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NOT SCARED
OF FAILURE:
VARUN DHAWAN
13 VIVACITY

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, Jugal Kishore, 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 AIUDE, the NCP, the JD(U), the PDP, 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.

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.

MARKETS

SENSEX	39,140.28 (-135.36)
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SILVER	37,255.00 (+45.00)

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

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



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

after halting operations temporarily in October 2012.

Alleging some "motives" 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.

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 fake 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 of 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 funnelling 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 officer deputised 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 prospect 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.

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.

Online tax payment from Mon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After a long wait, the online property tax payment facility which has been pending for a long time is set to start from April 22. As per the officials, the online service failed to start earlier due to technical issues and the coordination issues with the banks. However, finally, the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) has tied up with a private bank which will soon operate the online property tax payment service.

Talking to the media on Thursday, Dehradun municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey said, "The online payment service failed to start earlier as we were having technical problems. Further, the tie up with banks was not reaching the final shape. However, finally all of these issues have been resolved and we will be opening the online payment service soon. MCD has tied up with the IndusInd Bank, the formalities are under process and online property tax payment will start from April 22."

It is important to mention that the MCD currently lacks updated data of the property taxpayers in the provisional state capital. Currently, MCD has only about 65,000 property taxpayers from the old 60 wards on record.

When asked about this Pandey said, "To work on this swiftly we have formed four teams of the tax officers. They will further visit and mark the property for which tax is not being paid to the MCD. The first warning will be given by the official to the owner of the property to which he/she has to reply in 15 days. Also, strict action will be taken on the taxpayers who fail to submit the tax."

Home owners oppose shifting of office



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

On a busy Thursday, property taxpayers faced problems in submitting tax due to the absence of the officials in the MCD office near Vidhan Sabha in Chakshahnagar. Nearly 25-30 people gathered around the office and later expressed opposition to decision of the MCD when it was learnt that the staff of the office had been shifted to another office.

As the MCD has opened four new zonal offices in the city, the tax office of the MCD office in Chakshahnagar has been moved to

Mothrowala. Hence, the personnel earlier assigned to this office were not present in the office, resulting in inconvenience to the property taxpayers.

Adding further in this secretary of Municipal Corporation employees committee, Satendra Singh said, "The assigned employees were not present in the office which is why tax collection on Thursday was under problem which created a major inconvenience to the people who came to Chakshahnagar office. We have decided to talk to the mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' to take appropriate action in this."

Light rainfall likely at isolated places today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Meteorological Centre has forecast the possibility of very light to light rain and thunderstorm in isolated places of the state today. The places in Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur and Pithoragarh districts are likely to experience rain while dry weather is likely to prevail in the rest of the state. Meanwhile, light rain was also reported in various parts of the State on Thursday.

According to the meteorological centre forecast, the provisional state capital is likely to experience clear to partly cloudy sky on Friday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are going to be 30 degree Celsius and 16 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at various places of the state on Thursday were 27.2 degree Celsius and 15.6 degree Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 29.2 degree Celsius and 16.7 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 11.8 degree Celsius and 6.7 degree Celsius in Mukteshwar and 11.5 degree Celsius and 7 degree Celsius respectively in New Tehri.

MCD to build second Kanji house in Doon

Lone stray cattle shelter unable to hold rising number of cattle

PNS ■ DEHRADUN



Taking cognisance of the burden of stray cattle in the lone stray cattle shelter (Kanji house) situated in Kedarpuram, the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) is to build another Kanji house in the city soon. Officials of the MCD on Thursday stated that the work of finding the land for this purpose is under process. The construction of the new stray

cattle shelter will start soon after the land is selected. The Dehradun municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey said, "The number of cattle in the Kanji house is way too more than the actual capacity of it. Taking care of these

handle. I want to request the people especially dairy owners to not do this. If a person will be caught doing this then strict action will be taken by us."

According to information provided by official sources, the budget to build a new Kanji

many cattle and providing resources is a tough task for us. We are planning to build another Kanji house in the city for which municipal officials are currently identifying suitable land. The construction will start soon after the land is finalised."

Appealing to the people for taking care of their cattle he said, "The local people leave their cattle on the road which becomes a problem for us to house will be about Rs 8,00,000. Currently, the lone Kanji house functioning in the city has a capacity for sheltering 70 stray cattle but is being used to hold about 300 such cattle. Also, MCD has been failing to provide adequate staff and equipment for this purpose. After the wards under MCD were increased from 60 to 100 the number of stray cattle has also increased in the area under the purview of the MCD."

Ragging victim student complains



PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Panic prevailed in campus of RIT college in Roorkee under jurisdiction of Bhagwanpur police station when a B.Tech student alleged thrashing by college management. The college management purportedly tried to suppress the issue after the student raised it on Wednesday but the victim lodged complaint against the management in police station on Thursday.

It is learnt that on April 5, a senior student of the college had allegedly teased and made an attempt to molest B.Tech first year student hailing from Dhanbad. When the student went to the hostel warden and college management to com-

plain, it is alleged that she was thrashed by four people who even threatened with dire consequences if she spoke of the incident outside. The student has lodged a complaint in the Bhagwanpur police station against the senior college management staff and hostel warden demanding action against them. The student made her video viral on social media in which blue bruises are seen on her face after she was allegedly thrashed by the college management staff. When Ayesha, a fellow student of the victim, tried to speak with the management, they refused to speak anything in front of the camera. The college management is saying that the student has been sent home for vacation.

Man arrested for killing brother-in-law

A tiff arose between the two over some matter: Police

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

A man allegedly killed his brother-in-law with a sharp weapon brutally in SIIDCUL. The police arrested the accused on Thursday. The victim was admitted to district hospital in a serious condition from where he was referred to higher medical centre in Dehradun. The victim died during the treatment. The body has been sent for post mortem examination.

A 35 year old man, Mahendra from Bareilly reportedly attacked his brother-in-law Santosh from Bareilly over a tiff on some issue. Santosh was working at a factory in SIIDCUL industrial estate. Both the men used to stay back during night in SIIDCUL.

On Wednesday, a tiff arose between the two over some matter. The police said that Mahendra attacked his brother-in-law Santosh with a sharp weapon. The company people informed the police about the incident.

The police have taken the accused in their custody after registering a case against him. The case is being investigated, added the police.

Traders oppose anti-encroachment drive

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

In the face of strong opposition by the local traders, the team of Rajaji national park and tiger reserve along with district administration continued to remove shops and stalls in the national park area on Thursday. The anti-encroachment team started action from Mansa Devi walkway and continued uphill removing encroachments, shops and kiosks selling Prasad and juice. With two back to back festivals Chandi Chaudas and Hanuman Jayanti, huge footfall is observed on both the temples- Mansa Devi and Chandi Devi situated atop hills in Haridwar.

Led by the park ranger, Haridwar range Sharan Pal Singh the team removed various illegal establishments on road with JCB machines and physically further up the hill. Amidst lot of opposition by the local traders and roadside vendors, the drive continued and soon the protestors went on the backfoot.



Speaking to *The Pioneer*, Sharan Pal Singh said, "The anti-encroachment drive on both the sides of the approach road to Chandi Devi was carried out. The people have been asked to free about three feet space from the main road. The drive shall be carried out till Friday."

