAP's Rajya Sabha MP, was authorised by Kejriwal to take the alliance talks with the Congress forward.

After Singh's message, Chacko met Congress president Rahul Gandhi and apprised him of the development.

"I told him about the flip-flop of the AAP leaders. Now, we will give a final touch to the list of our candidates in Delhi. It could be announced on Friday," he said.

In the evening, Chacko met Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit and other leaders to take a final call on the list of party candidates.

The Congress had proposed a 4-3 formula for an alliance in Delhi, offering four seats to the AAP. It had opted for the Chandni Chowk, North West Delhi and the New Delhi seats for itself.

The AAP, however, said if the alliance was limited only to Delhi, the Congress would have to contest in just two seats.

## Another B'deshi actor asked to leave India for flouting visa rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bangladeshi actor Ghazi Abdul Noor, who had attended a Trinamool Congress (TMC) rally in West Bengal in the alleged contravention of visa rules, has been asked to leave India immediately. Noor is the second Bangladeshi actor after Ferdous Ahmed to be served a "Leave India" notice. Noor was staying in India despite expiry of his visa.

"Appropriate action is also being taken regarding his overstay in contravention of visa rules," a Home Ministry official said. Reports suggest that Noor campaigned for TMC's Dum Dum candidate Saugata Roy. The Centre on Tuesday had issued a "Leave India" notice to Ahmed and cancelled the business visa given to him for campaigning for a political party against the visa

norms. Ahmed had attended a rally in support of the TMC candidate in Raiganj in West Bengal.

The Home Ministry action came after it received a report from the Bureau of Immigration regarding visa violations committed by Noor. The BJP on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission after a video surfaced showing Noor purportedly campaigning for Roy in the Dum Dum constituency in alleged violation of the election model code of conduct.

"This act is in violation of the terms of visa and yet another case of a foreigner actively influencing the electoral process. This is a gross violation of the basics of democratic structure," BJP's West Bengal vice-president Jay Prakash Majumdar said after filing a complaint with the EC.

## EC lets off Naqvi with warning for 'Modiji ki sena'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday let off Minority Affairs Minister and BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi with a light rap for his "Modiji ki sena" remark and "warned" him against using the armed forces for political propaganda. It also asked him to be "careful in the future".

Addressing a rally in Rampur on April 3, Naqvi had used the phrase "Modiji ki sena". State election authorities had issued him a showcase notice, to which Naqvi had accepted the charge.

The EC reminded the BJP leader of its March 19 instruction asking politicians "to desist from using any reference to defence forces in their political campaign/propaganda". Earlier, the EC had let Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath off hook with a warning for "Modi ki Sena" remarks.

MISMANAGEMENT IN POWER DISTRIBUTION

# Two engineers suspended, showcause notice to three

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ INDORE

CMD of Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Vikas Narwal on Thursday suspended two engineers and issued show-cause notices to three engineers for irresponsibility and mismanagement in distribution of electricity.

JE Rakesh Khakare Prajapati of Ghatiya Ujjain and JE KM Nandwal of Julwania area of Badwani have been suspended. SE of Badwani Anil Negi, SR Kharte of Sendhwa and RK Harode of Ujjain rural have been served show-cause notice. CMD Vikas Narwal told that each and every engineer and employee of MPP-KVVC should work sincerely and resolve the complaints and the problems of the consumer timely.

Now, the electricity department will randomly call the consumer connected to each

**CMD VIKAS NARWAL TOLD THAT EACH AND EVERY ENGINEER AND EMPLOYEE OF MPPKVVC SHOULD WORK SINCERELY AND RESOLVE THE COMPLAINTS AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE CONSUMER TIMELY**

feeder and their feedback and suggestion regarding the service of electricity in their area will be enquired. Everyday 70 customers of each feeder will receive call for their feedback. CMD Vikas Narwal told that all the 11 kv feeder of all the 15 districts which comes under Madhya Pradesh Paschim Shetra Vidyut Vitran Company

are operational and due to the change in climate the feeders are affected which again are restored. The distribution of electricity from all the 1404 grid of MPPKVVC is now normal.

Lightening thunder wind falling of trees affects the electricity supply. There is a 10 percent increase in the supply load in comparison to last year. Last year, the load in April was 3047 megawatt and this year maximum load is 3772 mega watt. Due to the decrease in temperature there is a decrease in load in urban areas.

The centralized control rooms receive the latest reports of electricity distribution of all 15 districts in every 3 hours. The additional chief secretary of power department of Madhya Pradesh ICP Keshari visited the substation of Ozhar Badwani and examined the operation of substation CMD MPPKVVC Vikas Narwal was also present with him.

# Musical evening at Rabindranath Tagore National University

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A mild yet enjoyable musical evening was organised at Rabindranath Tagore National University on Thursday. The live concert was performed by Kabir Café, a Neo-Folk Music Band under the event Rhythm 2019.

The band presented the poetry of the 15th century bhakti saint, in a contemporary style, drawn from Classical Carnatic and Indian Folk fused with Rock and Reggae. The band kept the deepness and wisdom of Kabir's poetries intact while presenting the show.

It was a unique combination of various styles. Their energy level showed their love for poetry of Kabir and the audience too enjoyed the most. The band performed dohas like Amritvaani, Mann Mast Bhaya, Vaari Jaun, Ghat Ghat Charkha, Muniya and more leaving the audience mesmer-

ized. Neeraj Arya, the founder and lead vocalist of the group is a self-trained musician from Delhi. He brings a stylish flair to the age-old lyrics of Kabir's wisdom through his contemporary style. Mukund Ramaswamy, the violinist of the band and a trained Carnatic musician. Raman Iyer, who plays the mandolin, is also trained in the classical tradition of Hindustani and Carnatic music. Viren Solanki, the percussionist, a disciple of Fazel and Taufiq Qureshi, adds an upbeat rhythm and pace to the music with the djembe. The fifth member of the band is Poubanpou Britto KC from Manipur. Britto sings and plays the bass guitar.

Together they mesmerized the audience with their spontaneous performance. The entire hall was seemed lost in the soulful poetries of Sant Kabir. It was a wonderful experience for all the music lovers.

# Police bust mobile theft gang, recover 40 phones worth ₹6L

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Jehangirabad police have busted a three-member gang engaged in stealing mobile phones from parked scooter and recovered 40 stolen mobile phones worth Rs 6 lakh from their possession on Wednesday; two buyers were also nabbed with the miscreants.

Acting on a tip off regarding three miscreants on scooter near Lily Talkies outpost and when they were asked regarding the scooter they failed to provide details of the scooter and from decay of scooter five mobile phones were recovered.

The three accused were identified as Zeeshan alias Chand (23), Varun Raikwar (19) and Harshit Patel (19) of Aishbagh. During the further investigation when they were quizzed they confessed stealing of mobile phones from parking of Benazir College and Biral Mandir.

Apart from the two parking spaces the accused targeted IPS College Khanugaon, Jawahar College Shymala Hills, Bonifée



A gang accused in mobile theft from the commuters' vehicle busted in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

College Ayodhya Nagar, Bhopal Academy Naveen Nagar, Career College Govindpura, Semra police station Bajaria and Nariyalkheda police station Gautam Nagar. Police have recovered 8 mobile phones each from Zeeshan and Varun while four mobile phones were recovered from Harshit.

Later in the investigation accused confessed that they have sold over a dozen stolen

mobile phones to Rizwan and Naresh. Based on the information police nabbed the two who were identified as Rizwan alias Chotu and Naresh Chouhan and recovered 9 mobile phones from Rizwan and 6 from Naresh.

The three miscreants have past crime record. Harshit has been booked by Raisen police for theft while Varun and Zeeshan have been booked for assault by Bhopal police.



Team members of an NGO, MX player, perform street play as a part of voters awareness campaign in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

# Public Health Dept issues advisory on heatstroke

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Public Health and Family Welfare Department has given necessary suggestions to the common man for protection against heatstroke. An advisory has been issued by the department in the view of scorching heat these days.

As per the advisory, people have been asked to protect themselves against sun and heat. Stay in an airy, cool place at home. If it is very necessary to work outside, then outdoor activities must be done only in the morning and evening.

Excessive physical activity should not be done in the daytime when the temperature is at its peak. Use white and light coloured thin fabric. Cover the head with a tight cloth or hat. Use shoes, slippers and sunglasses. Have meals and adequate water before going out in the sun. Consume maximum beverages, non-alcoholic such as lemon water, lassi, buttermilk, jaljira, mango panna, curd, coconut water etc. Eat fresh and clean meals. Infants and children, women and men over 65 years of age should stay indoors.

The temperature inside a closed vehicle is more than the temperature outside. Never leave anyone alone inside a vehicle kept in the parking lot. If necessary only travel in train, bus etc and avoid crowded area and suffocating room during the summer season.

As per the advisory if a person displays symptoms of heatstroke, he should be kept in a cool place immediately. Give water, buttermilk and other liquids in adequate quantity.



An artist of Funaba martial art from Manipur exhibits her skills during sports summer camp for children, organised by Madhya Pradesh department of sports and youth welfare at TT Nagar stadium in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

# School student commits suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Depressed over failure in studies, a class 7 student committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at his Mayur Vihar Colony residence under Ashoka Garden police station area on Thursday.

According to the police, the deceased Vikas Jain was found hanging and was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead. Police were informed and on the receipt of the information a police team reached the spot and started investigation.

In the initial investigation it was found that the deceased failed in clearing class 7 exams and was under immense pressure after the failure.

The incident took place on Thursday in the afternoon when family members failed to find him and found him hanging on the first floor of the house.

Mother of deceased died two years ago and result of deceased was given to his sister and brother at the school. The deceased failed in four subjects and was given another chance to clear it but he

failed for the second time taking him into deep depression.

Police have not found any suicide note which could help in revealing the reason behind the suicide.

The statements of the family members are yet to be recorded and the reason behind the suicide would be investigated.

After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and have started further investigation.

Meanwhile, a 56-year-old man died of electrocution while working at a factory at Govindpura Industrial area under Ashoka Garden police station area on Thursday.

Police said that the deceased identified as Ram Singh got electrocuted and was rushed to hospital where he was declared dead. The deceased used to work with GI factory. Body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and have started further investigation.

# Failed attempt to break ATM, miscreants escaped with UPS

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Failed attempt to break an ATM of SBI ATM was reported in Bairagarh Chichli under Kolar police station area in the wee hours on Friday; miscreants escaped with UPS inside the ATM.

Police said that an ATM was targeted by miscreants who targeted the ATM but failed to reach cash tray and escaped the ATM.

Police were informed after broken ATM was spotted by locals in the morning on Friday. Bank officials and police reached

the spot to take stock of the situation and found that UPS was stolen and ATM was damaged badly but cash remained safe inside the cash tray.

The ATM was not deployed with security guard which provided easy entry and escape for the miscreants. The

miscreants managed to remove the upper part but failed to make in the lower part having cash.

During the investigation footages of CCTV cameras installed in the nearby areas would be obtained to establish the identity of the miscreants.

At the time of the incident hearing the noise of breaking ATM house owner woke up and when he rushed to the ATM miscreants escaped leaving the ATM. The ATM is situated near road but it is secluded and deserted during nights which provide easy target.

Recently senior officials have conducted meeting with high rung officials of bank and recommended to deploy security guard at ATM but still banks are not willing to comply and due to which after this incident police are going to write to the bank in this regard.



A car crushed under debris after the ceiling of at least ten shop of Bhopal Municipal Corporation collapsed at TT Nagar Dussehra ground in Bhopal on Thursday. One person was injured in the incident. Pioneer photo

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# LS polls: CEO declares voting day as dry day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Joint Chief Electoral Officer Rajesh Kaul has issued instructions to the Commercial Taxes Department to declare voting and counting day of Lok Sabha Election-2019 as Dry Day.

Kaul has said that under the relevant legal provisions of the state the 48 hour-period ending with the due time of polling described in the Election Commission's notification should be declared Dry Day. Similarly, counting day should also be declared as Dry Day. The instructions clearly states that during the 48-hour period ending with the due time of voting in the polling area, no spirited, fermented or intoxicant liquor or any other

similar substance will be served, sold or distributed in any hotel, pubs, bar or any other public or private place.

On the violation of the directive, the concerned person will be punished with imprisonment up to 6 months or fine of up to Rs 2,000 or both. As per order of Dry Day no person will be allowed to sell/serve liquor on the particular date. Non-proprietary licency clubs, hotels, restaurants, etc of different categories also will not be permitted to sell/serve liquor during this period. The Commission has instructed to cut the storage of liquor by people during this period.

The Commission has instructed to strictly enforce the prohibition of storage of

liquor in licensed premises as mentioned in the Excise Law. Voting in the state will take place in four phases. In each phase, the restrictions of

Dry Day will apply up to 3 km distance for the concerned parliamentary constituency's bordering district/assembly constituency / related border area.

The Commission has directed that action should be taken in the border districts/assembly constituencies and their adjoining areas to ban the sale of alcohol. In addition, action should be taken to prohibit the sale of liquor in bordering districts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra by coordinating with the officers concerned.

## 'CHOWKIDAR CHOR HAI'

# EC bans MP Cong audio, video poll campaign

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Election Commission (EC) Thursday banned the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee's audio and video poll campaign which uses the phrase 'chowkidar chor hai' following objections from the BJP.

The Congress said it would request the EC to review its decision, as the campaign did not name any person

The Congress said it would request the EC to review its decision, as the campaign did not name any person. As per an EC spokesperson, state's Joint Chief Electoral Officer Rajesh Kaul's order said that the campaign, titled 'chowkidar chor hai', was being banned as the EC's media certification and scrutiny committee decided to revoke the permission granted to it on April 5.

The BJP had complained to the poll authorities that the campaign used objectionable language against 'chowkidar', which referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi has been using the phrase 'chowkidar chor hai' (the watchman is thief) to target Modi over the Rafale fighter aircraft deal. Modi, earlier, had termed himself as nation's 'chowkidar' or watchman.

The BJP's complaint also stated that the Supreme Court is hearing a petition against Gandhi in this regard.

Notably, BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi had last week filed a criminal contempt petition in the apex court against

BJP raised objection earlier

The Congress said it would request the EC to review its decision, as the campaign did not name any person

Gandhi for using the phrase 'chowkidar chor hai' against Modi, pleading that he misinterpreted the SC's recent order on the Rafale row. The court asked Gandhi to give an explanation by April 22.

State BJP vice president Vjesh Lunawat said Gandhi was using abusive words against the prime minister. "He was incorrectly citing the SC verdict while levelling this allegation ('chowkidar chor hai'). We told the EC that the Supreme Court had not said anything of this kind," he said.

State Congress media cell chairperson Shobha Oza told that her party would seek a review of the order. "The EC gave approval to this campaign and later withdrew the permission which is unfortunate. Our delegation will meet EC officials Thursday evening," she said.

She claimed that there was nothing objectionable in the campaign as it did not mention any person and no reasons were given by the EC while revoking the order.

# Hindi play 'Daadi' at Laxmi Mandi Higher Secondary School

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

**Directed by Lokendra Pratap Singh, the play was performed by the artists of The Rising Society of Art and Culture (RiSAC)**

A relationship between a grandmother and her grandson was beautifully depicted through a Hindi play 'Daadi'. The play was performed on Thursday at Laxmi Mandi Higher Secondary School.

Directed by Lokendra Pratap Singh, the play was performed by the artists of The Rising Society of Art and Culture (RiSAC). The play was based on different situations and the love and affection between both of them.

In this play, a kid Chakku, once asks for 10 paise from his grandmother to buy a kite. He thinks that his grandmother has money and is not giving it to him. He becomes angry with her when she refuses her grandmother and runs away from the

house, and goes to the train station, boards in the train.

After some time he realizes his mistake on the way. He realizes that he is without ticket. So he gets down at a deserted station where there was no one but a beggar. When he goes near her, he finds, that she is dead. He thought of his grandmother and he runs to his grandma.

The play was beautified with the use of poetics in between. It was a wonderful performance.

The story based on Gulzar, ten paise and grandmother, in this play Gulzar, Manas Bhardwaj and others by combining the poems of many poets, the play was presented. The essence of childhood innocence and the love of elders were beautifully presented in the show.

Director of the play Lokendra Pratap Singh said that today children have a habit of asking things from their parents without even thinking that whether parents are able to fulfill their wishes or not. Through this play the artists of RiSAC tries to show-case that children can also keep a little understanding for their elders.



Archbishop Leo Cornelio washes feet of the Christian devotees at a ceremonial programme at St Francis Assisi Cathedral Church in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

# 'Bagh Utsav 2019' at Gauhar Mahal kick starts today

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

**The exhibition is being organized in the memory of National awardee Ismail Khatri. His son Umar Farrukh Khatri will display his creations at the Bagh Utsav. The exhibition cum sale will continue till April 30**

The historical shopping hub of the city is all set to woo the shopoholics and fashion freaks with Bagh Utsav. The historical building Gauhar Mahal will be adorned with the exhibition cum sale 'Bagh Utsav 2019' that will begin from Friday.

The exhibition is being organized in the memory of National awardee Ismail Khatri. His son Umar Farrukh Khatri will display his creations at the Bagh Utsav. The exhibition cum sale will continue till April 30.

It is to be noted that for the first time in the history of the Bagh prints, the prints are created on linen cloth. Mohammad Umar Farukh Khatri made these prints on linen as this cloth is comfortable during summers.

It is noteworthy that the original garden prints are made primarily in Bagh village of Dhar district. Firstly, the cloth is soaked in water, to soften the fabric, it is necessary to make the manganic slurry of goat and keep it from 24 to 48 hours, after which it is washed with two or three water. Then it is immersed in the worm paste.

After drying, the fabric is ready for printing. "Bagh prints" have mainly two colors, after the coloring of black color

and with red color alum, after printing with these two colors, after the 10-15 days after the clothes, the special thing of Baghini river of Bagh village is that in its water, natural particles are found which bring natural light in color. Another special thing associated with the garden prints is that they are edible in the water flowing through the tigris. Its effect is very low in stable water and in the end the kiln is filled with root and straw flowers.

More than 20 thousand collections will be available and in new colours in the exhibition cum sale.

# 16-year-old girl sexually assaulted

Bhopal: A 16-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by her neighbour at Dholi mine under Kolar police station area; a case was registered by police on Thursday.

According to the police, on April 11 the victim was alone at her house when the accused came and assaulted her at knife point and escaped the spot. The accused threatened the victim to keep mum over the issue and not to report the incident to the police or family.

SHO Kolar police Anil Vajpayee said that the girl was alone at her house when the accused came and raped her at knife point. The accused identified as Bittu Ahirwar used to visit victim's house frequently and raped her on April 11. A case was registered against the accused after family approached and lodged complaint.

The girl kept mum initially but she decided to report about the atrocity she faced and braved to tell the incident to her parents. Victim along with the victim went to lodge a complaint with the Kolar police on Thursday and after preliminary investigation the police registered a case against the accused.

A case under sections 376 and 506 of the IPC and sections 3 and 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act 2012 was registered against the accused. Police have raided Bittu's house and other places but he managed to remain absconding. The accused do not hold crime record and works as labour. The victim is class 10 student. SR

# Lok Sabha polls: 198 nominations received from 142 candidates

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Total 198 nominations have been received till date from 142 candidates for the 5th phase of Lok Sabha Election-2019 in the state. Similarly, 15 nominations have been filed in 2 days by 13 candidates for the 6th phase of election.

Seven parliamentary constituencies ie Tikamgarh (SC), Damoh, Khajuraho, Satna, Rewa, Hoshangabad and Betul (ST) out of the 29 constituencies of the state have been

from 18 in Hoshangabad and 14 from 11 candidates in Betul have been received.

On the 6th day of filing nomination, total 104 nomination forms have been filed by 75 candidates on Thursday. This include 13 from 10 candidates in Tikamgarh, 19 from 11 in Damoh, 22 from 19 in Khajuraho, 13 from 9 in Satna, 16 from 13 in Rewa, 16 from 10 in Hoshangabad and 5 from 3 candidates in Betul.

For the election of sixth

**Seven parliamentary constituencies ie Tikamgarh (SC), Damoh, Khajuraho, Satna, Rewa, Hoshangabad and Betul (ST) out of the 29 constituencies of the state have been included in the 5th phase. Similarly 8 parliamentary constituencies namely Morena, Bhind (SC), Gwalior, Guna, Sagar, Vidisha, Bhopal and Rajgarh have been included in the 6th phase**

included in the 5th phase. Similarly 8 parliamentary constituencies namely Morena, Bhind (SC), Gwalior, Guna, Sagar, Vidisha, Bhopal and Rajgarh have been included in the 6th phase.

For the fifth phase of election, after the election notification ie April 10 till date, 22 nominations of 19 candidates in Tikamgarh parliamentary constituency, 31 from 18 candidates in Damoh, 29 from 25 in Khajuraho, 39 from 25 in Satna, 32 from 26 in Rewa, 31

phase, on the second day 10 nomination forms have been filed by 8 candidates today. This include 2 nomination forms of one candidate in Morena parliamentary constituency, 3 from 2 in Gwalior, One each from one candidate each in Guna, Vidisha and Bhopal and 2 from 2 candidates in Rajgarh parliamentary constituency. During the initial 2 days, 15 nomination forms have been filed by 13 candidates for 8 parliamentary constituencies' election under the 6th phase.

# Adequate arrangements of wheat in State on daily basis

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Adequate arrangements have been made to procurement of more than 1.6 lakh Metric Ton wheat on daily basis in the State; additional 600 procurement centers have been established this year for procurement of 3.68 lakh Metric Ton wheat yield.

The yield which was 2.29 lakh Metric Ton increased to 3.68 lakh Metric Ton as compared on April 17. The procurement centers have been provided adequate gunny bags. Procurement of 15 lakh Metric Ton has been made

from 1.99 lakh farmers.

Payment of procured wheat is directly transferred in bank accounts of farmers and society has adequate provision for payment of wheat procured. The 71 per cent of stock has been transported and pace of transportation has been increased.

For temporary storage more than 4 lakh Metric Tons of Silo bag have been arranged. Few places have been provided with facility of Cocoon. Places where storage facility are lacking open space for 14 lakh Metric Ton has been reserved. The National Agricultural

Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has been requested to shift procured wheat at some other place for smooth storage of procured wheat. At present, societies have been issued orders for temporary storage of wheat procurement to save from untimely rainfall.

Procurement of grams, lentils and mustard weighing around 8000 Metric Ton have been made at 193 centers from 3683 farmers. For gram and lentil 697 procurement centers have been approved which are higher than last year.

# World Heritage Day: Various events organised at MP State Tribal Museum

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, various events were organised at Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Museum here on Thursday.

To begin with the event, a lecture was organized by the Department of Culture on the occasion of singing mainly in the state museum with painting competition, exhibition and subject matter.

After, the lecture the event was followed with the performance of Sunanda Sharma of the Banaras gharana in the evening. Sunanda, the great master of music, the disciple of Girija Devi, chose rare ragas and restrictions specifically for today's singing. The singer was accompanied by Majid Khan on Suhaganj and Harmonium and Majhi.

He chose the extension of Raga Bhimpalasi. Rare Bihag was presented in a rare way. In the Khamaj, the singer left the audience totally mesmerized.

Earlier in the morning, the children's paint-

## Noted archaeologist SV Ota gave his lecture

ing competition was organized in the state museum, in which about two hundred children took part and make pictures on our heritage. After this, the exhibition of painted paintings drawn from a glass of neglected glass at Gwalior was inaugurated by the Commissioner of Archeology Pankaj Raga. The exhibition will continue till April 25.

On this occasion, noted archaeologist SV Ota gave his lecture on the prehistoric background of Ladakh Himalayas on Jammu and Kashmir. He has traveled several times in the spoken areas. He gave a simple statement on primitive attendance, heritage and memorials in these places and displayed pictures and slides in favor of his establishment. A large number of listener-seekers were present to listen to his lecture which was fruitful for them.



Children display their paintings as they participate in a painting competition on World Heritage Day at State Museum in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo



School students go through a photographic exhibition based on 'Heritage of Gwalior State' organised by Directorate of Archaeology, Archive and Museum, on World Heritage Day at State Museum in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

# Municipal Corp orders to vacate place immediately

Indore: The Gwalior Municipal Corporation has asked hawkers at Maharaja Bada and the surrounding areas to vacate the place immediately. According to Narottam Bhargav, the Additional Municipal Commissioner, street vendors have been asked to vacate as part of the city beautification drive, decongestion exercise and convenience of pedestrians and motorists.

Regarding the relocation of the hawkers, the Additional Commissioner said that alternate locations at Kampoov have already been provided to them and added that the hawkers will be shifted there as per the street vending policy.

Earlier too, the Gwalior Civic Body had drawn up elaborate plans to regulate the hawkers in the city by identifying and earmarking hawking zones that do not hinder traffic and pedestrian movement. However the regulation of hawkers had become a tough task due to political intervention coupled with the vested interests of the corporation officials and the police. It is a fact that hawkers could encroach pavements, causing inconveniences to one and all only with the connivance of the officials and the police.

However, the civic body seems to have taken up as, according to sources separate and specific bylaws have been framed this time to regulate the hawkers. PMS

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda** Shajapur Branch, A.B. Road, Opposite Water Works, Shajapur MP-465001 Tel.: 07364-229666 Mobile: 724770069

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice date mentioned below to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices.

The under mentioned borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned in respective columns. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda, Shajapur Branch for an amount herein below mentioned & interest thereon.

