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JOB HOGS VOTERS' MINDS Rahul spurned alliance Employment top priority in Bihar, MP, Telangana, Chhattisgarh: ADR survey invite, alleges Kejriwal

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{n a worrying sign for the BJP,}}$ despite its thrust on making nationalism as its main poll plank, unemployment has emerged as the key issue for voters in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

A survey conducted by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) shows that more than half of the respondents list employment as their top priority and they ranked the NDA Government's performance in this area at an abysmal 2.15 on a scale of 5. The ADR survey shows

58.84 per cent voters pitching for jobs/employment for youth in Chhattisgarh; 50 per cent voters wanting jobs in Bihar; 70 per cent in Telangana and 61.91 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. For them, employ ment is the major issue and they expect political parties to do something concrete.

As per reports, the Modi Government has failed to deliver on the employment front. In Ianuary, the Modi Government had withheld the release of the National Sample Survey Office Periodic Labour Force Survey that pegged joblessness at a 45year high of 6.1 per cent during 2017-2018.

In March, it was reported that a survey by the Labour Bureau on the number of jobs created under the Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency (MUDRA) would not be made public for another two



VOTERS PRIORITIES AHEAD OF POLLS

- The ADR survey shows 58.84 per cent voters pitching for jobs /employment for youth in Chhattisgarh; 50 per cent voters wanting jobs in Bihar; 70 per cent in Talangana and 61.91 per
- As per reports, the Modi Government has failed to deliver on the employment front. In January, the Modi Government had with held the release of the National Sample Survey Office Periodic Labour Force Survey that pegged joblessness at a 45year high of 6.1 per cent during 2017-2018
- According to the survey, employment, better law and order

months, until after the elections. The Modi Government Bureau, which showed India's had earlier also withheld the 6th annual employment-unem- unemployment rate in 2016-17 was the highest in four years at

ployment survey by the Labour

3.9 per cent. The Chhattisgarh Survey Report stated that voters' pri-orities were neglected by the

Government. According to the report, employment, public transport and better roads were top priorities for voters and the Government performed "below average" on all three. The survey shows better job opportunities (58.84 per cent), better public transport (38.41 per cent) and better roads (37.78 per cent) are the top three voters' priorities in the State.

The survey shows that the Government performance on these three voters' priorities was below average. In rural areas, the concerns were employ-ment, availability of water and electricity for agriculture and the Government performed

below average According to the survey, employment, better law and order, and better roads are major concerns of urban voters. "The Government's performance on urban voter priorities of better employment opportunities (2.22), better law and order/policing (2.20) and better roads (2.12) was rated below average. In addition, the Government has performed poorly in providing public transport (2.18) and drinking water (2.52)," the report said.

The survey report stated that the previous BJP Government in Chhattisgarh, led by Raman Singh, performed "poorly and under-whelmingly" on almost all Governance parameters, including employment, public transport, agricultural infrastructure and law and

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

Scotching speculation about the possible alliance between the AAP and the Congress, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said Congress president Rahul Gandhi refused to forge an alliance with his party for the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event out of the national Capital, Kejriwal said the Congress chief had refused his request to "join hands with the AAP" during a one-to-one meeting recently.

However, the official communication from the Congress High Command in this regard is yet to be made public.

Rahul had earlier said at a public meeting that there would be no truck with the AAP in Delhi. Moreover, the issue of alliance with the AAP had virtually wedged differences in the Delhi Congress with one group led by former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit vehemently opposing any tie-up and another front led by former Union Minister Ajay Maken advocating for the Cong-AAP embrace.
Asked about Sheila's

remarks that Arvind never approached her for an alliance, the AAP chief said, "We have met Rahul. Sheila is not that important leader."

Kejriwal's comments on Sheila "not an important leader" sparked a row with the Congress leaders hitting out at

the AAP chief saying the Delhi Chief Minister may not have the respect and honour Sheila has earned in the public life.

son Ramakant Goswami hit out at the AAP for opposing policies and principles of the Congress despite "pleading" with it for an alliance. The three-time former Delhi Chief Minister who was appointed president of Delhi unit of Congress has so far effectively repulsed attempts for

Dikshit's former cabinet

colleague and party spokesper-

AAP, although she said Rahul would take a final call. Kejriwal has been urging the Congress to forge an alliance in Delhi to prevent the

an alliance of her party with the

BJP repeating its stellar performance in the Capital. Recently, in a meeting with Rahul, senior Congress leaders including Sheila, three working

presidents Devender Yadav, Rajesh Lilothia, Haroon Yusuf,

former Delhi Congress presi-dents JP Agarwal and Tajdar Babar opposed an alliance with the AAP.

A senior party insider of the Congress said the decision was taken considering its long term repercussions in Delhi and adjoining States. "The main question is how the party will face the AAP in Assembly elections after coming together in parliamentary election. Even if alliance happened, the Congress was not getting much politically, rather it could lose its base drastically," he said.

The Congress could win any Lok Sabha seat in the 2014 elections in Delhi. The talk of alliance was fuelled by the fact that the sum of votes polled for the Congress and the AAP was more than that of the BJP.

Kejriwal had even roped in NCP supremo Sharad Pawar TMC chief Mamata Baneriee to persuade the Congress chief to stitch an alliance with the AAP

CAPSULE

POSITIVE PROGRESS, SAYS CHINA ON BANNING AZHAR Beijing: China on Mondav claimed that "positive progress' has been made on designating Pakistan-based JeM chief Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist" by the UN and accused the US of scuttling its efforts by taking the matter directly to the Security Council, setting a "bad example'

EC ORDERS REMOVAL OF ADG FROM LS POLLS

RANCHI: The Election Commission of India on Monday directed Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Jharkhand to keep ADG Special Branch, Anurag Gupta, to keep away from the Lok Sabha elections. According to a letter issues by the ECI Gupta has been asked to report to Resident Commissioner, Jharkhand Bhawan by Tuesday afternoon The ECI letter stated that the ADG will be divested of from present assignment forthwith

CONG GIVING TERROR TAG TO HINDUS: MODI, SHAH

Wardha: In a two-pronged attack on the Congress over the "Hindu terror taq", PM Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah on Monday accused the Opposition party of trying to defame the community, saying it is a "sin to link peace-loving Hindus to terrorism.

Swarm of Pak F-16s beats hasty retreat as IAF scrambles jets

attack on February 14, the IAF on Monday scrambled its jets in Punjab after radars saw an unusually large Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) along with a flight of at least four F-16 of Pakistan Air Force coming close to the international border in Punjab. The swift action forced the Pakistani jets to retreat deeper into their territory Giving details of the inci-

dent, sources here said the UAV and the F-16s flying on the Pakistani side started coming close to the border around 3am when the Indian radars picked up the movement. Not willing to take any chances in the current scenario, two SU-30s and two Mirage jets were scrambled by the IAF to ward off any threat. Faced with such swift response, the Pakistani jets opted to back off and a possible confrontation was avoided, they added.

Earlier on February 27, four Pakistani F-16s had mid heightened tension intruded into the Indian air-Amid neightened tension includes and space in Rajouri in an effort to The IAF had then scrambled its Mirage and MIG-21s to chase

away the Pakistani jets. In the ensuing aerial duel, Commander Abhinandan Varthaman flying a MIG-21 had shot down an F-16. However, during the combat, he entered Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and Varthaman's jet was shot down by Pakistan air defence. He bailed out and was captured by the Pakistan Army and released two days later. The Pakistani iets had carried out the attack in retaliation against Indian air strikes in Balakot a day earlier.

Since then, the defence forces are maintaining maximum operational readiness along the fronts facing Pakistan. In fact, the IAF shot down at least two Pakistani spy drones on a mission to gather intelligence about Indian military positions in Rajasthan sector in early March.

FB offloads Cong, BJP-RSS propaganda pages Cong loses 687 pages, a/cs; IT firm working for BJP too faces heat

PNS NEW DELHI

Social media giant Facebook on Monday said it has removed a number of pages and accounts linked to individuals associated with an IT cell of the firm that propagated pro-BJP and pro-RSS contents

Besides, Facebook has also removed 103 pages, groups and accounts on its platform and Instagram for engaging in similar behaviour as part of a network that originated in Pakistan

While the Facebook removed 687 pages and accounts linked to the Congress as it cracked down on fake accounts and spam, the social media giant also discovered spam activities carried out by Silver Touch, an Indian IT firm which runs the pro-BJP and RSS page "The India Eye".

It removed 15 pages, groups and accounts linked to the firm. These accounts, it said, were part of a coordinated networks and were removed not based on content or fake news but for "inauthentic behaviour" and for pushing



"They posted about local news and political events, including topics like the Indian Government, the upcoming elections, the BJP and alleged misconduct of political opponents including the INC," said Facebook head Cybersecurity Policy Nathaniel

Gleicher. The Facebook in a statement said these account owners used a combination of authentic and fake accounts to share their content like local news and political events, including topics like the Indian Government, the upcoming elections, the BJP and alleged misconduct of political opponents including the Congress.

Gleicher said Facebook has removed 687 Facebook pages and accounts — the majority of which had already been detected and suspended by its automated systems — that engaged in "coordinated inauthentic behaviour" in India and were linked to individuals associated with an IT Cell of the Congress.

He asserted that the removal was not based on the content that was shared by

nese pages and groups.
"We are constantly work ing to detect and stop coordinated inauthentic behaviour because we don't want our services to be used to manipulate people. We're taking down these pages and accounts based on their behaviour, not the content they posted," he said.

While the Congress clarified that no official pages run by it have been taken down, Únion Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad described action on

word from the party over the action against the pro-BJP pages by Facebook.

"When an enquiry was carried out, it was found that those individuals were linked to Congress IT cell. The Congress to these types of dubious means to claim support but people are sure of what they have seen of Narendra Modi Government," Prasad said.

With ensuing general elections, the Centre had warned social media platforms of strong action if any attempt was made to influence the country's electoral process through unde-

sirable means.
Facebook, which has been facing flak globally for instances of user data breach, has been ramping up efforts to ensure that its platforms (that includes WhatsApp and Instagram) aren't misused to spread misinformation, especially ahead of polls in India.

It has recently started providing details of political ads on its platform in a bid to enhance transparency. It is also strengthening its team of fact checkers to flag fake news.

NDA's Thushar Vellappally to take on Rahul in Wayanad

PNS NEW DELHI

BIP president Amit Shah on Monday announced that Bharat Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS), a BJP ally in Kerala,

against Congress chief Rahul Gandhi in Wayanad. Thushar was the candidate for the party in Thrissur, but the NDA decided to pit

will be the NDA's candidate

him against Rahul to give the Congress chief a tough fight. "I proudly announce Shri Thushar Vellappally, president of BDJS, as NDA candidate from Wayanad. A vibrant and dynamic youth leader, he represents our commitment to development and social justice. With him, the NDÁ will emerge as Kerala's political

alternative," Shah tweeted. Thushar is the son of Vellappally Natesan, general secretary of the influential Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam, which works for the welfare of Ezhava community, a backward caste with sizeable



Newly appointed Jharkhand Chief Secretary DK Tiwari meets Speaker Dinesh Oraon at Vidhan Sabha in Ranchi on Monday

the Congress as a "historical" and deploying technology tools development" but there was no population in the State. Bollywood celebrities laud J'khand

KELLY KISLAYA RANCHI

ayatri Devi of Bhelwara Uvillage in Hazaribagh is star struck and cannot stop smiling. This is for the first time that she got to meet the Tinsel Town celebrities, whom she used to see only on the television and big screens.