The range officer of Haridwar range also said that extra force has been sought from the higher officials so that in future permanent force can be deployed and the area can be

kept free of encroachment. The tables, benches, almirahs and other materials kept enroute by sellers were removed by the park authorities. The footpaths encroached by roadside vendors are still to be made encroachment free. The shopkeepers have made small shacks selling jewellery and decorative items to attract business from the pilgrims who come to these temples in large numbers during summer season.

Anmol Industries completes 25 years



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Anmol Industries Limited has completed 25 years in India's FMCG sector. It has emerged as the fourth largest brand in northern, eastern, southern and western areas of the country. Addressing the media here on Thursday, the company's managing director Gobind Ram Chaudhary announced upcoming expansion plans, new strategies and upcoming investment plans. He said that the country's

fourth largest biscuit brand has spread across the nation. Overcoming various challenges, the company has achieved success as a consumer oriented brand with strong credibility among all the stakeholders involved in the company. The West Bengal based firm is expanding rapidly in different states. The company's general manager of sales and marketing, Rajnish Sharma and marketing manager Mithilesh Mishra were also present at the Press conference.

Helmet for pillion riders to be enforced afresh in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After the initial strict enforcement by the district traffic police and City Patrol Unit (CPU) on the orders issued by High court in September 2018 regarding the necessity for pillion riders to wear helmets, authorities concerned and most two-wheeler riders too appear to have forgotten about it in Dehradun. However, Dehradun Superintendent of Police (traffic) Prakash Chandra Arya said that during elections the enforcement was light, but now that the polling is done with in Uttarakhand, the observation and enforcement of helmet for pillion riders will be resumed.

The SP (Traffic) said, "We are still issuing challan to pillion riders who are not abiding by the rules, though it is something that citizens themselves too need to be aware of. Yes, during the time of polling in Uttarakhand the enforcement was light, but now that all our manpower has returned from election duty, this rule will be strictly enforced again."

Some officers of traffic



department said that citizens don't follow traffic rules unless there is some penalty. The people don't seem to understand that traffic rules are for their own safety. A sub-inspector said, "We meet youngsters who are riding

triple on a two-wheeler, over speeding and none wearing helmet. On top of that they try to act smart or behave rudely with us, as if we are the one breaking rules. As if we are the bad guys because we are trying to prevent the public from get-

ting hurt." It is important to mention here that considering the increasing number of road accidents, the high court had directed the authorities to strictly enforce the relevant rules that make it mandatory

in the initial months after the court order, the pillion riders too had started wearing helmets in the provisional state capital but soon afterwards, both the police and citizens seemed to have forgotten about this.

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Dispute between MLAs resolves at CM house



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

'Cong stumped at its impending defeat'

Dehradun: The BJP State media in-charge Devendra Bhasin has said that instead of taking interest in the case of two BJP MLAs and worrying at the incident being resolved, the Congress leaders should worry about the internal strife their party is experiencing.

"From Uttarakhand to the national level, the Congress is experiencing internal strife. The party's national spokesper-

son Priyanka Chaturvedi's statement exposed the Congress' character when she said that goons were being accorded more importance in the party. The party leaders should also see to the dispute regarding their fresh leader Shatrughan Sinha. The fact is that the Congress is stumped at its impending defeat in the Lok Sabha elections," said Bhasin.

PNS

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.



Candid Notes

By Gajendra Singh Negi

BURGLER BAG?

Even as Uttarakhand police have arrested three of its personnel and an alleged conspirator in the shocking day time robbery in which the official vehicle of Garhwal Inspector General of Police was used by the culprits, the mystery of the content of a black coloured bag snatched away from the complainant on the busy Rajpur Road of the city, remains to be solved. As neither the complainant nor the culprits has divulged anything about the contents of the bag, many theories are flying thick and fast in the public. Since the incident happened some days before the voting for the Lok Sabha elections, one credible presumption going around is that the bag was full of high denomination currency notes and belonged to a Lok Sabha candidate of a major political party. However the case which has smeared dirt on the face of Mitra Police—the name with which Uttarakhand police likes to refer itself—has highlighted the rot that has set in the police system while shaking the belief of the people needs to be thoroughly investigated. Though no one especially the political parties are demanding it, a CBI inquiry should be ordered by the 'zero tolerance on corruption government' to get to the bottom of the scandalous case.

AIIMS NUISANCE

The ongoing protest by the ousted workers of the AIIMS, Rishikesh has assumed the contours of an ugly 'native Vs outsiders' conflict. These employees most of whom were class III and IV workers in the institute which in short period of time has firmly established itself in a state largely devoid of tertiary health care in government sector, are claiming that the administration of the institute is targeting them unduly. Recently their agitation got flared up when two of their colleagues, one of whom happens to be the son of an MLA, were reinstated by the administration. One should not forget that the then union health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad at the time of the inauguration of the institute had publically stated that 70 per cent of the posts in the institute would be filled with local youth. Similarly it is a norm followed everywhere that the locals are given priority while making appointments on lower posts in such establishments. This criterion of selection is seemingly forgotten by the AIIMS, Rishikesh administration which has triggered the dissent. The buzz going around is that corruption and favouritism prevails in the recruitment process of nursing and other staff members of the premier health institute which if true is an ominous sign for an institute where reputation matters more than anything else.

BJP'S BLUES

It took a tough message by the leadership of BJP and personal intervention by chief minister to bring to an end the unsavoury mudslinging by two BJP MLAs, Pranav Singh Champion and Deshraj Karnwal on one other. These MLAs had engaged in a no holds barred contest after Champion claimed that the caste certificate on the basis of which Karnwal contested from a reserved constituency, is fake. Those who know a thing about politics opine that the objective of the war of words by these leaders was to emerge as undisputed leader of a belt in Haridwar district where dalits and Muslims are in majority and in the process stake claim for a ministerial berth in the TSR cabinet. Though it remains to be seen how far these loudmouthed leaders have succeeded in their designs, they have surely left a big dent on the image of the party which takes much pride in its highly disciplined cadre.

Ahead of MCI visit, GDMC hospital on ventilator

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Even as the team of the Medical Council of India (MCI) is expected to visit the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) anytime during this week, the condition of the GDMC hospital continues to be pathetic. Most of the diagnostic machines like digital X-ray and Computer Assisted Tomography (CT) scan have gone awry. Similarly a life saving apparatus like Dialysis machine is not functional from last few days. If these problems were not enough for the patients, the shelves of the medicine counter of the biggest government hospital in the state are empty. The hospital administration admits that it has only 100 odd types of the medicines available out of the list of 208 essential medicines.

The Absence of Anti Rabies Vaccine (ARV) in the Government Doon Medical College hospital is creating problems to the patients of animal bite.

More than 125 patients visit the hospital per day for the vaccine need-



ed for animal bite cases from different parts of the state. In absence of the vaccine they had to get the life saving vaccine injected from private hospitals. The ARV is administered intradermal or intra muscular four times in a fixed schedule on an animal bite victim. The vaccine is injected on 0, 3, 7 and 28 day of the animal bite. The vaccine is injected free of cost in the government hospitals where there is facility of cold storage.

In the radiology department of the hospital, the patients are continuing to face problem as the lone CT scan of the hospital has not become operational after it developed malfunctioning in last week of February. This machine has become so obsolete that the college has decided not to

repair it now and purchase a new machine instead. More than 40 CT scans are done in the hospital and in absence of this facility the patients are forced to visit expensive private hospitals and diagnostic centres to get the CT done. Apart from the CT scan, the digital X-ray machine of the hospital is also playing truant.