Name of Account / Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date	Amount outstanding as per Notice
Borrower : M/s Shiv Shakti Electric (Prop.-Mr. Shiv Narayan Patidar S/o Siddhnath Kulmi) Guarantor: Mr. Karansingh Gurjar S/o Ganpatsingh Gurjar	Equitable Mortgage of land and building constructed thereon situated at House no 63, Survey no 2226 Main/Station Road Berchha Dist Shajapur (M.P.) Rakba 0.01 hectare Area 1196 sq. ft. (92*13) in the name of Mr. Shiv Narayan Patidar (Kulmi) S/o Siddhnath Boundaries: East-Land of Shri Laxmichand Jain, North- House of Laxminarayan Kulmi, West- Road, South- Land of Shri Om Prakash.	14.01.2019 16.04.2019	₹ 12,99,444/- +interest & other charges

Date : 18-04-2019, Place : Shajapur Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

# BJP MLA'S KILLING Two accused Naxals shot in Dantewada

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Two Naxals, allegedly involved in the killing of a BJP MLA and four security personnel, were gunned down in a fierce encounter with police on Thursday in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, officials said.

Another rebel was injured in the skirmish that took place around 5.30 am at a forest in Daulikarka village when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Deputy Inspector General (anti-Naxal operations) Sundarraj P told PTI.

When the patrolling team was advancing through Daulikarka, located around 450 km from the state capital Raipur, an exchange of fire broke out between the two sides, he said. "After the guns fell silent, bodies of two ultras and a .315 bore gun were recovered from the spot," he said. A militia member of Maoists was also found injured at the spot and was shifted to a local hospital, he said.



The killed cadres, identified as Vargese and Linga, were allegedly involved in the ambush in which Mandavi and his four security personnel were killed on April 9, Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava said. The MLAs' convoy was heading towards Kuwakonda from Bachel area when the Naxalites blew up their vehicle with an IED and opened fire at the occupants.

Vargese, a member of the

Malangir Area Committee of Maoists, was looking after working of the banned outfit's students' wing in the area, the DIG said. He was also said to be having an expertise in assembling and planting IEDs, he said. Besides, Linga was active as LOS (local organisation squad) member in the Katakalyan Area Committee of Maoists, he said, adding a search operation was still underway in the region.

# Dispute between MLAs resolved at CM residence

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The verbal spat between two Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs - Pranav Singh 'Champion' from Khanpur and Deshraj Karnwal from Jhabreda was resolved on Thursday after the duo met in the residence of chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat.

According to the party office bearers, both the MLAs were clearly warned against doing anything that violates the party's discipline. On their part, the two MLAs considered the dispute closed and assured that they would work together.

After days of the two legislators leveling allegations and counter-allegations at each other, the chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat called them to his official residence here on Thursday. The BJP State general secretary Naresh Bansal was also present during the meet held on the occasion.

According to party office bearers, the chief minister expressed displeasure at the whole incident. The two legislators were warned against indulging in any action that violates the party discipline in the future. Champion and Karnwal considered their dispute closed and assured that

they would work cordially while ensuring that such a situation does not arise in the future.

It will be recalled that while the Khanpur MLA has been accusing his Jhabreda counterpart of using a fake caste certificate, the Jhabreda MLA has questioned the Khanpur MLA's qualifications, stating that he was no champion.

Earlier, last week Champion had challenged Karnwal to a bout at a stadium to settle their dispute. On the other hand, while gesturing the pressing of a trigger with his finger, Karnwal had stated in a Press conference that this was how disputes were now settled, not by wrestling. He had also challenged Singh to publicly list the developmental works he had facilitated in his constituency. More recently, on Tuesday, the Khanpur MLA had stated that BR Ambedkar should be accorded the title of 'father of the nation' instead of MK Gandhi. He had also demanded that the picture of Gandhi on currency notes should be replaced by that of Ambedkar's. Earlier, on Monday, the BJP State unit had issued notices to the two MLAs seeking an explanation from them.

# We will see a new PM everyday under 'mahamilawat' GovtL: Shah

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Takhatpur: Taking a dig at the grand alliance of opposition parties, BJP president Amit Shah on Thursday said there will be a new prime minister everyday of the week if such a "mahamilawat" or "highly adulterated" Government comes to power at the Centre.

Addressing an election rally here in Bilaspur district, Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the only leader in the country who can give a befittingly to Pakistan for its anti-India actions. "There are two camps clearly visible in this election — one NDA and its allies led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which is united and then there is mahamilawat (highly adulterated) gathbandhan of Rahul Baba and company," he said.

"When I asked them that if by mistake their alliance gets elected, who will be your Prime Ministerial candidate...? silence is the only answer I get. "One of my party workers sent me a message on WhatsApp about their planning if they get elected. That is, on Monday Sharad Pawar will be the PM, while on Tuesday it will be Mayawati. "On Wednesday it would be



BJP national president Amit Shah at an election rally at Takhatpur in Bilaspur, on Thursday

Akhilesh Yadav, Deve Gowda on Thursday, Stalin on Friday and Mamata Didi on Saturday while on Sunday the country will be on leave," he said, mocking the anti-BJP alliance.

That is the reason why people shout slogans of 'Modi Modi' as they know only he can provide a strong and stable leadership, the BJP chief added. Work done by the Modi government in the last five years has changed the lives of 50 crore people in the country, he added. Hailing the air strike on a terror camp at Balakot in Pakistan in February, Shah said the government under Modi has safeguarded India's borders

and he is the only one who can give a befitting reply to the neighbouring country.

"The Narendra Modi government has done the biggest work of securing our borders. During the 10 years of Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh-led UPA rule, Aliya, Maliya, Jamaliya anybody (terrorists) entered our borders and chopped off heads of our jawans and insulted them. "When the Pulwama terror attack occurred, there was anger among people in the country. Pakistan had deployed tanks on its border fearing another surgical strike. PTI

# BJP accuses RJD for promoting dynastic politics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday accused the RJD of promoting dynasty and using politics for personal "enjoyment" after Tejaswini Yadav questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's OBC credentials. BJP general secretary Bhupendra Yadav accused Tejaswini Yadav, son of Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad, of posting "arrogant, graceless and childish" tweets on the "advice" of Congress president

Rahul Gandhi, whom he dubbed as the Bihar leader's "friend, philosopher and guide". The sharp attack from the BJP leader, who is also the party's in-charge for Bihar affairs, came after the state's former deputy chief minister posted tweets, alleging that Modi's OBC's credentials are "fake" and he had done nothing for backward castes.

Modi's caste is categorised under the Other Backward Class (OBC) category. Attacking the RJD, which draws its support from sections of OBC, especially Yadavs, Bhupendra Yadav said it had "betrayed" the cause of social justice ideologue Ram Manohar Lohia and challenged Tejaswini Yadav for a debate.

People of Bihar have rejected the RJD during the ongoing Lok Sabha election and will put a full stop to its politics when votes are counted on May 23, he said. Taking a swipe at Tejaswini Yadav and his elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav, who has often voiced his anger at his party's decisions, the BJP leader said they have been doing a drama. There is rebellion within the RJD against its candidates at every seat, he said.

Tejaswini had earlier tweeted: "Narendra Modi ji is a fake backward. From birth till 55 years of age, he was upper class, suddenly one day he became backward. The true and real backwards are not liars, artificial, adulterated, decorative and ornamental. Do you consider backwards as stupid, Gujarati sir? What have you done for backwards, upper-class sir?"

# No Pakistani soldier or civilian died in Balakot air strike, says Sushma

Ahmedabad: No Pakistani soldier or civilian died in the air strike on a terror camp at Balakot in Pakistan in February, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said on Thursday. Addressing women BJP workers here, she said Indian military was given a "free hand" in the operation but was clearly told that no Pakistani civilian should be killed and also there be "not even a scratch" on the Pakistani Army.

"Our armed forces were told to target only Jaish-e- Mohammed which was behind the Pulwama terror attack and they did just that — destroyed their camp and returned," the senior BJP leader said.

The IAF had struck a Jaish-e-Mohammad terror training camp in Pakistan on February 26, in response to the February 14 Pulwama attack in which 44 CRPF personnel were killed.

Sushma said the air strike was carried out in self-defence. "When we carried out the air strike, we had told the international community that we took



the step only in self-defence," she said. She said the entire international community supported India over the air strike.

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sushma said he has emerged as a top international leader who sets the agenda for the world.

On the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, Sushma said the then UPA Government

failed to take along other countries to isolate Pakistan despite the fact that 40 persons belonging to 14 countries were also killed in the strike. Pakistan had objected to the invitation extended to India for a meet of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Abu Dhabi last month, but the host country UAE snubbed Islamabad, she said. PTI

# 62 per cent turnout reported in K'taka

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BANGALURU

An estimated 61.84 per cent voter turnout was reported for 14 Lok Sabha seats of Karnataka for which polls were held in the first phase on Thursday with a direct contest between the Congress-JD(S) alliance and the BJP.

Dakshina Kannada recorded the highest turnout of about 72.97 per cent, while the lowest was reported in Bangalore Central with 45.34 per cent, poll officials said. In other constituencies of city that has the history of low voter turnout, Bangalore North recorded 48.19 per cent, Bangalore South 49.36 per cent and Bangalore Rural 58.39 per cent.

In Mandya where Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil is pitted against

multi-lingual actress Sumalatha Ambareesh in what is perceived to be a cliff-hanger contest, the voter turnout was 70.23 per cent.

In Tumkur where former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda is locked in a tough contest with GS Basavaraj of the BJP, 70.28 per cent turnout was reported. Hassan where Gowda's other grandson Prajwal Revanna is contesting against A Manju of the BJP, reported 71.20 per cent.

Udupi-Chikmagalur has recorded 69.83 per cent, Chitradurga 61.75 per cent, Chamarajanager 66.51 per cent, Chikkaballapur 69.33 per cent and Kolar 69.99 per cent. A total of 2,67,51,893 voters were eligible to exercise their franchise in the first phase with 241 candidates in the fray.

# Traders upset over deletion of names from electoral roll, suspect conspiracy

Bangaluru: A large section of the Marwadi trader community of the city was in for a rude shock as many found their names missing from the electoral roll when they turned up for voting in the Lok Sabha elections on Thursday and alleged it was a conspiracy.

Upset over not being able to vote in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections held for 14 constituencies, including three in the city, several members of the community said those whose names were missing had exercised their franchise in the Karnataka Assembly elections in May last year.

BJP alleged large scale 'illegal' deletion of voters names from the electoral roll and demanded a repoll after rectifying it. In a complaint lodged with the state Chief Electoral Officer, the head of state legal head of BJP M Vinod Kumar and senior counsel Vivek Reddy claimed there was mass indiscriminate deletion of voters' names. The officials have purposefully and deliberately deleted without any reason just to render undue official favour to the ruling coalition (Congress-JDS). Though the voters resided in the same address, purposefully their names had been deleted," it alleged. Sources in the CEO office said the complaint had been forwarded to the District Electoral Officer of Bengaluru for necessary action.

"I am living in Nagarathpet for the past 20 years and cast my vote in the 2018 assembly election but today when I went to vote, I found my name missing," Jogaram, who belongs to the traders community, told PTI. PTI

# Sushil Kumar launches Central Secretariat Services Officers Society'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic medalist wrestler Sushil Kumar on Thursday launched the Central Secretariat Services Officers Society's CSSOS Officers Club.

The launch of Officers' Club is likely to consolidate demands of the officers' society from its housing partner. Accompanied with the promise of high-end Hospitality services with state of the art facilities, the club is bound to attract a renewed interest from the civil society members.

CSSOS was founded by the members of civil society as a non-profit Welfare Society managed by working Central/ State Govt Officers towards the construction and development of affordable housing, clubs,

and schools for working and retired officials of Central/State Government, PSUs and Banks. It has, of late, been trying to expand its appeal among the youth and elders alike. And their recent association has been explicitly indicative.

After signing Sushil Kumar as their brand ambassador last month, CSSOS has also brought on well-known singer and musician Guru Randhawa on board as brand ambassador and Face of Officers Club.

The move was aimed at spreading the organisation's reach among the millennials. The move to associate young faces can be seen as an effort to make the organisation younger and expand its reach. Not to mention that both the Brand Ambassadors are CSSOS's esteemed members.

# No vote cast in 90 booths in Srinagar Lok Sabha seat

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

As many as 90 polling booths, mostly in downtown city, saw no voting in Thursday's elections to the Srinagar Parliamentary seat, sources said.

The Srinagar constituency comprising eight assembly segments recorded zero turnout in as many as 50 polling booths.

The majority of these booths were located in Eidgah, Khanyar, Habba Kadal and Batmaloo, sources said.

Barring the Sonawar

assembly segment, where former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar cast their votes, all other seven assembly seats recorded a single digit voting percentage with Eidgah at 3.3 per cent by the end of the polling.

Sonawar recorded 12 per cent polling. In the neighbouring Ganderbal district, which is a part of the Srinagar parliamentary seat, as many as 27 polling booths recorded no votes at the end of the polling.

The same was the case with 13 booths of Budgam,

which witnessed large scale violence in 2017 by-elections to the Lok Sabha seat.

In Budgam area, Chadoora saw the lowest turnout at 9.2 per cent among the five assembly segments, while Charar-e-Sharief recorded the highest at 31.1 per cent.

The Srinagar constituency has 12,95,304 registered voters and 1,716 polling stations.

The National Conference patron Farooq Abdullah, who is the sitting MP from this constituency, is seeking reelection.

Opp...

# Off runway, Jet shares sink 32%; staff seek Govt's help

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

From Page 1  
"The rule cited governs the use of official vehicles for campaigning. It does not exempt PM's vehicle from being searched," the party said in a tweet. "What is Modi carrying in the helicopter that he doesn't want India to see," it asked. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) also took a jibe at Modi in a tweet. "Suspension of the officer who checked PM's helicopter. The chowkidar lives in his own protected shell! Is the Chowkidar trying to hide something," it asked. As per reports, the poll panel had asked for a report from the District Collector and the Deputy Inspector General of Police after the incident.

The EC took the action against Mohsin, the general observer of Sambalpur, on the basis of a report submitted by the District Collector and the Deputy Inspector General of Police. Modi was learnt to have been held up at Sambalpur for nearly 15 minutes because of Mohsin's "actions". "Checking of the Prime Minister's chopper, undertaken at Sambalpur, was not in accordance with the EC guidelines as SPG protectees are exempt from such checking," said an EC official.

Shares of Jet Airways continued to fall for the second day in a row, plummeting over 32 per cent on Thursday, a day after the ailing airline shuttered its operations temporarily. The scrip tanked 32.23 per cent to close at ₹163.90 on the BSE. Intra-day, it plunged 34.62 per cent to ₹158.10 that is 52-week low. On the National Stock Exchange, shares sank 31 per cent to close at ₹165.75 apiece.

With lenders deciding not to extend any emergency funds, Jet Airways on Wednesday announced temporary suspension of operations. In a statement early on Thursday, Jet Airways' lenders said they were reasonably hopeful of a successful bidding process for stake sale.

Meanwhile the officers and employees union of the grounded Jet Airways on Thursday sought Government intervention to avert a Kingfisher-like collapse of the carrier, which could not take off after halting operations temporarily in October 2012. Alleging some "motives"



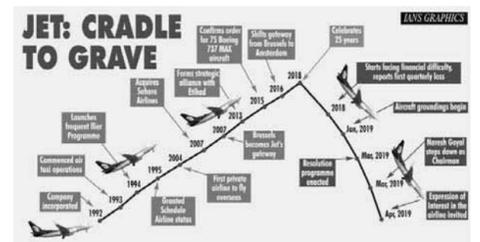
Jet Airways employees hold placards as they gather to make an appeal to save the airline in New Delhi on Thursday

behind the series of developments at the carrier, which

eventually forced it to shutter services temporarily from

Wednesday night, Jet Airways Officers & Staff Association

president Kiran Pawaskar also demanded a probe, preferably



by the national investigation agency CBI.

"The situation is very bad for employees. As many as 16,000 permanent employees don't have work today. I told the management that efforts should be made to resume operations as early as possible," Pawaskar, who is also an NCP lawmaker, said asking why the airline did not clear employees dues before suspending services.

The bank consortium had rejected the airline's appeal for ₹983 crore lifeline, of which ₹240 alone were to be used to disburse the pending salaries, Pawaskar added.

Some loaders of the airline have pledged ornaments of

their wives, some engineers have sold vehicles and many have defaulted on their monthly payments. They are among the 22,000-odd employees of the now wingless Jet Airways.

As hundreds of employees, highly-skilled as well as semi-skilled, assembled for a "silent appeal" in the national capital on Thursday afternoon, hope was in the air despite an uncertain tomorrow.

From being clueless on how to find money for their children's school and college fees, to paying rent for their accommodations, staff are looking for answers and for most, the answers lie in immediate funding from lenders.

# Bar Pragma from poll: Malegaon victim's father to EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Father of a victim in Malegaon blast case and Congress leader Tehseen Poonawala wrote to the poll body seeking to debar the candidature of Sadhvi Pragma Singh Thakur from contesting the Lok Sabha polls as she was facing terror charges. Sadhvi Pragma is contesting against Congress leader Digvijay Singh from Bhopal on BJP ticket.

Sadhvi Pragma faces charges in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, but charges against her under Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) have been dropped by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). She was granted bail in 2017 on health grounds. She spent nearly nine years in jail and is currently out on bail. Malegaon blast accused Sadhvi Pragma Singh Thakur joined the BJP on April 18, 2019.

The Opposition leaders are criticising the saffron party for giving ticket to Sadhvi Pragma. Meanwhile taking a strong exception to the BJP fielding her from Bhopal, National Conference (NC)'s Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the BJP has given ticket to a candidate who is not only an accused in a terror case but is

also out on bail on health grounds. Dubbing Thakur as an innocent person, BJP spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao said she was tortured and its fight against the Congress conspiracy to defame Hindu religion by linking it to the terrorism. He alleged that Congress president Rahul Gandhi had "masterminded" this conspiracy, claiming that it was meant to appease a minority community.

In a letter to the poll body, Poonawala said the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) had found Thakur to be the "principal conspirator" in the 2008 Malegaon blast in which six people were killed. Her name has also cropped up in the Ajmer Dargah blast case, he said.

"I would humbly request the Election Commission of India to take further necessary steps to uphold the Model Code of Conduct 2019 and take appropriate action against Sadhvi Pragma Singh Thakur and debar her from contesting elections," the letter read.

Poonawala further wrote in the letter, "Thakur is currently facing charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and also stands accused of murder,



BJP candidate Sadhvi Pragma Singh Thakur addresses party workers meeting for Lok Sabha polls in Bhopal on Thursday PTI

attempt to murder, criminal conspiracy, and of promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion. That the court had observed that Sadhvi Pragma Singh Thakur had planned the conspiracy with the aim to spread

terror and cause communal crack in the society. The BJP is fielding a terror accused as a candidate in Bhopal."

Her (Pragma's) medical reports which were submitted in Court exhibited said that she is suffering from breast cancer

and is infirm, that she cannot walk without support. Nonetheless, she is now contesting elections.

This is clearly indicated misrepresentation and forged ground of her bail, (sic) his complaint reads.

Poonawala said on Twitter that Pragma should not be allowed to contest polls on the same grounds applicable to Hardik Patel, who is an accused in a rioting and arson case during the 2015 Patidar agitation. "If Hardik Patel can be barred, even Sadhvi Pragma must be prevented from contesting. This is the duty of the Election Commission. We cannot have two rules. Moreover, by stating this is a dharm yudh, Sadhvi Pragma has violated the MCC. She was granted bail because she was unwell," Poonawala tweeted.

Another application against the Lok Sabha ticket given to Pragma was filed by the father of a Malegaon blast victim. In the application filed by the victim's father, he has questioned Sadhvi Pragma's candidature before the NIA court as she was given bail on health grounds. Sadhvi Pragma faces charges in the Malegaon blast case although charges under MCOCA have been dropped by NIA.

Saffron-clad Thakur (48), with her trademark short hair and sporting a rudraksh mala, became the face of right wing extremism after being arrested by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in the 2008 Malegaon blast case.

## CEO for action against Pillai for anti-Islam remarks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kerala Chief Electoral Officer has recommended "appropriate action" against BJP State chief PS Sreedharan Pillai for allegedly making anti-Islam remarks during an election campaign meeting in Attingal Lok Sabha constituency on April 14.

In his report to the Election Commission, Kerala Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Teeka Ram Meena said Pillai made the remarks while countering the comments of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on the number of people killed during the Balakot air strike.

"Our Rahul Gandhi, Yechury, Pinarayi and all are saying that, after getting there... The dead bodies... Which caste, which religion... If they are Islam then there will be a few signs... If only you remove the dresses only then it can be found out... So after doing all that, we should come back is what they say," Pillai had said, according to Meena's report to the poll body.

Pillai made these remarks during the poll campaign meeting organised for BJP candidate Sobha Surendran.

The CEO, in his report dated April 16, said no permission was taken for the BJP meeting and a complaint has been registered in the Attingal police station in Thiruvananthapuram district.

"It appears prima facie a case of violation of Section 123(3A) and Section 125 of the



In his report to the Election Commission, Kerala Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Teeka Ram Meena said Pillai made the remarks while countering the comments of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on the number of people killed during the Balakot air strike

Representations of People Act, 1951. Accordingly, appropriate action may be taken in the matter," Meena said in his report sent to Deputy Election Commissioner Sudeep Jain.

On Wednesday, the CEO had informed the High Court that strong action would be taken against Pillai in the case.

A petition seeking a directive to the Election Commission to take action against Pillai was filed by CPI(M) leader V Sivankutty.

The court disposed of the petition in the light of the submissions made by the Election Commission.

### IN SHORT

#### CBI TAKES OVER PROBE IN JAIPUR DRUGS CASE

**New Delhi:** The CBI has taken over the investigation into alleged drug peddling by a Jaipur-based interior designer and his two friends in the directions of the Rajasthan High Court, officials said Wednesday. The agency has re-registered the FIR by the Rajasthan Police, which had arrested one Harshita Garg along with her friends — Nishat and Rajat Morya — on the alleged drug trafficking charges on October 19, 2016 from Pink Square Mall in Jaipur, they said.

#### CPI REFUSES TO WITHDRAW PART OF ITS DD SPEECH

**New Delhi:** The CPI has refused to withdraw parts of a speech of the party for election campaign which Doordarshan claimed was violative of the Model Code of Conduct, its MP Binoy Viswam said. The Prasar Bharati, in a statement, said the vetting team of Doordarshan observed a paragraph of speech of the CPI that was to be broadcast on the channel. The speech hits out at the "racial supremacy preached by the RSS".

#### JAIDEEP APPOINTED AS NEW ENVOY FOR S AFRICA

**New Delhi:** Seasoned diplomat Jaideep Sarkar has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to South Africa. "He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," the External Affairs Ministry said, making the announcement. Sarkar, a 1987-batch Indian Foreign Service official, is currently serving as India's ambassador in Bhutan.

## Kanpur man flung shoes at BJP leaders during presser

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A man flung a shoe at BJP leaders addressing a Press conference at the party's headquarters here on Thursday with Rajya Sabha member GVL Narasimha Rao narrowly missing the hit.

The intention of the man for throwing the shoe could not be ascertained initially but the police, which let him go later in the evening after sustained interrogation, said it was to gain media attention. The attacker was identified as a doc-



In this still video is seen BJP leader GVL Narasimha Rao as he reacts after a shoe hurled past him, during a Press conference at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

tor from Kanpur.

The man was immediately bundled out by security guards at the party office and handed over to police.

At the time of the incident, BJP leaders Bhupendra Yadav and GVL Narasimha Rao were addressing the media with Rao attacking the Congress for defaming Hindus by foisting "false cases" on Hindutva activists, including Sadhvi Pragma Singh Thakur who has been nominated as party Lok Sabha candidate from Bhopal.

Several important political leaders domestically and internationally have been targeted with the shoe like former Finance Minister P Chidambaram who was attacked by a journalist Jarnail Singh who accused the Congress of playing a biased role in Sikh riot cases.

US President George Bush too was attacked with a shoe when he was in Iraq. In fact, the attacker threw two shoes on Bush but both missed their marks.

## ED seizes ₹82.11 cr gold from Hyderabad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday seized 145.89 kg of gold jewellery worth ₹82.11 crore after searches conducted at multiple locations including office-cum-residence of Kailash Gupta, promoters of Musaddil Jewellers Pvt Ltd (MJPL) at Hyderabad, the firm's showroom at Vijaywada and other locations.

Besides MJPL, the agency also searched the residential and business premises of Pavan Agarwal (Partner Balaji Gold), residence of Neel Sunder Tharad (Proprietor of Ashta Lakshmi Gold), office of Chartered Accountant, Sanjay Sarda in ongoing investigation under the provisions of

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) in a demonetisation case.

ED initiated investigation under PMLA on the basis of FIR registered by Telangana Police on the basis of complaint filed by Income Tax Department against Kailash Gupta, his sons and their companies MJPL and Vaishnavi Bullion Ltd. for conspiring with certain bullion dealers, chartered accountants and close relatives by blatantly misusing the scheme of demonetisation by illegally depositing huge amounts of unaccounted demonetised cash in their accounts, the ED said.

For this purpose they fraudulently created around 5,200 back dated fabricated

advance sale receipts dated November, 2016, each for an amount less than ₹2 lakh to avoid furnishing PAN details.

During the course of investigation, it was revealed that immediately after announcement of demonetisation scheme, the accused had illegally deposited ₹110.85 crores in their bank accounts falsely claiming that within a few hours they had received advances of less than ₹2 lakh each from more than 5,200 customers, on the night of November 8, 2016, for purchase of gold/jewellery from their firms.

All these invoices were found to be bogus. Further, analysis of CCTV footages of their offices and that of the neighbourhood revealed that

no such activity of purchase of gold was carried out during that period.

It is further revealed that those more than 5,200 invoices dated November 8, 2016 were fraudulently raised on a later date.