Gaytri Ďevi and Malo Devi are the two Sohrai and Khovar artists of the State who are participating the six-day 'Junoon', an art exhibition organised by The Asian Heritage Foundation (AHF) at Hotel Grand Hyatt in Mumbai, which is being attended by a number of Bollywood celebrities.

The festival, organised to mark 10 years of AHF's project, Jiyo, a self empowering programme for creating new livelihoods in creative and cultural industries in rural India is providing a platform to empower the indigenous, grassroot level artist by exhibiting art from var-



Imam with Bollywood actress Nandita Das in Mumbai

ious States including Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha,

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The programme, which is to conclude on April 4, has already witnessed celebrities like Jaya Bachchan, Nandita Gayatri Devi said Das, Poonam Dhillon and Shabana Azmi visiting the

"I could not believe that Jaya Bachchan, who I used to see on the television sets, was actually standing there in front of me, watching me work,"

Gayatri and Malo were accompanied by Justin and venue and interacting with the Alka Imam of Virasat

tion supporting these tribal artists at village level in Hazaribagh.

Foundation, a social organisa-

"The artists managed to interact with some of the super-stars. In fact, Bachchan loved the art so much that she showed interest in having a piece in her house. She said there is a mud wall like area in her house where she would want to get the Sohrai art painted," Justin Imam

The team from Hazaribagh exhibited 11 cement blocks, 8 feet X 4 feet each, portraying the tribal art of marriage (Khovar) and harvest (Sohrai). The cement blocks were carried from Jharkhand to Mumbai on train. Also, there is a separate section where the two artists are giving a live demonstration of their paintings.

Malo Devi said, "We never thought that something which we do to keep our house clean and beautiful can actually attract

appreciation from the celebrities definitely raises our moral." Apart from Sohrai and Khovar, the bamboo art of Gumla district also proved to be a major attraction at the exhibition. The home décor and furniture made by the four tribal artisans of Gumla has been designed by Ahmedabad based architectural and interior designer Jwalant Mahadevwala. Also, a food stall by women

so much attention. Getting

from Churchu block of Hazaribagh selling items like Mahua pickle, bamboo pickle and others edible items have proven to be quite a hit.
Other celebrities from fields

like acting, literary, art and others who are scheduled to pay a visit to the exhibition in the next three days include Aditi Rao Hydari, Rahul Bose, Shobha De, Javed Akhtar, Shekhar Kapur, Konkona Sen, Manish Malhotra m O



candidates gets longer

PARTY AWAITS **HIGH COURT VERDICT** ON DUMRI MLA **JAGANNATH** MAHTO CASE

PARVINDER BHATIA ■ **JAMSHEDPUR**

 $T^{\text{he declaration of JMM candidates for Lok Sabha polls}}$ is getting longer this time. Though JMM party general Bhattacharya, while addressing media on Saturday had said

that party will declare its can-

didate's list in 48 hours but

party insiders informed that it

will take much more time. Sources informed that the party has decided to wait till April 3 for the decision of Dumri MLA Jagannath Mahto

"We are waiting for the decision of the High Court. The court had in its hearing on March 25 in the case of Jagannath Mahto had stayed the Tenughat civil court order and decided the next hearing of the case on April 3. The party has decided to be cautious and announce the names of the candidate after the High Court hearing on April 3 as otherwise it would have to alter the list if there is any against ruling in connection with Jagannath Mahto," said a senior member of the JMM.

Incidentally, party is keen on fielding Jagannath Mahto as candidate from Giridih constituency for a direct fight with Ajsu's Chandra Prakash

The case against Jagannath Mahto pending in High Court from 2016 when he was accused for responsible homi-

Nawadih police station OC, Ram Chandra Ram who died while on duty while trying to control a torchlight procession led by Jagannath Mahto on the eve of Jharkhand bandh called by JMM to protest domicile policy of the government on May 14.

"We have already finalized the names and will be announcing the names of the candidates soon. It is not true that the names are being held back for the High Court case of Jagannath Mahto. We will be announcing names of candidates for Odisha, Bihar, Bengal and Jharkhand together," said a senior leader.

However, sources in the party revealed that party has also kept the names of Jai Prakash Bhai Patel (Mandu MLA) in case High Court ruling goes against Jagannath Mahto. Giridih goes to polls on May 12 and candidates can file nomination after April 16.

Wait for declaration of JMM 'Voice of consumers' held at ICFAI University

PNS ■ RANCHI

The ICFAI University Jharkhand organized a One Day Event - Voice of Consumers, focused on awareness of consumers on the Consumer Laws. Justice Ramesh Kumar Merathia, Retd. Judge, Jharkhand High Court was the Chief Guest and other guests of Honor were J.P. Agarwal, Member, District Consumer Forum, Ranchi and Jayant Prasad, Member, Vidyut Upabhogta Shikay at Nivaran Forum, Ranchi.

Earlier, a Legal Awareness Campaign was conducted in respect of consumer rights and duties in an around Simalia village, situated nearby the university campus, by the students of BBA-LLB and Para-Legal Volunteers of the District Legal Services Authority, Ranchi.

As a part of the event, a Moot Court Competition was conducted for the University students, who were asked to argue on identified consumer law cases. Judge for the com-



petition was Justice Ramesh Kumar Merathia

Welcoming the audience, Prof. ORS Rao, Vice Chancellor ICFAI University said, "In order to get quality goods and services, all consumers must know their Consumer Laws and also on how to redress their complaints legally. However, today, among most of the consumers. Purpose of today's event is to enhance the awareness of consumers ,particularly in Urban and Rural areas so that

Addressing the students, Justice Justice Ramesh Kumar Merathia explained the important provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 1986 and stressed that this law is in addition to other laws, for protecting the rights of the

consumers. He also suggested some important amendments to the Act so that the law becomes more responsive and beneficial in dealing with the consumer disputes.

J.P. Agarwal highlighted the important provisions of proposed Consumer Protection Amendment Bill 2018. Jayant Prasad explained about the consumer protection mechanism under the Electricity Act and the role of Electricity Regulatory Commission and Electricity Ombudsman in this regard.

The Chief Guest distributed the prizes of recognition for the various events orga nized during the day. Ms Nisha Kumari Mishra, 1st Year BBA-LLB student was adjudged the best speaker in the Moot Court Competition.

The students, faculty members and employees of the University participated in the event. The program concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. B.M. Singh, Registrar of the

Bokaro village

Bokaro: Even as summer yet to hit with all its fury, people of Pindrajora village under Chas block of Bokaro district are already feeling the pangs of water scarcity.

The village has 13 tube-wells, of which nine are defunct, while among the two deep borewell pumps of one is defunct and another virtually abandoned as the water level of the borewell goes down.

There is an overheads water tank in the village which is almost useless now, said Basudeo Mahato a villager.

We are facing very hard time, no one is paying heed on our complaints or problems, said Saptam Mahato another villager.

From the month of March onwards we have to trek 5 to 7 kms with pots or containers to fetch water either from Gawai River or nearby natural sources 'dhari' streams ones or twice each and every day, he said.

There is an overheads water tank in the village which is almost useless now, said **Basudeo Mahato** a villager

Sometimes contaminated stream water leads to waterborne diseases, killing many every year, said Mamtu Devi another villager.

Besides concerned authorities, we have made several complaints with local MLA and MP but all goes in-vain, said Anand another villager. Demanding proper drink-

ing water arrangements in our village, we came out on road and blocked the traffic for but the result is zero. More than five times we (villagers) have joined the stir, first one concerned authority promised us to provided two tankers of potable water daily in the village but it yet to implement,

Water crisis hits Bokaro girl grabs cover Kolhan University plans to make page space in 'Vanita'

PNS ■ BOKARO

 $B^{\text{okaro girl, Madhupriya,}}_{\text{brought laurels not only for the city but also for the State,}}$ by becoming the cover girl of the national women's magazine

Her picture has been printed on the cover page and a special coverage and interviews illustrated on Madhupriya were also published in the April 2019 issue of 'Vanita'. She has achieved the highest place in about 1500 participants.

Today's girls have the courage to win the world. If she works hard to get anything from the heart, she will definitely achieve her target," Madhupriya said in her gentle

Her father Sanjay Kumar Jha is presently working as Deputy General Manager at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) and her mother Usha Jha is a wellknown writer; they originally



belong to Samastipur district of

I have done my schooling from Delhi Public School at Bokaro Steel city and presently pursuing Digital Marketing Ćourse in Delhi, she said. "During my school life I always used to take part in several activities including sports and dance," added Madhupriya.

My mother is my inspiration; she always encourages moving forward. Besides mother my elder sister Rashmipriya and younger sister Mahi Jha always inspired me to participate in competitions as well, she said.

For the contest for becoming the cover girl of Vanitha magazine, applications were invited from the girls aged between 18 to 25 years from 31 December 2018 and about 1470 entries were submitted for this competition.

Later, the selection committee selected the best 20 contestants on various criteria and published their photographs in the February 2019 issue of the journal and finally the cover girl was selected on the basis of voting received from the various criteria and readers of the selection, she Tanushree Tyagi, Miss

India 2018 runner-up honored the winner of the 'Vanita' cover girl contest by wearing Madhupriya a crown in Indian Women Press Corp programme organised at Windsor Place Delhi.

examination completely online

Jamshedpur: The Kolhan University is working on a project to make its examination completely online within few years. After adopting the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in 2017, the university has decided to make the entire process online to help students become techno savvy.

The examination department of Kolhan University have asked all 46 constituent (17) and affiliated colleges to set up infrastructure with a minimum of 200 computer systems that will make the examination process As per the plans, in the first

phase, online examination will be organised for ability enhancement, a compulsory course for students of first and second semester and skill enhancement, an elective course for students of third and fourth semester. Both papers hold 50 marks weightage in the CBCS system. At present students answer on OMR (optical mark recognition) for the mentioned



"We want to utilize the available technology this will help to update and make the process easier. So far no university has introduced online examinations for their undergraduate students but we are trying it for the first time to make education better with use of the latest technology," said one of the officials of the varsity's examination department.

The official added that about 23000 students will appear for the online test in the first phase expected to take place in 2020-21. Later other subjects will

gradually be added to the system. The Kolhan University was established on August 13, 2009 with 14 Constituent Colleges and 14 Affiliated Colleges in geographical jurisdiction of East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela Kharswan District with more than 80,000 students strength.

The university is in the area of tribal region. Apart from conventional courses in UG and PG level including medical/ dental/ engineering/ law/ management/ education following vocational courses are running under the university. *PNS*

'Farmers can quadruple income with linseed crop'

University (BAU), Ranchi in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi have embarked on various new methods to train farmers for the production of new crops or boost their produce, Linseed cultivation is one of the stream that is said to said to have potential of increasing the farmers' income to four times in the State.

A delegation of ICAR visited the State recently to review the research, spread and possibilities of Linseed crops in Iharkhand and at the same time they have constituted strategy

MRITUANJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI to produce Linseed in the State crop is very useful and it needs and it will proved boon for the ture after harvesting of Kharif

> witnessed sown areas of tribal farmers' of Ranchi, Saraikela and East Singhbhoom. The delegation said that it is excellent farming of Linseed done by the farmers of Ranchi, Sahebganj, Saraikela and East

Singhbhum. In these districts a

total of 170 farmers had sown

Linseed in 60 hectares of lands. Speaking on the importance of the crop the delegation said it will prove to be a boon for the farmers of the State as after paddy harvest very less moisture remains in the farm to use the moisture Linseed

in large scale to increase the only one to two times water to Following the government's farmers' income and simultaneously effectively use of moisneously effectively use of mois120 days to be mature. Where by the university are in good per quintal of wheat and wheat The delegation has also produce six quintal to eight quintal per acre while Linseed gives ₹4000 to ₹4400 per quintal and it also produce six to eight per acre.