The female wing of the hospital is also plagued by many problems. The Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

ward of the hospital is devoid of ventilators.

One of the staff members said, "I am working in this hospital from last many years and I can tell without hesitation that the hospital was never in such a bad condition as it is today. The machines are out of order and the medicines are not available. The MCI team would surely note down these discrepancies and mention it in its report."

When contacted the principal of the GDMC, Dr Ashutosh Sayana accepted that some machines are not working. He added that most of the machines like CT scan, X ray, dialysis machine and other have become very old.

"Most of these machines are more than ten years old and need replacement. We have decided not to repair the old CT scan machine and instead purchase a high resolution new machine. However for benefit of patients with kidney ailments we have decided to repair the dialysis machine immediately," he said.

The Principal further said that he

has asked all the departments to make a list of the equipment which is needed to be replaced.

"Based on the requirement, three categories, most urgent, urgent and routine requirement would be made and the purchase would be made accordingly," Dr Sayana quipped.

Meanwhile, the hospital administration is waiting for the arrival of the team of Medical Council of India (MCI) for the crucial letter of permission (LoP) for the fourth batch of the MBBS course. It is expected that the team of the apex body of medical education can arrive any time. On the report submitted by the MCI, the ministry of medical, health and family planning would grant permission to the medical college to grant admission to the students for MBSS course.

On the preparations of the college for the MCI visit, Dr Sayana claimed that the college is fully geared up for the MCI visit. He added that the staff deficiency which earlier was at more than 30 per cent has been reduced to less than 20 per cent which is well within the MCI norms.

87 qualify for Himalayan Mountain Terrain Biking Challenge

Cyclists to cover 564 km across 8 districts

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The Ultimate Himalayan Mountain Terrain Biking Challenge qualifying round was flagged off from Nainital on Thursday. This mountain biking competition is being organised jointly by the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB), Asian Development Bank and the Cycling Federation of India. A total of 87 cyclists were chosen in the qualifying round for the main competition. These include 13 international male cyclists, nine international women cyclists, 62 India males and three Indian women cyclists.



The cyclists were flagged off at the GB Pant Park in Nainital on Thursday morning. The cyclists passed through Barapathar, Sadiyatal, Rusi bypass, Waldia Khan, Tallital and Mall Road, covering a distance of 48 kilometres to enter the main round of the competition. Despite cloudy weather and light rainfall, the cyclists participated in the qualifying round with enthusiasm and energy. The Tourism department and police had coordinated their efforts to prevent any disorder on the route of the cyclists.

Earlier, while inaugurating the mountain biking challenge at Mallital, the Tourism additional secretary C Ravishankar appreciated the enthusiastic participants who had arrived here from across the nation and abroad. Stating that courage and adventure lend pace and liveliness to life, he said that the geographical conditions and natural beauty of Uttarakhand are naturally linked to adventure and excitement. Such events will prove to be a milestone for establishing a future for adventure tourism in the state.

He informed that the first halt of the mountain bike rally will be in Almora after which it will pass through Kausani, Rudraprayag, Tehri, Chinyalisaur and Musoorie to conclude in Dehradun on April 26. The main round of the competition will start from Friday. Prizes will be awarded to winners in different categories on all days. The cyclists will cover a distance of 564 kilometres through eight districts of the state. Various officials of the Tourism department and local residents were also among those present on the occasion.

Most of State's jails overcrowded; five hold less than capacity

Information revealed under RTI Act

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

According to information received in response to an application filed under Right to Information (RTI) Act, jails in Uttarakhand hold 1.5 times more inmates than their holding capacity.

Out of the total number of prisoners in the state's prisons at present, 60 per cent are under-trials while the rest 40 per cent are serving their time after being convicted. This information was revealed in response to RTI application filed by Kashipur resident activist Nadim Uddin. According to the data procured under RTI Act, the 11 prisons in the state have the capacity to hold

a total of 3,420 prisoners. However at present there are in total 5,390 prisoners held in these jails including 3,228 inmates who are waiting for the judgement in their cases.

According to the data provided by Nadim Uddin, Haldwani jail is most overcrowded among the prisons in the state. It is meant to hold 302

inmates but is holding 1162. The second most overcrowded prison of the State is the Dehradun jail which has a capacity to hold 580 inmates but is holding 1,254 inmates at present. The Almora jail is the third most overcrowded jail in the State with 189 inmates in the jail with capacity for holding 102 inmates.

The RTI activist further informed that Haridwar jail has 1,416 inmates, Roorkee jail has 401 inmates and Nainital jail has 98 inmates— all prisons holding more than their capacity. On the other hand there are five jails in the state which are holding less than their capacity for inmates. The Sampooranand open prison in Sitarganj is capable of holding 300 inmates but has

only 47 at present. Similarly, the Chamoli jail has only 56 inmates which is 43 per cent of its total holding capacity, Tehri jail has 115 inmates— about 77 per cent of its holding capacity while the Pauri jail has 135 inmates which is about 90 per cent of the jail's holding capacity. The central jail in Sitarganj has 500 inmates, about 98 per cent of its total holding capacity.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 17 Apr :- Reporting of participation on site registration-Nainital
- 18 Apr :- Qualifying round (first half) & Opening ceremony (second half)- Nainital
- 19 Apr :- Race from Nainital to Almora
- 20 Apr :- Race from Almora to Kausani
- 21 Apr :- Race from Kausani to Rudraprayag
- 22 Apr :- Race from Rudraprayag to New Tehri
- 23 Apr :- Rest day at Tehri
- 24 Apr :- Race from Tehri to Chinyalisaur
- 25 Apr :- Race from Chinyalisaur to Mussoorie
- 26 Apr :- Prize distribution & Closing ceremony

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Woman on bike expedition for PM's support

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Rajlaxmi Manda, who holds the world record of being the first woman to pull a 9.5 ton heavy truck, reached Jamshedpur via Baharagora on Thursday. She has completed her 30,000 km journey of 18 states. She arrived here on a Bullet motorcycle with the slogans 'Kaho Dil Se, Modi Phir Se' and 'Sankalp Hamara, Modi Dobara' as a part of BJP's Sankalp Yatra. She was accorded a warm

welcome by the Jamshedpur Mahanagar BJP leaders. District BJP president Dinesh Kumar and BJYM district president Amarjeet Singh Raja presented bouquets and garlands to Manda and her team members. Speaking to scribes on this occasion, Manda said voting is the duty of every citizen of the country. "But discharging this solemn duty, citizens elect their choice candidates to ensure country's overall development and welfare of posterities," she added.

Manda said she was impressed by PM Modi's vision and policies and hence she wanted Modi to become PM again like majority of citizens of the country. After Jamshedpur, Manda's Sankalp Yatra moved to Khunti via Chaibasa. On May 6, the journey will come to a conclusion. The BJP president praised Manda's enthusiasm and hailed her as a role model for women seeking empowerment. BJP district president Dinesh Kumar said,

"Rajlaxmi's Bullet journey shows the enthusiasm for our popular Prime Minister Narendra Modi amongst the youth, women and the people of the country." Sharing her experiences, Rajlaxmi said that during her journey she got the cooperation of the people and met lakhs of people who really wanted to make Modi again the Prime Minister. "They were confident that the country needs the leadership of Narendra Modi. The

reason is that under his leadership the Central Government's schemes are benefiting the people," she said. Rajlaxmi Manda is a resident of Chennai, Tamil Nadu and she initiated her campaign to appeal to the people of the country to make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister once again. During her journey, she crossed through 172 Districts and 10 States in 62 days completing 1500 kms with a team of 25 people.