Investigation under PMLA revealed that illegally deposited unaccounted cash to the tune of ₹110.85 crores in the bank accounts of the accused and their companies and subsequently ₹80 crores (approx) was transferred to the bank accounts of various Gold Bullion dealers like Ashta Lakshmi Gold, Shri Balaji Gold among others in the guise of purchase of gold. The accused have admitted that they had created fake sale invoices.

## Mental illness of death row convicts ground to spare them from gallows: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a historic verdict, the Supreme Court has given a ray of hope to people on death row who develop "severe mental illness" post-conviction, saying their health condition would now be a "mitigating" factor for appellate courts for sparing them from the gallows.

An accused could fill now take the plea of "legal insanity" under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to avoid criminal prosecution and the defence was "made relatable to the moment when the crime is committed".

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice NV Ramana spared a condemned prisoner, who has not been identified in

the verdict owing to his mental condition.

He was given death penalty in a barbaric rape and murder of two minor cousins in Maharashtra in 1999.

It, however, took note of "barbaric and brutal manner of commission of the crime" and awarded the jail term to the convict for "remainder of his life" with the direction to the government to ensure proper mental health care to him.

The Bench, also comprising Justices MM Shantanagoudar and Indira Banerjee, was faced with "complex questions" concerning relationship between mental illness and crime and as to how "culpability" of a convict can be

assessed if he develops mental condition after the court finds him guilty.

Delineating directions to be followed by appellate courts on sentencing mentally-ill accused, the bench said: "The post-conviction severe mental illness will be a mitigating factor that the appellate Court, in appropriate cases, needs to consider while sentencing an accused to death penalty.

"The assessment of such disability should be conducted by a multi-disciplinary team of qualified professionals (experienced medical practitioners, criminologists etc), including professional with expertise in accused person's particular mental illness."

## Medicine selling outlets to be known as pharmacy soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Soon, outlets selling medicines will be called as "Pharmacy" instead of "Chemists and Druggists." The Union Health Ministry is mulling such a proposal which is in keeping with the international practice and provides a sense of identity to the practicing pharmacists in these outlets.

In contrast, the term 'Chemists and Druggists' was coined in 1945 and is quite old and has lost relevance and also, at present the word 'drug' is looked upon as more clandestine and as addiction for chemicals, hence does not suit to refer a professional pharmacist, said a senior official from the Ministry.

"In order to give retail trade a better professional recognition, the Union health ministry will soon amend Rule 65(15)(b) and Rule 65(15)(c) of Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Rules, to replace 'Chemists & Druggists' with 'Pharmacy'. Once the amendment is done, all the medical shops in the country will be called as Pharmacy," said a senior official from the Ministry.

The issue was deliberated in the 55th Drug Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting

held in February 2019 and it was recommended to replace the words 'Chemists and Druggists' with 'Pharmacy' in Rule 65(15)(b) of the D&C Rules, 1945, he added.

Accordingly, the proposal was placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a highest decision making body on technical issues related to drugs for deliberation. "The DTAB discussed the matter and agreed to amend Rule 65(15) of the D&C Rules, 1945 to provide that all licensees in Form 20 and Form 21, they should display the word "Pharmacy," explained the official.

As per Rule 65(15)(b) of the D&C Rules, the description "Chemists and Druggists" shall be displayed by those licensees who employ the services of a registered pharmacist but who do not maintain a "Pharmacy" for compounding against prescriptions.

Similarly in Rule 65(15)(c) of the D&C Rules, the description "Pharmacy," "Pharmacist," "Dispensing Chemist" or "Pharmaceutical Chemist" shall be displayed by such licensees who employ the services of a registered pharmacist and maintain a "Pharmacy" for compounding against prescription.

## WHO releases first guideline on digital health interventions

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Even as India is looking towards e-health as one of the health solutions for the people in the remote areas where medical care is yet to reach, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has cautioned that in such health setups, consultations should be conducted by qualified health workers and that the privacy of an individual's health information is maintained.

In its newly released 'first guideline on digital health interventions', the WHO has, nevertheless, recommended digital health technology, accessible via mobile phones, tablets and computers, to improve people's health and essential services, as an essential medium for achieving universal health coverage.

"Harnessing the power of digital technologies is essential for achieving universal health coverage," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "Ultimately, digital technologies are not ends in themselves; they are vital tools to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable."

Over the past two years, WHO systematically reviewed evidence on digital technologies and consulted with experts from around the world to pro-



some recommendations on key ways such tools may be used for maximum impact on health systems and people's health.

The WHO noted that one digital intervention already having positive effects in some areas is sending reminders to pregnant women to attend antenatal care appointments and having children return for vaccinations. Other digital approaches reviewed include decision-support tools to guide health workers as they provide care; and enabling individuals and health workers to communicate and consult on health issues from across different locations.

"The use of digital technologies offers new opportunities to improve people's health," added Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist at WHO. However, there is a word of caution. "But the evidence also highlights chal-

lenges in the impact of some interventions," she said while Dr Garrett Mehl, WHO scientist in digital innovations and research warned that digital interventions, depend heavily on the context and ensuring appropriate design.

The WHO also said that people also must be assured that they are not being put at risk because they have accessed information on sensitive health topics, such as sexual and reproductive health issues.

The guideline also recommends telemedicine, which allows people living in remote locations to obtain health services by using mobile phones, web portals, or other digital tools. WHO also pointed out that this is a valuable complement to face-to-face interactions, but it cannot replace them entirely. It is also important that consultations are conducted by qualified health workers and that the privacy of



individuals' health information is maintained.

The WHO guideline also emphasized on the importance of reaching vulnerable populations, and ensuring that digital health does not endanger them in any way.

India, on its part has come with a draft legislation, the Digital Information Security in Healthcare Act (DISHA) which intends to ensure the confidentiality and reliability of digital health data by regulating how they are collected, stored, transmitted, and used.

Rohit MA, co-founder and Managing Director, Cloudnine Group of Hospitals too have a word of caution. As per a report, he opined that while Data protection and patient privacy have been spoken and been discussed at several forums, India's blooming healthcare sector could become a victim of its own success, if it fails to ensure Data protection to its patients.

Despite all challenges, the technology is all set to grow in healthcare sector. "With India as a market demanding better healthcare facilities, the telemedicine industry, considered to be a niche, is expected to grow over 20 per cent and cross \$32 million by 2020," says the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

## Plea in SC seeks to declare misquoting judicial orders by candidates a corrupt practice

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A petition in the Supreme Court has sought a direction that misquoting judicial orders for electoral gains by candidates and political office bearers be declared a corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act. It has also sought a direction that the Election Commission of India (ECI) should have power to refer complaints against them for seeking vote on the basis of religion, race, caste, community or language to appropriate investigation agencies.

"Direct and declare the Election Commission of India has the power to reject the nomination of contesting candidates and de-register the political parties for seeking vote on the basis of religion, race, caste, community or language," said the plea, filed by BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

Besides the Centre, the petition has arrayed the ECI as a party. Upadhyay has referred to a recent statement given by Congress President Rahul Gandhi on apex court's order in the Rafale fighter jets case. He has also referred to

another recent statement given by BSP supremo Mayawati in which she had allegedly asked Muslim voters to vote for candidates of alliance partners — SP, BSP and RLD — in Uttar Pradesh.

The plea said that under the Representation of the People Act, appeal made on grounds of religion, race, caste, community or language and promoting feelings of enmity between different classes constitute corrupt practice but it can be questioned only by way of election petition and the ECI cannot order investigation even when the Model Code of Conduct is in force.

"Ironically, these provisions will have application only during period of election. Moreover, there is no provision to challenge the corrupt practice of candidate, who has lost the election," it said.

It said that in January 2010, the ECI had proposed that the Act should be amended to curtail misuse of caste and religion for electoral gain but the government has done nothing in this regard till date.

The plea said the government has not taken steps to implement recommendations of the Law Commission's 267th report on hate speech.

## Head-to-head in Bhopal

Digvijaya Singh now has to deal with a strident hitback for his 'saffron terror' comment in a polarised context



**B**attleground Bhopal is now a matter-anti-matter confrontation without any pretence of electoral grace, propriety or even issues. The BJP has fielded its newly-inducted member Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, facing trial in the Malegaon blast case and the new flame of extreme hate politics, against Congress heavyweight and the author of the term "saffron terror," Digvijaya Singh. It is a blatant battle between hardline Hindutva and secular Congressism. It is the NDA's reaction to the UPAs' action. It is also about muscularity over protocol, about the accused taking on the accuser. Thakur, one of those charged in the Malegaon blasts, is still out on bail though the National Investigative Agency (NIA) has claimed the evidence against her was insufficient and exonerated her. However, a special court in Mumbai says there's evidence to prosecute her. But for the BJP, the shroud of doubt, the burden of crimes or law don't matter in choosing a Lok Sabha candidate no less. The same law, of course, denies Opposition candidates similar privileges. It is about ideology rather than grammar. As BJP president Amit Shah said, since Digvijaya Singh had defamed India by coining terms like "saffron terror," the party had decided to take the matter to the people's court by fielding the Sadhvi against him in a sort of reckoning. Digvijaya has also been a bitter critic of the RSS, the ideological guide of the BJP, and the party has, therefore, taken him on with stridency. In the process, the extremist fringe that had so far been treated like disruptive outliers in the Modi-led NDA-1 has now been mainstreamed in the political narrative. And while murmurs were raised about the virulent Yogi Adityanath when he was made Chief Minister, looks like his kind will now find a greater voice. The kind that doesn't carry the baggage of history and can give a fresh spin to the legacy of identity politics. Besides, with Uma Bharti refusing to contest against Digvijaya in Bhopal, whom she had dislodged once in the Assembly, the BJP has been only too happy to find her younger version. With her saffron robes and self-proclaimed fight for *dharma*, the BJP has found a way to strike an emotive chord in the heartland and win back old faithfuls bred on the Ayodhya plank. It is also an overture to the RSS, whose network needs to be fully activated to secure a victory. And if Bhopal, being the State Capital and a high-profile seat, sets off a tide, then the BJP could recover some lost ground from the Assembly elections last year.

Bhopal is a tough fight for the Congress, the party having plummeted there since 1984 and the seat sending BJP MPs since 1989, that too with convincing margins. Yet the newly-elected Chief Minister Kamal Nath has taken on the challenge of wresting some seats that have eluded the party for 30 years and has, therefore, deployed former Chief Minister and colleague in arms Digvijaya. Thakur has the advantage of not just being a flag-bearer of Hindutva but the legacy of the party's former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, whose personal stock works with the masses. Little wonder then that the Sadhvi claimed his support immediately after emerging out of the BJP office. However, Digvijaya is a pushover. His huge following across the State cannot be denied and having been a two-term Chief Minister, he has a grip on Bhopal and Indore. Compared to him, his peers, be it Kamal Nath and tribal leader Kantilal Bhuria, or even junior colleague Jyotiraditya Scindia just command their own pocket boroughs. In the halcyon days, Digvijaya would not only pilot his own chopper and drive to the hinterland to meet his constituents, he knew their names and had the statistics, down to the block level, at the back his hand. Digital India may be common speak now but back then, he introduced e-governance and e-Chaupal modules in Dhar district. But that vision is not under review anymore, his rabid support to conspiracy theories about the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and Hindu extremists is. And in a polarised polity, that myopia is rampant. That also helps Sadhvi Thakur. Her vote count will decide her guilt or innocence.

## Rebuild France's soul

The conflagration at the Notre Dame broke millions of hearts but assurances of it being rebuilt are calming



**P**aris is the most visited city in France, the most popular destination for tourists across the world. So while the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe are the most popular icons of this city, there is also the Notre Dame Cathedral on a small island on the Seine river, which is an example of the Gothic architecture of the medieval ages and a sign of how the Frankish people started to assert their identity as French. It is visited by millions annually, the famous stained glass and gargoyles

on the structure becoming iconic in their own right. It has been at the centre of French life for centuries, having played a role during the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era. The great general was coronated there. Few Western capitals with the exception of London are so closely identified with their religious centres.

Even though religion and religious adherence are on the downside across France let alone its wild Capital, home to shows like *Moulin Rouge* which are hardly something the Catholic Church would approve of, the sight of the church's spire collapsing in an inferno must have been deeply disheartening. It is a miracle that the main stone structure of the Cathedral itself managed to be saved. And President Macron, who held an extraordinary national address dressed in black, assured that the Cathedral would be rebuilt. The religious allegory was not lost on many with the fire occurring days before Good Friday, the day the Christians believe that Christ was crucified. And with several French billionaires and entrepreneurs putting their hands up and opening their wallets, donating millions to the rebuilding of the structure, it is heartening to see that the French are willing to rebuild what was lost. And many of the millions of global citizens who have visited Paris over the years are also contributing small sums towards the rebuild. Several crowd-funding initiatives have been started.

This fire should also come as a warning sign in a country like India where several monuments of archaeological note are in an awful state of disrepair and may not survive a fire like the one Notre Dame suffered. A fire at the Meenakshi Temple last year was almost fatal for the heritage site. India's cultural heritage is also part of the world's cultural heritage and this fire should be a wake-up sign. The French firefighters followed a proper procedure in saving the Cathedral. One wonders if such procedures exist at the Taj or other monuments, many of which are surrounded by small illegal shops and narrow streets where fire engines cannot pass. We should make contingency plans straightaway lest our heritage burn away.

## Advertising *ad nauseam*

The BJP machinery, which has spent time and money managing the image of one man, must keep in mind that even the best marketing campaigns can't fix a flawed product



AJOY KUMAR

**I**n 1989, there was a huge anticipation and excitement about a new way to play video games. All this excitement and anticipation was the result of the marketing campaign behind the "Power Glove", a wearable glove that would serve as a controller in video game consoles. The "Power Glove" was featured and referred to in feature films, found on billboards and plastered almost everywhere. Ask about it today though and you are likely to get blank, confused stares. This because, while the marketing campaign was admirable, the product was completely disconnected from what the consumers wanted. Overall, it was just not a great product. Fast forward to 2019 and you have the Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy encouraging his followers to buy T-shirts with the slogan "Main Bhi Chowkidar." Not just that, this election season has seen Prime Minister Modi repeatedly post, comment, retweet and actively promote the sale of products with either his name written on them or with the latest consumer-friendly slogan of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). How did we get here?

In an era of social media, more attention is being given to the cover of the book than the book itself and there is greater focus on selling; nowhere is this more exemplified than in the case of the BJP. Today, we have Prime Minister Modi's name on T-shirts, mugs and even notebooks. Even in the BJP's own manifesto, the Prime Minister's face can be seen with HD clarity while the everyday people whom he is meant to serve are merely a low-quality backdrop. It will be apt to give a summary of the past five years, where the Prime Minister and the BJP's machinery spent all the time managing the image of a single man and forgot about the millions of people who elected him to serve them.

Now, we have a channel with no licence that is focussed on him and a movie where the actor, who plays the Prime Minister, will also, unsurprisingly, be one of the chief campaigners of the BJP. Currently, the movie is not allowed to be released in theatres due to a directive by the Election Commission. However, there is no denying that we have all been handed a ticket to this theatre of the absurd.

It's hard to get around without having seen a photo of Modi staring back at you. While it is important for India to maintain the right of every person, including the Prime Minister, to engage in marketing to the extent permitted under the law and to not restrict the freedom of expression of any individual, this megalomaniacal approach towards any personality is worrisome. Even North Korea, whose obsession with its leaders is often a subject of parody, doesn't have a dedicated channel for its supreme leader. The reason why this trend should be checked is because a large amount of money is spent by the BJP on advertising and



promoting the Prime Minister. The practice of asking for votes in the name of Modi rather than the BJP undermines our parliamentary system.

In 2014, for example, when this tactic was initially employed, most voters did not even know the individuals who were contesting the Lok Sabha elections in their constituency. Instead, all that the voters were sold was the image of one man who would solve all their problems. Unfortunately, this story unravelled dramatically over the past five years.

India is a parliamentary democracy, which means that in the Centre and States, the party with the greatest representation in India's Parliament forms the Government and picks one person as the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister. The reason this system particularly makes sense for India is that we are a vibrant country. This vibrancy is not only in terms of all that is good in our country like the different cuisines, cultures and the people but also vibrant in the sense that each region has different needs and different requirements, depending on the constituents of a particular constituency.

I have heard certain people say that they want Modi at the Centre even if they don't believe their MP is capable of represent-

ing their constituency effectively. Such an approach goes against the entire ethos of parliamentary democracy. Prime Minister Modi may promise the moon and the stars (and he often does). However, at the end of the day, it is the local parliamentarian who is required to raise local issues that can be discussed and debated in Parliament.

Take the example of getting a new hospital built or the opening of a new Central university. It is not as if the Prime Minister will help get your hospital built. As the Prime Minister, Modi is required to ensure that the parliamentarians whom he leads, serve their constituents by raising the issues of each constituency in Parliament.

Ideally, he should also give credit to such parliamentarians for any work done so that they continue to serve their constituents and, therefore, as a whole, the nation moves forward. However, we hardly hear Prime Minister Modi talking about anyone other than himself. In fact, do you even remember a time when he complimented a particular parliamentarian during his speeches? You would be hard pressed to find an example.

Instead, Prime Minister Modi has ensured that he deflects blame for everything

that goes wrong — corruption, unemployment, demonetisation, loss of lives due to terror attacks. And at the same time, he is the quickest to take credit when there's a whiff of success.

The mugs, the T-shirts, the movie and the radio shows among others — they are all the hallmarks of a man who has made it quite clear that the only thing he has on his mind is himself. Therefore, if India wants to truly progress and move forward, it needs to reject this idea that any one man can be a panacea for all that ails our country.

We must remember that the parliamentary form of Government works for India because it helps highlight the varying nature of issues our very diverse country faces. While there is no denying that a Prime Minister fulfills a crucial role in this system, he must also remember that he is the first among equals. If Prime Minister Modi does not grasp this fundamental rule of democracy, it is likely his tenure, too, like the "Power Glove", will serve as a lesson for future generations: Even the best marketing campaigns can't fix a flawed product.

(The writer is Jharkhand PCC president, former MP and IPS officer. Views are personal)

“THE MUGS, THE T-SHIRTS, THE RADIO SHOWS AMONG OTHERS — THEY ARE ALL THE HALLMARKS OF A MAN WHO HAS MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE ONLY THING HE HAS ON HIS MIND IS HIMSELF”

## SOUNDBITE

Narendra Modi is a fake backward. From birth till 55 years, he was upper class. Suddenly, he became backward.



RJD leader —Tejaswini Yadav

Technology, exports and imports, all that is going to happen but cinema is always going to be at the forefront.



Actor —Shah Rukh Khan

If we have a problem in the region today, its roots are either with Zionism or America's arrogance.



Iran's President —Hassan Rouhani

SPG protectees can't be frisked personally. Why suspend an officer for checking PM's chopper? What message is being sent? Law is special for some.



Senior Congress leader —Ahmed Patel

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Minting money

Sir — The cancellation of the Vellore Lok Sabha election after huge amounts of cash were recovered from a godown in the parliamentary constituency is not a new poll time malfunction. Nor is it the first time that the Election Commission (EC) has countermanded polls in Tamil Nadu. The RK Nagar bypoll was postponed not long ago for the same reason. Looks like politics has become a channel to mint money. A culture of corruption and bribery has taken deep roots in the State. This is not fair for a democracy. Perhaps the EC could have taken a decision earlier in the month when the first evidence of rampant cash distribution surfaced. It can't be leaden-footed.

Sravana Ramachandran  
Chennai

### Courting controversy

Sir — After being pulled up by the Supreme Court for not taking action against politicians spreading communal and hate speeches during the Lok Sabha campaigning, the Election

### A matter of worship

This refers to the editorial, "Women's right to pray" (April 18). "Religion is the opium of the masses", said Karl Marx. On the other hand, Mahatma Gandhi had said: "Religion is to morality what water is to the seed that is sown in the soil." Thus, various views exist on the existence of religion, as also the usefulness of religion. However, as long as the State allows the presence of religion, it has no business to interfere in the religious practices such as how to pray or whom to worship unless it does not infringe on the social life of the country and the fundamental rights as granted to the citizens by the Constitution.

It is in this connection that matters purely connected with faith of a particular religion, and which neither place any burden on the State nor infringe on the social fabric of the country, cannot be decided by the parliamentarians or the judicial authorities, whose roles lie in the interpretation of the law of the land in an absolute manner. The matter connected with the women's right to pray in the mosques, that are purely places of faith, falls in this cat-



egory. It should be best left to the wisdom of the experts of that faith except if it impinges on the woman's right to practise her religion. In our anxiety to be seen as the champions of equality of gender, let us not equate this matter with that of the triple *talaq* but consider it for its specifics.

BP Srivastava  
Noida

bloc and defeat (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi.

Further, even after the ban, Adityanath iterated the "green virus" comment, which is a reference to the Muslims. Unmistakable is the communal polarisation, the wider phenomenon that transcends the uncharitable remarks.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee  
Faridabad

### Performance matters

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "A winning team?" (April 17). However strong a team is, it all depends upon how it performs on the D-day. Since one-day cricket is such an unpredictable game that anything can happen at the last few overs, one cannot indulge in guessing. A favourite team can turn otherwise in a matter of few overs. While one can hope that the Indian team will perform better, victory or defeat depends on the way the game turns out on the day of the play.

VS Jayaraman  
Chennai

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

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Time for 'digital first' upgrade

To continue thriving amid changing tides in the business world, organisations must establish an open and honest line of communication between their firms and IT functions



AMIT MEHTA

We live in an era where technology is changing rapidly. With new innovations marking the technological landscape and an unprecedented race for 'digital transformation' by enterprises, it has become almost imperative for organisations and their IT teams to upgrade their existing infrastructure, adopt emerging technologies and deploy 'digital first' strategies. It has now become common to see companies go all-out on the 'digital' part of transformation projects — IT upgrades, optimisation of digital channels, investments in technology talent and much more. Often neglected, however, is the change in management, socialisation and communication elements that are essential for the ultimate success of this new focus on IT.

Currently, the business landscape in India is rife with disruption. Much of it is driven by organisations using technology in new or innovative ways to keep the digital ecosystem circulating around businesses. According to a study conducted by ESG's *IT Transformation Maturity Curve India Report*, 90 per cent of the Indian respondents believed that to succeed and stay ahead of the competition, their organisations' IT department needed to adopt IT transformation. This indicates the extent to which the IT department needs to be an integrated element for the success of an organisation. Another salient finding of the study states that transformed companies in India are 6.5 times more likely to be involved in business-strategy development compared to their counterparts.

Therefore, technology-enabled change can only work wonders when there is a clearly-defined and broadly understood vision of both — how that transformation will unfold in reality and its end-to-end goals. Hence, alignment between IT and business is essential to create a common ground that can facilitate and encourage all-encompassing change. This can be achieved through a mix of conversation, education and empowerment among a full range of key stakeholders.

**Demystify change via education and transparency:** Despite buzz of positive sentiments around business transformation trends, there remains a general state of apprehension about disruption within the C-suite. Simply put, in the corporate world, change is necessary but rarely a straightforward business. In that context, business functions about to fire the starting-gun on transformation projects need to be facilitating advance-conversations around the need for change and what it will entail for all parties concerned, with a focus on IT — a crucial engine for innovation and growth.

To continue thriving amid changing tides in the business world, organisations must establish an open and honest line of communication between their firms and IT functions to facilitate the ongoing education of new business needs and technologies required to support them.

**Mutual empowerment for a long-term symbiosis:** Despite their close association, IT and digital transformation projects cannot rest in the hands of IT teams alone. The two need to go hand-in-hand and change must come from the business itself. There must be a collaboration where feedback, insights and iteration come together to form a robust view as to where the business is lacking and what its future should be. Such two-way conversations will surface valuable information: Bring hidden complexities and inefficiencies to light and allow the IT team to get to the heart of the issue and identify the right problem and reach for a solution. CIOs can fast-track this goal by implementing clear processes to ease internal transitions — with a focus on enabling end-users to quickly gauge and evaluate the effectiveness of new solutions — as well as associated metrics.

Faced with challenges, including fast pace technological advancement and ever-changing consumer behaviour, it is essential that all stakeholders within an organisation work in collaboration to understand the imperatives for change and how one can adapt to the change in a well-structured manner, designed and enacted as smartly as possible. This is the key to thriving in the whirlwind of constant evolution and progress that defines today's ever-evolving business landscape.

(The writer is director, Modern Data Centre, Dell Technologies)

**IT'S MY DUTY AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY TO SUPPORT MY FAMILY. I WILL CAMPAIGN FOR MY WIFE BUT NOT FOR ANY OTHER NON-CONGRESS CANDIDATE.**  
 —CONGRESS LEADER  
 SHATRUGHAN SINHA

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



**HE (SHATRUGHAN SINHA) FULFILLED A HUSBAND'S DUTY BUT HE SHOULD NOW CAMPAIGN FOR ME AND FULFILL THE PARTY'S DUTY.**  
 —CONGRESS CANDIDATE FROM LUCKNOW  
 PRAMOD KRISHNAN

# A new Mexican wave

With the election of Lopez Obrador as the President, a new era of politics has begun. He must remain true to the grandiose promises made during the campaign



GIRISH KUMAR

Amid the surge of demagogues and rabble-rousers of far-right across the globe in the recent past, the coming of Senator Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador as the newly-elected President of Mexico has broken new ground in the Western hemisphere. Elected as the leader of the National Regeneration Movement (MORENA), which was founded by Lopez Obrador following two failed attempts in 2006 and 2012 elections as a candidate of broad Left coalitions, he had earlier headed the federal district Government of Mexico city. Like the US presidential election, Mexico, too, elects its President in July every six years and the President-elect assumes office on the first of December. Obrador was sworn in as Mexican President in December 2018.