Principal Scientist, Ashok Kumar termed the seeds plant developed by the BAU on its premises as very good. The university has developed two kinds of seeds including Divya for irrigated land and Priyum for non-irrigated land.

Speaking on the possibility of Oilseed crops in the State, Kumar said that the State have proper climate land to produce oilseed crops in large scale farmers of the State.

Government of India received every years a large quantity of demands of Linseed. With view to provide fulfill these demands the State have possibility to produce more and increase productivity," he added.

Another member of the delegation Vijay Chopra said there are various use of Linseed. It use in Oil, Medicines, Feed of cows and other. It contains 20 per cent Protein, 37 per cent fats and 28 per cent Carbohydrate. It's Omega-3 quantity proved very helpful in Heart and Arthritis. It's Lignen chemical used in

5-day meditation concludes at Naga Mandir

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Maa Vaishno Devi Trust five-day meditation programme at the Naga Mandir

The spiritual transformation programme, 'Heartfulness' meditation witnessed overwhelming participation. Suresh Tiwary, trustee thanked all the members for successfully conducting it.

The event was conducted with support of Narayan, MBN Raju, Sudha Mishra, Suresh Kanpara, Rashmin Ranpara Neetu Ranpara, Kalpesh Mehta, Malini Mehta Vikas Bharadwaj and a host of others who practice meditation. Ashu Tiwary



said: "The aim of the programme is to transform peo-

ple from the inside out so that limitations". we are the world in a new way,

without the filters of

Tatanagar India International Trade Fair from April 3



Officials of Aashi Nelsa Events Private Limited addresses the media

Jamshedpur: From automobile to handicraft and handlooms, almost all the major players from different sectors will come up with attractive offers at the Tatanagar India International Trade Fair to be held at Gopal Maidan from April 3 to 14.

About 350 stalls of various segments from the country as well as from Afghanistan, Thailand, Bangladesh and Nepal will participate in it. The fair is being organised by Aashi Nelsa Events Private Limited.

Ashish Srivastava, director, Aashi Nelsa Events Private Limited said that international and national brands are participating in the fair. They will be offering new products and together with attractive discounts and offers. Customers should make the best use of the offers, as this is the most appropriate time to purchase products. He informed that from healthcare to food products several manufacturers are participating in the fair. There will be game zone too for children.
"The companies are over-

PNS

whelmingly participating in

attractive schemes to customers to boost sales. We believe that

form for brand promotion and woo customers in large num-

the fair with an aim to offer trade fairs are appropriate plat- bers. People love to go shop- mega trade fair," noted Agarwal, president, ASIA, Commandant, CRPF and ping spree and what better Srivastava. The fair will be Ranjana Mishra, secretary, Subodh Kumar, ADM, Law ways to attract them than a inaugurated jointly by Inder AIADA, Subhash Sharma, and Order.



(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702) कार्यालयः विद्युत अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत आपूर्ति अंचल, गिरिडीह, पिन-815302 E-mail id :- ese.escgiridih@gmail.com

झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड

<u>प्रेस विज्ञप्ति</u> <u>मीटर लगाना हुआ अनिवार्य, विरोध करने पर होगी कार्यवाही</u>

एत्द द्वारा विधुत / बिजली उपभोक्ताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि झारखण्ड राज्य विधुत नियामक आयोग के निर्देशानुसार वैसे विधुत उपभोक्ता जिनके परिसर में विधुत मीटर नहीं है वे अप्रेल 2019 तक अपना मीटर अवश्य लगवा लें। झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड द्वारा विभिन्न ऐजेंसी के माध्यम से निःशुल्क मीटर लगवाया जा रहा है। आप संपर्क कर मीटर लगा लें। यदि किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा मीटर लगाने का विरोध किया जाता है तो उस परिस्थिति में सरकारी कार्य में बाधा डालने एवं राजस्व संग्रह में नुकसान पहुँचाने के विरूद्व कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

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विद्युत अधीक्षण अभियंता विद्युत आपूर्ति अंचल, गिरिडीह

शिरिडीह नगर निगम, शिरिडीह

बन्दोबस्ती आम शूचना

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Suspense over 3 seats still continues in BJP

Congress too behind in announcing candidates from Chatra

PNS RANCHI

It has been more than a week BJP announced the list of candidates of 10 parliamentary seats in Jharkhand. However, the party is yet to announce the names for Ranchi, Chatra and Koderma seats. Out of these three seats interestingly, Chatra falls in the list of parliamentary segments, for which the notification of fourth phase of elections is to start on Tuesday (April 2).

Election Commission of India poll date announcement, Chatra, Palamu and Lohardaga will go to poll on April 29. Nomination for the polls will begin from April 2 and April 9 is the last date of filling the nominations and April 12 being the last date of with-drawal. Out of these three seats, both the BJP and Grand Alliance are to announce candidates from Chatra.

Lots of water has flown under the bridge in past one week, with both BJP and Grand Alliance perplexed in announcing the candidates. In last seven days a lots of action has happened in BJP, RJD former state President Girinath Singh has joined BJP and said to be one of probable contender for Lok Sabha from Chatra.
Sources said that Union

Home Minister Rajnath Singh is said to be behind Girinath joining the BJP camp. Girinath is founder member of RJD in Iharkhand (earlier Bihar). After the death of his father Gopinath Singh he became RID MLA for first time in bypoll in 1993 from Garhwa on Janta Dal ticket and thereafter Koderma MP is not satisfacto-

represented the seat in 1995, 2000 and 2005.

Similar is the situation in Koderma after RJD State president Annapurna joined the BJP fold. Annapurna, a four time RJD MLA from Koderma, is said to probable contender from Koderma. A senior BJP leader requesting anonymity said, "In last seven days a lot of permutation and combination has changed in Chatra and Koderma after Girinath and Annapurna joined the party. After having discussion with all senior leaders of state and centre, the names will be finalized for three seats which the BJP Central election Committee will announce within day or two. Also, the sitting MPs report card has been taken into account." BJP state president Laxman Gilua had already stated the report of Chatra and

ry indicating that both Chatra sitting MP Sunil Singh and Koderma MP Ravindra Rai are unlikely to be fielded.

However, sources said that Sunil Singh and Rai are camping in Delhi meeting senior leaders for securing BJP ticket from Chatra and Koderma respectively.

In Chatra the confusion is not only within BJP but Congress, which has received the seat as per seat sharing arrangement between four partners of grand alliance is too to declare its candidate. Adding confusion in grand alliance is RJD adamant to contest from Chatra. RJD, the younger partner in grand alliance, has received Palamu seat, but the party has announced Ghuran Ram from Palamu and Subhash Yadav from Chatra seat as party candidate.

Rajiv Ranjan State

Congress spokesperson said, "On April 2, the CEC has convened a meeting for finalizing the names of candidates. The meeting will be headed by Congress national president Rahul Gandhi." Ranjan also claimed that the confusion over Chatra seat too will be cleared by April 2, as senior leaders from Congress, JMM and JVM are pacifying RJD to withdraw their candidate from Chatra so as check the split of

secular votes. For Ranchi seat

the Congress has announced

Subodh Kant Sahay as party candidate and BJP has given all

indications that Ram Tahal Choudhary will be replaced this time. Amid all this, the supporters of Ram Tahal Choudhary, the outgoing Member of Parliament from Ranchi created ruckus at the party office in

State Capital.

Ranchi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) ahead of Lok Sabha elections has issued series of instructions on use of marriage hall, community hall, distribution of freebies and food packets to voters. Manish Ranjan, Additional Chief Electoral Officer said, "The District Electoral Officer will go through the booking of com-

other arrangements. Marriage card or cards for other social functions is mandatory for booking marriage halls and community halls. Ranjan also said that if the District Electoral Officer discovers any type of booking of marriage halls, community

halls or organizing any func-

tions which is dubious in

nature than information has to

provided to Income Tax (IT)

munity halls, marriage halls

verifying that the halls has been booked for marriage or

other social functions or for

CEO, Jharkhand department so that the IT

department verifies such arrangements.
Also, organizing feast or

distributing food by religious institutions or religious groups ahead of election is violation of model code of conduct (MCI) and is punishable under section 133 of the Representation of People Act, 1951. The District Electoral Officer will verify such functions and will ensure

EC issues guidelines on luring voters that feast or distribution of food packets to people is not done in large quantity. Ranjan said, "If the District Electoral Officer founds any suspicious in such functions that the district administration should take action so as to ensure that such function is banned." As per ECI directive if any candidates, directly or indirectly participates at any feast with an attempt to lure voters that the expenses incurred in hosting such feast will be counted in the poll expenses of the candidates. However, participation of candidates in any religious function feast such as langar, marriage function or any other function such as birthday, death will not be counted as model code of conduct viola-tion provided the candidates participates in such functions as commoner. The expenses incurred in such functions will not be counted as poll expens-

es of candidates.



INBRIEF

TRIPATHI APPOINTED JPSC CHAIRMAN The State government on Monday appointed former Chief Secretary Sudhir Tripathi as the Chairperson on Jharkhand Public Service Commission. A

notification in this regard was issued by the Government stating that Tripathi will remain on the post from the date of his joining

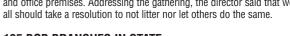
to the completion of 62 years of age. Tripathi retired from the post of Chief Secretary of Jharkhand on March 31 after getting two service extensions of three months each

HEALTH OFFICIALS TAKE 'SWACCHTA OATH'

In the presence of all the health programme officials and health officials. Dr Raiendra Paswan, Director of health services administered the oath taking ceremony for the cleanliness fortnight at the RCH

Auditorium, Namkum on Monday. The fortnight is being organised from April 1 to April 15. During this time a cleanliness campaign is being held in the

and office premises. Addressing the gathering, the director said that we



135 BOB BRANCHES IN STATE

After merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda on Monday, BOB emerged as the second largest bank in the public sector. A notification issued by Reserve Bank of India stated that all the

branches of Vijaya and Dena banks will work as branches of BOB from April 1, 2019. Now BOB would have more than 9500 branches, 13,400 ATM centres and 85,000 workers providing services to over 120 million customers. In Jharkhand th bank would have 135

branches, including 94 of their own, 16 of Vijaya Bank and 22 of Dena Bank and a total of 194 ATM centres.

RECORD FREIGHT LOADING BY SER

In the financial year 2018-19, which has just concluded, South Eastern Railway has achieved record freight loading of around 155 million tonnes as against 150.76 million tonnes loaded in the previous year thus registering a growth of 4.24 million tonnes i.e. 2.81 per cent. In the month of March 2019. SER loaded 14.77 million tonnes as against 13.85 million tonnes loaded in the month of March 2018. This is the highest ever freight loading of SER achieved in a single month.

FREE HEALTH CAMP ORGANISED

A free health check up camp was organised under the Marwari Yuva Manch in Lohardaga on Monday. As many as 105 people participated in the camp which was aided by Balaji Pathology, Barwa Toli Lohardaga. It was said tha after the age of 35, people should undergo health



checkup at the interval of six months. They should take special care on their diet. Prasad Poddar, Ashok Poddar, Pavan Rajgariya, Sandeep Poddar, Ram Prakash Modi, Vimal Banka, Bhaskar Sharma .Vivek Kedia, Jai Prakash Sharma Amit Banca aloongwith others were present on the occasion.