Tejashwi, Jitan Ram campaign for RJD

Ranchi: In an attempt to strengthen its vote base in Palamu and Chatra parliamentary constituencies, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav along with Hindustan Awami Morcha (HAM) Chief and former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi addressed several public meetings on Thursday to ensure RJD candidates' victory from both the seats in Jharkhand.



Addressing a gathering in Palamu Tejashwi Yadav said that he is hopeful of a victory in the constituency since the party here is contesting on the agenda of social justice. "RJD has been fighting for the rights of the poor since years. Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) government has put RJD supreme Lalu Prasad Yadav in jail to weaken this crusade. The people of Bihar and Jharkhand have been gearing up to speed up the unfinished movement of Lalu. I hope that RJD candidates from Bihar and Jharkhand will be victorious in the elections," he said. Tejashwi said that the purpose of RJD is to save the constitution of India and reservation for backward classes.

Both the seats will go to polls on April 29. Ghuran Ram is RJD's candidate from Palamu and Subhash Yadav from Chatra. Tejashwi said that the country's watchman is sleeping and the thieves fled abroad with money from the country. He said that under the leadership of Grand Alliance, a majority government will be formed in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Manjhi said that Narendra Modi calls himself a watchman, but he did not perform the duties of the watchman. "In his four years of tenure terror incidents have not reduced. People fled with the

money the government gathered through demonetization," he said. RJD and HAM are alliance partners in Bihar along with Congress party, Vikasshil Insaan Party and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party. Manjhi said that the Prime Minister of the country did not fulfill any of the promises he made during 2014 elections. Modi's government is busy working for development of industrialists, it is not working for the poor, he added. RJD is contesting Palamu seat as opposition's Grand Alliance representative. In Chatra, RJD will battle it out against BJP and ally Congress. **PNS**

Off runway, Jet...

From Page 1

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.

Modi jackets losing charm, blame it on harsh summer

VARDA CHOUDHARY ■ RANCHI

As high octane campaigning continues for 2019 general Elections, markets are flooded with various products promoting different parties. Flags, banners, posters, kurtas, shirts, caps, jackets and many other products are in vogue this poll season. However, in the mad rush for political products one of the most popular items sold in 2014 elections seem to have lost its

charm this time. The style statement of thousands across the country in 2014 and beyond, the Modi Jacket, also known as the 'Modi Bandi' has few takers in the summer of 2019. Deputy General Manager, Marketing at JHARCRAFT, Archana Shephali, said that their production of the jackets is stable throughout the year. The demand for the jackets continues as we have introduced jackets in different materials such as Linen.

Opp questions...

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.

BJD sure to form next Govt in Odisha: Naveen Hits out at Union Mins at Pallahara rally

BISHNU P BEHERA ■ PALLAHARA

No one can block BJD to form the next Government in the Odisha, said Chief Minister and BJD supreme Naveen Patnaik during campaigning at Khamar College ground in Pallahara on Thursday. The BJD Government thinks always for the development of Odisha people. But during election period the Central leaders are coming here to campaign against BJD and beg for vote in favour of their party, told Patnaik to a

gathering. The BJP is trying to scuttle our attempts to initiate welfare of the poor by discontinuing many Central schemes and reducing share in others, alleged Patnaik. Patnaik also hit out at the BJP saying that it was dubbing the BJD Government inefficient just to mobilize the voters of Odisha. "The Central Government is taking thousands crores of rupees as royalty from coal mines of Odisha but paying only 33 per cent which is nominal to us. They are always creating obstruction in our path," Patnaik alleged further and

reiterated promise for providing second installment financial assistance to 25 lakh farmers under KALIA scheme on the first day of the formation of the next BJD Government. Targeting BJP leaders Dharmendra Pradhan and Jual Oram without taking their names, Patnaik said that the two Union Ministers hailing from Odisha are not striving at the Centre for the development of the State. Among others, BJD leaders like MLA Mahesh Sahu, Mukesh Pal, State secretary Manoj Sahu, Sudarsan Behera, Kaniha and Pallahara Block presidents Kailash Sahu, Jogesh Bhukta were present. There was a congregation of around more than 5,000 people.

At 91, eight-time matronly Cong legislator battles on tirelessly

SIANS ■ SHIMLA

At 91, eight-time matronly Congress legislator Vidya Stokes continues to battle tirelessly to ensure victory of the party in all the four parliamentary seats of Himachal Pradesh. She is daily rubbing shoulders with party leaders, a majority of them almost half her age, and meeting party cadres ahead of the May 19 polling. "Whatever the responsibilities the party has giving to me so far, I have fulfilled all of them and that too with dedication and sincerity," Stokes, one of India's eldest and active politicians, told IANS. "Soon I am going to be part of the state-wide election campaign," she added. In the 2017 Assembly elections, her nomination papers were rejected due to discrepan-

cies in the documents. In the previous assemblies, she represented apple belts of Theog and Kumarsain, a seat scrapped in the delimitation exercise a decade ago and its areas merged with Theog and Shimla (rural). Stokes, a long-time hockey administrator, said: "I work harder than many others who may be half my age." "I am daily spending at least 10 hours with the public and getting much respect and love from people, who are my strength," Stokes, who has completed over four decades in active politics, said. The former legislator, who remained irrigation and public health, horticulture and science and technology minister in her various stints in the state cabinet, said: "Throughout my political career, I never betrayed my party and remained its loyal worker." Born on

December 8, 1927, Stokes is known in political circles for her clean image and has never taken any salary, be it as a legislator or as a minister, throughout her political career. "In politics it is our duty to serve the public. I personally believe that one should not hold public office for personal gains," an elated Stokes, the country's first woman Speaker of an assembly, said. She has no grudge of not becoming the Chief Minister despite being active in state politics since 1974, after the death of her husband Lal Chand Stokes. Their two daughters live in the US. "I have never demanded any post from the party. Whatever the party offered me, I accepted it with humility," Stokes has no plans to re-enter the political battle again. "Now, I want to do social work that will help strengthening the party base.

For this, I will remain in the field until my last breath." Her father-in-law Satyanand (Samuel Evans Stokes Jr), an American missionary, first introduced high quality apples in the Kotgarh-Thandesar belt in upper Shimla in the early 1920s. Stokes now manages most of her family's orchards. On being asked about the performance of the Modi-led government, she said: "The central government has not fulfilled its promise of hiking apple import duty that is hitting the state's apple industry most." "We have requested the Narendra Modi government to hike import duty on apples as growers here are facing stiff competition from China but the central government declined to hike the import duty," she said, adding "the growers will now give the reply through ballots".

Bikers to motivate Himachal voters

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Over 100 bikers, from six countries and 15 Indian cities, will motivate voters in Himachal Pradesh during the three-day Eighth Hero MTB Shimla 2019 commencing on Friday. The bikers will display banners and posters of the Election Commission that carry an appeal to vote on May 19 for the Lok Sabha elections. Cyclists from India, Nepal, Britain, Japan, Germany and Colombia are participating in the 110-km race. Besides the 110 km competitive race, a stretch of 25 km from Shimla to Kufri has been dedicated for the SVEEP (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation) in collaboration with the district authorities to encourage locals to vote for a better India.