Having taken charge of the Government and in pursuance of his campaign promises, Obrador has not moved to the presidential palace, has halved his own salary in the proposed Budget and also declared that he won't allow anyone else to get more than him. Change can be brought about — during his campaigns, he promised to 'combat corruption' and maintain an 'austere Government.' Other assurances include more students' scholarship and pension to senior citizens, which can be financed by 'cutting grafts.' He flies in commercial airlines and put the presidential plane on sale. As the district Government head earlier, he had adopted several policies that benefited vulnerable sections, infirm, poor women and aged population.

Instead of occupying luxurious presidential palace, he has started working from nearly a century-old national palace — the official seat of power — and has continued living at his private home. He strongly believes that neo-liberal policies have benefited a 'minority of the population' while 'impoverishing a great majority.' Significantly, a century after the 1910 revolution — the first landmark in the political history of Mexico after it gained independence from Spanish colonial rule in 1822 — Obrador has become the first one who had begun as a protest leader but within the folds of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Spanish Partido Revolucionario Institucional, which had controlled all levers of power for seven long decades since its formation in 1929.

Paradoxically, the Mexican political system was bizarre as it didn't permit the incumbent to have a second term, but he was empowered to select his successor who would be the ruling party's nominee in the ensuing election. Once in power, the new President would nominate his candidates for the next gubernatorial election and likewise, new Mayors would be hand-picked nominees of incumbent Governors. Everything was fine-tuned with ground support of consensus manufactured through local branches of cross-sectional wings of the ruling PRI.

The first crack in this electoral machine appeared during the 1988 election when Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas challenged this nomination process. Echoing the feelings of the growing middle class, Cárdenas — a former Governor and also the son of a former but revered President who had nationalised petroleum sector way back in 1934 and redistributed land to the poor peasants — asserted that the PRI-managed system was no longer in sync with a modern country of urban professionals. Although PRI-sponsored candidates won the election, the then President Carlos Salinas de Gortari

**HAVING TAKEN CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND IN PURSUANCE OF HIS CAMPAIGN PROMISES, OBRADOR HAS NOT MOVED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, HAS HALVED HIS OWN SALARY IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND ALSO DECLARED THAT HE WON'T ALLOW ANYONE ELSE TO GET MORE THAN HIM. DURING HIS CAMPAIGNS, HE PROMISED TO 'COMBAT CORRUPTION' AND MAINTAIN AN 'AUSTERE GOVERNMENT'**



read the writing on the wall and initiated measures to cleanse the system, including setting up of an autonomous Election Commission and ensuring proportional representation of parties in Parliament. Measures were also taken to withdraw discretionary powers of bureaucracy, mediated by the party, which resulted in the ruling party's loosening grip over the patronage network.

The beneficiary of these reforms was the main Opposition party, National Action Party (PAN), which had started gaining foothold in the northern States bordering the US. For quite long, people from these States would enter the American market as illegal immigrants to work and upon their return, would start grumbling over the dysfunctional drainage, primary health care, schools and broken roads among others. No wonder, simmering discontentment led to the defeat of PRI in these States. The influence of PAN gradually spread from winning a few seats in the lower house of Parliament to capturing seven of total 31 States by the late 1990s. The disenchantment with the PRI was also deepened with the coming of the North American Free Trade Treaty (NAFTA) between Mexico, the US and Canada in 1991, which saw the coming of a large number of maquiladora (assembling plants owned mostly by Americans where goods are assembled and exported back to the US) in the border Mexican States. It was a win-win situation for both: US manufacturers would gain by cheap Mexican labour and later would be happy with the availability of jobs nearer home and it would further expand the volume of Mexican exports to the US. In the bargain, however, more than a million formal jobs were lost

under the new economic policies that culminated in a near financial collapse in the mid-1990s.

Eventually, all this led to the defeat of the longest ruling party in the 2000 presidential election. Incidentally, the year 2000 also turned out to be watershed for President Obrador Manuel when he broke away from the PRI. He was earlier the head of PRI in his home State of Tabasco. First, he, along with Cárdenas, the rebel hero of 1988, joined the Left-oriented democratic revolutionary party (PRD) but subsequently switched over to a protest movement MRM, which he founded to mobilise students and youths against 'political corruption' and 'electoral fraud' and won the district election. MORENA became a political party in 2014 only and is now in control of both the Houses.

Vicente Fox, a former boss of Coca-Cola empire in Mexico, was the biggest beneficiary of the changing contours of economics and social matrix triggered by NAFTA. During his six-year rule, he realised that reforming the system was not straight as was winning the 2000 presidential election. Most of his reform-oriented legislations couldn't pass through both the Houses of Parliament that remained under control of the old guards of PRI and the PAN; though Fox won with its support but remained at loggerheads with this party. In a country where the President has always been seen as the most powerful force, people got frustrated with a perforce lameduck incumbent, who sought to follow procedural niceties aimed at bringing durable change. As a result, Fox lost and the main Opposition, PAN, won the next election in 2006. But PRI returned to power again in 2012.

During the last six years, the linger-

ing crises over dealings with drug, endemic violence and pervasive corruption, where the last PRI President Enrique Peña Nieto himself was seen involved thoroughly, disillusioned the voters. Above all, President Peña couldn't manage Central American refugee crises. Interestingly, erecting a huge border wall and that, too, financed by the Mexican Government to prevent the influx of Mexican and Central American immigrants to the US was a persistent campaign theme of Donald Trump. Prospects of deportation of 10-12 million Mexican illegal immigrants are already looming large. The total population of Mexico is 140 million.

Perforce decades of civil war and leftist insurgency in Guatemala (Mexico's southern neighbour), El Salvador and Honduras and its disastrous economic fall-outs mismanaged by marauder regimes in these Central American countries, a caravan of refugees has recently marched through Mexico and is now lodged in tents at the US border. Paradoxically, its powerful northern neighbour has always remained a factor for Mexican patricians and plebeians alike as goes an old Mexican maxim: "We may be far from God but not from the US."

Meanwhile, Obrador has signed agreements with these countries to chalk out a long term "development plan", creating jobs and has also allocated \$2 billion in his first budget for this purpose. The outcome of any long term plan takes years, so it would mean nothing to the impatient American President. Nevertheless, it does indicate a lot to both Mexicans and its impoverished southern neighbours.

(The writer is former faculty member of Indian Institute of Public Administration)

# When paedophiles get recognition

The Wahhabi/Salafi school, which provides impetus to militant Islamists in Pakistan, is at the root of the exploitation of minorities. This agony will stay unless Muslim clerics across the globe come forward and end a destructive ideology



HASAN KHURSHID

Paedophilia is a psychiatric disorder where an adult experiences an exclusive sexual attraction to pre-pubescent children. Being a mental disorder, those suffering from paedophilia need mental health support. The brains of paedophiles aren't 'wired' correctly, causing them to get sexually attracted towards children. They have a brain malfunction that can hardly be corrected, though there are therapies that can reduce the recurrence of a sick person committing child sexual abuse.

Recently, two minor Hindu girls from Sindh were abducted and transported to Rahim Yar Khan from Ghotki in south-east Pakistan. The two minors were then forcefully

converted to (their version of) Islam before being married to Muslim men.

In the videos circulating on social media, the father and brother of the girls can be seen crying hoarse, saying that the girls were abducted and forced to change their religion. However, in another clip, the minor girls appeared to give their statements that they accepted Islam on their own free will. The Pakistani media, too, tried to defend the culprits, saying that the minor girls had embraced Islam out of free will and that they consented to their marriage with willingness and choice.

Due to the Indian Government's protests, the matter was referred to the court on April 2. The Islamabad High Court formed a five-member Commission to probe the alleged abduction, forced conversion and marriage of the girls. Its members included Pakistani Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazar and Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women, Khawar Mumtaz. It was reported that the girls and

their alleged spouses sought court protection. The girls also allegedly said that they belonged to a Hindu family of Ghotki, a small town in Sindh and converted willfully as they were impressed by Islamic teachings.

It is amply clear that the statement of the girls has been given under duress and no sane person can buy the theory that the minor girls, aged 13 and 15, have sufficient maturity and decision-making capacity to understand, comprehend or judge the teaching and traditions of the two religions. Can they make a comparative view of the two diverse religions without experiencing and studying the tenets and principles of the two faiths?

Moreover, according to Muslim practice, at the time of *nikah*, the father of the girl, minor or major, being the 'wali' (protector) is required to give his consent and stand witness to the ceremony, which was not the case here. On the contrary, the father and brother of the girls openly leveled allegations of abduction, forced conversion

and marriage of the minors.

The High Court miserably failed to understand that before Partition, during the British rule, the Indian Majority Act, 1875, was applicable on the whole of India, and the same is currently prevalent in India and Pakistan both. Legally and philosophically speaking, the forced marriage of the two girls below 15 years of age, amounts to rape. A person below the age of 18 years is a minor and is not mature enough to comprehend what is good or bad for him/her. The consent given by the girls, even if willingly, is meaningless, irrelevant and illegal. The court should have restored the girls to their parents. Whereas, the Islamabad court on April 11, vide its impugned order, directed the girls to stay with their husbands. The court's order was based on the five-member Commission's report, which stated that it held a meeting with the girls and their spouses and found no compulsion, though the statement of the minor girls, expressing consent for the entire episode, was not only irrelevant but null and void from the

principle of reasonableness. The (mock) Commission did not incorporate the statements of the girls' father, brother, neighbours and other respondents.

It is well-known that Pakistan is driven by the extremist ideology of Wahhabism/Salafism. The civilian Government over there is a puppet of its Army. As such, all Muslim and non-Muslim minorities such as Shia Muslims, Hazaras, Ahmediyas, Sufis, Barelviyas and non-Muslims such as Hindus, Sikhs and Christians — have been targeted. The Wahabi/Salafi ideology justifies the rape and abduction of all non-Wahhabi women, especially of those belonging to the Shia Muslims and Hindu minorities.

Dozens of terror groups are operating from Pakistan's soil, internally and externally both. According to Human Rights Watch, during the past one decade, thousands of innocent people — Hindus, Shias, Sufis, Sikhs and Christians — have been killed mercilessly in Pakistan itself by these extremists under the patronage of the Inter-Services

Intelligence and the Army, which use them as a bargaining chip in the region. Again, on April 12, as many as 20 people, including two children, were killed and 70 injured in an (un) Islamic State blast, targeting Hazara Shia minority community in Baluchistan.

Pakistan's former Ambassador to the US recently admitted in Washington that Imran Khan's statements, promising the end of support to terrorist groups, are motivated by the fear of getting blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force and that there is no evidence that the Government or the military are dismantling terrorist support infrastructure.

One can imagine the nightmare of surviving persecuted minorities of Pakistan, who even after surviving criminal assaults, remain affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, without any remedy. This agony is most likely to stay, unless Muslim clerics across the globe come forward and bring an end to the pseudo-Islamic Wahabi/Salafi ideology.  
 (The author is a legal journalist)



**FOREIGN EYE**



**CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGNERS: WE NEED THEM ALL**

Adaptation to rising temperatures is inevitable; accommodation with the forces fuelling them will be disastrous. Social movements exert pressure on internal processes of change, which are inherently incremental and cautious. That parts of the establishment are now pressing for action on climate change is critical. That others are pushing from the outside is at least equally so.  
 (The Guardian editorial)



Photos: PTI

## Dar's journey: From 'human shield' to poll duty

PTI ■ UTLIGAM

Nearly two years ago, when Srinagar voted in a Lok Sabha bypoll, Farooq Ahmed Dar was used as a 'human shield' to ensure safe passage for Army jawans as they came under intense stone-pelting, but now he finds himself posted on election duty.

"Farooq Ahmad Dar is working on consolidated terms as sweeper in the Health Department. He has been posted on election duty," said Budgam Chief Medical Officer Nazir Ahmad.

In 2017, a picture of Dar tied to the bonnet of an army jeep splashed across the front

pages of newspaper, invoking sharp but divided reactions.

Investigations later found he was on his way to his sister's place for a condolence meet after casting his vote in the bypoll on April 9, 2017, when the army picked him up and tied him with ropes, parading him through nearly 28 villages.

"What was my mistake? Going to the polling booth and casting my ballot?" Dar had told PTI in a video interview last year. At this village, nearly 40 kms from the Srinagar city, where Dar was tied to the army jeep, the incident is still fresh in the minds of the locals.

After the polls opened at the Utligam polling station,



only two of the registered 1,016 voters had cast the ballots in the first 100 minutes. The residents allege the stone-pelting was in response to the "unprovoked harassment" of the locals by the Army officer and the "vandalism" by the troops.

"It was the Army personnel who went berserk and started

beating up people and broke window panes of many houses that day. The youngsters were infuriated and retaliated by pelting them with stones," Nazir Ahmad, a local resident said.

Ahmad admits the stone-pelting was very intense, which probably forced Major Leetul Gogoi to catch hold of Dar and use him as a human shield.

"He is not even from our village. He is from Cheill-Brass village, 15 kilometres from here. That incident has brought only unwanted attention from all sides to our village. If we vote, it is a problem and if we do not vote, it is a problem," he said. Mohammad Aslam, another villager, said the police

picked up 22 youths from the village over the past couple of days without any charge.

"Most of them are labourers and students. We are least bothered about if any one comes to vote or not. We have formed a committee to ensure there is law and order problem in our village this time because we are concerned about our boys," he said.

There is a sense of deja vu among some residents here. A young woman died on Thursday morning due to brain hemorrhage. "You would not have been able to come here had it not been for the death of the woman this morning. The scenes here would have been

different," said a youth, who wished not to be named, indicating that disturbance in the area was planned.

As this PTI reporter travelled to Cheill-Brass, a remote village just at the foot of the mighty mountain, Dar was not at his home. "He has gone for election duty," his mother Fazi Begum told PTI.

She said Dar was appointed as a daily wage employee in the State Health Department and has been on election duty since Wednesday. Asked if the eligible members of her family had cast their votes, Fazi Begum said, "I almost lost my son due to voting two years ago. Do you think we will go to vote again?"

## In a first, over 150 inmates of mental health centre cast votes



Inmates of the Institute of Mental Health cast their votes at a polling booth in Chennai on Thursday

Chennai: They lined up patiently to cast their votes in the blazing sun, 156 inmates of a mental health centre here, eager to participate in the electoral process as polling was held in 38 Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu on Thursday.

The inmates, including 56 women, exercised their franchise in a booth exclusively set up for them at the Institute of Mental Hospital (IMH), Kilpauk, probably the first time such patients are voting in the country.

The area comes under Central Chennai constituency where the main fight is between former Union Minister and DMK leader Dayanidhi Maran, Sam Paul of PMK under the AIADMK-BJP-PMK combine,

Kameela Nasser from Makkal Needhi Maiam floated by actor Kamal Haasan.

After casting his vote, a 37-year-old man, battling schizophrenia for the last seven years, said when he stood near the electronic voting machine, he reminisced about the 2001 assembly elections, the last time he voted.

"I felt special. I am very happy to vote," he said. He was all praise for students of a local city college (Loyola College) and Election Commission officials for conducting awareness programmes and mock polls on the hospital premises ahead of elections. IMH Director P Porna Chandrika was elated over the exercise being conducted in the hospital.

## J&K HITS LOW AT 43% POLLING IN PHASE II

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday saw 43.4 per cent turnout — lowest in the second phase of Lok Sabha polls.

Despite witnessing peaceful electioneering in the run up to the second phase of polling across Srinagar Parliamentary seat, from where National Conference Chief, Farooq Abdullah, was seeking reelection, less than 15 per cent voters turned up at the security booths amid tight security arrangements on Thursday.

Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah accompanied his father Farooq to the polling booth in Srinagar and appealed to the voters to come out in large numbers to exercise their right to franchise.

Out of three districts, falling

with in the high profile Lok Sabha constituency, Srinagar recorded the lowest voter turnout of 7.9 per cent till 6.00 pm while Budgam recorded 17.5 per cent polling and Ganderbal recorded highest voter turnout of 21.6 per cent voters.

Chief Electoral Officer, J&K Shailendra Kumar in Srinagar said, "The entire polling process passed off peacefully on two Lok Sabha seats with the participation of over 44 per cent electorate". He said, no major incident of violence was reported during the entire polling day in the state.

Over 70 per cent voters came out to cast their votes in Udhampur-Doda constituency in a peaceful manner. Out of five Assembly seats in Kathua district, Kathua Assembly seat recorded 80 per cent turnout



National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah leave after casting vote in Srinagar on Thursday

while Billawar and Hiranagar Assembly constituencies recorded over 73 and 76 per cent voter turnout respectively. Udhampur district also recorded over 72 per cent polling.

BJP's sitting MP, Dr Jitendra Singh is locked in a

close contest with Vikramaditya Singh, the joint candidate of Congress and National Conference from the seat. The three landlocked districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban too recorded over 60 per cent polling.

## 70 per cent polling recorded in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In an ominous sign a State that traditionally witnesses 80-plus percentage polling saw little above 70 per cent voters exercising their voting rights indicating the remaining vast majority of the electorate must have stayed back home on account of pre-electoral threats or simply out of disgust, psephologists said.

Otherwise the polling on Thursday was less violent compared to what it happens on normal times in Bengal with only one MP candidate being attacked and his car shattered by miscreants and "only in a few places" voters were stopped

from voting in the initial hours leading to skirmishes leading several persons including a Bangla television journalist injured.

Chopra a place in Raiganj constituency adjoining Bihar witnessed sporadic violence bombing by alleged Trinamool Congress miscreants who reportedly stopped voters from going to the booth.

Subsequent it needed a road blockade by them for the Election Commission to wake up and rush central forces to the spot — after four long hours — by which time several persons including a tele journalist was badly clubbed.

## Migrant Kashmiri Pandits protest over missing names from electoral roll

Jammu: Several migrant Kashmiri Pandits could not exercise their franchise as their names were found missing from the electoral roll at the special polling stations set up for Srinagar constituency in Jammu during the second phase of Lok Sabha elections.

Miffed at it, they raised slogans against the administration and the EC at several polling stations. "We came to the polling station to cast our vote but found our names missing from the electoral roll. It is a denial of our right to vote," said Radha Krishna Bhat, a migrant Kashmiri Pandit from the Chadoora segment of Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

Bhat said four members of his family could not vote and alleged that there was a conspiracy to deny the migrants their right. Similarly, Mintoo Mawa and four of his family members, who hail from Amira Kadal segment, had to return without exercising their franchise.

## Close to 400 booths in K'taka's 1st phase of polling staffed by women

IANS ■ BENGALURU

Close to 400 of the 30,164 polling stations in the 14 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka where voting was held on Thursday were staffed exclusively by women, an official said on Thursday.

"The 393 'sakhis' (women's) booths were staffed by 10 women, including 4 polling personnel, 3 assistants and 3 constables, with two outside and one inside the booth," Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer Sanjiv Kumar told IANS here.

The maximum number of sakhi booths — 130 — were in Bangalore's 3 parliamentary seats, followed by 46 in Bangalore Rural, 45 in Udipi-Chikmagalur, 34 in Mysore, 30 in Chikkaballapur, 28 in Mandya, 22 in Tumkur, 20 in Dakshina Kannada, 14 in Hassan and 12 each in Chitradurga and Kolar.

"The objective of all-

women's booths is to empower them and demonstrate their capability to conduct free and fair polling as in the case of men," said Kumar.

Both men and women are allowed to vote in the all-women's booths.

## Maha voter smashes EVM

Akola: A voter on Thursday smashed the electronic voting machine (EVM) while casting his vote in Akola Lok Sabha constituency in Maharashtra.

The incident occurred at around 1 p.m. at the Balapur polling station no. 29 where polling was underway for the second phase of elections in 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state, said an Election Commission official.

The voter, Shrikrishna Ghyare, was taken into custody. The motive behind the action was not immediately known, police said.

## When donkeys lent a helping hand to TN poll officials

Chennai: While GPS-fitted vehicles are deployed to transport poll materials like EVMs in the State, such technology or vehicles do not always help, especially when it comes to hilly terrains of Tamil Nadu to send across election paraphernalia.

Particularly, where there are no roads to reach hamlets on hill tops — leave alone motorable ones — the challenge is more pronounced and

carrying EVMs, and control units within the stipulated time frame is no mean task.

A slew of such remote villages are spread across Tamil Nadu including those atop hills in the districts of Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Namakkal, and Theni with voters ranging between 300 and 1,100 in a given polling station.

Several booths in remote locations like Kottur in the Pennagaram region of

Dharmapuri and hamlets on Bothamalai in Namakkal pose the challenge of rocky terrain too.

To surmount the challenge, poll officials loaded election materials — neatly packed in gunny bags — on donkeys and ponies and they carried some of the luggage on their heads to reach the designated polling stations and the arduous journey was in the range of 9 to 11 kilometers on the hills.

Vellakkevi and

## VIOLENCE IN TWO MANIPUR BOOTHS

Imphal: Voting was stalled in two polling booths of Inner Manipur Lok Sabha constituency. In one of the booths at Kiyamegi Muslim Makhla locality in Imphal East, unidentified men stormed into a polling station around 11.30 am and broke EVMs and VVPATs, claiming "proxy voting" was being carried out. In another booth in same area, scuffle broke out for derailing the voting process.

Pallathukadu in the Kodaikanal hill ranges (Dindigul), Kathiripatti (Erode) and Kedamalai (Namakkal) were among the hilly villages officials reached overcoming the challenges with the help of donkeys and ponies.

PTI

## 105-year-old votes in Maharashtra

IANS ■ LATUR

Heads turned when 105-year-old Kabaibai Ganpati Kamble on Thursday reached a polling station to cast her vote in the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra.

Seated on a wheelchair, Kabaibai was accompanied by her grown up children and other fourth-generation relatives to the polling station in Harangul New Colony in Latur. She was cheered by other voters who clapped for her.

## 'Just Married' couple votes in Udhampur

Udhampur: A newly married couple, in wedding attire, reached a polling booth of Udhampur parliamentary constituency here on Thursday, underlining the importance of exercising one's franchise.

The couple reached the polling booth in a flower-decked sedan with groom Sourav Sharma sporting a headgear and a cream 'achkan' over red churidars with his bride Manisha, attired in a red 'salwar-kameez' and donning gold jewellery.

Accompanied by friends and family members, the couple stepped into the booth hand-in-hand, surprising many standing in the queue and exercised their franchise. They instantly became a hit at the polling booth with dozens of people and visiting journalists clicking their pictures.



# Modi mocks Cong-JD(S) Govt

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

In his first leg of election tour to northern Karnataka (which will go to polls in the second leg on April 23) Prime Minister Modi mocked the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government in Karnataka. In his election rallies at Bagalakote and Chikkodi on Thursday Modi blasted Congress and said vote for *majbhoor sarkaar* not for *majboor sarkaar*. Fourteen North Karnataka constituencies will go to polls on April 23 and the BJP is anticipating Modi wave will increase their seats taking head on the coalition partners.

Hitting out at the Congress over its promise to "remove" Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), he said, it wants those pelting stones to file false cases on soldiers and they roam in courts.

"The Congress also wants

to give free hand to those indulging in *desh droh* (anti-national activities). By announcing it will end sedition law. The Congress has made it clear what its intentions are. Will you support such dangerous intentions? Will you support those committing such sins? Will you teach a lesson to the Congress?"

"These *mahamilavati's* are neither for jawans nor किसान (farmers)," he said. During the Congress and *mahamilavat* Government, three types of development can take place - development (*vikas*) of a few families, development of middle men and and development of price hike, Modi said.

He asked the crowd, "Are you happy with the firmness I have worked? Are you happy? We entered inside Pakistan and hit (terrorists) are you happy? Do we have to take revenge for the killing of our jawans or not? Do you trust Army on their bravery? The Congress don't believe our brave and believe in Pakistan's evidences.

Modi mocked the "never ending drama" marked by revenge and emotion that characterised the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government headed by HD Kumaraswamy.

"If you want to see *majbhoor sarkaar* look towards Delhi, and if you want to see *majboor*



Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds up a bow-arrow as Karnataka BJP chief BS Yeddyurappa and other leaders look on during an election campaign in Bagalkot on Thursday

*sarkaar* look towards Bengaluru," Modi said.

"After every few days, weeks, at any rally or press conference emotion is flowing. Do you think of Karnataka like this?" Modi asked the crowd, apparently taking a dig at Kumaraswamy who has shed tears publicly quite often - once about being helpless as head of the Congress-JDS coalition.

He said Congress had claimed in its manifesto that making Pakistan agree that its

citizens were involved in the Mumbai terror attack was a major achievement. But Pakistan despite agreeing that the perpetrators were its citizens still carried out bomb explosions and even threatened India about nuclear bomb.

Modi took on Kumaraswamy for saying that the matter of airstrike on terror camps in Pakistan in Balakot should not be overpublicised "fearing that the vote bank bank would get angry."

# If Cong voted to power, indebted farmers won't be sent to jails: Rahul



Congress president Rahul Gandhi, party general secretary Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia and party leaders during an election rally in Budaun on Thursday

**Badaun:** In a veiled attack on the BJP, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said if his party is voted to power, indebted farmers will not be sent to jails.

Addressing an election rally at Dataganj under Aonla parliamentary constituency here, he said, "Businessmen who took loans amounting to thousands of crores were allowed to flee the country instead of sending them to jail. While the farmers who took loans of Rs 20,000 and were

unable to pay, were sent to jail.

"Now, this will not happen, until and unless the big defaulters are sent to jail, not a single farmer will be sent to jail. As soon as our Government is formed, the farmers will not be sent to jail for non-payment of loans," Rahul asserted.