POLICE ARREST 3 PERSONS

On a tip off Ranchi police arrested three persons on Sunday while they are trying to commit crime near Sido Kanhu Park under Gonda Police Station. Police team recovered a total of 27 ATM cards of various banks and one Android phone from them. While interrogation



they said that they came Ranchi with their friend to commit crime on pretext of help at ATM

'LS polls to decide fate of nation'

PNS RANCHI

The BJP on Sunday claimed I that the next general election will decide the future of country. On one side there are BJP led nationalist powers, which have courage to attack on terrorists camps situated beyond border and on the other hand there are Congress led opposition leaders, who are addressing terrorists with respect and using words like 'Jee' and 'Sahab' with name of the terrorists leaders, State BJP Spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said on Monday in Latehar.

Addressing a press meet Shahdeo said, "Addressing public meeting in the presence of senior RJD leader, Tejashwi Yadav, Kishanganj, RJD MLA called Pulwama attack master mind Masud Ajhar as Sahab."

Shahdeo said that including Congress not a single leader of the Opposition parties criticized the matter. Before this former Congress National president Sonia Gandhi had said that on Batla House Encounter case that she spent the night without sleeping for a minute, he added.

Congress leaders, Digvijay Singh several times given respect to Osama Bin Laden and other terrorists leaders with joining 'Sahab' and 'Jee' with their name, said Shahdeo.

Hitting hard on opposition party leaders' Shahdeo said, "The Opposition leaders are demoralising defence system by frequently demanding evidence of surgical strike done by them. It is habit of Congress to leave evidence in war. It had given a



big part of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan in 1947. After 1962 war China had acquired thousands of kilometers of land of the country. In 1971 our defense forces reached to Lahore but due to international pressure Congress Government in Centre called them back." While appealing to the people Shahdeo said to make Narendra Modi as Prime Minister once again a campaign is going on across the country. This time also he will win with a big margin, he added. Later, addressing a press meet in Gumla on Monday the Shahdeo said that there is news that the Grand Alliance is getting support of some foreign funded NGOs. Just two days earlier in Ranchi, two women were caught while appealing to vote in the name of religion, he

Lambasting hard on opposition parties' Shahdeo said, "In Kolebira State Assembly bye elections some religious priests of particular religion had appealed for vote for particular party. So called social activist Jean Dreze participated in a meeting of Grand Alliance and got photo shoot on the occasion is proof of the alliance is getting support of foreign funded NGOs. BJP has got complain that some NGOs will divert foreign aid for the campaigning of opposition party candidates. A delegation of BJP had filed a complained against it before Election Commission of India (ECI)."

Shahdeo alleged that the State government has made the religion conversion rule and because of it some anti nation

institutions are frightened. The Constitution of India does not allow religious conversion on pretext of social work, he added.Shahdeo wanted to know that if Congress accepts Kartik Oraon as its respected leader then the party should agree with the principle, under which he had said that those person should be prevented from the benefit of reservation who got converted their religion. Congress only uses Kartik Oraon's name for its benefit but is shunning from his principle, he added.

Appealing to the people Shahdeo said, to make Narendra Modi as Prime Minister once again. A campaign is going on across the country and this time also he will win with big margin, he

Private liquor shops to take couple of days to be functional

Ranchi: Consumer will have to wait for another couple days to buy liquor from private retail shops due to closure of banks on Monday and other process that delayed liquor shop license holders to open their shops on due date, which was April 01. The Election Commission

of India (ECI) gave green signal for opening of over 1,350 new private run retail liquor shops across the State on Sunday. The department start-ed distributing licenses one after one to the shop-owners on Monday. After getting their licenses the holder will apply liquor shop on given spot and it will also take a day or two.

After getting the permission the license holder will submit a fixed amount to get their liquor stock for the shop. To procure liquor stock from Jharkhand State Beverages Corporation Limited the shop owners will apply at same time and it will again be difficult for the corporation to provide liquor stocks.

The sale timing for private retail shops would be from 11 AM to 11 PM as opposed to 1 PM to 10 PM, which was the timing for government shops.

The annual revenue target from the shops for Year 2019-20 has been set for Rs. 1,558 crore, which is Rs 558 crore more than the target of Rs. 1000 crore for Financial Year 2018-19.

Worried over the loss of



File photo of Liquor shop

revenue State government liquor shops did not start from April 1, the State Excise and Prohibition Department sought permission from the ECI for starting the shops on the said time, instead of waiting two months for the Lok Sabha elections to get over.

Also, if the liquor shops remain closed it will create a disruption in the supply chain, leading to illegal manufacture and sale which might be hazardous

Backing up the department's request, the Chief Electoral Officer of Jharkhand wrote in the letter to ECI that denial of opening of new shops will bring a loss of Rs. 200 crore in April and May and will also lead to illicit liquor business, leading to adverse law and order situation in the State which may affect smooth conduct of election.

Narrowly escaping child marriage, first time voter wants next MP to end it

PNS RANCHI

 R^{umi} Kumari, 18, is all set to cast ther vote for the first time in this Lok Sabha Election. Excited about playing a role in selecting the next leaders of her constituency, Rumi has high expectations from the leader she

"Good education, women's safety and end of child marriage are some of the steps, I would want the elected leader to take," she said.

Rumi has such demands as she has a firsthand experience of child labour and a narrow escape from child marriage Resident of Pahantoli village in

Burmu block of Ranchi, Rumi was forced to work as a domestic help at the young age of eight. "I come from a very poor family

of 10 people. The situation back then was such that we couldn't even get food so when a man approached my family saying that if they let me go with him he will provide me education and give my parents money if I do some household chores," she said.

Excited to study, Rumi happily went with the man, only to have her



First time voter Rumi Kumari

dreams shattered. The little girl was forced to work through the day, not

enquired about education she was shouted at. Left with no option, she given any money and when she ran from the house of employers and

reached home. However, instead of supporting her, Rumi's family decided to marry

10, just like her other four sisters, the eldest of whom was married off at the age of 6 and sent to live with her in When she realized what was hap-

her off when she attained the age of

pening, Rumi protested. "There was a Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in my school, where I took admission with the help of teachers and block officers. Since then I never looked back," she said. Now that she is of the age of vot-

ing, Rumi wants to select a leader who understands these problems and work towards solving them so that more girls like her do not have to face such crisis. Presently pursuing graduation

and working part time to support her studies Rumi said, "Education is the key. My parents tried to marry me off because they were uneducated. Another problem I and many other girls face is harassment by drunkards on the road, so safety definitely should be an agenda."

She also advocates alcohol ban as it leads to problems in houses, harassment of girls and many other

DSPMU YOUTH FEST

'Avaahan' to spread colours of creativity, joy

oined up on the theme -- for the students, by the students, of the students, the first youth fest - Avaahan of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University (DSPMU) is all set to spread the colours of creativity and joy. The two day fest will be inaugurated by DSPMU VC - Satya Narayan Munda on April 2.

"Amidst much fanfare, the event will be inaugurated enfolding the fascination of different creative genres at the newly constituted university. A mix blend of cultural affairs will mark the beginning of the tantalizing show which will be presented by a handful of budding talents from different departments," said Secretary -- Student Union (DSPMU) and managing committee member,

The participants will enter the arena



in various artistic forms. The youths of the college will have a golden opportunity to rub their shoulders in several vibrant arty events ranging from classi-

cal vocal solo (Hindustani/ Carnatic), classical instrumental solo (Percussion), light vocal (Indian), western vocal (solo), group song (Indian), group song (west-

Other creative events like folk orchestra, western instrumental solo, rangoli making, spot photography, on the spot

Students perform during rehearsals for Youth fest AAHWAN' of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University (DSPMU) in Ranchi on Monday

painting, mehandi designing, folk/tribal dance, classical dance, quiz, elocution, debate, poster-making, clay-modeling, collage making, cartoon sketching, monologue, skits including mime have also been planned for the students.

The event is being organised to motivate the students to give equal importance to academics as well as extra-curricular activities.

This is an attempt of the university to nurture their aspirations and ensure overall development of students. The event will not just recognise their hobby but will further polish their talents ensuring holistic development. Such gatherings are an opportunity for all creative enthusiasts to share a common plattural amalgamations," said Bhagwat.

"The cultural extravaganza holds a distinct place in a youth's life who wants to carve a niche for themselves in different creative sectors," he further added. In the first of its kind effort, the student union leaders of the varsity have taken the responsibility of organising the fest, adding the essence of tribal culture

while mingling several other art forms. DSPMU is the first university of the State to hand over the entire responsibility of the youth fest to the student union leaders. "The university has not just given us the privilege but this is a form of appreciation to recognise our potential. No university has done this before," the Secretary - Student Union DSPMU further added. The programme will be initiated from 10 AM onwards on the campus premises while the valedictory session will be held on April 6.

U'khand: Priyanka to campaign for candidates on April 7



Congress president's rally in

Dehradun on March 16, demand

to hold his rallies came from dif-

ferent parts of the state. Rahul

Gandhiji would address first

rally on April 6 in Srinagar at 12

noon then we would address a

public meeting in Almora at 2

pm while at 4 pm he would in

Haridwar. The programme of the

Priyankaji is not final yet but she

would be in Uttarakhand on

country the demand of Priyanka

Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi is

very high among the Congress

party candidates in Uttarakhand

also. It is learnt that the All India

Congress Committee (AICC)

General Secretary Harish Rawat

is working hard to bring

Priyanka for campaigning in

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

in Rudrapur in Udham Singh

Nagar district on March 28,

After successful rally of

Like in other parts of the

April 7," he said.

Uttarakhand.

Programme not finalised yet but Priyanka likely to hold road shows in **Dehradun & Nainital**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

To boost the prospects of the Congress candidates in Uttarakhand, the national general secretary and in-charge Congress in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka Gandhi is expected to hit the campaign trail on April 7.
Though the programme of

Priyanka is not confirmed yet, it is learnt that she can hold road shows in Dehradun and Nainital.

The Vice President of the state Congress, Surya Kant Dhasmana said Congress pres-ident Rahul Gandhi would hold rallies at three places in Uttarakhand on April 6.

"After the mega success of

HC quashes GO staying

Uttarakhand has quashed the government order of

September 2012 that had stayed

reservation in promotion

under SC-ST quota in the state.

it wants, the government can

bring in a law under article 16 (A)

of the constitution. The division

bench of chief justice Ramesh

Ranganathan and justice NS

Dhanik also stated that the gov-

ernment order regarding reser-

section

ORGA

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No. : E/TC/5 Part (III)

Block

section

KRKR-MCZ

BANO Yard

BANO-KNRN

MAEL-RMT

GDBR-JHMR

HRBR-GRE MURI-

The court has stated that it

reservation in SCST promotion

Nainital: The high court of vation in promotion under SC-

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

District Location LC

ofLC

504/7-8 HB-43

519/3-4 HB-45

521/11-12 HB-46

402/2-3 MB-34

299/11-12 CM-08

Height Subways and Limited Height Subways

Simdega

Saraikela-

Kharsawan

Target date of completion for closure: 05.04.2019

ST quota whether issued by the

Uttarakhand government or

received from the Uttar Pradesh

government, would be applicable.

Rudrapur resident Gyan

Chandra had filed a petition in

the high court stating that on

September 5, 2012, the state

government had issued a gov-

ernment order discontinuing

reservation in promotion under

the quota for scheduled caste and

Reason for

elimination

Subway

Subway

scheduled tribes.