EC's third eye to keep watch on poll activities across Punjab

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Election watchdog's third eye will keep a close watch on the poll activities across Punjab. As many as 117 vehicles, fitted with cameras, will zip across the length and breadth of the State to help the Election Commission monitor and supervise the elections. Implemented only in Punjab till now, as many as 117 mobile cars, one for each of the 117 assembly constituencies of the State, fitted with high qual-

ity cameras would take the state's poll panel close to the ground realities from anywhere in the state while sitting in its main office at Chandigarh. "These mobile cars, which will be on the move for the entire day, will send live feed from the cameras fitted in them directly to the commanding room set up at the office of Chief Electoral Officer at Chandigarh to monitor activities in different areas," a senior official of the CEO

office told The Pioneer. The official maintained that the Election Commission is making attempts to ensure free and fair polls while making the best use of the advancing technology. "As per the Election Commission of India's instructions, the flying squads have been formed and supervising elections across the state. But it is only in Punjab that their vehicles are fitted with the cameras, and their live feed will constantly be monitored by a team at Commanding Room,"

added the official. "Sometimes what happen that a person present on the spot may miss something which is a violation of code, and the person monitoring the video feed at the commanding room notice the same. So, it will complement the working of the flying squads," said the official adding that a special team has been given the task of the commanding room. "The officers sitting here can see directly what is going

on in the constituency. In case any violation of model code of conduct comes to the notice, immediate instructions will be issued from the Chandigarh office to act," said the official. The official maintained that the video quality is good, and it would help the poll panel in monitoring and supervising from the head office. "Right now, it is being monitored the entire day for which we have a special team, and in the last two days, it will work 24x7," added the official.

With the camera-fitted vehicles, the Commission would not only keep a tab on the code violation, but it would also keep the flying squads under check. "The flying squads are also under close watch and are directly connected with the CEO office through CCTV cameras on their vehicles. They also share video proof at the time of spot visits," said the official. The Commission has also linked the flying squads with its cVIGIL mobile application

aimed at quick redressal of complaints. "All the flying squads are interconnected with the application and the control room, and on receipt of any complaint, the nearest squad will immediately reach the spot to see if the complaint was right and inform the control room at the time of its disposal or otherwise," said the official. Introducing several hi-tech system to verify complaints, the ECI has launched cVIGIL mobile application through which people can upload only

live pictures and videos showing the violations. For the purpose, a district complaint centres have been set up where complaints would be received through the application, and after verifying the genuineness of the same, it is forwarded to the flying squads deployed in the field. "The flying squads have to act within 35-40 minutes and report to the CEO office. Each complaint has to be disposed of within 100 minutes," said the official.

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 Branch Office: DHFL, 2nd Floor, 56, City Centre, Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248 001

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CHUM SALE
 Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrowers, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:-

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Loan Amount Outstanding as on (10.04.2019)
1.	(Loan Code No. 00000093 / Haridwar Branch) Praveen Chauhan (Borrower) Mrs. Sharda W/o Praveen (Co-Borrower)	22.02.2018 Rs. 6,61,553/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. Plot No. 11, Khasra No. 94, Situated at Ganapati Vihar Ph-4, Begumpur, Near Bhagwan Pression Industries, Village-Begumpur, Haridwar.	Rs. 3,95,500/- (Rupees Three Lacs Ninety Five Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Rs. 39,550/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Only)	Rs. 7,70,421/- (Rupees Seven Lacs Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Twenty One Only)
2.	(Loan Code No. 00003991/ 00005857 / Dehradun Branch) Neru Garg (Borrower) Mr. Rahul Garg (Co-Borrower)	30.04.2018 Rs. 1,09,42,691/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. Khasra No. 24/1 Village Shafipur, Pargana & Tehsil Roorkee Haridwar, Pincode : 249401	Rs. 1,78,20,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Eight Lacs Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs. 17,82,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Eighty Two Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,25,15,637/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lacs Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven Only)
3.	(Loan Code No. 00000048/ Dehradun Branch) Digambar Singh (Borrower) Mrs. Pinki W/o Digambar Singh (Co-Borrower)	22.02.2018 Rs. 6,08,837/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. Residential Plot No.4 bearing Khasra No.94 Situated At Ganpati Vihar Begumpur, Pargana Roorkee Haridwar, Pincode : 249402	Rs. 3,55,000/- (Rupees Three Lacs Fifty Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 35,500/- (Rupees Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Rs. 6,03,687/- (Rupees Six Lacs Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven Only)

1. Last date of Submission of Sealed Offers in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is 20-05-2019 within 3:00 PM at the Circle office address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
 2. Date of Opening of the Offers for Property is 22-05-2019 at the above mentioned Circle Office address at 2:00 PM. The tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorized Officer.
 3. Date of inspection of the immovable property is on 13-05-2019 between 1.00 PM to 04.00 PM.
 4. Further interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expenses, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization.
 5. The notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s), to remain present personally at the time of sale and they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of Terms and Conditions of Sale.
 6. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction falling which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.
 7. The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above mentioned Office Address.
 8. The immovable property will be sold to the highest tenderer. However, the Authorized Officer reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary. The Property as mentioned will not be sold below Reserve Price.
 9. DHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.
 10. The Loan Amount mentioned above is not the Loan Foreclosure Amount. All Other Charges including Pending EMIs against the said loan shall be calculated at the time of Loan Closure.
 11. The Bidder/Purchaser is hereby advised to deduct 1% TDS in advance on and above Rs. 50 Lacs property while making the Sale Price payment to DHFL. DHFL shall not be held responsible for any loss in this regard.
 12. The Demand Draft should be made favoring 'Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited' OR 'DHFL'.
 For further details, contact the Authorized Officer, at the abovementioned Office address.
 Mr. Sorabh Pawha (Authorised Officer)
 Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited
 Place: Dehradun Date: 19-04-2019

After May 23 Cong will be wiped out from country: Haryana CM

PNS ■ BHIWANI

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khosla on Thursday said that the Congress, whose some of the senior leaders are on bail, will be completely wiped out on May 23 when the results of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections will be declared. The Chief Minister, while addressing an election rally here, said that today, the BJP is ruling and the people have shown the Congress and other opposition parties their true place.



their corrupt practices, he added. Manohar Lal said that the country has emerged as the fifth super power of the world due to the leadership provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the strength of the people behind him. Senior leaders of the world proudly shake hands today with the Prime Minister, he added.