He said the Congress after forming Government in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan fulfilled its promise of farm loan waivers. "We will not allow two 'Hindustans' to come up in the country," he said. Attacking the SP and the BSP, the Congress leader said, "Did the SP and BSP ever say *chowkidar chor hai?* No, because their keys are with Modi." Rahul also hit out at the Modi-led Central Government for its poor showing in generating employment in the country.

He claimed that unemployment ratio, under the Modi dispensation, was the highest in the last 45 years.

"By demonetisation, Modi took away people's money. Now, Congress will snatch the same money and deposit it in the accounts of poor people," he said. Referring to the minimum income guarantee scheme 'NYAY' proposed by the Congress, Gandhi said, "Once the Congress government is formed, it will ensure an annual income of Rs 72,000. PTI

## Terrorism confined to two-and-a-half J&K districts, says Modi

IAN S ■ AMRELI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday claimed that the NDA Government has restricted terrorist activities to only "two-and-a-half" districts in Jammu & Kashmir while not a single bomb blast was reported from anywhere else in the country in the last five years.

Addressing an election rally in farmer-stressed Amreli in Saurashtra region in Gujarat, the Prime Minister said: "No bomb blast took place anywhere in India in the last five years. We have been able to contain terrorism to just two-and-a-half districts in Jammu & Kashmir."

Referring to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent statement that Islamabad had tried to reach out to India after the Balakot air strike, Modi taunted him that he "had to make a public request to us to pick up the phone".

Modi said he had not come to Gujarat on an election rally but to thank the people of the state from whom he trained to take on the larger role of the Prime Minister. "My grooming in Gujarat helped me to deal with the long Doklam standoff with China" in 2017, the Prime Minister said.

He said the previous Congress Governments had deliberately delayed the Sardar Sarovar Project, and led to the suffering of the people in the perennially drought-prone regions of Gujarat. If the project had completed 40 years ago, the things would have been much better.

## Mukesh Ambani, Kotak endorse Milind Deora for Mumbai South

**Mumbai:** Industrialist Mukesh Ambani and billionaire banker Uday Kotak have endorsed the candidature of Congress leader Milind Deora from the Mumbai South Lok Saba constituency, where polling is slated on April 29.

The backing of Ambani, Reliance Industries Limited chairman, to the Congress leader comes at a time when the party has been unrelenting in attack on his industrialist-brother Anil Ambani over the Rafale deal.

In a video shared by Deora, former Union Minister, on his Twitter page, Ambani says "Milind is the man for South Mumbai", while Kotak eulogises the Mumbai Congress chief for "truly representing the Mumbai connection".

Deora said he was "humbled" by the support from Ambani, Kotak and also other small businessmen and traders.

"I'm very proud. I'm equally proud that I'm being endorsed by paanwalas, small traders, Deora said. "Milind is the man for south Mumbai...Having represented

South Bombay for 10 years, I believe Milind has in depth knowledge of social, economic and cultural eco-system of the south Bombay constituency," says Ambani in the video. Kotak said he "genuinely" felt that Deora is able to relate to Mumbaiers. "And his family has been associated with Mumbai for a long time...Milind truly represents Mumbai ka connection," Kotak says.

The video also features small entrepreneurs and traders, who are seen praising and backing Deora. A statement issued by Deora's office said he is being supported by "all quarters" of trade and business in Mumbai South constituency. Deora thanked the industrialists and traders' bodies for their "overwhelming" support to him.

"In the last five years, industry and trade, an integral part of the spirit of Mumbai, lost its voice in the Parliament. I am humbled by the support given by stalwarts like Shri Ambani and Shri Kotak," the statement quoted Deora as saying. PTI

## Farmers' budget will declare MSP in advance, says RaGa

**Vanthli:** Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said Minimum Support Prices (MSP) would also be announced in the separate farmers' budget which his party's manifesto has promised.

Addressing a campaign rally at Vanthli in Junagadh district, he also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of applying different rules to the rich and the poor.

"If the Congress comes to power, the country will have two budgets. One will be national budget and another farmers' budget. "In the farm-

ers' budget we will announce MSP for various crops in advance so that farmers know what they will get. We will (also) announce the amount of insurance (premium) payable (by farmers) and what the would farmers get," he said.

The Modi Government was ready to waive loans of rich industrialists but not those of farmers, he said. "We will not allow formation of two Indias. If we have one flag, then we should have one nation. If Ambani gets justice, farmers should also get justice," Rahul said. PTI

## Akhilesh, wife Dimple declare assets worth ₹37 cr

**Azamgarh:** Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav owns assets worth over Rs 37 crore together with his wife Dimple, according to his poll affidavit filed on Thursday.

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has declared moveable property worth Rs 7.9 crore and immovable assets worth Rs 16.90 crore, in the affidavit submitted with the nomination paper.

His wife Dimple has declared Rs 3.68 crore worth moveable properties and immovable assets of Rs 9.30 crore. Akhilesh's income has decreased to Rs 84.83 lakh in financial year 2017-2018, when compared to Rs 1.25 crore in 2013-14. His wife Dimple Yadav's income, however, has increased. While in the 2013-14 financial year, her annual income was Rs 28,31,838, in 2017-18 it increased to Rs

61,16,108. As per the affidavit, Akhilesh has Rs 3.91 lakh cash in hand while Dimple has Rs 4,03,743 cash in hand. Akhilesh owns a cellular phone worth Rs 76,000, furniture of Rs 17,085 and exercise equipment worth over Rs 5.34 lakh, while wife Dimple has jewellery items including gold, diamond, pearl worth Rs 59.76 lakh and computer of Rs 1.25 lakh. PTI



A child takes selfie with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav during an election rally for the Lok Sabha polls in Azamgarh on Thursday

## DON'T VOTE FOR CONG, BJP: MAMATA

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday asked the voters not to vote for the CPI(M) or the Congress as neither of them would be able to form Government in the Centre.

"Don't waste your votes by giving them to the CPI(M) which is almost invisible in Bengal and the Congress which will not be able to form the Government on its own in the Centre," Banerjee told a crowd at Samsi in North Malda constituency.

She said the Congress should not be the natural choice of the secular Bengalis because

"this party is now being backed by the RSS. They are taking the help from the RSS to win elections in Bengal. So they should be rejected by you."

Besides, "Congress will not be able to form Government in Centre. It is the regional parties that will form the Government in Delhi and if you want Bengal and the Trinamool Congress to take the lead in the national scene then I will ask you not to vote for the TMC so that we can send 42 MPs from this State to form the Government with other regional parties," Banerjee said.

Attacking the Narendra Modi Government for peddling lies Banerjee said "this Chowkidar (Modi) used to call

himself Chaiwalla (tea vendor) earlier on. Then he promised Rs 15 lakh in every bank account and 10 crore jobs in five years. But now having failed to do so he has changed his garb and has reappeared as Chowkidar (watchman)," Banerjee said adding "many people call him a thief (Chor) but I call him a liar who lies to the people to win votes."

On National Register for Citizens (NRC), Banerjee said, "they are invoking NRC in Assam to drive away 22 lakh Hindu Bengalis and 23 lakh Muslims but now we will invoke NBC or 'national bidaye (farewell) certificate for the BJP after this election."



**FARMER DISALLOWS LANDING OF HARDIK'S HELICOPTER**  
Congress leader Hardik Patel had to cancel his helicopter ride to Lunawada in Mahisagar district of Gujarat on Thursday at the last moment after the farmer on whose field the chopper was to land did not give his nod for its use as a helipad, an official said. Hardik Patel had to later travel by road to Lunawada, around 100km from here, to address an election rally.

**BIOPIC ON MODI A JOKE, SAYS URMILA**  
Actor Urmila Matondkar, who is contesting the Lok Sabha election as a Congress candidate from Mumbai North, on Thursday said the biopic made on Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a joke as he has failed to fulfil his promises. She was talking to reporters at the Mumbai Marathi Patrakar Sangh here.

**MODI MISLEADING YOUTH: GEHLOT**  
Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said India is positioned to be a 'superpower' due to the work done by successive Congress Governments and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of misleading youths on the issue.

**ATTACK ATTEMPT ON CONG CANDIDATE**  
Police arrested a supporter of the ruling IPFT on the charge of trying to attack the convoy of Congress' Lok Sabha candidate Pragya Dev Burman in Khowai district of Tripura on Thursday.

**GOA CONG PROMISES FORMALIN-FREE FISH**  
Fish free of formalin, resumption of mining operations in a sustainable manner and lobbying in the Parliament for special status to Goa are the three key promises made by the Congress in its manifesto for Goa for the Lok Sabha elections. The two Lok Sabha constituencies in the State - North Goa and South Goa - go the polls in the third phase on April 23.

**HUGE CROWD IN GORAKHPUR GREETES RAVI KISHAN**



Bhojpur actor Ravi Kishan, fighting for the Gorakhpur Lok Sabha seat, on Thursday began his campaign, claiming he will win the poll with Baba Gorakhnath's blessings. Kishan launched his campaign with a roadshow which he started from Gorakhnath Temple after paying his obeisance there with a huge crowd cheering him.

**SOMETHING WRONG WITH EVMS: PITRODA**  
Technocrat-turned-politician Sam Pitroda said on Thursday that he feels there is something wrong with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). He cannot pinpoint the flaw immediately and would need to study the machine for that, the Congress leader said.

**MAYA TERMS EC ANTI-DALIT; SAYS NYAY JUMLA OF CONG**  
BSP supreme Mayawati on Thursday alleged that the Election Commission has an anti-dalit mindset and that was why it had stopped her from campaigning in Agra, considered the 'Dalit capital' of northern India. She also claimed that BJP leaders are taking the Army's name in their poll speeches violating the model code of conduct, but the EC is keeping mum.

**MAYA, MULAYAM TO SHARE STAGE AT MAINPURI**  
At loggerheads for decades, SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and BSP chief Mayawati are scheduled to share the dais at a joint rally of the SP-BSP-RLD alliance in the Samajwadi Party citadel of Mainpuri on Friday. Preparations are underway for the rally at Christian Field to send out a message to our political opponents that the alliance against the BJP in Uttar Pradesh shares a strong bond, an SP party leader said. Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati have been bitter rivals since 1995 when SP cadres allegedly attacked the state guest house where the BSP chief had been camping with her supporters.

**DABBAWALAS ANNOUNCE SUPPORT FOR SHIV SENA**  
The famous 'dabbawalas' (tiffin-box carriers) in Mumbai have announced their support for the Shiv Sena in the Lok Sabha elections. "It is only the Shiv Sena, which always stood behind us for our welfare. It has also promised to construct a 'Dabbawal Bhavan' for us. Only the Sena has included Mumbai's dabbawalas in its 'Vision Mumbai' campaign and it has been taking several initiatives for our betterment," Subhash Talekar, president of Mumbai Dabbawala Association told PTI on Thursday.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), namely: Laxmi D/o Suresh R/o D-85, Aman Puri, Nihal Vihar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 04.04.2019 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 236/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 05.04.2019 has been registered at Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**LAXMI**  
Age : 16 Years, Height: 5', Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Identification : A tattoo mark name laxmi & star on left hand, Wearing : Purple frock - green pajami & black colour chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar West, Delhi at E-mail id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: SHO  
011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639 Outer Distt., Delhi  
DP/2136/OD/19 Ph. No. 011-25946700, 25946710

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.  
Whereas proclamation has been made before me that accused person namely Ms. Nirmala Devi W/o Dayanand R/o C-48 and also at A-114, Jhuggi Chuna Bhati, Kirti Nagar New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under case FIR No. 20/19 u/s 498A 304B/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Nirmala Devi W/o Dayanand cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Nirmala Devi W/o Dayanand has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Nirmala Devi W/o Dayanand accused of FIR No. 20/19 u/s 498 A 304B/34 IPC is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint.  
By Order  
Sh. Ajay Shekhawat  
Chief MM, West Distt.,  
Room No. 146, First Floor,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

**TEMPORARY CANCELLATION / REGULATION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO MAINTENANCE WORK**  
In order to upgrade the safety standards, Northern Railway will undertake the work of periodic maintenance and renewal of assets between Hapur-Moradabad, Moradabad-Bareilly, Bareilly-Roza, Roza-Hardoi, Hardoi-Balamau, Balamau-Kakori and Laksar-Moradabad sections. To execute the work, a Mega Traffic block for the duration of 04:00 hours will be taken on 19.04.2019. Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under :-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name		Date of Cancellation from originating stn.
54056/54055 Delhi - Moradabad - Delhi Passenger		19.04.2019

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Train Cancelled Between Stations	Date from Originating Station
55308 Ramnagar - Moradabad Passenger	Pipalsana - Moradabad - Pipalsana	19.04.2019
55311 Moradabad - Kashipur Passenger	Pipalsana - Moradabad - Pipalsana	19.04.2019

**REGULATION OF TRAINS**  
12318 Amritsar Jn - Kolkata Akaltakt Express, 12392 New Delhi - Rajgir Shramjeevi Express & 15044 Kathgodam - Lucknow Express Trains will be regulated suitably en-route on above mentioned date.

RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Scheduled Dep. Time & Date	Rescheduled Dep. Time & Date
14258 New Delhi - Varanasi Jn	11:35 hrs. on 19.04.2019	12:35 hrs. on 19.04.2019
55301 Moradabad-Kathgodam Pass.	14:40 hrs. on 19.04.2019	15:55 hrs. on 19.04.2019

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)  
Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138

**Beware of Touts** Always buy your tickets from Railway Counters or authorised rail travel agents only.

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1171/2019

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

# Passengers say they miss Jet flights

## Cancellations inconvenience flyers

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Jet Airways was grounded for the time being after flying for almost 26 years when its last flight, a Boeing 737, touched down at the Mumbai airport early on Thursday after departing from Amritsar.

The country's oldest private airline took off nearly 26 years ago from the airport here to Ahmedabad as an air taxi operator.

The aircraft VT-SJI (flight no. S2 3502), belonging to the erstwhile Sahara Airlines, departed from Amritsar at 10.24 pm on Wednesday and touched down at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport here at 12.22 am on Thursday, ending the "Joy of Flying" for its millions of customers.

Sahara Airlines was acquired by Jet in 2007 to kill competition triggered by the emergence of low-cost airlines like IndiGo, SpiceJet and GoAir, and the competition is said to have contributed in its downfall.

"I generally fly Jet Airways. But when I boarded it from Amritsar on Wednesday night, we were told this is the last flight the airline is operating as it is shutting down for the time

being," said Amarjit Singh, who hails from Ludhiana.

Singh, a transporter by profession who frequently visits Mumbai for business, said he is hopeful of the airline "resuming" operations soon.

Set up by Naresh Goyal on April 1, 1992, Jet Airways' first flight took off from Mumbai for Ahmedabad on May 5, 1993, as an air-charter operator, which does not require a published schedule.

However, more than a year later, it was granted the scheduled operator permit on January 14, 1995.

Another passenger, Shareef Abdullah, who runs a hotel chain and is a frequent flyer with the carrier, said it was painful to know that the airline is shutting down.

"They announced it both on departure from Amritsar and after landing here that this was the last flight. It is really painful," he said.

The abrupt cancellation of the airline's services for the time being have left thousands of passengers stranded.

"I, along with my wife and children, had to travel to Ahmedabad early this morning. I had booked five tickets a month in advance. But when I reached the airport here, I was informed they have cancelled the operations," said Madan Lal



Imali, who was travelling to his native place Pali Killa in Rajasthan for a family function. He said his wife and children were very disappointed as it was to be their maiden flight. "I had also booked train tickets in an AC coach and paid ₹2,500 each for five seats to travel to Pali from Ahmedabad. Now, I have been forced to cancel that journey as well, besides losing money," said Imali, who was to board the airline's flight 9W2929 for Ahmedabad from here post-mid night.

Struggling for months, Jet Airways chief executive Vinay Dube last evening announced the carrier was shuttering operations as his last-ditch attempt to get ₹400 crore was rejected by lenders.

The decision leaves 20,000 jobs at stake and over ₹8,500 crore of public funds, that the banks lent to the once-leading airline, at the risk of going down the drain.

The airline also owes lakhs of rupees to passengers and its vendors.

# Jio, BSNL drive telecom subscriber growth to 120.5 crore in Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's telecom subscriber base grew marginally to 120.5 crore on account of a net addition of customers by Reliance Jio and state-owned BSNL, according to data published by telecom regulator Trai on Thursday.

Both Reliance Jio and BSNL jointly added a net of 86.39 lakh mobile subscribers but the rest of the telecom operators jointly lost a net of 69.93 lakh wireless customers with Vodafone Idea losing the biggest chunk of mobile connections, as per the data.

The number of telecom subscribers in India increased to 120.54 crore at the end of February from 120.37 crore in January, according to the Telecom Monthly Subscriber Report released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai).

The sector, dominated by wireless connection, recorded an increase in the mobile services subscriber base to 118.36 crore in February from 118.19 crore in January.

Reliance Jio alone added 77.93 lakh customers, taking its total subscriber base to 29.7 crore at the end of February. According to a television commercial of the company, it has crossed 30 crore customer base now.

BSNL added around 9 lakh new mobile customers, taking its total subscriber base to

11.62 crore in February.

"BSNL is the only operator other than Jio that has gained customers. Our performance shows that customers have faith in BSNL. We are able to compete and gain customers with our much-improved 3G network. In our endeavour to provide service, all our officers and employees are together," BSNL Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Shrivastava said.

The state-run firm is competing in the market with 3G network, while all other operators are loaded with spectrum for 4G services. It has requested the government for the allocation of spectrum for 4G services through an equity infusion in 2017. The government is yet to take final decision.

The country's biggest telecom operator Vodafone Idea lost 57.87 lakh mobile subscribers, reducing its total customer base to 40.93 crore in February. It was followed by Tata Teleservices that lost 11.47 lakh mobile customers, Airtel lost 49,896 subscribers, MTNL 4,652 and Reliance Communication 3,611 subscribers.

Fixed-line connections in the country declined marginally with BSNL losing about one lakh connections. Private operators Bharti Airtel and Vodafone gained 42,456 and 17,563 fixed-line customers, respectively, in February.

# Honda recalls 3,669 units of Accord to fix faulty airbags

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Japanese auto major Honda Thursday said it is recalling 3,669 units of its Accord sedan in India as part of a global exercise to rectify faulty airbags.

The company, which is present in India through a wholly-owned arm Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL), is voluntarily recalling the units manufactured between 2003-2006 to fix faulty front airbag inflators supplied by Takata Corp.

The replacement will be carried out free of cost at Honda dealerships across India from Thursday, HCIL said in a statement.

As part of the Takata airbag inflator recalls which have impacted several car makers globally, the company said it continues to urge owners of vehicles affected by the recall to get their vehicles repaired at authorised dealers as soon as possible.

"HCIL reiterates the importance of replacing the affected Takata front airbag inflators urgently as they may deploy with excessive internal pressure when activated," it said.

The airbag inflator casing might rupture which may result in injury or safety risk to the vehicle occupants, it added.

Millions of vehicles globally have been recalled due to defective safety airbag manufactured by Japan's Takata Corp.

## Business Corner



S Vijaya Kumar, General Manager, Syndicate Bank has joined Zonal Office, Delhi. He has been transferred from ZO: Hyderabad. Regional Office, Chandigarh, Faridabad, Jaipur, Udaipur, Ludhiana, Panipat, Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad and all three regions of Delhi are covered under Delhi Zone



Gajanan Mallya, General Manager, South Central Railway holds meeting with bulk freight customers of the Zone, discusses plans to take forward the co-operation towards optimising freight traffic movement



The MoU was signed by professor Devang V Khakhar, Director, IIT Bombay and Surina Rajan, Director General, BIS at the IIT Bombay campus. The premier institution aims to provide IT-based technological solutions regarding various activities of the Bureau. IIT Bombay will develop infrastructure support for R&D projects of relevance to standardisation and BIS will provide financial assistance for such initiatives

# SpiceJet shares trim early gains; end 3% higher

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

SpiceJet stock trimmed most of its sharp early gains and ended nearly 3 per cent higher Thursday on profit-booking after rising for five consecutive days.

The scrip had climbed 14.99 per cent to ₹152.60 — its 52-week high — on the BSE during the day. Later, it closed at ₹136.25, up 2.68 per cent.

On the traded volume front, 211.25 lakh shares were traded on the BSE during the day. SpiceJet Thursday said it will induct six more Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft on dry lease.

"These six aircraft are in addition to the 16 B737s and 5 Q400s that the airline will soon induct. The total number of planes to be inducted in the immediate future now stands at 27," the company said in a BSE filing Thursday.

The airline has applied to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to import the planes. Subject to regulatory approvals, the aircraft would

begin joining SpiceJet's fleet in the next ten days, it added.

"We are taking all possible proactive measures to deal with the sudden reduction of aviation capacity in the Indian market. SpiceJet continues to work closely with the government and regulatory authorities to help minimise passenger inconvenience," Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet said.

The airline will induct as many as 27 planes in a record time of less than two weeks and is hopeful that these inductions will help considerably ease the pressure situation, he added.

The shares had climbed 8.5 per cent Friday after the airline announced it will induct 16 Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft, a move that will help in bringing down flight cancellations.

On Monday, the stock zoomed nearly 9 per cent as the company announced launch of direct flights from Mumbai to seven international destinations, including Colombo, Jeddah, Dhaka, Riyadh and Hong Kong.

# Japan's Suzuki in domestic recall of 2 mln vehicles

AFF ■ TOKYO

Japanese small car manufacturer Suzuki announced Thursday it was recalling two million vehicles shipped domestically, citing improper inspections and a series of other faults including false fuel efficiency data.

The recall affects vehicles running for four years or less that have not yet received a routine check-up.

Last week, Suzuki admitted that an internal review had uncovered a host of problems at its factories, including faulty brake checks, falsified fuel-efficiency data, and uncertified staff carrying out final inspections.



The recall is expected to cost the firm around 80 billion yen (\$715 million) and also affects parts made by Suzuki for vehicles produced for Nissan, Mazda and Mitsubishi. Transport minister Keiichi Ishii has said the company needs some "serious soul-searching" over the scandal.

The problem "raises doubts about the firm's regards for compliance and it is extremely regrettable," Ishii told reporters on Tuesday.

# Air India offers special fares to Jet stranded int'l passengers

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Coming to the rescue of the stranded international passengers hit by the abrupt grounding of Jet Airways, Government-run Air India Thursday offered special fares to such passengers.

The "special stranded" fares have been offered to passengers at overseas airports such as Paris, London, Heathrow, Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Dammam, and Muscat, among others, Air India said in a statement.

"As a gesture of goodwill and to mitigate the hardship of the 9W (Jet Airways flight code) at international stations, Air India will be offering special fares to such passengers," it said.

Passengers holding confirmed RT tickets on Jet Airways will be allowed to avail special stranded passenger fares from the destinations common with Air India, it said.

# Google offers Android users choice to satisfy EU

AFF ■ BRUSSELS

Google on Thursday said users of its hugely popular Android devices would be offered a choice of five browsers and search engines as part of the company's effort to meet EU competition concerns.

The European Commission last July hit Google with its biggest-ever fine, imposing a 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) penalty, one of three major EU decisions against the company.

Brussels accused Google of using the Android system's dominance of smartphones and tablets to promote the use of its own Google search engine and Chrome browser and shut out rivals.

Google has appealed the decision, arguing that the EU's accusations were unfounded, but Thursday's

changes were part of the firm's effort to avoid further fines. Users of Android devices in Europe who open the Google Play app store will now be shown screens with options to download different search apps and browsers, Paul Gennai, Google product management director, said in a blog.

"These new screens will be displayed the first time a user opens Google Play after receiving an upcoming update," the executive wrote.

With the change, "two screens will surface: one for search apps and another for browsers, each containing a total of five apps, including any that are already installed," he said.

Apps not already installed on the device will be chosen based on their popularity and shown in a random order,

Google said. Crucially, when a user downloads a search engine other than Google, he or she will be asked whether that option — such as Qwant or DuckDuckGo — should become the default search app on the phone.

Illegal promotion of Google's hugely profitable search engine was the heart of the case against the Silicon Valley giant.

Android, which is used on around 80 per cent of mobile devices both in Europe and worldwide, was accused of shutting out rivals by forcing major phone makers to pre-install the Google search engine and Chrome browser.

They were also made to set Google Search as the default, as a condition of licensing other Google apps, the EU said.

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that one unknown male person was found dead at Patri Swami Narayan Marg, Under Pass, Sangam Park, P.S. Bharat Nagar Delhi on dated 10.04.2019 Time 18:17. In this regard a DD No. 30A dated 10.04.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi.