No.

381/18-19 MB-20 Limited Height Subway

All five constituencies of U'khand on focus of Congress leadership

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

All Lok Sabha constituencies of Uttarakhand are included in the list of 150 seats in the country which the Congress leadership has prepared for special attention.

The list includes those seats

where the Congress party is in direct contest with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). It is learnt that the

Congress President, Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi would hold road shows and rallies in these constituencies to boost the prospects of congress candi-

It is believed that the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson, Sonia Gandhi could also campaign in these areas.

The strategists of Congress believe that with special focus on these constituencies, the twin purpose of restricting the tally of BJP and boosting the

Rawat, who is pitted in a close contest with the state president of BJP, Ajay Bhatt in Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar parliamentary constituency, wants a rally or road show of Priyanka

The strategists of Congress believe that with special focus on these constituencies, the twin purpose of restricting the tally of BJP and boosting the electoral fortunes of Congress can be achieved

electoral fortunes of Congress can be achieved.

In Uttarakhand which has the tradition of contest which is mainly between the BJP and Congress, all five Lok Sabha seats are on the focus of the Congress leaders.

It is worth mentioning here that the Congress party had swept all five seats in Uttarakhand in the Lok Sabha elections of 2009. Things however were reversed in the year 2014 when riding high on a

Gandhi to negate the effect of the Prime Minister's rally. Similarly the Pradesh Congress President Pritam Singh also wants that Priyanka should hold road show in his support in the urban strong Modi wave the BJP candidates won from all the seats

The co- in charge of Uttarakhand Congress, Rajesh Dharmani told The Pioneer that all the five seats of the state are on the special focus of Congress leadership. He said that apart from rallies of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, the state unit of Congress has requested the party to send UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi to Uttarakhand.

areas of Dehradun. The Congress strategists are of the view that since BJP is on stronger wicket in Dehradun city, the road show of Priyanka could turn the tide in favour of Singh.

Bisht: BJP projecting NaMo in every constituency is democracy's murder

BJP is making such an envi-

ronment wherein it appears as

if Modi is party's candidate

from all the parliamentary

seats. Terming this as murder

of democracy, he said that

since the members of the par-

liaments (MP) are the public

representatives and projecting

Cenior Congress leader and Sformer minister Hira Singh Bisht has said that it is very unfortunate that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is projecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in every parliamentary constituency instead of its candi-

Addressing media persons

at Rajiv Bhawan, the state party Modi is insult of democracy. office of the Congress party Taking a dig at the 'Main Bhi Chowkidar' campaign of here on Monday, Bisht said that

BJP, he said that many corrupt persons too have become part of the campaign and are terming them as Chowkidars.

Bisht said that the Narendra Modi has not fulfilled any promise it made to the people in the Lok Sabha elections of 2014.

जिला समादेष्टा का कार्यालय, झारखण्ड गृह रक्षा वाहिनी, बोकारो पत्रांक-348 दिनांक- 01.04.2019

आवश्यक शचना

बोकारो जिला के प्रभावित बल के सभी महिला / पुरूष गृह रक्षको को सूचित किया जाता है कि लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन चुनाव— 2019 के अवसर पर विधि—व्यवस्था संधारण हेतू बड़ी संख्या में गृह रक्षकों को कॉल–अप किया जाना है। प्रभावित बल के वैसे गृह रक्षक जो कर्तव्य के प्रतीक्षा में बैंठे हैं, वे सभी दिनांक–05.04.2019 तक जिला समादेष्टा, का कार्यालय, झारखण्ड गृह रक्षा वाहिनी बोकारो, सेक्टर-1 में आकर लोकसभा चूनाव-2019 में ड्यूटी हेत् अपना आगमन दर्ज करना सुश्निचित करेगें।

आम चुनाव ड्यूटी एक अति महत्वपूर्ण ड्यूटी है, अतः आगमन दर्ज नहीं कराने वाले गृह रक्षको के विरुद्ध अनुशासनात्मक कार्रवाई की जायेगी ।

लोकसभा चुनाव में प्रतिनियुक्त होने वाले गृह रक्षको को चुनाव आयोग / सरकार द्वारा देय कर्तव्य भत्ता एवं अन्य भत्ता का भुगतान तत्परता से किया जायेगा।

PR 205287 Home(18-19)D

जिला समादेष्टा झारखण्ड गृह रक्षा वाहिनी बोकारो।

जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय, चतश, झाश्खण्ड

केन्द्र परिवर्तन की सूचना

जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय, चयन परीक्षा- 2019 कक्षा- छः के लिए दिनांक 06.04.2019 (शनिवार)को आयोजित होनी है। पूर्व निर्धारित परीक्षा केन्द्र में अपरिहार्य कारणवश परिवर्तन किया गया है जो इसप्रकार है:-

पूर्व निर्धारित परीक्षा केन्द्र का	परिवर्तित परीक्षा केन्द्र का नाम	परिक्षार्थियों का			
नाम	T., 1.,	प्रखण्ड			
	Indumati Tibrewal	Hunterganj,			
S.S.Girls High School,		Pratappur,			
Chatra,(Jharkhand)	VidyaMandir,Chatra,	Kunda,			
	(Jharkhand)	Pathalgada,			
PRINCIPAL					

P.R.205286 Human Resource Developement(18-19)-D

JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA, **CHATRA**

समाहरणालय, गढ्वा (जिला निर्वाचन शास्त्रा)

E-mail ID - electiongarhwa1950@gmail.com

मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी –सह– अपर मुख्य सचिव, मंत्रिमण्डल (निर्वाचन) विभाग, झारखण्ड, रॉची के पत्रांक 1451 दिनांक 17.03.2019 के द्वारा गढ़वा जिला अंतर्गत पूर्व से अनुमोदित कुल 12 मतदान केन्द्रों के भवन/स्थल परिवर्तन संबंधी प्रस्ताव पर आयोग के पत्रांक 64/ES-1/JKD-HP/2019 दिनांक 15.03.2019 द्वारा सहमति प्रदान कर दिये जाने की सूचना संसूचित की गई है, जिसका विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

क0 सं0	विधान सभा क्षेत्र संख्या एवं नाम	प्रखण्ड का नाम	पूर्व में अ	नुमोदित मतदान केन्द्र की संख्या एवं नाम	परिवर्तित मतदान केन्द्र का नाम
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	080—गढ़वा	मेराल	16	नव प्राथमिक विद्यालय चटनाही टोला (पश्चिमी भाग)	उत्क्रमित मध्य विद्यालय, सोहबरिया (उतर्र भाग)
2	080—गढ़वा	मेराल	28	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, चेचरिया (पश्चिमी भाग)	उत्क्रमित प्राथमिक विद्यालय, छपरवार खू
3	080-गढ़वा	मेराल	109	सामुदायिक भवन, दुलदुलवा	उत्कमित प्राथमिक विद्यालय, बंगलवा टांड्
4	080-गढ़वा	गढ़वा	161	मध्य विद्यालय, दरमी नावाडीह (उतरी भाग)	उत्क्रमित उच्च विद्यालय, दरमी नावाडीह (दक्षिणी भाग)
5	080—गढ़वा	गढ़वा	162	मध्य विद्यालय, दरमी नावाडीह (दक्षिणी भाग)	उत्क्रमित उच्च विद्यालय, दरमी नावाडीह (पूर्वी भाग)
6	080-गढ़वा	रंका	398	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, जोगीखूरा	नव प्राथमिक विद्यालय, जोगीखूरा बगई टोला
7	080गढ़वा	रमकण्डा	448	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, बरवा	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, बरवा, खूटी टोला
8	081 भवनाथपुर	भवनाथपुर	104	बीजगुनन प्रक्षेत्र, बनसानी	उत्कमित प्राथमिक विद्यालय, कच्छरवा
9	०८१ भवनाथपुर	विशुनपुरा	281	पंचायत भवन, पिपरी कला	मध्य विद्यालय, पिपरी कला (उतरी भाग)
10	77 विश्रामपुर	काण्डी	22	पंचायत भवन, गाड़ा खूर्द	उत्क्रमित प्राथमिक विद्यालय, नारायणपुर (दक्षिणी भाग)
11	77 विश्रामपुर	काण्डी	52	आंगनबाड़ी केन्द्र, भरत पहाड़ी	नव प्राथमिक विद्यालय, भरत पहाड़ी
12	77 विश्रामपुर	काण्डी	62	चलंत मतदान केन्द्र, पतहरिया	आंगनबाड़ी केन्द्र, पतहरिया
	_				ह0 ∕ −

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, –सह– उपायुक्त, गढ़वा।

Sr. DEN (Co)/Ranchi n Railway

 A^{s} the date of polling in Uttarakhand for the Lok Date: 29.03.2019 Sabha elections approaches near, election campaigns in state have picked up speed. It is notified that the following manned level crossings (LC) in Ranchi Division will be closed due to construction of Normal With star campaigners of the Bharatiya Janata Party already starting campaign and those of Congress lined up to start shortly, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is also gearing up for its chief Mayawati's rallies in Roorkee and Rudrapur. The

> Uttarakhand. BSP Mahanagar chief and candidate from Tehri Lok

Firefighter works to douse in a building at Kanta Toli in Ranchi on Monday. No one was reported to be hurt in the incident, according to locals **BSP** all set for

Mayawati's rallies **BSP** chief to address 2 rallies on

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

April 6

BSP in alliance with Samajwadi Party (SP) is contesting on four Lok Sabha seats in

told The Pioneer on Monday that BSP chief Mayawati is scheduled to address public rallies in Roorkee and Rupdrapur on April 6. He said, "Locals no longer have faith in BJP and Congress. Though they still view our party as an outsider, they also know that Garhwal and Kumaon regions were more prosperous when the BSP government was in office during the time of undivided Uttar Pradesh. In fact during her tenure as chief minister of UP. Behenii made four new districts and 14 blocks in what we presently call Uttarakhand."

Regarding the rallies he said, "Our rallies will not be filled with people who have been bribed to be there, just to show numbers. Our rally will have people who are fed up with these so called national parties, their leaders and their hollow promises. We are expecting crowds of about 1.5

chief is likely to speak on during the rallies, he said, "I cannot be sure about what issues she is going to raise. However, our party has always been vocal about the betterment of minorities and also about the equality of followers of various religions. Look at the education sector- the state lost the only NIT we had to Rajasthan. In places like Tehri constituency, one should ask the MP Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, what she has done in the past five years and you'll know about state's current situation. In Uttarakhand, unemployment, inflation and migration are the key problems and they will surely be discussed."

It is pertinent to mention that in 2007 state assembly elections BSP won eight seats, in 2012 three and in 2017 none. Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar have traditionally been areas from where the BSP has received support of the voters. | PR 205282 Election(18-19)D

IT dept seizes Geelani's Delhi house Army Chief to visit US

The Income Tax Department has attached a house of hard-line Kashmiri separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani located in the national Capital in connection with an over ₹3.62 crore tax evasion case against him.

The attached flat is located in south Delhi's Khirki Extension locality in Malviya Nagar. A Tax Recovery Officer (TRO) of the department sealed the house as Geelani allegedly failed to pay ₹3.62.62.160 income tax for assessment years 1996-97 to 2001-02, an order said.

The department has

The attached flat is located in south Delhi's Khirki Extension locality in Malviya Nagar. A Tax Recovery Officer (TRO) of the department sealed the house as Geelani allegedly failed to pay ₹3,62,62,160 income tax for assessment years 1996-97

undertaken the action under section 222 of the Income Tax Act (assessee deemed in default of tax payment) and "prohibited and restrained" the Hurriyat Conference leader from transferring the asset

An order to attach the

property was issued on March 29 by the department.