He said that earlier during visit to Police Stations people found middlemen, but the BJP on coming to power in Haryana put all bad elements behind bars. As far as development of the state is considered, the BJP government did not discriminate between constituencies represented by the ruling party MLAs and those represented by the opposition legislators. Due to this many opposition leaders are joining the BJP, he added. Referring to Mewat, which till recently was considered the most backward area of the state; the Chief Minister said that despite the BJP not having any representation from there, the government accelerated the pace of development due to which Mewat area is among the developed areas. Referring to the shortage of water, especially in southern areas of the state, he said that the previous government took no action on this aspect also. But now the BJP government is committed to redress the problem of water shortage in the shortest possible time, Manohar Lal added.

able challenge to the BJP in the current Lok Sabha elections. Manohar Lal said that the Congress is facing the punishment due to its misdeeds. After May 23 (day of counting), the Congress will be wiped out from the country, he said. Continuing his tirade against the Congress, he said that the Congress leaders are afraid of facing the public due to their alleged misdeeds. Many senior leaders of Congress are out on bail, he said adding that internal bickering in the Congress is also out in the open. He further charged the opposition Congress leaders of filling their houses and that of their relatives with wealth accumulated through corrupt practices in various areas as has been exposed by various scams. In the latest series of such scams during the raid at the close associates of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister wealth worth Rs 281 crore was recovered. The Congress leaders should be ashamed of

Notwithstanding the failure of senior leaders of the Congress to remove poverty on the basis of their repeated hollow promises of Garibi Hatao, now "Pappu" (Congress chief Rahul Gandhi) is claiming to remove poverty by once again giving the slogan of Garibi Hatao, he said. The poverty cannot be removed by mere slogans, Manohar Lal said adding that for uplifting the standard of the people, work has to be done as had been done by the BJP during its five years rule with the launching of various welfare schemes for different sections of the society, including poor and downtrodden, women, sick, youth, farmers and the unemployed youth. The Chief Minister said that there is no other party which could give a formi-

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 dharam 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 to 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 on 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 is flung at 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 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 Sardar 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 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 till 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 RV 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 refer 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 Druggist." 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 addition 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' 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-



duce recommendations on some 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.



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 a 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 PTI

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 Poorna Chandrika was elated over the exercise being conducted in the hospital. PTI

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 polling 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 turn out of 7.9 per cent till 6.00 pm while Budgam recorded 17.5 per cent polling and Ganderbal recorded highest voter turn out 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 PTI

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 Krishen 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. PTI

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

IANIS ■ 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 sakhis booths — 130 — were in Bangalore's 3 parliamentary seats, followed by 46 in Bangalore Rural, 45 in Udipi-Chikamagalur, 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.

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 Ponnagaram 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 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.

Also, some villages like Vellakkevi are located amid dense forests and poll officials were assisted by the anti-naxal police personnel to reach the hamlets. PTI

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 Makha 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.

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. IANS

105-year-old votes in Maharashtra

IANIS ■ 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. PTI

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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 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 *majboor 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

ANS ■ 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 for 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 equal-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 Mumbaikars. "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.



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 supremo 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-RD 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 'Dabbawala 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 or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: 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 complaint 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 498A 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
DP/8213/WD/19-
(Court Matter)

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 Kashi Vishwanath Express	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

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138

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1171/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Head-to-head in Bhopal

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



Battleground 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 UPA's 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 no 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 of 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



Paris 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.

opinion

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

In 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 constituencies 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.

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)

SOUNDBITE

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

RJD leader
—Tejashwi 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 *talag* but consider it for its specifics.

BP Srivastava
Noida

Commission (EC) has regained its teeth. For now, it has barred Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Bahujan Samaj Party leader Mayawati from campaigning because of their remarks with a decidedly communal connotation. Specifically, it was Adityanath's "Ali and Bajrangbali" remark at a Meerut rally and Mayawati's appeal to Muslim voters, asking them to vote for the

SP-BSP alliance and not the Congress in Saharanpur and Bareilly, that irked the top court. In the aftermath of the apex court's warning, the EC invoked its extraordinary powers to temporarily ban four political leaders from campaigning — Adityanath, SP leader Azam Khan, (both barred for 72 hours) Union Minister Maneka Gandhi and Mayawati (both barred for 48 hours). The top

court rightly observed: "Seems like the Election Commission has woken up and found its powers." Citizens have generally welcomed the decision but will a ban for two to three days stop other leaders from making provocative speeches? Already, Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu has stoked controversy by urging Muslim voters of a Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar to vote en

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

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)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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



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 benefitted 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 fallouts 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 patriots 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 forceful-

ly 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 Mazari 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 are 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)



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)

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 Maliya, 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

AFP ■ 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

AFP ■ 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 percent 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

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 have been carried out but despite best efforts, the girl could not be traced. The description of the missing/kidnaped girl is as under:



Khushnaj

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: cbc@cbl.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/2108/OD/19.

S.H.O

P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi

Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

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 Clarinete 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.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a boy named 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: cbc@cbl.gov.in, Website: http://cbl.nic.in

Ph.: 011-23015229, 23015218

Fax: 011-23011334

DP/191/ON/19

SHO

P.S. Bawana, Delhi

Ph. No. 011-27751949, 07605036321

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a man named 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:



Vijay Nagpal

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 : cbc@cbl.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/5291/SD/19

SHO

P.S. Lodhi Colony, New Delhi

Ph. No.: 011-24620283, 24611753

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 airlines.

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-

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.

Markets slip from lifetime highs on profit booking, Jet woes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks retreated from lifetime highs on Thursday as investors took money off the table ahead of an extended weekend, while the grounding of Jet Airways stoked fears among banks and other lenders.

After rallying to an intra-day record of 39,487.45 points, the 30-share BSE Sensex turned negative to settle 135.36 points, or 0.34%, lower at 39,140.28.

The broader NSE Nifty slipped 34.35 points, or 0.29%, to 11,752.80 after setting an intra-day record of 11,856.

The benchmark indices had closed at record highs on Tuesday on earnings optimism and forecast of a near-normal monsoon.

Markets will be closed Friday on account of Good Friday.

During the holiday-truncated week, the Sensex rose 373.17 points, or 0.96%, while the Nifty gained 109.35 points, or 0.93%.

"After a period of significant momentum ahead of the general elections, the market may take a pause in some kind of an interim profit-booking," said Joseph Thomas, head of research at Emkay Wealth Management.

"The accelerating scenario of a slowdown in global growth as also the definitive prospects of higher fuel prices and a weaker currency may also be working on the minds of the market participants at this juncture," he added.

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 hunt for new bid-

ders/suitors is getting tough. This event led to cascading negative effect on lenders to Jet and other banks," said Deepak Jasani, head of retail research at HDFC Securities.

Top losers in the Sensex pack included Yes Bank, Vedanta, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, L&T, SBI, NTPC, Kotak Bank, HDFC, PowerGrid, Infosys and ITC, falling up to 4.18%. On the other hand, RIL was the biggest gainer on the index, spurting 2.79% ahead of its Q4 results.

Tata Motors, Asian Paints, TCS, Coal India, Hero MotoCorp, Axis Bank and HUL also ended in the green, rising up to 2.32%.

Apart from energy and oil and gas, all BSE sectoral indices closed in the red, led by realty, power, metal, telecom, capital goods and banking, shedding up to 2.33%.

The broader markets fell in tandem with the benchmarks. The BSE smallcap index lost 0.99%, while the midcap gauge tripped 0.89%.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) purchased equity worth a net ₹1,038.58 crore on Tuesday, and domestic institutional investors (DIIs) bought shares to the tune of ₹37.22 crore, provisional data available with stock exchanges show.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Japan, China and Korea ended in the red. In Europe, bourses in Germany, France and the UK were trading on a mixed note in early deals. Global crude oil benchmark Brent futures fell 0.17% to USD 71.50 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated 5 paise to 69.55 against the US dollar intra-day.

RCom promoters' shareholding declined to 22% in Jan-Mar this year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Communications promoters' stake has come down to 22 per cent in January-March 2019 quarter, with family and group firms jointly losing more than half of the equities, the telecom firm said on Thursday.

In the October-December 2018 quarter, the promoters and promoter group of debt-ridden RCom had 53.08% stake in the company.