The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age: 47 years Height: 5'6" Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Identification: Tattoo Mark Right forearm Wearing: Blue Colour Shirt and Black Colour Pant. 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. Bharat Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-27301200 8750870222

DP/8892/NW/19

## MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl, Name: Khushnaj, D/o: Sajjad, R/o: F-2/417, Shiv Ram Park, Nihal Vihar, Delhi has been missing/kidnaped since 26.11.2018 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard, a Case Vide DD No. 19-A, Dated 27.11.2018, has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the girl could not be traced. The description of the missing/kidnaped girl is as under:

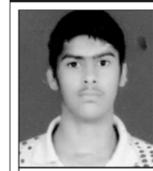


Name: Khushnaj, D/o: Sajjad, R/o: F-2/417, Shiv Ram Park, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, Age: 20 years, Height: 5'3" Feet, Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: White Kamij, White Pant and Black Chappal in feet. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnaped girl, then please inform P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

email: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O Ph.: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

DP/2108/OD/19.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a boy namely Neeraj @ Bhola, S/O Sh. Manoj Kumar, R/O H.No. 410, Village-Dariyapur, Bawana, Delhi. The boy has been missing since 29.03.2019 from the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

In this regard FIR No. 141/19 dated 31.03.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Bawana, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing boy is as under: Name: Neeraj @ Bhola, Age: 15 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue Colour T-Shirt, Black Colour Pajama, Sports Shoes in Feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph.: 011-23015229, 23015218 SHO P.S. Bawana, Delhi Ph. No. 011-27751949, 07065036321

DP/191/ON/19

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a man namely Vijay Nagpal, S/O Late Sh. Krishan Lal Nagpal, R/O H.No. 69 Amrit Nagar, 2nd Floor South Extension Part-1, New Delhi has been missing since 03.01.2019 from shop no. 27-28, Happy Dry Clean, New Municipal Double Story Mehar Chand Market, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 29A, dated 16.02.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Lodhi Colony, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing man is as under:



Name: Vijay Nagpal, Gender: Male, Age: About 58 years, Height: 5'10", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Wearing: Grey colour Jacket(Woodland), Blue colour Check Shirt, Blue colour Jeans Pant, Crox Blue colour Sandal, Kada on right hand and Titan Watch on left hand.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing man, kindly inform SHO/Lodhi Colony, New Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph.: 011-24368639 P.S. Lodhi Colony, New Delhi Ph. No.: 011-24620283, 24611753

DP/5291/SD/19

# Sebi slaps ₹1-crore fine on 11 entities for manipulative trade

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi Thursday slapped a penalty of over ₹1 crore on 11 entities for fraudulent and manipulative trading in the shares of Emed.Com Technologies.

The regulator had conducted investigation from August 2013 to June 2014 regarding the trading in the scrips of Emed.Com Technologies.

During the probe, Sebi found that the entities were

connected to each other and had executed circular trades wherein they transferred shares in off-market to certain entities and then purchased back those shares in on-market, thereby giving misleading appearance of trading.

Besides, they contributed to positive last traded price (LTP) and establishing of new high price (NHP) in the scrip, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said.

"The group entities have contributed to the creation of artificial volumes and inflated/



manipulated the price of the scrip and thus violated...PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) Regulations," the regulator noted.

Accordingly, Sebi imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh each on nine

entities, including Pummy Garments Pvt Ltd, Sure Portfolio Services, Steady Capital Advisory Services, and Supreme Multitrade Pvt Ltd.

While a fine of ₹7.5 lakh each was imposed on Olympia Sales Agency and Clarineta Realtor, totalling ₹1.05 crore.

Besides, in a separate order, Sebi levied fine of ₹14 lakh on Sure Portfolio Services and Steady Capital Advisory Services for failing to disclose the change in shareholdings in the Emed.Com Technologies to exchanges and the firm.

# Delhi to witness Rajasthani folk culture at Sirifort Auditorium

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The national capital to experience the pure Rajasthani folk music and its traditional dances are woven like fabric into every aspect of people's lives in our country. ShowCase events bring to you the most unforgettable and lifetime experience by taking you through a journey of the true soul of Rajasthani Folk music.

After an astounding success in Mumbai, ShowCase events brings the second edition of the "Sounds From the Desert" to Delhi on April 26th, 2019 at the Sirifort Auditorium.

# Boeing making 'steady progress' on certifying 737 Max software update: CEO Muilenburg

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Boeing was making "steady progress" on the path to certifying of a crucial software update for the 737 MAX aircraft, CEO Dennis Muilenburg has said after two fatal crashes in recent months forced the grounding of the model, including by Indian carriers.

He assured global airline industry that Boeing has also made the final engineering test flight before certification for the 737 MAX aircraft.

The Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) system of the 737 MAX aircraft has come under scrutiny from investiga-

tors reviewing two fatal crashes — the Lion Air crash on October 29 and the Ethiopian Airlines crash on March 10.

Boeing has been developing and testing a software change to the system that will now factor in input from a second sensor.

"We're making steady progress on the path to certification for our 737 MAX software update thanks to the work of our Boeing pilots, engineers and technical experts," Muilenburg said in a video on his Twitter account.

"Yesterday we completed the official engineering flight test with the updated software with our technical and engineering leaders on board the airplane.

# BharatPe launches one QR code for all UPI Apps

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BharatPe, an Indian company providing merchants with interoperable launched QR code for all UPI Apps. Merchants can receive UPI payments from any app using one QR code, and receive digital money directly in their bank at 0% fee.

"We are offering a basket of more than 100 UPI enabled apps that merchants can accept the payment from for free" BharatPe's Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder, Ashneer Grover said.



# Muller report: No proof of Russian meddling in polls

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The nearly two-year investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller found "no evidence" of a "collusion" between the Trump campaign and the Russian government during the 2016 US elections, Attorney General William Barr Thursday announced.

Addressing the media at the Department of Justice here on the release of Mueller's redacted report on the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Mueller was chosen to head the investigation in 2017 following concerns from US intelligence agencies that Russia had tried to tip the election in Trump's favour. The businessman-turned-politician defeated former secretary of state Hillary Clinton in the 2016

presidential election. Barr said Mueller investigated a number of links or contacts between Trump Campaign officials and individuals connected with the Russian government.

"After reviewing those contacts, the special counsel did not find any conspiracy to violate US law involving Russia-linked persons and any persons associated with the Trump campaign," Barr said on the 400-page report.

He, however, said the Russian government sought to interfere in US election process.

Barr emphasised that the primary purposes of the Special Counsel's investigation was to determine whether members of the presidential campaign of Trump, or any individuals associated with that campaign, conspired or coordinated with the Russian government to interfere in the 2016 election. The Special Counsel's

report states that his "investigation did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities."

"I am sure that all Americans share my concerns about the efforts of the Russian government to interfere in our presidential election.

As the Special Counsel's report makes clear, the Russian government sought to interfere in our election.

"But thanks to the Special Counsel's thorough investigation, we now know that the Russian operatives who perpetrated these schemes did not have the cooperation of President Trump or the Trump campaign — or the knowing assistance of any other Americans for that matter," he said. "That is something that all Americans can and should be grateful to have confirmed," Barr said.

# 29 German tourists killed in Portuguese bus crash

AFP ■ LISBON

Twenty-nine German tourists were killed on Wednesday when a bus crashed on the Portuguese island of Madeira.

Tevised images showed the bus had spun off the road, apparently having flipped several times, before crashing into a house at the bottom of a slope.

"Horrible news comes to us from Madeira," a German government spokesman tweeted after the deadly crash.

"Our deep sorrow goes to all those who lost their lives in the bus accident, our thoughts are with the injured," he added.

Filipe Sousa, mayor of Santa Cruz where the accident happened, said 17 women and 11 men were killed in the crash, with another 21 injured.

# N Korea says it tested new weapon, wants Pompeo out of dialogue

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea said on Thursday that it had tested a new type of "tactical guided weapon," its first such test in nearly half a year, and demanded that Washington remove Secretary of State Mike Pompeo from nuclear negotiations.

The test, which didn't appear to be of a banned mid-or long-range ballistic missile that could scuttle negotiations, allows North Korea to show its people it is pushing ahead with weapons development while also reassuring domestic military officials worried that diplomacy with Washington signals weakness.

Separately, the North Korean Foreign Ministry accused Pompeo of playing down the significance of comments by leader Kim Jong Un, who said last week that Washington has until the end of the year to offer mutually acceptable terms for an agreement to salvage the high-stakes nuclear diplomacy.

Both the demand for Pompeo's removal from the talks and the weapon test point to North Korea's displeasure with the deadlocked negotiations. In a statement issued under the name of Kwon Jong Gun, director general of the American Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, North Korea accused Pompeo of "talking nonsense" and misrepresenting Kim's comments.

negotiations to be finalized by the year's end, and referred to his "talented skill of fabricating stories."

It said Pompeo's continued participation in the negotiations would ensure that the talks become "entangled" and called for a different counterpart who is "more careful and mature in communicating with us." In a speech at his rubber-stamp parliament last week, Kim said he is open to a third summit with Trump, but only if the United States changes its stance on sanctions enforcement and pressure by the end of the year.

Kim observed the unspecified weapon being fired Wednesday by the Academy of Defense Science, the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency said. Kim was reported to have said "the development of the weapon system serves as an event of very weighty significance in increasing the combat power of the People's Army."

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**FACEBOOK BANS UK FAR-RIGHT GROUPS**  
London: Social media giant Facebook on Thursday banned various far-right British groups including the English Defence League from its network for promoting hate and violence.

**US TRADE AGREEMENT NOT YET SETTLED: CHINA**  
Beijing: China said on Thursday there is "still much work to finish" on the text of a trade agreement with the United States. US President Donald Trump on Wednesday held out hope the current trade talks with China will be a success, and said an announcement on the status was due "shortly".

**LONDON CLIMATE PROTESTS ENTER 4TH DAY**  
London: London commuters faced further disruption on Thursday as climate change protesters continued to bring parts of the British capital to a standstill, leading to over 300 arrests.

# Kim will visit Russia this month: Kremlin

AP ■ MOSCOW

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will visit Russia later this month, the Kremlin said Thursday, in a meeting that offers President Vladimir Putin an opportunity to emerge as a broker in the long-running nuclear standoff and raise Russia's profile in regional affairs.

The Kremlin said in a brief statement Thursday that Kim will visit Russia "in the second half of April" on Putin's invitation, but gave no further details. Russian media have been abuzz in recent days with rumors about the rare meeting between the leaders.

Putin is set to visit China later this month, and some media speculated that he could meet with Kim in Vladivostok, the far eastern port city near the border with North Korea. Kim said last week that he

is open to a third summit with US President Donald Trump, but set the year's end as a deadline for Washington to offer mutually acceptable terms for a deal. The North Korean leader blamed the collapse of his February summit with Trump on what he described as unilateral demands by the US.

For Kim, the meeting may allow him to expand his options in talks with Trump and also balance the influence of China, the main ally and sponsor of the communist North.

Moscow maintained close ties with Pyongyang during the Soviet era, building dozens of factories and key infrastructure, sending supplies and providing weapons for the North Korean military. Those ties withered after the 1991 Soviet collapse, when Moscow cold-shouldered former Soviet allies amid the nation's economic meltdown.

# Pak Finance Minister Asad Umar steps down

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Finance Minister Asad Umar, who was involved in extensive discussions with the IMF to finalise a bailout package for the cash-strapped country, quit the Cabinet on Thursday after Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his desire to shift him to the energy ministry.

Umar, who recently returned from a trip to the US in which the details of Pakistan's next International Monetary Fund bailout were finalised, said he has obtained the prime minister's consent "to not take any cabinet position".

"As part of a cabinet reshuffle, prime minister desired that I take the energy minister portfolio instead of finance," Umar said. "However, I have obtained his consent to



not take any cabinet position."

Prime Minister Khan-led government and Finance Minister Umar in particular have faced mounting criticism by opposition parties, members of the business community and citizens over the handling of the economic crisis. On Monday, the Pakistani media reported that a major reshuffle was on the cards in the Finance Ministry.

However, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry denied the reports of the

# Nepal launches its first satellite from US

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Thursday successfully launched its first satellite into space from the US to gather detailed geographical information of the Himalayan nation, evoking unbridled excitement among the people and scientists.

Developed by the Nepalese scientists, NepaliSat-1 satellite was launched at 2.31 am (Nepal time) from Virginia in United States, according to Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).

Two Nepali scientists, Aabhas Maskey and Hariram Shrestha who are currently studying at Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology, developed the satellite under the BIRDS project of their institute.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli congratulated all the scientists and institutions involved in the development of the satellite. He said it was a matter of prestige for the country to have its own satellite.

"Though a humble beginning, with the launching of NepaliSat-1 Nepal has entered the Space-Era. I wish to congratulate all those scientists and institutions that were involved right from the development to its launching thereby enhancing the prestige of our country"

Earth's surface. It will be stationed at the International Space Station for a month and then it will be sent to orbit the earth, according to NAST.

The satellite will take photographs on a regular basis to gather geographical information of the country.

The satellite has a Nepali flag and the NAST logo. It also has the name of the scientists involved in the making of the satellite.

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology has invested nearly Rs 20 million for the satellite that weighs 1.3 kilograms, a small satellite with limited capability.

Nepal's first entry into space has brought huge excitement among people and scientists.

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology has invested nearly Rs 20 million for the satellite that weighs 1.3 kilograms, a small satellite with limited capability.

Nepal's first entry into space has brought huge excitement among people and scientists.

NAST initiated the launch of the country's own satellite under the BIRDS project of the Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology.

The BIRDS project has been designed in association with the United Nations and aims at helping countries launch their first satellite.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



Simranjeet Kaur

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Simranjeet Kaur, D/O Balbir Singh, R/O RZR-218, Nihal Vihar, Delhi.** The girl has been missing/kidnapped since 01.04.2019 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

In this regard **FIR No. 224/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 01.04.2019** has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under: **Name: Simranjeet Kaur, Age: 17 Years, Height: 4'9", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Orange Suit, Salwar, Dupatta and White Colour Jutti in Feet.**

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

**Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in, Website: http://cbi.nic.in**  
**Ph: 011-23015229, 23015218** **SHO**  
**Fax: 011-23011334** **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**  
**DP/2139/OD/19** **Ph. No. 011-25946710, 7065036129**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Prem Lal

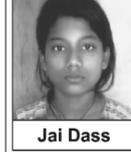
General Public is hereby informed that one person namely: **Prem Lal, S/o: Sita Ram, R/o: H.No. D-21, Laxmi Park, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 15.12.2018 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 33-A dated 16.12.2018** has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped person is as under: **Age: 54 years, Height: 5'7", Face: Long, Complexion: Sallow, Wearing: Green Jacket-Black Pant and Hawai Chapple in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

**Website: http://cbi.nic.in** **SHO**  
**E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641** **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639** **Tel.No. 011-25946700**  
**DP/2129/OD/19** **25946710, 7065036129**

## NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work: 1. N.I.T No.: 232-Elect-EMU-WC-18-18-19. 2. Name of the work: Complete Overhauling of 10 nos. Transmission type CRT-5633 for 02 years. 3. Tender cost: Rs. 5,900/- (online payment mode available on IREPS website). 4. Approximate cost: Rs. 69,98,590/- 5. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,40,000/- (online payment mode available on IREPS website). 6. Completion period: 24 Months. 7. Validity of offer: 45 days. 8. Date & time from tender advertised on IREPS website: 17.04.2019 (14.52 hrs.). 9. Date & time from tender submission start and end: 06.05.2019 (00.00 hrs.) to 22.05.2019 (15.00 hrs.). 10. Tender closing Date & Time: 22.05.2019 (15.00 hrs.) 11. Date & Time of tender opening (immediately when tender submission ends): 22.05.2019 (15.00 hrs.). 12. Publication cost allocation: 0704/1132. Note 1: All participant Tenderer/Tenderers will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void. Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/loaded. Tender Notice is available on website of [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) No: 232-Elect-EMU-WC-18-18-19 Date: 17.04.2019 1168/2019

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Jai Dass

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Jai Dass D/o Ranjan Dass, R/o Village Bhebia, Block & P.S. Hasnabad, Distt. North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Age: 19 yrs., Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Red Colour Suit-Salwar, Purple Colour Sweater and Hawai Chappal in Feet,** has been missing / kidnapped since 09.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar West. In this regard a case **DD No. 50-A dated 01.04.2019** has been lodged at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

If anyone has any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned  
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in,**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639**

**DP/2143/OD/19.** **SHO**  
**P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi**  
**Ph. No. 011-25268394, 25280980**

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sanju Singh @ Bitto, S/o Sh. Ganga Sharan, R/o H.No. RZA-227, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 59/16, punishable u/s 380/411 IPC, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sanju Singh @ Bitto** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sanju Singh @ Bitto** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Sanju Singh @ Bitto** of F.I.R. No. 59/16, punishable u/s 380/411 IPC, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **07.06.2019**.

By Order,  
**Sh. Manoj Kumar**  
Metropolitan Magistrate  
New Delhi

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Aishwarya

General Public is hereby informed that one Girl namely: **Aishwarya D/o: Chandu Lal, R/o: W-53/354, Sonia Gandhi Camp, Naraina, New Delhi** has been missing from her residence since 21.01.2019 at about 07.30 PM in the area of P.S. Naraina, New Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 119/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 04.04.2019** has been registered at P.S. Naraina, New Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under: **Age: 16 yrs, Height: 4', Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Multi Colour Shirt & Red Pyjama.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following

**Website: http://cbi.nic.in** **SHO**  
**E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641** **P.S Naraina, New Delhi**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639** **Ph.: 011-25891181, 25892010**  
**DP/8205/WD/19** **8750871122**

## KAVYAM

Corrigendum to Advertisement dated 23.12.2018, 30.12.2018 and 05.04.2019.

This is with reference to the above dated advertisement issued related to project named "Kavyam" proposed to be developed by M/s Agrante Realty Limited made in Pioneer News Paper (both Hindi and English edition), Navvoya Times and Dainik Jagran. That the inadvertent mistake occurred in the said advertisements relates to the price calculated, shown and printed for Category-1 & 2 flats as 21, 15,00,00/- Now, giving effect to its correction and notifying to the general public that the price for the said Category Flats shall be Rs. 21, 00,00,00/- only for all purposes & for all the buyers and applicants who have already applied for allotment for said category flats.

That the initial booking amount collected by the company is Rs.1,05,758/- for the said category flats mistakenly and pursuant to the mistaken calculation and an extra amount of Rs. 758 has been collected from the applicants who have opted for such category flats. This extra amount shall be adjusted in future payments or refunded in case of unsuccessful applicants.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MAN



Karan

General public is hereby informed that a Boy namely **Karan, S/o Gangadeep, R/o H. No. B-691, Madras Jhuggi, Parwana Road, Pitampura, Mangol puri, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 29.10.2018 from the area of P.S Mangol Puri, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 109/18 u/s 363 IPC, dated 05.11.2018** has been registered at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out this missing Boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing Boy is as under: **Name: Karan, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Black T-Shirt-Black Pant and Black Spots Shoes in Feet.**

If anyone has any information about this missing Boy please inform P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi.  
**Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in** **SHO**  
**Web: http://cbi.nic.in**  
**Fax: 011-24368639** **P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi**  
**Tel.: 011-24368638/24368641** **Ph: 011- 27921168, 27922186**

## AXIS BANK

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## POSSIBLE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued deputed notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ here under: Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(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.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property
1.Devendra Pal Singh, S/o Sh. Chandan Sing R/o House No.776, Sector-10 Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001	A Residential Flat Having Super area 1244.59 Sq.Ft (ie 115.56 Sq.Mtr) and built up area 995.50 Sq. Ft. (ie 92.45 Sq. Mtrs) bearing Flat No.C020203 on 2nd Floor (Without roof Rights) in Building C-02 situated in Group Housing Project namely 'Ebony Greens' being part of Residential Township Crescent Park C situated at Village Shalpur Bametha, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh along with usage right of one open parking space and bounded as under: East- As Per Sale Deed/Title Deed West- As Per Sale Deed/Title Deed North- As Per Sale Deed/Title Deed South- As Per Sale Deed/Title Deed.
	Date of Demand Notice 22-Aug-16
	Date of Possession 16-Apr-19
	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) Rs. 1702166/-, Interest, incidental expenses and cost

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgage properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
**Date: 19-04-2019, Sd/-, Authorized Officer,**  
**Place: Delhi, Axis Bank Ltd.**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



Vimla

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Vimla, W/o Mani Ram, R/O: W-116A/562, T, Huts, Camp No.4, Jwala Puri, Delhi, Age: 45 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, wearing Mahendi colour Suit-Salwar and Chappal in feet,** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S Paschim Vihar, West since 15.11.2018. In this regard a **DD No. 17-A, dated 27.11.2018** has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

**Website: http://cbi.nic.in** **SHO**  
**E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Fax: 011-24368639** **P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi**  
**Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**DP/2107/OD/19** **Ph.: 011-25268394, 25280980**

LEADERBOARD	
<b>RUNS</b>	<b>450</b> David Warner (SRH)
<b>WICKETS</b>	<b>19</b> Kagiso Rabada (DC)
<b>6S</b>	<b>411</b> We didn't put up a decent score on the board and kept losing wickets, that's why it cost us the game.
<b>4S</b>	<b>946</b> — SURESH RAINA



# Pandya brothers lift MI

Hardik and Krunal add 50 runs in last three overs to help Mumbai post 168 for 5 against Capitals

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

Dashing all-rounder duo of Pandya brothers hard hitting in the slog overs helped Mumbai Indians to post 168 for five wickets against Delhi Capitals during an Indian Premier League clash here at Feroz Shah Kotla stadium on Thursday.

Batting first after winning toss, three time champion Mumbai Indians lost the momentum in between the innings after openers Rohit and Quinton de Kock gave them a flying start but it was Hardik and Krunal Pandya's superb striking in the last three overs that helped Mumbai reach past 150 runs mark and post a match winning total at slow turning wicket in Delhi.

Hardik who smashed Pawan Negi for 21 runs in the 19th over during Mumbai Indians 172 run chase in the last game against Royal Challengers Bangalore continues his rich form here at Kotla too and scored 32 runs in just 15 balls with three sixes and two fours.

He was dismissed in the third ball of last over bowled by this season's leading wicket taker Kagiso Rabada but even his dismissal couldn't stop the run flow as his elder sibling make the most of the remaining three balls by scoring 10 vital runs.

Krunal was guilty of wasting too many deliveries in the last game but here at Kotla he rectified that and his unbeaten 37 off 26 balls with five fours was the highest individual score by Mumbai batsman.

He added 54 runs for the fifth wicket in just 4.2 overs with his younger brother Hardik.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma (30) and Quinton de Kock (35) give Mumbai a flying start by scoring 57 runs in the first overplay.

The opening duo started slow initially scoring just 16 runs in the first three overs but changed gear when Chris Morris was introduced in the attack in the fourth over. Rohit



welcomed him with a four and then his countrymen de Kock hits him for a four and a six.

And then in the last over before powerplay, last game hero Keemo Paul was smashed for two sixes, one each by Sharma and de Kock. He also yielded 16 runs.

Mumbai completed its first fifty in 35 balls. However after that the twist happened, Amit

**The opening duo started slow initially scoring just 16 runs in the first three overs but changed gear when Chris Morris was introduced in the fourth over**

Mishra removed Rohit in the very ball of his spell. After dismissing Rohit for sixth time, he also completed his 150 IPL career wickets.

And in the next over Axar Patel got rid of Ben Cutting (2 runs in 4 balls). He was out leg before. But the big jolt came in the fifth ball of tenth over when de Kock was sent back to pavilion after a misunderstanding with his strike partner

Suryakumar Yadav. At that midpoint, Mumbai scorecard was reading 74 for 3. And in the next seven overs Mumbai could only add 43 runs scoring just 3 fours and losing Suryakumar for 26 runs. But it was the Pandya brothers combined effort that lifted Mumbai as the duo added 50 runs in last three overs to take Mumbai to 168 for 5.

Up Next

# Royal Challengers eye win against KKR



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Their house in complete disorder after seven defeats from eight outings, the Virat Kohli-led Royal Challengers Bangalore will be desperate for a win to stay afloat in the IPL when they take on Kolkata Knight Riders here on Friday.

It would be a great opportunity for the Bangalore outfit to post a win against an opponent who are low on confidence having slipped from second to sixth position in the points table after suffering three straight defeats.

In fact, to make matters worse, Kolkata's dangerman Andre Russell has suffered an injury scare after being hit on his left shoulder by a bouncer during their practice.

Russell was already suffering from niggles ahead of their last match against Chennai Super Kings and had failed to fire for the first time, exposing KKR's over-reliance on the West Indies big hitter.

Russell had left the Royal Challengers in shambles in their first leg exchange, smashing seven sixes en route to his 13-ball 48 not out as KKR had chased down a huge 206.

It remains to be seen if the Jamaican recovers in time. His absence would be a big void for KKR, who are looking to return to winning ways and reignite their campaign.

To make the playoffs, KKR need to win at least four of their remaining six matches, of which three are at home. However, even KKR will fancy their chances and seek to get back on track against a lowly RCB facing a do-or-die situation.

RCB's star duo of Kohli and AB de Villiers have been in sublime form but the team has not clicked as a whole with their pace bowling being a major let-down. While youngster Navdeep Saini has been impressive, senior pro Umesh Yadav has turned out to be a big flop, bagging two wickets at an expensive economy of 9.26.

With South African veteran pacer Dale Steyn ready to take charge as an injury replacement for Nathan Coulter-Nile midway into the IPL, the pace department will hope to get their sting back. Kohli and de Villiers will look to fire in unison against a team whose bowling has failed to click collectively.

The KKR pace department has looked mediocre, while their famed spinners have struggled to get wickets on the batting-friendly Eden conditions here.

Meanwhile, all eyes will also be on KKR skipper Dinesh Karthik who has grabbed a surprise World Cup berth ahead of young wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant. Karthik has only one half-century and an average of 18.50 so far this season.

**KKR FRET OVER RUSSELL'S FITNESS**

**KOLKATA:** Kolkata Knight Riders' impact player Andre Russell was forced to skip the practice session on Thursday, owing to a shoulder injury sustained while batting in the nets on Wednesday.

Russell's possible absence could pave the way for Carlos Brathwaite's inclusion in the playing XI.

The Barbados all-rounder, who is KKR's costliest pick of ₹5 crore at the auctions, played only one match for KKR, against Delhi Capitals here that they lost by seven wickets.

Fretting over Russell's fitness, KKR skipper Karthik however did not rule out the Jamaican who has been a revelation with six explosive 40-plus scores on the trot. "He's got a preliminary X ray yesterday and it's not even 24 hours. By tomorrow, we will get much better idea as to how he feels," Karthik said of Russell.