TRO is the enforcement wing of the IT department and deals with cases of wilful defaulters. The authority is empowered to attach an asset and subsequently auction it to realise the tax dues.

fuelling terror in J&K in conjunction with terror affiliates of the Pakistan Government and the Army combine In March, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) slapped a penalty of ₹14.40 lakh on

Various agencies have tightened

sympathisers ostensibly working

at the behest of Pakistan and are

suspected to be engaged in

the noose around terror

alleged contravention of foreign exchange law. The foreign currency,

Geelani in a 17-year-old case of

illegal possession of foreign

currency worth \$10,000 in

lakh, had also been confiscated by the ED in 2002 as part of an order issued under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) on March 20.

This currency was seized during an Income Tax raid at Geelani's residence in Srinagar's Hyderpora area in 2002.

Various agencies have tightened the noose around terror sympathisers ostensibly working at the behest of Pakistan and are suspected to be engaged in fuelling terror in Jammu & Kashmir in conjunction with terror affiliates of the Pakistan Government and the Army combine.

SSC paper leak case: SC OKs declaration of re-exam results

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) to declare the result of a re-examination of SSC Combined Graduate Level (CGL) 2017 held last year. A Bench of Justices SA Bobde and S Abdul Nazeer said that injunction granted on August 31, last year on the declaration of result for SSC CGL, 2017, would not continue on a re-examination conducted on March 9, 2018.

The top court said that lakhs of unemployed youths have suffered because someone from the organisation was corrupt. It also set up a high powered committee comprising Nandan Nilekani, a co-founder of tech giant Infosys, and renowned computer scientist Vijay P Bhatkar to suggest reforms for conducting of competitive examinations fairly by Government bodies.

to boost military ties

In an effort to further strengthen military-to-military ties, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat will hold wide ranging discussions with the US top brass during his four-day visit there beginning

on Tuesday. Both the Armies now hold regular joint exercises here and in the US annually besides exchange of officers to promote better relations. His visit comes against the backdrop of growing strategic and Defence ties between the countries increasing manifold over the

Moreover, the US has emerged as one of the biggest weapon suppliers to India in the last two decades with India recently signing deal with a US firm for 72, 400 Sig Sauer assault rifles worth over Rs 700 crore for frontline troops guarding the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan and Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China.

The rifles will be acquired on fast track basis and likely to be inducted within a PTI | year. Also, the arms exports

ITBP command activated at Leh to counter China build-up

Both the Armies -India and US now hold regular joint exercises here and in the US annually besides exchange officers to promote better relations



The Army Chief led delegation will interact with senior military hierarchy of the US Armed Forces with an aim to take forward the military to military cooperation. The Army Chief will also visit the US Military Academy at West Point and the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. Kansas. Rawat is an alumnus of the college

from the US have crossed the ten billion dollar mark in last few years and the US keen to have joint ventures with Indian companies to manufacture weapons here.

Given this scenario, the Army Chief led delegation will interact with senior military hierarchy of the US Armed Forces with an aim to take forward the military to military cooperation. The Army Chief will also visit the US Military Academy at West Point and the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth,

Kansas, officials said here on Monday. Rawat is an alumnus of the prestigious college.

Rawat will interact with General Joseph F Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General Mark A Milley, Chief of Staff of the US Army to discuss military cooperation issues of mutual interest.

The visit to US aims to give impetus to the military ties and enhance strategic engagements. The functional experience gained during the visit shall further enhance India-US rela-

Zika virus: US relaxes advisory against travelling to India

The Centre for Disease Control (CDC), a US health protection agency, has relaxed its December 2018 travel advisory to India over Zika outbreak, especially for pregnant women. Earlier, the CDC had cautioned pregnant women to not travel to India as there was an ongoing outbreak in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

On Monday, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) issued an statement saying that its March rebuttal to CDC's earlier advisory has led the international agency to say the status of Zika outbreak has changed to "current or past transmission but no current outbreak" from the earlier status given to all south Asian nations — "ongoing outbreak".

According to the CDC website, the advisory now states, "India has reported past or current Zika virus transmission. We do not have accurate information on the current level of risk. There may be delays in detection and reporting of new outbreaks.

"Because Zika is a cause of severe birth defects, CDC recommends pregnant women and couples trying to become pregnant within the next three months work with their health care providers to carefully conThe Indian Council of Medical Research in an statement said its March rebuttal to Centre for Disease Control (CDC)'s earlier advisory has led international agency to say the status of Zika outbreak has changed to "current or past transmission but no current outbreak" from the earlier status given to all south Asian nations -"ongoing outbreak"

> According to the CDC website, the advisory now states, India has reported past or current Zika virus transmission. . We do not have accurate information on the current level of risk. There may be delays in detection and reporting of new

As many as 159 cases of Zika were reported in Jaipur during October-November. In Madhya Pradesh, 130 cases were reported during the same period, whereas in Ahmedabad the number

sider the risks and possible consequences of travel to areas with risk of Zika. If you travel, you should strictly follow steps to minimise exposure to and prevent mosquito bites."

The ICMR adds that Zika virus strain isolated in Rajasthan matches with the one in Brazil, which saw a massive outbreak in 2016. It further clarifies that though preliminary studies done on strain in Rajasthan do suggest that the mutation causing birth defects (microcephaly) was absent there but "further characterisation of the strain is required as microcephaly has several

attributable cases

Also, the ICMR has said that a study was being rolled out in Madhya Pradesh among Zika-positive pregnant women to understand the outcomes of pregnancy and to know the occurrence of neurological complications, including microcephaly. A similar study, ICMR said, has been rolled out in Rajasthan as well.

As many as 159 cases of Zika were reported in Jaipur during October-November. In Madhya Pradesh, 130 cases were reported during the same period, whereas in Ahmedabad the number of cases were two.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Monday operationalised its strategic command at Leh in the Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir after moving it from Chandigarh as part of a plan to counter the ever-increasing Chinese military build-up in the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

The North West frontier of the ITBP, headed by an Inspector General of Policerank officer equivalent to a Major General in the Army is tasked to guard the 3,488-km India-China border in peace times. It has now been made operational from Ladakh from Monday, officials said.

The Indian tricolour and the paramilitary's flag were unfurled to herald the new



operating from the existing premises of the ITBP sector eadquarter, they said.

ITBP Director General SS Deswal has sanctioned more infrastructure including buildings and logistics for the new command. The DG is expected to visit the formation some time soon. A decision to the effect was taken in January this year to shift the command from Chandigarh to Leh, which are separated by a distance of 960 km.

Leh district in the Himalayan mountain of Jammu & Kashmir is the base for Army's 14 Corps which is headed by a Lt General-rank ☐ A decision to the effect was taken in January this year to shift the command from Chandigarh to Leh, which are separated by a distance

☐ Location of the ITBP and the Army in the same region will resolve the coordination issue between the two forces

☐ The new ITBP frontier will have command of about 12 battalions (12,000 personnel) deployed along the Chinese border that runs along Jammu & Kashmir, a move intended to increase the presence of the troops on the icy, blizzard-prone mountainous border

officer and the shift is expected to facilitate a better interaction between the two forces in terms of strategic and defence planning.

The Army, which carved out a separate Corps in Leh after Jammu and Srinagar following the Kargil incursion in 1999, has been demanding operational control over the ITBP. The proposal has been rejected by the Government. Location of the ITBP and

the Army in the same region

issue between the two forces. The Union Home Ministry had first mooted the proposal for this strategic move in 2015

will resolve the coordination

but it did not materialise. The new ITBP frontier will have command of about 12 battalions (12,000 personnel) deployed along the Chinese border that runs along Jammu & Kashmir, a move intended to increase the presence of the

troops on the icy, blizzardprone mountainous border.

Battle ground

exempted from code of conduct



The Election Commission (EC) has exempted a host of agencies under the Union Home like paramilitary forces, NIA, IB, CBI and other security agencies from Model Code of Conduct and allowed them to procure operationally required items through open tender or Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal.

The move comes after Joint Secretary in the Union Home Ministry Piyush Goyal in a letter to the Election Commission

of India NOC (No Objection Certificate for MHA/ĆAPFs, NSG, Assam Rifles, Intelligence Bureau, CBI-CFSL and other security organisations for procurement of operationally required items through open tender.

In a recent letter to Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, **Election Commission Secretary** Avinash Kumar said it has no objection from Model Code of Conduct angle with regard to procurement of any item by the security agencies under the

Paramilitary forces | EC seeks report on Yogi's | EC: VVPAT order will delay results 'Modi ji ki sena' remarks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

he Election Commission **▲** (EC) on Monday took cognizance of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yodi Adityanath referring to the Indian Army as Modi ji ki sena'. The district magistrate of Ghaziabad has been asked to furnish a report in this regard.

The report will be submitted to the office of Chief Electoral Officer of Uttar Pradesh which has sought the details after taking cognizance of media reports in this

'Congress ke log aatankwadiyon ko biryani l khilate the aur Modi ji ki

would feed 'biryani' to terrorists, while Modi's army gives them bullets and bombs). This is the difference. The Congress people use 'ji' to refer to Masood Azhar to encourage

terrorism," Adityanath said at an election rally in Ghaziabad on Sunday. Ťhe

Minister was campaigning for sit-ting MP and Union Minister VK Singh. The EC had on March 19 asked political parties to "desist" from indulging in

HACKED LAST MONTH, BJP WEBSITE BACK

The BJP website that was hacked almost a month back has come back with much better design, user-interface and navigation

capabilities. The portal went into the "maintenance" mode on March 5 when hackers hit it, wiping out the data. The message

on the BJP website read: "We'll be back soon! Sorry for the inconvenience...!" If you open it now, the message reads:

sena aatankwadiyon ko goli any propaganda involving aur gola deti hai. (Congress actions taken by Defence forces during their Lok Sabha poll campaigns.

The fresh advisory came days after the poll panel asked parties and their candidates against using pictures of Defence force personnel in their campaign material. "...Parties/candidates are advised that their campaigners/candidates should desist, as part of their election campaigning, from indulging in any political propaganda involving activities of Defence forces,"

The poll body said the new advisory was in continuation to its earlier one on use of pictures of Defence personnel in campaigning.

SC asks 21 parties to file reply in a week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

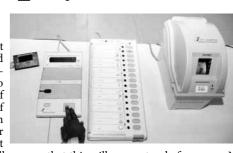
The Supreme Court I on Monday granted time to 21 political parties time till April 8 to respond to the stand of Election Commission of India that verification of 50 per cent of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPAT) in all con-

stituencies will delay counting. The Election Commission (EC) has filed counter-affidavit in the matter pointing out logistical difficulties in carrying out 50 per cent verification of VVPAT. According to the EC, this will delay the announcement of results by at

least six days. "It is therefore submitted per cent VVPAT slip verification in each Assembly segment of a Parliamentary Constituency or Assembly Constituency on an average shall enlarge the time required for counting to about 6 days. It is also relevant to mention that in many Assembly Constituencies, there are more than 400 polling stations, which will require about 8 to 9 days to complete the VVPAT slip count," stated the affidavit filed by the poll panel.

This has come in response to a PIL filed by leaders of 21 Opposition political parties, demanding counting and cross verification VVPAT in at least 50 per cent (randomly chosen) of all polling stations within each Assembly Segment/ Constituency.