In the third quarter of 2018-19, Ambani family members jointly held 145.48 crore equity shares, which came down to 59.79 crore in last quarter of the same fiscal, according to shareholding pattern disclosure made by the firm.

Shares held by promoter group firm Reliance Communications Enterprises Private Limited dropped by almost half to 36.56 crore from 72.31 crore.

The disclosure shows that equity holding of Reliance Ornatus Enterprise and Ventures and Reliance Wind Turbine Installers Industries came down to 9.2 crore and 85 lakh, respectively, from 30 crore shares held by each of them in the third quarter.

According to records, most of the pledged shares were sold by lenders in January-March 2019 quarter.

The company, which is reeling under debt burden of around ₹45,000 crore, has approached the National Company Law Tribunal to invoke insolvency against it as the firm has been unable to sell assets and pay back to lenders.

Lenders hopeful of successful bids for grounded Jet Airways

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Jet Airways suspended all its flights after running out of money, lenders to the carrier on Thursday said they were "reasonably hopeful" that bidding process for the airline would end successfully. Lenders led by the State Bank of India had declined to extend more funds to Jet, forcing it to suspend all its flights.

"The lenders after due deliberations decided that the best way forward for the survival of Jet Airways is to get the binding bids from potential investors who have expressed EOI (Expression of Interest) and have been issued bid documents on April 16," a statement by lenders said.

A consortium of 26 lenders led by the SBI, with 51 per cent stake in the debt-trapped airline, has invited bids from potential suitors.

"Lenders are reasonably hopeful that the bid process is likely to be successful in determining the fair value of the enterprise in a transparent manner," it said.

Banks on Wednesday rejected an immediate ₹400 crore demand of Jet Airways, compelling it to ground operations. Jet had been, over the last few months, on a decline as competition from budget airlines hurt its profitability and led to a debt pile. It reported losses for four straight quarters despite sales holding up.

At its peak, Jet operated 123 planes and over 600 daily flights. It was flying just seven planes on Tuesday. Its chief executive officer Vinay Dube on Wednesday wrote an email to airlines' passengers saying "with deep sadness and with a heavy heart that we would like to share with you that, effective immediately, Jet Airways will be suspending all its domestic and international oper-

ations". "Tuesday night, we were informed by SBI, on behalf of the consortium of Indian lenders, that they are unable to consider our request for interim funding. Since no emergency funding from the lenders or any other source of funding was forthcoming, it would therefore not have been possible for us to pay for fuel or other critical services to keep the operations going," he wrote.

He said the airline had over the last several weeks and months tried "every means possible" to seek funding, both interim as well as long term funding, to keep our operations going. "Unfortunately, despite the very best of our efforts, we have been left with no other choice today."

"A decision like this is never easy to make, but without the interim funding, which we have been repeatedly requesting for, we are simply unable to conduct flight operations in a manner that delivers to the very reasonable expectations of our guests, employees, partners and service providers," he wrote.

"After 25 years of sharing the Joy of Flying with Indian and international guests, Jet Airways and its Board of Directors have been forced to take this extreme measure, as prolonged and sustained efforts with lenders and authorities to ensure the sustainability of the airline did not yield the desired results."

He, however, said the future provides new hope and opportunity as India is better off with a flying Jet Airways. "We will now await the bid finalisation process by SBI and the consortium of Indian lenders and will continue to support the bid process initiated by the lenders," he added.

Passengers who had booked on Jet for travel on future dates will get a refund.

14 products from different states received GI tag this year

New Delhi (PTI): Himachali Kala Zeera, Jeeraphool from Chhattisgarh and Kandhamal Haldi from Odisha are among the 14 products that have received Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the government so far this year.

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the other products which received

this tag include Coorg Arabica coffee from Karnataka, Wayanad Robusta coffee from Kerala, Araku Valley Arabica from Andhra Pradesh, Sirisi Supari from Karnataka and Himachali Chulli oil.

Darjeeling Tea, Tirupathi Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange and Kashmir Pashmina are among the registered GIs in India.

The tag helps growers of these products get premium price as no other producer can misuse the name to market similar goods.

A geographical indication tag is used for an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11856.15	11856.15	11738.50	11752.80	-43.35
RELIANCE	1375.00	1389.75	1365.00	1386.00	-34.30
JSWSTEEL	291.20	301.30	286.50	299.60	8.40
TATAMOTORS	231.90	239.30	230.60	235.80	5.30
BPCL	358.00	365.00	353.80	362.95	5.45
WIPRO	289.00	295.50	280.20	284.55	3.65
TCS	2149.90	2155.00	2114.20	2149.25	17.45
ASIANPAINT	1464.00	1479.90	1460.30	1469.00	10.00
BAJAJ-AUTO	3069.00	3089.90	3041.20	3080.00	11.55
TIITAN	1125.95	1129.50	1113.50	1123.90	3.85
INFY	157.45	157.45	154.15	156.20	0.50
CELEA	562.00	566.65	553.20	561.00	1.65
TECHM	804.00	809.00	798.10	800.00	1.90
HINDUNILVR	1738.55	1744.10	1729.25	1742.00	3.45
BAJAJFINSV	7593.00	7595.00	7465.00	7591.55	12.60
SUNPHARMA	463.90	466.00	457.00	463.00	0.55
ULTRACEMCO	4279.70	4279.70	4220.00	4260.55	6.50
GAIL	354.40	354.40	348.50	352.00	0.40
HEROMOTOCO	2742.90	2759.90	2732.55	2742.40	2.75
ONGC	160.85	162.20	159.05	160.50	0.05
COALINDIA	251.75	252.90	249.60	251.55	-0.05
AXISBANK	778.40	779.00	769.00	770.50	-1.05
UPL	935.05	938.95	926.10	932.90	-1.40
MARUTI	7533.10	7539.35	7434.05	7440.00	-18.55
HDFCBANK	2313.00	2315.05	2288.00	2290.00	-12.05
HCLTECH	1108.00	1123.90	1090.50	1101.00	-6.05
BAIFINANCE	3038.70	3046.00	2995.00	3015.00	-17.50
ITC	308.25	308.25	303.55	305.00	-2.20
DREDDY	2827.95	2827.95	2791.35	2802.50	-22.60
BRITANNIA	3029.85	3029.85	2988.15	2995.00	-25.00
M&M	689.60	691.95	682.15	682.05	-0.50
ICICIBANK	411.00	411.00	402.60	403.35	-3.65
POWERGRID	197.35	197.85	193.50	194.90	-1.95
HDFC	2040.00	2047.90	1998.15	2005.00	-21.70
BHARTIARTL	349.50	350.45	332.65	344.90	-3.85
INFY	722.50	722.50	712.75	717.80	-8.40
KOTAKBANK	1386.40	1392.00	1362.85	1369.90	-16.50
ECHERMOT	21378.00	21469.95	20945.55	21000.00	-270.55
LT	1387.00	1387.60	1357.40	1362.50	-8.10
ADANIEXPORTS	395.00	395.50	388.90	389.00	-6.50
NTPC	137.50	137.85	135.05	135.35	-2.20
SBN	315.80	315.80	308.05	310.20	-5.55
TATASTEEL	553.50	554.50	536.70	542.60	-10.65
GRASIM	887.40	887.90	861.60	865.00	-8.55
INTEL	312.95	314.45	303.25	306.00	-6.95
ZEELEAF	418.00	418.00	401.40	402.50	-13.05
INDUSINDBK	1816.00	1823.75	1752.30	1757.60	-6.55
VEDL	185.30	186.90	178.00	178.40	-5.55
HINDALCO	216.15	216.15	206.25	207.00	-7.95
YESBANK	266.40	267.95	254.05	255.50	-10.90
IBULHSNGFN	833.00	833.95	788.65	795.50	-36.95