It was during the fog end of the practice on Wednesday that Russell failed to negotiate a rising delivery from net bowler Minard Manjrekar and fell on the ground, writing in pain.

It was the same left shoulder where Russell was hit by a Harshal Patel delivery during KKR's match against Delhi Capitals at the Kotla.

# We need bigger World Cup, says Lamichhane

AFP ■ NEW DELHI

Nepalese sensation Sandeep Lamichhane has called for the World Cup to be expanded to up to 16 teams, saying limiting it to 10 hurts players from emerging cricket nations.

The 18-year-old leg-spinner, who last year became the first Nepalese player to land an Indian Premier League contract, said he was frustrated to be missing out on the tournament in England and Wales starting in May.

"Sorry to say but a 10-team World Cup will hurt a lot of players like me who will not be a part of it," the Delhi Capitals player said.

"I think there should be 14-16 teams in the World Cup."

Lamichhane added: "World Cup comes after every four years and teams can achieve their biggest dreams there. We are an emerging nation and this is something we would love to play for our country."

"Even in 2023 there are (again) only 10 teams so it will be a while before we can even think of playing in the 50-over event."

Cricket's showpiece tournament had 16 teams in 2007, but the field was reduced to 14 in 2011 and 2015 as the International Cricket Council sought to avoid one-sided matches.

It has been slashed to just 10 teams for 2019 and 2023, featuring the top eight sides in the one-day rankings and another two coming through qualifying.

Lamichhane, who will be watching the World Cup from afar, said he was hoping for some upsets by the smaller teams, who include Afghanistan.

"I am going to watch the World Cup on TV and love to see any team that is under-rated perform well against the big nations," said Lamichhane.

"It will be an inspiration for us who are just beginning their journey right now."



# PAKISTAN LEAVE OUT AAMIR FROM WC SQUAD

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan on Thursday left out experienced but out-of-form pacer Muhammad Aamir from its 15-member World Cup squad while including batsman Abid Ali in the line-up.

Chief Selector Inzamam-ul-Haq, announcing the World Cup squad and two reserve players, said the 11 from the 2017 Champions Trophy had been retained in the selection process.

"We are hopeful and confident that Pakistan will give a good account of itself in the World Cup," Inzamam said.

The selectors, while not showing faith with left-arm Aamir who has taken just five wickets in his last 14 ODIs since the Champions Trophy two years back, reposed confidence in seniors Shoaib Malik and Muhammad Hafeez. Inzamam said that Hafeez's final inclusion in World Cup was subject to him being 100 per cent fit before the tournament as he is still recovering from a thumb injury.

"Doctors have advised him not to bowl or bat now but when his rehab is over he will be back in action in two weeks time," he added.

Inzamam said hard-hitting batsman Asif Ali and Aamir were in the reserves for the one-day series against England and the side matches before the World Cup.



Muhammad Aamir in a file picture ICC

He said that if both performed exceptionally well in the ODI series and T20 they will be considered as cover for the World Cup in case of injuries to any of the selected players.

"If they are not needed they will return home after the ODI series," he said.

Pakistan's World Cup squad is a combination of three openers, four middle-order batsmen, wicketkeeper/batsman in Sarfaraz Ahmed, two spinners and five fast bowlers.

The chief selector said the side had been picked according to the conditions and included reliable batters, trusted wicket-taking bowlers and dynamic fielders.

# Loyalty matters most, says Kohli

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli hasn't forgotten the times when Mahendra Singh Dhoni firmly stood by him as a captain and now that the roles have reversed, he is not going to back down from supporting the veteran despite the "unfortunate criticism" that the former skipper is coping.

The Indian captain also expressed his happiness with the composition of the 15-strong Indian squad for the World Cup in an interview to India Today.

"It's unfortunate to see so many people going after him. For me, loyalty matters the most," Kohli's words showed his reverence for his first international captain.

"When I walked into the team he had the option of trying someone else after few games, although I grabbed my chances but for me to get that kind of backing, it was very crucial for me."

"Also, he gave me an opportunity to bat at No 3 because not many youngsters get to play at No 3," the skipper recalled his formative days in international cricket.

When an astute brain meets a



superlative performer, there is bound to be lot of mutual admiration and the Kohli-Dhoni relationship is no different. "It's just about the field placements and bowling changes and we say you know the angles, you know the pace of the pitch and that's why there is so much of trust and respect between the two of us," he said.

As he has said earlier, Kohli again reiterated that there are no peers to Dhoni when it comes to reading match situations.

"He is one person, who literally knows the game inside out. He understands the game from Ball 1 to Ball 300

(50 overs) on the field. I won't say it's a luxury to have him but I am fortunate to have a mind like that from behind the stumps," Kohli said.

It is Dhoni's presence behind stumps that has ensured that Kohli with one of the strongest arms can afford to field in the deep.

"At the end of the day, I want to be involved in strategy with the team management with Mahi bhai and Rohit. "In the death overs, I know that I have to be on the outfield to try and make something work for the team because that's my nature that I want to do something for the team rather than just be there."

"After 30-35 overs, he knows that I will be in the outfield and its on the auto mode," he explained.

While he didn't elaborate about his take on the debate on the World Cup squad, he didn't forget to give it his stamp of approval. "We are very happy with 15 that we have. This is the most balanced side we could have thought of because everyone is in a good space," the skipper said without getting into the debate about the much talked about omissions of Rishabh Pant and Ambati Rayudu.

# Sri Lanka announce WC squad

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sacked as skipper, pacer Lasith Malinga was on Thursday named in Sri Lanka's 15-strong World Cup squad and the country's embattled cricket board hoped that the veteran will put behind the disappointment to show up for the team.

The 35-year-old Malinga was replaced as captain Dimuth Karunaratne, who leads the Test team but hasn't played an ODI since the 2015 World Cup. The surprising move continued the ongoing turmoil in Sri Lankan cricket, which is also being investigated for large-scale corruption by the ICC.

"We hope he would play for the country," Sri Lanka Cricket



Sri Lanka team players in a file picture ICC

chief Shammi Silva said while announcing the squad amid speculation that Malinga, who is cur-

rently with IPL franchise Mumbai Indians, will quit. "I spoke to him on the tele-

phone and explained to him the reasons," added Asantha de Mel, the Chairman of selectors.

The team was most recently hammered by South Africa in an away limited-overs series. Sri Lanka start their World Cup campaign on June 1 at Cardiff against New Zealand. They are due to play two warm-up games against South Africa and Australia before that.

De Mel said captaincy was not working out for Malinga and he struggled to make the team a cohesive unit.

"He was performing alright, but was not able to lead the others," de Mel explained.

Sri Lanka's World Cup squad features quite a few comeback players, led by Karunaratne.

# Pooja assured of medal in Asian Boxing C'ship

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Two-time continental medallist Pooja Rani confirmed India's first medal in the women's 81 kg category after making it to the semi-finals in a field of five as the Asian Elite Boxing Championship's draw was released on Thursday.

Asian Games Gold medallist Amit Panghal, set to make his debut in the 52 kg category in all likelihood will face the reigning Olympic champion Hasnaboy Dusmatov of Uzbekistan in the quarter-finals.

Former world junior champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) will start her campaign against Srey Pov Nao of Cambodia but she will run into two-

time world champion Nazym Kyzaibay in the quarter-finals. Lovlina Borgohain (64kg) could have a possible face-off with China's world champion Chen Nien-Chin in the quarters.

Amit, who started the season with a Gold medal will fight his first bout on April 21 after a first-round bye. Shiva Thapa, who will be going for a record-breaking fourth successive medal from this prestigious tournament meets Korea's Kim Wonho in the first round.

"Four of our boys will be in action tomorrow. We are quite confident about our prospects. The tricky journey will begin from quarters," said CA Kuttappa, head coach men's team.

# vivacity

NOT SCARED  
OF FAILURE:  
VARUN DHAWAN  
-P 14



# PREPARE AND PLAN FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING

Teachers should learn about and prepare for common challenges faced by students in their schools. For example, some children from underserved communities may need help with non-cognitive skills such as persistence and self control in order to succeed in school. Talking to administrators and doing independent research can provide insight into what will and won't work with students, and may uncover surprising resources, write **TEAM VIVA**



**P**reparation and planning are a critical component of effective teaching. Lack thereof will lead to failure. If anything, every teacher should be over prepared. Good teachers are almost in a continuous state of preparation and planning. They are always thinking about the next lesson. The impact of preparation and planning is tremendous on student learning.

Teachers should learn about and prepare for common challenges faced by students in their schools. For example, some children from underserved communities may need help with non-cognitive skills such as persistence and self control in order to succeed in school. Talking to administrators and doing independent research can provide insight into what will and won't work with students, and may uncover surprising resources.

New teachers should visit their classrooms before school starts and run down a list. Are there enough tables and chairs for the expected number of students as well as a teacher's desk? Does the overhead projector work? Is there chalk and/or are there new markers and erasers for the board? Teachers should make sure their classrooms are fully functional; if not, they should alert school staff and make sure problems are corrected.

Because teachers in most school districts can choose how to evaluate their stu-

dents' progress, this is another area where organization will pay off. New teachers should choose an assessment method for class participation, in-class assignments, and homework. Aside from the process of grading students' work, a system for student assessment must cover many bases, including grade logging, how much access parents have to teacher comments and feedback on their child's day-to-day performance, and any type of required state reporting.

Teachers get a planning period at school, but that time is rarely used for "planning". Instead, it is often utilized to contact parents, conduct a conference, catch up on emails, or grade papers. True planning and preparation occur outside of school hours. Many teachers arrive early, stay late, and spend part of their weekends working to ensure that they are adequately prepared. They explore options, tinker with changes, and research fresh ideas in hopes that they can create the optimal learning environment.

Teaching is not something you can do effectively on the fly. It requires a healthy blend of content knowledge, instructional strategies, and classroom management tactics. Preparation and planning play a critical role in the development of these things. It also takes some experimentation and even a little luck. It is important to note that even well-planned lessons can quick-



ly fall apart. Some of the best-conceived ideas will end up being massive failures when put into practice. When this happens, teachers have to go back to the drawing board and reorganize their approach and plan of attack.

The bottom line is that preparation and planning do matter. It can never be viewed as a waste of time. Instead, it should be viewed as an investment. This is an investment that will pay off in the long run.

Preparation and planning will make you a better teacher. A significant part of planning and preparation is conducting research. Studying educational theory and examining best practices helps define and shape your own teaching philosophy. Studying the content that you teach in depth will also help you grow and improve.

Preparation and planning make the day go by faster. Downtime is a teacher's worst enemy. Many teachers use the term "free time". Teachers should prepare and plan enough material to last the entire class period or school day. Every second of every day should matter. When you plan enough

**THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF TEACHING ARE THE MOST DIFFICULT. SPEND LOTS OF EXTRA TIME PLANNING AND PREPARING DURING THOSE FIRST FEW YEARS AS YOU ARE LEARNING THE NUANCES OF TEACHING AND SEQUENTIAL YEARS WILL BECOME EASIER**

students remain engaged, the day goes by quicker, and ultimately student learning is maximized.

Preparation and planning help minimize classroom discipline issues. Boredom is the number one cause of acting out. Teachers who develop and present engaging lessons on a daily basis rarely have classroom discipline issues. Students enjoy going to these classes because learning is fun. These types of lessons do not just happen. Instead, they are created through careful planning and preparation.

Preparation and planning make you confident in what you do. Confidence is an important characteristic for a teacher to possess. If for nothing else, portraying confidence will help your students buy what you are selling. As a teacher, you never want to ask yourself if you could have done more to reach a student or group of students. You might not like how a particular lesson goes, but you should take pride in knowing that it was not because you lacked in preparation and planning.

Preparation and planning help earn the respect of your peers and administrators. Teachers know which teachers are putting in the necessary time to be an effective teacher and which teachers are not. Investing extra time in your classroom will not go unnoticed by those around you. They may not always agree with how you run your classroom, but they will have a

natural respect for you when they see how hard you work at your craft.

The first three years of teaching are the most difficult. Spend lots of extra time planning and preparing during those first few years as you are learning the nuances of teaching and sequential years will become easier.

Keep all lesson plans, activities, tests, quizzes, worksheets, etc. in a binder. Make notes throughout the binder according to what worked, what did not, and how you might want to change things.

Every idea does not have to be original. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. The Internet is the greatest teaching resource ever made. There are lots of excellent ideas from other teachers floating around that you can steal and utilize in your classroom.

Work in a distraction-free environment. You will get a lot more accomplished when there are no other teachers, students, or family members around to distract you.

When conducting an activity, have all the materials laid out before students arrive. Practice the activity to ensure that each works correctly. Establish specific procedures and guidelines for students to follow.

Plan days to weeks in advance if possible. Do not wait until the last minute to try to throw something together. Doing so limits your effectiveness.

Trend Blazer

I am not scared of failure: Varun

Actor **VARUN DHAWAN** is expanding his horizon with each of his projects — be it *Badrinath Ki Dulhania*, *October* and the recent release *Kalank*, which has become the highest opener of 2019 so far. The actor says he treats each project as a challenge, and pushes himself to improve his craft. "I am not scared of failure, but each movie is a challenge. I work harder with each project and try and improve my work constantly. Failure and success come with every occupation and the film industry is no different. I believe that what goes around comes around. Bad things happen, followed by better things," Varun said.



'Fairy Folk is the most fun experience I have had in a while. There was no written dialogue. I think improvised dialogue is so crazy and beautifully illogical — a quality which very few and extremely skilled writers are able to achieve with scripted lines. Also, it was a delight to play off actors who have an appetite for improvisation. I had to simply turn up on set and be open to having some fun.'

—Rasika Dugal



Actor **RAJKUMMAR RAO** has praised his girlfriend and actress Patralekhaa. He says the *Citylight* actress makes him proud. Rajkummar shared a poster of Patralekhaa's next film titled *Badnaam Gali* along with a poster of his forthcoming film *Mental Hai Kya*. In the image, Patralekhaa can be seen with a blooming baby bump and actor Divyendu Sharma in a shocked expression. Cheering for the actress, Rajkummar captioned, "It doesn't happen quite often that both our posters come out on the same day. You wonder girl, Patralekhaa. You make me proud."



Rose has no sense of smell

Actress **ROSE MCGOWAN** says she has no sense of smell but "extraordinary" powers of taste. "I did a series of tests at Harvard because I lost my sense of smell in a freak accident. They were studying me because I could still taste which is normally interrelated. I got hit in the head with a car door in a freak valet accident," McGowan said. "Not being able to smell, I've had to get gas monitors for my house and things like that because I accidentally left the gas on one night and didn't know because I couldn't smell it. There are some inherent dangers that come with not smelling. I can only use bath products I have always used," she said.



BEYOND BERLIN

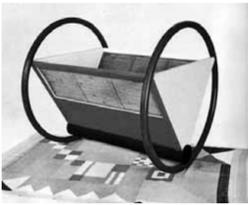
Ideas from Germany's Bauhaus movement continue to be prevalent across the globe without our realisation even after a century, says CHAHAK MITTAL

This year, many streets and towns in Germany are celebrating Bauhaus' centennial, an art-house movement that gave us clean, minimalist lines in architecture, the kind that defines the look of new-age buildings across the world. The movement represented a break from ceremonial grandeur and opulence. It radically simplified forms, combined rationality with functionality and lent credence to the idea that mass production was reconcilable with the individual artistic spirit. It also used basic materials.

From Weimar to Berlin and Dessau, it would be a celebration across the nation through exhibitions, awareness programmes, performances and workshops. However, if Romit Theophilus, director for India, the German National Tourist Office, is to be believed then its accents have also percolated to India, particularly in Kolkata, where Rabindranath Tagore internalised it in 1922. The Indian Society of Oriental Art introduced the concept.

The movement didn't initially include other cultures and was not prevalent worldwide except in Germany and a few European nations. However, Theophilus says that it is prevalent everywhere now. "It's just that we don't notice how it is deeply embedded in our very cultures and everyday lifestyles." He believes that the generations after the movement dissipated never learnt much about it to understand its value and presence in our lives. "When

'What was made 100 years ago could also be used today. Sometimes we don't even realise where these things are coming from even though they are a part of our everyday lifestyles'



Bauhaus started, it was a movement that was changing European ideologies at that time. And by the time, the movement ended, due to certain issues like funding, management, war, and more, its masters travelled across the world and went to places like the US and London. They continued the movement in traces. They took it along with themselves," he says, which is how it manifested itself from the biggest structures to the smallest things.

From 1919 to 1933, it was only in 14 years that the Bauhaus movement brought in a surge of

transformation in the modern thinking about arts and culture, fashion, urban trends and the public realm. However, why is it that it holds so much importance even today? Theophilus explains that there are things we have for our everyday utilities which were birthed from the revolution. However, we do not realise their origin. "This is the unique thing about their products. What was made 100 years ago could also be used today. For instance, its definitive lamp shades have a very simplistic design and are used even today. Also, the baby cradle is still relevant."

He explains that the whole idea of Bauhaus is "simplicity, not just in architecture but goes into various fields. Sometimes we don't even know where it is coming from but we see it everyday."

And though people may believe that the movement died, it actually kept evolving constantly. "We might not even realise what all aspects have changed everyday. Even about the German Embassy in India, we were told by the Deputy Ambassador that he could see Bauhaus everytime he drives across the city. So, it did survive well actually. Even today it has been embracing new things to survive and change," he says.

India recently witnessed 100 years of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919. The event was a watershed in the history of Indian nationalism and continues to reverberate even today. Well, there are always certain events in history which stay important even after years of their occurrence but

need to be revived with time. Bauhaus is one such. Theophilus says, "To bring such things back into focus, we need to remember the old masters. Because even if we are using it everyday in references and common day examples, we might not know that it was first inspired by the school. And hence, on its 100th anniversary, all across Germany, institutions and Gothic schools, Max Mueller Bhawans here, and even the tourism industry, we are focussing on reviving ideas of Bauhaus. With this, we aim to bring it to India on a large scale as well. We also invite culturally-minded travellers to explore this birthplace of modernism."

It was seen on the screens from China to the US recently, how the massive fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral became a horrifying scene against the Parisian sky. He says, "It's important to preserve such monuments as they are a symbol of ancient heritage. They need to be revived and reminded of with time. The same is the case with the Bauhaus movement. We need to be very careful and mindful. And not just from fire or other man-made disasters, but even from pollution."

He tells us that history has always been the primary focus of German tourism. "The previous year, we had culinary revolution in Germany, this year is the Bauhaus and the next year, it would be the 150th anniversary of Beethoven," he says.



A competitive Venue

Hyundai's new compact SUV is really going to heat up the segment even though carmakers are pessimistic about growth prospects this year



As the Angriya cruise boat headed out to sea from Mumbai, past the Gateway of India, Hyundai India used the opportunity to unveil its new compact SUV, the Venue. While the standing joke among automotive journalists was about the unique 'venue', the car was itself quite interesting. This segment was birthed by the Indian government's ridiculous excise rules that gave concessions to cars below four metres in length and with smaller engines, instead of a progressive level of taxation based on emissions. The Ford EcoSport was the first SUV to take advantage of this rule, but now carmakers are developing products specifically targeting this segment, and making adjustments for this market. You had the Maruti-Suzuki Vitara Brezza, developed for India by an Indian team and Mahindra's engineers recently re-engineered the Ssangyong Tivoli, reducing length to adhere to Indian norms as the XUV300. And now the Hyundai Venue does that too. This model is a global product as India has been on the top of the mind for the Korean carmaker. Indeed, the Indian unveil took place an hour before the car was showcased at the New York auto show.

There is a global market for compact Sports Utility Vehicles, and the Indian market is no different. But Hyundai had no product in this segment other than the hastily put together i20 Active, which was an i20 that has a bit of extra plastic cladding and a raised suspension. And if you're thinking that the Venue is similar to the i20, far from it. It looks unique and the headlights and front indicators look similar to those on the Tata Harrier, although both cars were developed concurrently. It is a very unique looking product and with stand-out front design and a very nice rear-end, it is possibly one of the smartest vehicles to enter the market now. And all of this has been done without compromising on interior space. In fact, the interiors are where the Venue really shines. Hyundai India is actually launching its connectivity suite, Blue Link, with the Venue when it goes on sale from May 21. Connectivity and infotainment are huge selling points, or that is what carmakers think and the Venue has a Vodafone-Idea eSIM car that allows you to use Hyundai's concierge services and Here Maps with live traffic data sources from Ola. Personally, I'm happy if a car has an Apple CarPlay system which gives me all that minus a concierge service. Or Android Auto, both of which offer me music-streaming services. But Hyundai is ensuring that both services will still work on the Venue.

The Venue's unveiling was also an opportunity to meet Hyundai India's new Managing Director, SS Kim, and his understanding of the Indian market. While he is still new to India, Kim did mention that Hyundai will be going all guns out with the Venue. However, with Hyundai about to launch the electric Kona in India in a couple of months, he did say that we still have to work on improving electric vehicle infrastructure as well as increasing Indian consumer acceptance of the higher prices of electric cars. Well on an Angriya, things were pretty electric already.



*Haman-hai-ishq* — love is all there is — words evocative of India's rich pluralistic tradition represented the quintessence of what Haku Shah, a celebrated Gandhian artist and social anthropologist of exceptional vision, stood for. His death at the age of 84, after a long illness on March 21, didn't go unnoticed. The National Gallery of Modern Art celebrated his extraordinary life by hosting an evening of music and intimate reminiscences.

An avant-garde in more ways than one, Shah mainstreamed rural, tribal, folk art and craft by bridging the chasm between elitism and art that has often been relegated to the eponymous category of folk or subaltern tribal expressions. His love for folk artists and artisans evolved as part of a burgeoning movement in the 50s for the creative intersection of craft and design. One of his first assignments was at the Weavers' Service Centre established by Pupil Jayakar near the Opera House in Mumbai. An astonishing number of artists with different terms of engagement gravitated to the centres and elsewhere — Prabhakar Barwe, Jiram Patel, Jogen Chowdhury, Himmat Shah, Gautam Vaghela, Bhasker Kulkarni, Amrut Patel and Manu Parekh to name but just a few. Also budding scenographers like Rajeev Sethi and Martand Singh. KG Subramanyam came occasionally and created stunning standalone sculptures from the fibres of handspun wool. Haku Shah thrived in this hothouse of creativity. His next assignment, a long stint with the National Institute of Design, was also not an act of artistic hubris, but was driven by the need to research tribal art and crafts, rituals and belief systems that had intrigued him for a long time. In 1978 he was appointed advisor to the Mingei International Museum at San Diego in California.

Shah's exquisite personal collection of terracotta objects picked up from villages near Valod, Mandvi, Buhari, Poshina and Chhota Udaipur in Gujarat

Remembering Haku Shah

The artiste mainstreamed rural, tribal, folk art and craft by bridging the chasm between the elite and the sub-altern tribal forms. By SUJATA PRASAD

and the tribal areas of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka was the seedbed of a series of revelatory and beautifully curated exhibitions, beginning with a modest display in Sevagram in 1955. His travelling terracotta exhibition, *Forms of Mother Clay*, was first curated for the Crafts Museum in Delhi. It pioneered some of the best curatorial practices. Another precious exhibition, *Unknown India*, on tribal ritual art, curated with art historian Dr Stella Kramrisch for the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 1968, took the art world by storm. He also contributed to the richness of the Festival of India exhibitions in UK, USA and Japan, challenging rigid binaries by drawing attention to powerful artistic imaginations at work.

Several interesting stories unravelled at Haku Shah's remembrance meet at NGMA. His son Parthiv's story of a Vaghri woman hawk who would visit their home in Paldi, Ahmedabad with a basket full of clay toys day after day, encouraged by his father to create new art forms. Some of her work are part of the permanent exhibits at the Philadelphia Museum. Professor Parul Dave's story of Saroja, the impoverished wife of a locked out textile mill worker who was encouraged to make figurative appliqué that was later celebrated worldwide, was an eye-opener. Manu Parekh's story of Gopal Jogi, an itinerant ballad singer from a drought-hit area in Rajasthan, who was working as a stone breaker at a construction site when Shah spotted him and encouraged him to draw, uncovered his potential as an artist. Shah's visceral engagement with rural, tribal art for more than half a century and his cru-



sade-like zeal in promoting artisans was remembered with great affection by Rajeev Sethi.

As a teacher, Shah mentored generations of students at the National Institute of Design, taught at the School of Architecture and joined the University of California in the spring of 1991 to teach a studio course in Textiles and Design as a distinguished Regents' professor. He was a conscientious researcher and authored several books and monographs on folk and tribal art, deconstructing the semiotics of rites and rituals embedded in nature and earth with eminent scholars like Eberhard Fischer, Stella Kramrisch, Joan Erikson and Charles and Ray Eames. His book on Votive Terracottas of Gujarat has acquired a cult status. Jyotindra Jain, who partnered with him to research on *Temple Tents for the Mother Goddesses in Gujarat*, a 225-page monograph with 460 plates, spoke about their shared passion for research that would often keep them awake till 2 at night as they roamed the streets of the old city of Ahmedabad to study the nocturnal rituals of Matani Pachedi artisans.

One of Shah's most seminal contributions was establishing an ethnographic Tribal Museum at the Gujarat Vidyapith and a crafts village in Udaipur. His own body of work resonates at many levels, from the tender, visual rendering of *nirguna* poetry and imagery derived from folklore to potent expressions of Gandhi's *satyagraha* in a 2015 exhibition evocatively titled *Nitya Gandhi*. Glimpses of his work on the beautiful memory wall created by the NGMA team, Vidya Shah's exquisite rendering of Kabir's songs, *Jhini Chadariya* and *Naiharwa Humka Na Bhawe*, Antara's luminous weavers' song taught by her grandfather and Anant's poignant tribute to his *dada* who would not have liked all this fuss was what made the evening at NGMA so special.