The petition also challenges the decision of ECI to verify VVPAT of only one randomly selected booth of a constituency. The petitioners say



that this will account only for 0.44 per cent of the votes polled. This guideline defeats the entire purpose of VVPAT and makes the same "ornamental" without actual substance, they state.

Last week, the Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had required the Commission to reply whether it is possible to increase the VVPAT sample survey in every assembly segment. The Commission has explained that the VVPAT slip is displayed to the voter through a transparent window in the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) for about seven seconds after the casting of vote. The EC had are: N Chandrababu Naidu (TDP), Sharad Pawar (NCP), KC Venugopal (INC), Derek O Brien (TMC), Sharad Yadav (LTJD), Akhilesh Yadav (SP), Satish Chandra Mishra (BSP), MK Stalin (DMK), TK Ranga Rajan (CPI(M)), S Sudhakar Reddu (CPI), Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD), Arvind Kejriwal (AAP), Farookh Abdullah (NC) K Danish Ali (RJD), Ajith Singh (RLD), M Badrudding Ajmal (AIUDF), Jithin Ram Manji (Hindusthani Awam Morcha), Ashok Kumar Singh (JVM), Khorrum Anis Omar (IUML) Prof. Kodanadram (Telengana Jana Samithi), and KG Kenye (Naga Peoples

the Court in 2017 that VVPAT will be used

100 per cent in future

elections. However, the

decision taken by the

EC in July 2018 was to

verify VVPAT of a ran-

polling station from a

The petitioners

selected

domly

constituency.

Cong questions Amit Shah's assets info, demands action his assets which is "very serious"

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused BJP president Amit Shah of providing "false information" related to his property in the affidavit filed by him for Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat and demanded that the Election Commission direct the Returning Officer to initiate action against him.

Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari alleged Shah in his affidavit has "undervalued"

as it is against the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. Referring to a plot in Gandhinagar, the Congress leader claimed that as per the Government guidelines the market value of the plot comes to Rs 66.5 lakh, but Shah had declared its value at Rs 25 lakh.

There was no immediate reaction available from the BJP or Shah's office on the charges. "We would like the Election Commission to take cog-

nizance of this matter and direct the Returning Officer of Gandhinagar to take appropriate action under the law. Because this is no ordinary candidate, this is the president of the BJP and an alleged false declaration on an affidavit is a serious issue," he told reporters. Tewari alleged that when there is a laid down process, by

which a clear market value of the

property can be declared, the

president of BJP for some rea-

son has decided to declare only

"Welcome to the world's largest political party"

less than half its market value. He also claimed that Shah's assets have seen a jump of 300 per cent from 2012 to 2019, growing from Rs 11.79 crore to Rs 38.81 crore. "At least, for some, 'achche din' have come, even if they have not come for 125 crore Indians," he said referring to the BJP's poll slogan for 2014 elections.

He said Section 125-A of Representation of the People Act clearly says that " a candidate who fails to provide full infor-



mation or conceals any information, will be punishable with fine and/or imprisonment".

Stalin washes off anti-Hindu blot

 $T^{aken \ aback \ by \ the \ aggressive \ posture \ of \ Hindutwa \ elements \ in \ the \ BJP \ and \ the$ Sangh Parivar that the DMK is an anti-Hindu organisation, party chief MK Stalin on Monday made a strategic change in his approach to reli-

gions, especially the Hinduism. "There is an attempt by certain political and social groupings to portray the DMK as an enemy of the Hindus. But this is absolutely wrong as we are not against any religions. We, in DMK, follow what the party founders C N Annadurai and my late father Kalaignar (M Karunanidhi) had taught us. They told us to follow the dictum of one God and one community. This is what we are doing even today," declared the DMK leader while campaigning in Vellore district.

Stalin's declaration comes at a time when the social media is agog with his speech made at Tiruchi where he declared that Sanatana Dharma was the biggest threat faced by the country than that from Pakistan and China. The speech has



been widely reported and this way ahead of the AIADMK-led alliance in the campaign front.

The DMK chief's ire at Vellore was directed more towards the PMK, which he alleged, cheated the DMK. "It was because of the intervention and support extended by Kalaignar in 2004 that Anbumani Ramadoss, son of PMK founder Ramadoss was included in the Union Cabinet as Minister of health. Both Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the then Congress chief Sonia Gandhi were against

including Anbumani in the Cabinet," claimed Stalin.

Meanwhile, the DMK fielded Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of M K Stalin to campaign against Anbumani Ramadoss, the NDA candidate contesting at Dharmapuri Lok Sabha constituency. In a no-bar holds attack on Anbumani, the scion of the DMK family asked the people of Dharmapuri not to believe the promises made by the former as he has failed in implementing any of the offers he had made in 2014.

"He has not visited the constituency regularly. Though he had promised to resolve the water crisis in the district, the situation continues to remain the same," charged the film actor son of Stalin.

Anbumani is facing challenge from the DMK's DNV Senthil Kumar at Dharmapuri who hails from a leading Vanniyar family of the district. Though the DMK has declared that it was against caste and religion, the party has been careful in selecting and fielding candidates from the dominant community in the constituencies from which the party is

2nd list of six candidates



Lucknow: The BSP on Monday announced its second list of six candidates for Lok Sabha Polls in Uttar Pradesh.

While Amar Chandra Jauhar has been given ticket from Shahjahanpur (SC), Nilu Satyarthi will be party candidate from Mishrikh (SC), a party statement said.

Manoj Agarwal has been fielded from Farukhabad, Nisha Sachan from Akbarpur, Pankaj Singh from Jalaun (SC) and Dileep Kumar Singh from Hamirpur.

The BSP, which is contesting on 38 Lok Sabha seats (of the total 80 seats) after entering into an alliance with the Samajwadi Party, had on March 22 declared its first list of 11 candidates.

The party in its earlier list gave ticket to former JD(S) leader Kunwar Danish Ali from Amroha, besides announcing Haji Fazulrahman as its nominee from Saharanpur, Malook Nagar from Bijnore and Girish Chandra from Nagina. PTI

BSP announces | TMC is BJP's Trojan Horse in Bengal: CPM

BIP and the Trinamool together to demolish the impact of Left-democratic parties from Bengal, State CPI(M) secretary Dr Suryakanto Mishra has said.

Attacking the two parties, calling one the proverbial Trojan Horse of the other, Mishra, also a politburo member, said, "TMC is the Trojan Horse of BJP," in the Opposition camp, urging people to identify their hidden camaraderie "or else you will have to repent the way you have been for the past eight years" of the Mamata Banerjee

Attacking the BJP for its "nefarious designs" to deconsecrate the Constitution of India by robbing it of its "secular democratic" ethos Mishra said "if it comes for the second time the very future of the secular democratic republic enshrined in our Constitution will be at stake."

On who brought the BJP in Bengal and who was behind

the saffron party's steady emergence, the senior Left leader and a former State Minister said, "the TMC had first tried to bring the saffron menace directly to Bengal through an alliance. But when the people under the Left leadership rejected that move she (Chief Minister) took a circuitous path by trying to communally divide Bengal, the way she did all these years'

- by propping one community much to the chagrin of the "It is the TMC that has to answer the proliferation of

Sangh in the State, it is for the Trinamool to explain the import of a political culture in this State which had never been present since the Independence," Mishra said adding the "Chief Minister will have to answer to the people for her misdeeds." For the BJP he said despite

its meteoric rise and undue importance in the media the party "will never be able to survive in Bengal as the region is basically secular and Left minded with impact of the renaissance culture.

Shocking as Yogi terms Army Modi's Sena, tweets Mamata

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday launched a blistering attack on her Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath for tagging the Indian Army with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hours after the UP Chief Minister attacked the Congress for treating terrorists with Biryani while "Modi ji's army feeds them with bullets and bombs," Banerjee retorted saying the remark had shocked

"It is shocking to hear the UP CM saying that the Indian Army is the 'Modi Sena," Banerjee tweeted adding the Yogi's statement had only insulted the Army. "Such blatant personalisation and usurping of our beloved Indian Army is an insult and a humiliation," she said.

"We are proud of our Army. They belong to all. They are a great asset of our nation and not a cassette of the BJP," Banerjee said adding people of this country "must stand up and reject this state-

Another Trinamool leader Firhad Hakim said "this proves how the Modi Government is politicising the Army to win elections. They are not only politicising the Army but also using it for their narrow end. This will only evoke hatred from the people of India.

Meanwhile in an unrelated and unprecedented development the Chief Electoral Officer of Bengal was literally forced to leave the venue of meeting between Special Police Observer for the State Vivek Dubey and opposition parties when a delegation of the BJP refused to speak to the in front of the CEO accusing him of "playing a partisan

Expressing no-confidence on State CEO Aariz Aftab the Bengal BJP delegation led by senior leader Mukul Roy "refused to take part in a discussion with Dubey in presence of the CEO as we had no doubt that whatever we bring to the notice of the Police Observer will be relaved to the TMC or the State Government in two minutes if he remains present in the meeting."

Tej Pratap launches Lalu Rabri Morcha

Urges mother to contest from Saran

Patna: In fresh trouble for Lalu elder son Tej Pratap Yadav on Monday urged his mother Rabri Devi to contest from Saran Lok Sabha seat in place of the father of his estranged wife and threatened to contest as an Independent if his request was not heeded. The maverick MLA and

former Minister spoke while announcing the formation of a parallel outfit Lalu Rabri Morcha which he insisted was not separate from the RJD and pointed towards photographs of his parents besides younger in the recent past emerged as the partys de facto leader.

Saran is the seat of my father Lalu ji and mother Rabri ji. I urge my mother, with folded hands, that she herself enter the fray from there. If this does not happen I will contest as an independent and make my best efforts to win it, a furious Yadav told reporters here.

Chandrika Rai, the partys MLA from Parsa seat falling under Saran, was announced as the party candidate from the Lok Sabha seat last week. BJP has named sitting MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy as its nominee on the politically important seat.

Rai's daughter Aishwarya had tied the knot with Yadav in May last year though the latter moved a divorce petition within less than six months of the After the announcement of

his candidature, Rai had sought to downplay speculations that the development could enrage his volatile son-in-law and said



he is one of the star campaigners of the party. He will not do anything that is detrimental to the interests of the RID.

About his own candidature. Rai had said I am a six-term MLA from Parsa and hence competent enough to fight this seat which is valuable to our party. Rabri Devi may have chosen not to contest this time as campaigns across the State.

Notably, Saran was won by Prasad in 2009 his last shot at the hustings before conviction in a fodder scam case four years later left him disqualified. Rabri Devi was fielded from the seat in 2014 but she lost to BJPs Rajiv Pratap Rudy. Prasad has represented Chapra, the name by which the parliamentary segment was previously known, a number of times.

Yaday, who has been pressing the candidature of two of his loyalists Chandra Prakash from Jehanabad and Angesh from Sheohar announced that the duo would be fielded by his Morcha from the respective

Replying to a query, he shot back what action can the party take against me. The RJD leadership has to realize that there is widespread resentment against the NDA Government in Bihar which we have to harness. We must not end up angering the people.

Speaker accepts rebel Cong MLA's resignation from K'taka Assembly

Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar on Monday accepted the resignation of rebel Congress MLA Umesh Jadhav, who is taking on party veteran Mallikarjun Kharge as the BJP candidate from Gulbarga constituency in the coming Lok Sabha elections. The Congress had peti-

ioned the Speaker seeking disqualification of Jadhav along with other party rebel lawmakers Ramesh Jarkiholi, B Nagendra and Mahesh Kumathali under the antidefection law.