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	2893.75	2869.70	2830.10	2841.95	-112.90
GICRE	255.40	261.80	245.25	261.50	-10.70
BANDHANBNK	563.00	577.40	562.00	569.90	12.15
ABB	1414.10	1449.00	1414.10	1436.00	23.35
CONCOR	515.90	523.00	508.10	520.30	8.10
ICICI	1089.00	1100.00	1070.40	1099.80	16.65
AUROPHARMA	785.00	794.00	779.00	789.15	6.75
NMDC	104.10	105.15	102.90	104.60	0.60
HINDPETRO	265.00	269.50	258.15	266.00	1.30
HDFCCLAMC	157.10	158.00	151.50	158.20	5.95
DIVISLAB	1716.00	1731.75	1713.00	1721.00	6.40
IUPIN	833.00	837.60	820.95	835.80	2.85
SURECEM	1998.10	1981.90	1933.20	1961.00	65.50
ICICIPRULI	364.05	369.90	358.40	367.50	1.00
MARICO	322.25	368.40	362.25	365.00	1.00
AMBUJACEM	262.50	235.25	230.00	232.40	0.40
HINDZINC	282.80	284.95	281.55	282.00	0.20
PCHH	1064.00	1075.00	1062.15	1069.90	1.25
GODREJCP	689.65	673.00	664.75	667.50	-0.70
NIAL	187.25	192.00	186.20	189.00	-0.20
PETRONET	229.10	242.85	238.85	240.30	-0.20
HAVELLS	751.15	767.60	751.15	756.05	-2.10
SRLIFE	621.00	621.40	611.75	616.00	-1.70
COLPAL	1236.00	1227.90	1214.00	1218.40	-3.50
CADILAH	326.65	340.40	324.25	336.90	-1.00
MCDOWELL-N	508.00	539.50	540.00	554.25	-1.85
ACC	175.80	179.75	168.00	169.35	-5.65
SIF	582.00	584.00	575.10	578.50	-20.60
M&M	1185.00	1194.60	1171.50	1185.40	-3.60
MOTHERSUMI	167.90	162.90	156.20	157.45	-0.75
ASHOKLEY	97.20	97.20	94.05	95.85	-0.50
BHAIJHLDG	409.35	413.70	395.90	406.45	-2.15
DABUR	3307.00	3334.95	3280.00	3285.55	-18.55
DLF	183.85	185.70	179.25	181.75	-1.60
PEL	2681.40	2695.45	2633.55	2647.00	-25.95
NHPC	24.45	24.10	23.55	23.75	-0.25
BHEL	78.00	78.00	75.75	75.90	-0.80
BOSCHLTD	1844.95	1844.95	1807.15	1807.15	-20.90
PIGCON	62.00	62.90	61.40	61.35	-0.15
BALCO	2371.20	2413.00	2346.05	2353.95	-70.65
SRRANSFIN	1237.00	1242.00	1213.00	1212.40	-6.40
OFSS	135.00	136.40	130.15	131.20	-19.05
INDIGO	1493.00	1499.00	1471.00	1480.00	-22.50
UPL	157.00	160.00	152.25	155.10	-26.80
LATPH	149.65	150.95	145.75	146.35	-3.20
PIDILITIND	1284.95	1302.70	1252.10	1259.70	-32.05
SAIL	59.00	59.10	56.15	57.15	-1.55
IDEA	18.10	18.15	16.95	17.45	-0.55
DMART	1415.00	1424.00	1351.00	1362.00	-48.65
BANKBARODA	130.85	131.05	125.75	126.05	-4.85

BSE 500

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
BSE 500	9.60	9.60	8.05	8.20	-1.40
ABCAPITAL	101.30	101.40	98.85	99.85	-1.45
PVR	1719.00	1722.05	1665.00	1714.10	-5.90
HCLTECH	1109.30	1122.60	1091.00	1100.35	-9.95
CIPLA	568.00	568.00	553.80	562.00	-6.00
DABUR	409.05				

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. Rajkumar 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, Rajkumar 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 everywhere 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 card 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 Angriya, things were pretty electric already.

ing Indian consumer acceptance of the higher prices of electric cars.

Well on 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, Jeram 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 stand-alone 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 hawker 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 in the 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 Bhave*, 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.

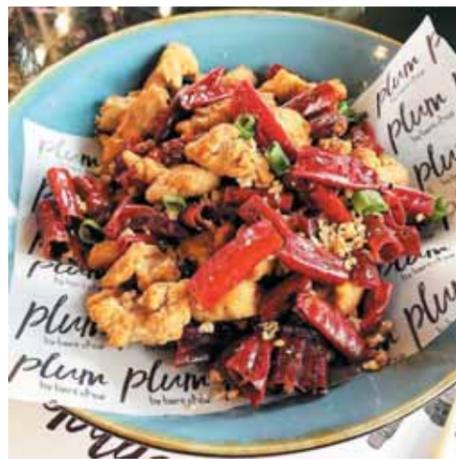
Now, coming back to what the restaurant has been making waves for. A joint effort by restaurateur Priyank Sukhija along with partner Natasha Jain (the lady behind Bent Chair), it started with a unique concept of combining retail with eating out. So while you eat, if you happen to admire anything from 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.

CHEFTALK

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 dried 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 gastronomical 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.



QLA, a European diner, is geared up to host its patrons this Easter Sunday through its special menu that features *Poached red snapper with Buerre noisette capers* and vegetable panache or chicken. Desserts will have apple tarts. There will be one complementary Easter egg for every kid. **Date:** Easter Sunday, April 21 **Time:** 12 pm to 4 pm **Venue:** QLA, Mehrauli.



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).



The 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 Ailia 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.

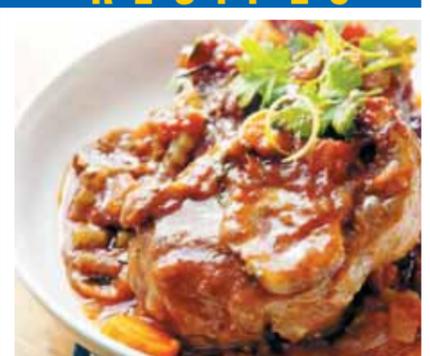


- Pour a layer of chocolate into the bar molds. Tap them on the counter a few times to distribute the chocolate evenly and release any air bubbles, then quickly top with fruits and nuts. Press them slightly.

- 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 baking dish in 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

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.

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.



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 won-



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

der strike.

There looked to be little on when the Brazilian collected Leandro Paredes' simple pass, but he quickly lashed an unstoppable dipping drive past Maxime Dupre 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.

LEADERBOARD

RUNS	450	David Warner (SRH)
WICKETS	19	Kagiso Rabada (DC)
6S	411	
4S	946	

We didn't put up a decent score on the board and kept losing wickets, that's why it cost us the game. — SURESH RAINA

IPL 2019



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 power-play.

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.

We need bigger World Cup, says Lamichhane

AFP ■ NEW DELHI

Nepalese sensation S and eep 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.



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 five 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



Virat Kohli in action. ICC

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 currently 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 a 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 Hasanboy 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.