(The author is a former civil servant and currently the adviser to the Crafts Museum).

# AN OPERATIC SPREAD

PLUM by Bent Chair has been making waves for the unique concept of combining retail with food. And on both counts, it does not disappoint, says SAIMI SATTAR



I could hear the laughter much before I reached the place. And it seemed to be drifting out wave upon frequent wave. It was a Sunday afternoon and I was standing outside Plum by Bent Chair, Aerocity, which I had been hearing about frequently in the past few months. Described variously as the most "Instagrammable restaurant" and "one where you can buy everything that you see including the furniture," it was indeed a surprise that no one had spoken about the happy, infectious vibe that seems to pervade the place. And if one was to mistakenly think that it was a place for the young to hang out at, I could see several tables where three generations of a family were happily congregating over what seemed to be an extended lunch.

Now, coming back to what the restaurant has been making waves for. A joint effort by restaurateur Priyank Sukhija along with partner Natasha Jain (the lady behind Bent Chair), it started with a unique concept of combining retail with eating out. So while you eat, if you happen to admire anything from the comfortable furniture that you are sitting on or the plates that you are served in or even the lamps that light up the place or any of the paintings, vases or wall décor and wish to cart them back home, all you have to do



is order. Not surprisingly, the idea has caught the fancy of Delhiites.

The place is a splash of colour with an abundance of bright pinks and magentas, vivid greens, happy yellows, exuberant purples and more. They feature as paint on the walls, upholstery on the furniture and the various accessories that dot the place. Kitsch is the word that can describe the ambience but then, that cannot fully convey the smorgasbord that it offers.

Whether a restaurant works or not boils down to not just the way it looks but the way its food tastes. Here too, it does not disappoint. Mostly, we had a range of dimsums starting with *Fern Verdure*, which had mock duck meat. Its filling, which was combined with fresh corn, carrots, garlic



flakes and spicy chilli Plum oil, made me look forward to what was to follow. While you could taste each element separately, at the same time, they came together beautifully as a whole, which made for a dish that was satisfying and at the same time left me craving for more.

The *Crystal Dumplings*, which had a filling of chestnuts, carrots and mushroom, were elevated by the taste of sea salt that stood out for the crunch of its vegetables. The spices were not overpowering and the flavours that came through were clean and those

of various vegetables.

We also had the *Hanging Globe Vegetation Bao* and I can say, without much of a doubt, that it was the best that I have tasted, ever. The covering was soft, so much so that the only equivalent I could think of as I bit into it was that of a cloud. The insides, stuffed with fresh tofu and spinach, were delicately flavoured with five spices. My mouth watered at its very thought even a few days after I ate it.

Next up was *Flying Cupid*, which is listed as 'Plum-azing' or rather the must-have at the

restaurant. This consists of turnip cut into cubes and flavoured with Cantonese spice pepper, scallions and golden garlic. I guess, my version of the vegetable got the better of me and while I did eat it, I would not really order it if I go back to the place.

We also ordered the *Planter Broccoli Bird Eye*, which Chef Sagar Bajaj told us, was made by reducing milk that gave it a slightly sweet taste. The tempura broccoli was crunchy and the bird-eye chilli gave it a slight heat. The chef told us that as compared to Mumbai, where they opened the first outlet, the chilli quotient was 30 per cent higher as Delhi loves it hot.

Another favourite among the clientele is the *Dried Chilli chicken*, where the meat is rubbed with Szechuan pepper-infused oil and kept overnight before being cooked. Served with finely-chopped red chilli, which is de-seeded, boiled and then lightly tossed in a wok to give it a crunch, the dish is a hot favourite even though it is poles apart from the image that the mind conjures up when we say "chilli chicken."

We ended the meal with Plum tropical fruit citrus cheesecake, which was again a surprise, served as it was with a cocktail of diced apple and pomegranate. A fresh end to a soul-satisfying meal.

## CHEF TALK

Chef SUGANDHA SAXENA tells AYUSHI SHARMA that one cannot experiment a lot with the ingredients and flavours of traditional cuisine, but can master the old techniques and present them to the world in one's own signature style



## Preserving legacies

❖ How different do you find the Kayastha cuisine from others?

Kayastha cuisine is an adapted cuisine, not a regional one. Kayasthas brought the royal Mughal cuisine to the locals, hence creating their own adapted version of these dishes. It doesn't belong to any particular region of India as the Kayasthas are spread all over the country. These factors probably make it one of the most unique cuisines of the country.

❖ How do you think such traditional cuisines should be encouraged to bring them to the level of other global cuisines?

India being the country which is vast in culture, always has space for all. I do believe a global exposure through social media showcasing the beauty of this cuisine will be helpful. Whether through food enthusiasts writing more about this or food critics giving their valuable feedback on these dishes. Through chef tables that I organise, my prime goal is to bring forth this cuisine to as many as I can, making sure the legacy of my ancestors is carried forward respectfully.

❖ How have you customised your dishes to suit other preferences which are not familiar with the Kayastha cuisine?

Since it's an adapted cuisine from Mughals, people



are already familiar with the flavours and spices and so it doesn't need too much customisation. However, I always include a touch of *garam masala*. For instance, the main ingredient for *Murgi Gulaabi* is rose petal powder, washed and crushed. I use it since roses were the Mughal favourite and so are mine.

❖ What are some of the most successful food experiments that you have mastered?

I have worked mostly upon meaty dishes and Indian desserts, with a bit of Western fusion as well as traditional. I have experimented with *Sabudana Kheer* giving it the flavour of blueberries and lavender.

❖ How do you think the Indian foodie is accepting global food trends?

Indians are very open to new concepts lately and are ready when it comes to experimenting with their taste buds. For instance, modern Indian

cuisine has taken a great step forward and is being appreciated by a number of people.

❖ What is it that could be the greatest cause of failure in a chef's dish?

Unbalanced flavours, intuitive cooking and compromising with the quality of ingredients. I recently did an event in Kolkata where unfortunately due to some reasons I had to compromise the quality of the ingredient which made my dish zero in terms of flavours. One has to make sure the availability of the quality of ingredients wherever and whenever one is cooking.

❖ How has your cooking evolved over the years in terms of keeping track of the latest trends?

In the world of fusion and latest gastronomic style of cooking, I believe one still looks back to that bygone era which used to fill our hearts and not just the tummy. With traditional cuisines one can't experiment much with ingredients and style, but can only master the old techniques and present it to the new world in their own signature style. However, I don't follow the latest trend but I make sure I give the customer a complete experience of not just the food but the journey along with it.

❖ Food is subjective. Some may like a dish and some won't. How do you deal with negative criticism to your food?

With all due respect, people will always have opinions. No one can ever deny that fact. And food is very subjective. The sooner one understands that, the sooner negative criticism won't seem like censure anymore.

## gorge us

Devour a delectable Easter Champagne Brunch at Pluck that includes pan-Indian and global cuisines, cocktails and unlimited pour of champagne. Kids can have a gala time with Easter special games. **Price:** Brunch: ₹2,950 plus taxes per person; with wine: ₹3,950 plus taxes per person; with champagne: ₹4,450 plus taxes per person; For kids: ₹1,475 plus taxes per person **Date:** April 21 **Time:** 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm **Venue:** Pluck, Pullman, Aerocity.



Café Delhi Heights is turning itself into a stadium this IPL season, with a specially curated 'Cafedium menu' that offers Hummus, Falafel, Pizzas, Bruschetta, Galauti Kebabs, Bang Bang Chicken 65, Shish Taouk, Croquettes and more. **Price:** Meal for two: ₹1,200 plus taxes **Date:** Till May **Time:** 12 pm to 12 am **Venue:** All outlets of Cafe Delhi Heights (Cyber Hub, Rajouri Garden, DLF Promenade).



Artful Baker brings to you mouth-watering delicacies such as Easter pops, Babka, a Ukrainian Easter specialty, Gianduja and orange, a hazelnut and dark chocolate mousse, Raspberry and apple cake, and Pecan and Maple tea cake. **Price:** ₹500 plus taxes **Date:** April 21 **Venue:** The artful Baker, Khan Market.



Daniell's Tavern brings all Bengali flavours under one roof, offering Mate chorchori, Potal chingri, Murgir jhol, Basanti pulao, Hilsa fish, Mishti doi and many more delicacies specially curated by chef Prem K Pogakula. **Date:** Till April 20 **Time:** 6.30 pm to 11.45 pm **Price:** ₹5,000 for two (plus taxes; without alcohol) **Venue:** Daniell's Tavern, The Imperial.

Celebrate Easter at Hyatt Regency this Sunday as they offer a scrumptious brunch with a specially curated menu that has salads and meats with a selection of red, white and sparkling wines. There are special activities as well for kids to rejoice on the weekend. **Price:** Food and beverages: ₹2,550 plus taxes; With wines and beer: ₹3,550 plus taxes; Taittinger champagne: ₹5,250 plus taxes **Venue:** CAfe, Hyatt Regency.



### SPICED CHICKEN, CHEESE AND EGG MELT

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Chicken leg boneless: 100 gm
  - Ginger garlic paste: 10 gm
  - Red chilli powder: 1 tsp
  - Salt to taste
  - Crushed black pepper: 1 tsp
  - Roasted cumin powder: 1 tsp
  - Lemon: 1
  - Hung curd: 30 gm
  - Fresh coriander: 20 gm
  - Olive oil: 50 ml
  - Turmeric: 10 gm
  - Eggs: 4
  - Butter: 20 gm
  - Cream: 20 gm
  - Emmental cheese: 50 gm
  - English cheddar cheese: 50 gm
  - Multi-grain bread: 1



**METHOD**

**For spiced chicken:**

- Cut the chicken in long strips.
- In a bowl, mix hung curd, salt, red chilli powder, turmeric powder, lemon juice, roasted cumin powder, ginger garlic paste and a bit of olive oil to make a marinade.
- Marinate the chicken strips in the mixture for 15-20 minutes and cook them in a thick bottom pan over medium heat till the chicken is tender.

**For scrambled eggs:**

- Scramble the eggs in small pan

using butter and cream, season with salt and black pepper.

- Mix the grated Emmental and Cheddar cheese with scrambled egg to make a gooey mixture.
- Boil one egg for eight minutes and transfer it in cold water to stop further cooking.

**For melt:**

- Toast the multi-grain bread and drizzle some olive oil on the top.
- In a bowl, mix cooked chicken and scrambled egg and cheese mixture, add chopped coriander on the top.
- Spoon the filling on top of the toasted bread and spread it evenly and grate it in salamander or oven.
- Garnish with sliced egg and micro greens and serve hot with choice of salad or fries.

Courtesy: Rajat Chandna, executive chef at Alila Fort Bishangarh.

### MILK CHOCOLATE FRUIT AND NUT BAR

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Milk chocolate couverture: 100 gm
  - Candied orange slice: 40 gm
  - Dried apricot: 40 gm
  - Roasted almonds: 20 gm
  - Dried cranberries: 30 gm
  - Roasted cashew nuts: 40 gm
- METHOD**
- Melt the chocolate in a bowl by setting over a pan of barely simmering water. If you want to temper the chocolate. While the chocolate is melting, gather and prepare other ingredients for bar.
  - Once the chocolate is melted, remove the bowl from the pan and wipe the moisture off the bottom of the bowl. Temper the chocolate.



- Pour a layer of chocolate into the bar molds. Tap them on the counter a few times to distribute the chocolate evenly and release any air bubbles, then quickly top with fruits and nuts. Press them slightly.
- Put the bars in the refrigerator for 5-10 minutes. De-mould the chocolate bars from the molds. Store in a cool dry place.

Courtesy: Chef Amit Sinha, L'Opera.

## RECIPES



### LAMB OSSO BUCCO

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Lamb slices: 450 gm
  - Flour: 150 gm
  - Salt: 5 gm
  - Pepper: 5 gm
  - Olive oil: 15 ml
  - Onion: 50 gm
  - Celery: 50 gm
  - Carrot: 50 gm
  - Garlic cloves: 20 gm
  - Bay leaves: 5 gm
  - Dry red wine: 100 ml
  - Lamb stock: 100 ml
  - Tomatoes: 20 gm

**METHOD**

- Put the flour in a large platter and season it with salt and pepper. Rub each slice of lamb in flour, coating each well.
- Use a large skillet. Heat the olive oil then wait till the lamb slices turn brown. Set them aside on another platter.
- Using the same skillet, add some olive oil, cook the chopped onion,

carrots and celery with the bay leaves. When the vegetables become tender, add garlic. Cook for one minute more.

- Raise the flame and pour the red wine into the vegetables, stir gently to de-glaze.
- When the wine evaporates, add the meat and the tomatoes.
- Now you can either finish the cooking in the skillet, if it's oven-proof, or place the meat and vegetables in a baking dish.
- Stir everything and then add the lamb stock.
- Place the skillet or the oven. Cover it. Bake for 50 minutes or until the irresistible aroma drives you to fork a piece right out of the oven.
- Serve it by scattering with fava beans or steamed green vegetables.

Courtesy: Naresh Chinni, executive chef, The Drunken Botanist.

# Win doesn't ensure triumph

Manchester City crash out of Champions League despite 4-3 win in second leg as Spurs march through on basis of away goal

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola insisted VAR does produce "fair football" despite a cruel Champions League quarter-final exit on away goals to Tottenham after a pulsating tie ended 4-4 on aggregate.

City were 4-3 victors in Wednesday's second leg, but for the third straight season failed to reach the last four under Guardiola as two big VAR reviews went in Spurs' favour.

Firstly, Fernando Llorente's decisive goal 17 minutes from time stood despite the ball appearing to clip the Spaniard's hand on its way into the net.

Then deep into stoppage time, Raheem Sterling had the strike that would have sealed his hat-trick and seen City through ruled out after Sergio Agüero was shown to be offside in the build-up.

Elimination ended City's quest for a quadruple and Guardiola lamented a series of costly errors across both games, after Agüero also missed a penalty in the first leg, that saw his side bow out to a side 16 points behind them in the Premier League.

"It's tough. We were close to go through, it's cruel, but we have to accept it," added Guardiola.

"The mistakes in this competition punish you a lot. Unfortunately it was a bad end for us."

Unlike Guardiola, Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino has previously been a critic of VAR, but believes the decisions to award City a penalty in the first leg and not punish Ferdinandinho for a clash with Harry Kane balanced themselves out over the tie.

"You have to trust the VAR when it is against or for you," said Pochettino. "The decision to include VAR in football is going to change the game."

And the Argentine labelled his players as "heroes" for reaching the semi-finals of the European Cup for just the second time in their history after a season in which they have not signed a single player and played the majority of the campaign at a temporary home in Wembley.

"On this type of night, this type of victory, only I can feel proud. I feel they are heroes. With all the circumstances to be in the semi-finals of the Champions League they deserve a lot of praise."

## SON SUSPENDED

Guardiola's decision to not start Kevin de Bruyne in the first leg will be further questioned as the Belgian bagged a hat-trick of assists to take City to the brink of the last four.

The first set up the first of four goals in 11 minutes as Sterling opened the scoring.

However, Spurs struck back twice in three minutes as Son Heung-min's double took his tally for the season to 20.

Yet, with Kane expected to be sidelined for the rest of the season, Pochettino has another selection headache with Son suspended for the first leg of Spurs' semi-final against Ajax.

A kamikaze opening had another twist as Bernardo Silva's effort deflected off



(From top to bottom) Manchester City players in action during a match; Pep Guardiola reacts after losing a match; Son celebrates after scoring a goal



Danny Rose and wrong-footed Hugo Lloris at his near post to bring City level on the night.

By the midway point of the first-half, the hosts were back in front as Bernardo and De Bruyne played creators once more and

"It was unbelievable. My players are heroes."  
—MAURICIO POCHETTINO

"It is cruel but it is what it is and we have to accept it."  
—PEP GUARDIOLA

"I have never seen something like this. It was a very tough game, a very crazy game. It was madness."  
—SON HEUNG-MIN

"I think I must be one of the luckiest guys on the planet today. With the last one they scored, I thought it was over. Thank God the ref gave offside."  
—CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN

"Thoughts at this time are with all those that don't like football."  
—GARY LINEKER

"Omggg! I love you boys!!!! #COYS #UCL."  
—HARRY KANE

## Guardiola's frustrating exits from Europe's elite club competition:

**2016-17:** Eliminated by Monaco on away goals in last 16, won first leg at home 5-3, lost second leg away 3-1.

**2017-18:** Eliminated by Liverpool 5-1 on aggregate in quarter-finals, lost first leg away 3-0, lost second leg at home 2-1.

**2018-19:** Eliminated by Tottenham on away goals in quarter-finals, lost first leg away 1-0, won second leg at home 4-3.

Pochettino chose attack as the best form of defence by replacing the midfielder with Llorente in what proved to be a decisive change.

De Bruyne had his third assist on the hour mark as he surged through midfield before timing his pass for Agüero to perfection and the Argentine rifled past Lloris.

Having gone ahead for the first time in the tie, Guardiola soon sent on Ferdinandinho to restore some sense of control, but City were pegged back again as an incredible tie swung back in Tottenham's favour.

Kieran Trippier's corner was bundled in by Llorente, but there was controversy as the ball seemed to hit the striker's arm on its way in.

After a VAR check, though, Turkish referee Cuneyt Cakir stood by his original decision and the goal stood.

And VAR went against City again deep into stoppage time as delirium soon turned to disbelief inside the Etihad when what would have been a hat-trick for Sterling was ruled out.

Sterling finished off a low cross at the back post.

Spurs' hopes of holding on to their advantage on away goals suffered another blow when Moussa Sissoko was forced off with an injury.



# Bring on Barca

AFP ■ PORTO

Jurgen Klopp admitted he cannot wait to lead Liverpool into a Champions League semi-final against Barcelona after watching his side crush Porto 4-1 in Portugal on Wednesday to complete a 6-1 aggregate victory in their last-eight tie.

On a wet night at the Estadio do Dragao, Liverpool weathered an early storm against Porto before scoring from their first attempt just before the half-hour, Sadio Mane prodding home for a goal given after a lengthy VAR review.

Already in control of this tie after a 2-0 win at Anfield in the first leg, Liverpool had effectively killed off Porto there and then, but Mohamed Salah, substitute Roberto Firmino and Virgil van Dijk added further goals after the break.

Eder Militao scored a consolation for the hosts 21 minutes from time, but this was another miserable night for them after they lost 5-0 to the same opponents on this ground a year ago.

Liverpool now march on to a clash with Lionel Messi's Barca, the first meeting of the clubs since a last-16 encounter in 2006/07 that the Reds won on away goals.

"I'm looking forward to it. The news that there is a proper football game between Barcelona and Liverpool is great," said Klopp as his side move a step closer to matching their run to the final a year ago.

"To be in the semi-finals for the second year running is a big statement. I am really proud of the boys for what they did."

On the night Manchester City's quadruple bid died, the dream of a Champions League and Premier League double remains alive for Liverpool and their supporters, whose spirits were not dampened by the dreary weather by the banks of the River Douro.

This was their 17th game without defeat and their eighth straight victory, although Barcelona will offer a far

tougher test than Porto.

With the matches coming thick and fast, he made three changes to his team here following Sunday's 2-0 win over Chelsea. Firmino and Naby Keita, who both scored in the first leg, dropped out along with Jordan Henderson.

They were replaced by Georginio Wijnaldum, James Milner and Divock Origi, with the latter making his first Champions League start for the club.

However, the Belgian only played the first half before making way for Firmino.

## EARLY ONSLAUGHT

Porto had 13 attempts on goal in the first 25 minutes, but would regret not scoring while on top.

Porto needed an early goal tonight and didn't score it. I'm completely happy. It's only important to go through, and we went through," Klopp said.

Their opening goal came when Salah — his every touch jeered by the Porto support who felt he should have been sent off in the first leg — rolled the ball into the six-yard area for Mane to get his 22nd of the campaign.

The offside flag came up but Dutch referee Danny Makkelie conferred with his video assistants before awarding the goal.

Porto knew their chance was gone, with their fans cursing Mane again — he scored a hat-trick in Liverpool's win here in the last 16 last season.

Trent Alexander-Arnold released Salah to run through and beat Iker Casillas on 65 minutes to make it 2-0, before Porto got their consolation shortly after when Militao headed in from an Alex Telles corner.

However, Mane missed the target after rounding Casillas, before Henderson set up fellow substitute Firmino to head in Liverpool's third on 77 minutes and Van Dijk nodded in from a corner to complete the scoring.

# Mbappe-less PSG fail to clinch French title

AFP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain failed to seal the Ligue 1 title for the third match running on Wednesday after a second-string line-up without dropped Kylian Mbappe took the champions to their second defeat in a matter of days, 3-2 at Nantes.

A Diego Carlos brace and Majeed Waris' tap-in inflicted a third league loss on Thomas Tuchel's side, who were hammered 5-1 at second-placed Lille on Sunday and drew with Strasbourg the previous week, despite Dani Alves' stunning opener and substitute Metehan Guclu pulling one back late on.

However PSG, who were also missing a host of other first-team players through injuries and suspension, remain 17 points clear with six games left.

The runaway leaders will win their sixth title in seven years on Sunday if Lille fail to win at Toulouse and they then beat struggling Monaco.

"It's very easy to analyse, it was a very bad performance, we deserved to lose," said Tuchel.

"We controlled the game at Lille but today there was no performance for 90 minutes.

"You can lose and you can make mistakes, and we will always defend the players if we feel that they've played with a great attitude and hunger. But today it is not possible."

## TOOTHLESS PSG

Depleted PSG had to thank Gianluigi Buffon 12 minutes in when he managed to push away Kalifa Coulibaly's header from point-blank range, and seven minutes later Alves appeared to have calmed Parisian nerves with his wonder strike.



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There looked to be little on when the Brazilian collected Leandro Paredes' simple pass, but he quickly lashed an unstoppable dipping drive past Maxime Dupe to score his first Ligue 1 goal this season.

However just three minutes after the opener Diego Carlos was allowed too much space to nod home Valentin Rongier in swinging corner. PSG continued to struggle

despite the odd flash from Moussa Diaby, and the hosts grabbed a deserved second just before the break.

Nantes turned the screw seven minutes after the break from another corner, this one met by a Nicolas Pallois flick-on that crept through a sea of legs to Carlos, who unwittingly knocked in the third.

Without Mbappe to pressure them, Nantes kept coming forward, and were almost gifted a fourth in the 68th minute when Paredes passed the ball straight to Coulibaly with Buffon way out of his goal, only for the Malian to hit his shoot too hard and over the bar.

Guclu crashed home his first ever PSG goal on his debut in the final minute to give the away side hope that they could still clinch the title with six matches to spare, but despite pressing forward they couldn't find the breakthrough.

# I AM NOT THE NEW RIBERY: COMAN

AFP ■ BERLIN

Bayern Munich winger Kingsley Coman has said that he hopes to step out of Franck Ribery's shadow when his veteran compatriot leaves Bayern.

Coman, 22, has long been touted as the natural successor to Ribery, who is expected to end a glistening 12-year spell

at Bayern this summer.

Yet in an interview with Kicker magazine on Thursday, Coman insisted that he is not a carbon copy of his fellow French winger.

"Franck has his career and I have mine. I am not the new Ribery, I am myself," he said.

Having missed the first half of the season with injury, Coman has established himself



Kingsley Coman in a file picture

as a regular starter under coach Niko Kovac.

A key part of Bayern's generational shift under Kovac, the 22-year-old has been first-choice left-winger in recent weeks.

He scored twice in Bayern's 4-1 win over Duesseldorf last Sunday, but told Kicker that he still needs to improve.

"As a winger I should be scoring more goals," he said.

"I bring a lot of good qualities, but I am still a long way away from being world class."

Coman, whose contract runs until 2023, said that he could match Ribery's longevity in a Bayern shirt.

"I can really imagine staying here for a long time," he said.

# Djokovic sails into quarters, Tsitsipas topples

AFP ■ FRANCE

Top seed Novak Djokovic continued his win streak against US players as he reached the quarter-finals of the Monte Carlo Masters with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Taylor Fritz on Thursday.

Two-time tournament champion Djokovic has now won nine in a row over US players since losing at Wimbledon 2016 to Sam Querrey.

The world number one will be playing his ninth quarter-final here from 13 appearances at his home event; the win came a round after he claimed his 850th career victory against Philipp Kohlschreiber this week.

Fritz came to the court after defeating Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Diego Schwartzman.

Djokovic turned in a steady performance with a dozen each of winners and unforced errors, while his opponent committed nearly 30 unforced errors in 68 minutes.

Defending champion Rafael Nadal was to play his second match of the pre-Roland Garros campaign when he faced Grigor Dimitrov in a third-round encounter.

Sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas earlier lost 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 as Daniil Medvedev continued his run of form.

The Russian winner will next line up against Djokovic after losing to the seed in January in the Australian Open fourth round.



Tsitsipas was caught on the back foot facing three match points as he trailed 0-40 on his serve late in the second set.

After saving the first two, the Greek mismanaged the third to seal his exit after an hour and three-quarters.

Medvedev increased his leading total of ATP season match wins to 20 as a result of his success as he beat Tsitsipas for the fourth time without a defeat in the

series. "This was a great achievement for me," Medvedev said. "Everything was perfect today."

"Some wind came up in the second set and I could not get used to it. But in the third, I just worked to put every ball in the court."

The player who stands a career-high 14th credits his rising form to a renewed

dedication to the sport.

The Russia reached his first quarter-final at the Masters 1000 level after winning his second match against a Top 10 opponent.

Tsitsipas, runner-up last season to Nadal in Toronto, suffered his eighth defeat of the season against 18 wins and will try and lift his game next week on the clay of Barcelona.