"I am convinced that the decision (by Jadhav) has been taken of his own volition without being under duress or without falling for any allurements,"

Kumar said in his order. The ruling came as a big relief to Jadhav as there was

uncertainty over his political future with the Congress seeking disqualification under the anti-defection law.

On March 25, the speaker had conducted a public hearing too giving the voters of Chincholi, the Assembly constituency Jadhav represented, a chance to express their views on his decision.

Even before the order could come, Jadhav joined the BJP on March 6 at Kalaburagi the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a gathering in the Jadhav was upset with the

Congress against the alleged dominance by Kharge, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, and his son Minister Priyank Kharge in the region.

He was against Priyank Kharge getting ministerial berth ahead of several senior

Congress leaders including

The four MLAs had kept the party on tenterhooks for several weeks, defying its whip twice to attend the Congress Legislative party meetings on January 18 and February 8 and had skipped the early part of the Assembly budget session.

During the political turmoil that engulfed the state in January, following BJP's alleged attempts to topple the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government by poaching their MLAs,the four MLAs had gone incommunicado and were said to be camping in Mumbai, with a plan to jump ship to the saffron party.

After they refused to fall in line, the Congress had petitioned the Speaker to disqualify them under the anti-defec-

With 123 companies of Central forces, Assam prepared for polls: DGP

Guwahati: A total of 123 companies of Central paramilitary forces are currently deployed in Assam and the state is prepared for the threephase Lok Sabha elections, Director General of Police Dr Kuladhar Saikia said.

"Thirty three companies of paramilitary forces have recently been sent to the state. Ninety more such companies have also been in Assam for quite sometime," Saikia said.

"Our own Assam Police force is engaged for ensuring free and fair polls in the state. We are prepared for all the eventualities. We are ready to handle any situation," the DGP told a press conference

The 14 Lok Sabha constituencies of Assam will go to polls on April 11, 18 and 23. Saikia said those engaged in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) related duty have not been pulled out for

poll security work. The DGP said he is in constant touch with his counterparts in the neighbouring states for maintaining law and order along the inter-state borders.

Saikia said, "Patrolling by security forces was intensified in the border posts and railway stations

The DGP said vulnerable pockets were identified on the basis of law and order situation and repoll ordered during past elections.

Patrolling by security forces has been intensified in those areas.

Two brothers go missing from home in **J&K's Kishtwar**

PTI ■ JAMMU

Two minor brothers went missing in Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir, police said on Monday and sought help of the general public in tracing them.

Mohammad Ramzan (14) and his brother Faizan (10) have been missing from their residence in Kuchaal since on Wednesday, a police official

He said their father Ghulam Mir informed the police about the missing of his children and accordingly a case was registered and inves-

tigation was started.

"Anybody having any information regarding the missing boys may kindly contact police," he said.

Manipur's Kuki militants to cast vote through postal ballots

Commission on Monday notified that cadres of Kuki militant groups who signed Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with both the Centre and the Manipur government will cast their votes in postal ballots.

To exercise their franchise, he cadres also must reside in their designated camps and their names feature in the voters' list, the office of the state chief electoral officer (CEO) said in a statement here.

They would have to collect the postal ballots from assistant nodal officers or nodal

The Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement —

the state and the Centre with two militant groups of the community in 2008. Since then, agreement is being renewed periodically.

Kuki militants are members of two major conglomerates - the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the United People's Front (UPF) who were demanding a separate Kuki State out of Manipur. Many cadres of the KNO and the UPF are currently

putting up at designated camps set up by the Government in different Kukidominated areas in the State.

Polling for two Lok Sabha seats of the State - Outer Manipur and Inner Manipur will be held on April 11 and 18 a pact to ensure peace in the



A woman casts her vote on a demo electronic voting machines and checks on Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail or VVPAT during an election awareness drive by district administration amongst the tea garden labourers ahead of Lok Sabha polls in Jorhat on Monday

BJP blames SKM for backing out from pre-poll alliance in Sikkim

Gangtok: The BJP on Monday hit out at the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) for backing out the alliance between the two parties for inexplicable reasons a few days after making a firm commitment on the

"We were ready to accommodate most of the demands by the SKM leadership to sew up an alliance with us for Sikkim Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, but P S Golay ledparty chickened out at the last minute without giving any reasons," a senior BJP leader, who was involved in talks with the SKM leadership, told PTI on

the condition of anonymity. He said that the SKM's withdrawal from a pre-poll

rassed the BJP no end as it had gone public about it on a commitment given by Golay himself following a meeting with BJP's North-East and Sikkim incharge Ram Madhav in Delhi in the first week of March this The SKM leadership, how-

alliance in Sikkim has embar-

ever, took an about turn after reaching Sikkim and reneged on alliance with the BJP with-out citing any reason, the BJP

Ruing at the missed opportunity to oust the 25 year- old Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) from power, he said that the SKM will be held "squarely responsible" if the Pawan Kumar Chamling gov-

ernment returns to power for a sixth term in Sikkim. The BJP leader said that his

party was undaunted with setback to fructify an alliance with the SKM and said that it will aim to make its presence felt in political waters of Sikkim. He said that the BJP has

out up candidates on 12 assembly seats and the lone Lok Sabha seat with an aim to open its accounts at the hus-

Elections to the 32 Assembly seat as well as the sole Lok Sabha constituency in Sikkim will be held simultaneously on April 11 next. The SKM and SDF are

contesting on all 32 Assembly

Bombay HC refuses to interfere with release of biopic on PM Modi

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Monday refused to interfere with the release of the Vivek Oberoi-starrer biographical drama on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A bench of Chief Justice Naresh Patil and Justice N M Jamdar noted that the Election Commission (EC) has already issued a notice to the makers of the film 'PM Narendra Modi' over allegations of breach of the model code of conduct in view of the Lok

Sabha elections. "The Commission has already taken note of the issue and shall deal with it," the court said. The bench disposed of a

that it is not released this Friday, April 5, as scheduled.

court that it had already sought replies from the film-

Public Interest Litigation filed by Satish Gaikwad, national president of the Republican Party of India (I), who said the film, if permitted to be released for public viewing, would violate the model code

of conduct imposed by the EC.
The plea questioned the timing of the film's release and said if released, it was likely to earn the Prime Minister electoral mileage.

The petitioner urged the court to pass orders ensuring

the state. The EC, however, told the

Citizenship Bill, says Conrad Conrad asked the people to Tura: National People's Party supremo and Meghalaya Chief party of the Northeast.'

Minister Conrad K Sangma on Monday said the party will continue to oppose the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB). "Meghalaya was the first

state in India to oppose the Bill and raise its objection. We took the initiative to unite different political parties of Northeast and made our voice heard in Delhi and ensured that the CAB was not introduced in the Rajya Sabha," he said while campaigning for the NPP candidate in the Lok Sabha polls in

He claimed that the NPP is the only party that can unite the voice of the region and made it heard in Delhi.

vote for the NPP as "NPP is the The NPP chief on Monday

NPP will continue to oppose

flew to three different locations in North Garo Hills and East Garo Hills (Rongrong Abema, Mangsang and Chibonga respectively) to campaign for his sister Agatha, the NPP candidate for the Tura Lok sabha seat. Former Meghalaya chief minister Mukul Sangma is the

Congress candidate for the Tura Lok Sabha seat while the BJP has fielded Rikman G Momin. He alleged that the Congress party is propagating a wrong notion that NPP will

partner with BJP and will

ensure that the CAB is passed

in the Lok Sabha. The NPP chief said, "We

will remain true to our commitment promised to the people of Northeast and will never allow any bill that would hamper the interest of our people." Conrad claimed that the

NPP has "fulfilled" its promise

made in the 2018 election with education as its top priority. "We had promised educa-

tion policy and we brought out the policy well ahead of completion of one year. For over four decades the education department had to work without any policy or direction, we have scripted a direction to move forward to ensure better educational facilities in Meghalava." he said. PTI Meghalaya," he said.

Voters will punish Cong for 4 terrorists killed in Pulwama gunfight coining Hindu terror: Modi

 $T^{
m earing}$ into the Opposition "Mahaghatbandhan" in Maharashtra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the people in the country had made up their mind to "punish" the Congress for coinguists the terms "Time It starts" and ing the term "Hindu terror" and 'insulting' the majority community in the eyes of the world and ridiculed NCP chief Sharad Pawar for his decision not to contest the Lok Sabha polls.

Kicking off the BJP's Lok Sabha poll campaign at Wardha in eastern Maharashtra, Modi came down heavily on Pawar and Rahul Gandhi and said the Congress and its ally NCP would not be pardoned by the people by the latter's act of linking terrorism to Hindu com-

In perhaps the most vicious attack launched against the Congress, Modi said: "For the sake of vote bank politics, the Congress and NCP can go to any lengths. It was the Congress that coined the term "Hindu terror" and created a slur on the crores of people in the country. Tell me were you not deeply hurt when you the heard the term "Hindu ter-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis (L) and BJP candidate from Wardha constituency Ramdas Tadas (R) during an election rally ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in Wardha on Monday

ror"? There is not even an incident in the country's thousands of years of history. Even British historians have mentioned that Hindus ever indulged in terror acts. Who has defamed the 5,000 years of country's culture. Can the Congress that coined the term "Hindu terror" be pardoned? Can the Congress-NCP alliance be pardoned?"

Accusing the Congress of having committed the sin of insulting the Hindus and defaming the country's main-stream, Modi said: "The Congress has tried to show the Hindus in a poor light internationally. Let them run them as much as they can, but the Congress will never be pardoned — a thing even Congress is realising that the Country has made up its mind to punish it".

Slamming Rahul Gandhi second from Kerala's Wayanad, Modi said: "The realisation of impending defeat has forced the leaders to flee the poll scene. Having linked terrorism to Hindi, they do not have the guts now to contest the elections where majority (Hindus) lives and they have chosen to contest from places where minority is

In another successful operation, the joint teams of security forces, early Monday morn-ing, eliminated four terrorists in Lassipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

According to the police, it was a combined group of proscribed terror outfits Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT).

This is the third big operation in the last two weeks in which security forces have achieved major success.

According to police, "It was a clean operation and no collateral damage happened during the encounter. However, in the initial exchange of fire, three army jawans and one policeman also sustained injuries. Their condition is now stated to be stable", official sources said.

Since January 2019, around 66 terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces across the Kashmir valley.

Out of this, 21 killed terrorists were members of Jaishe-Mohammad terror outfit.

According to Jammu & Kashmir police spokesman, "the operation was launched in the Lassipora area of Pulwama on the basis of credible input about the presence of terrorists in the area".

"During searches, terrorists



Kashmiri villagers carry body of terrorist Agib Ahmed Kumar during his funeral procession in Hillow village, Srinagar, on Monday Dangerpora Shopian, Tauseef

fired upon the search party. The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter", the police spokesman said.

In the ensuing encounter, four terrorists were killed and the bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

According to police, the killed terrorists have been identified as Zaffar Paul, son of Mohammad Ahsan, resident of

I-T officials seize huge

Ahmad Yattoo, son of Abdul Aziz, resident of Gudbug, Pulwama, Aqib Ahmad Kumar, son of Bashir Ahmad, resident of Hellow Shopian and Mohammad Shafi Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad, resident

Police spokesman said, these terrorists were wanted by law for their complicity in a

of Sedow Shopian".

series of terror crimes including attack on security establishments and civilian atrocities.

As per police records, Tauseef had a long history of terror crime records and several terror crime cases were registered against him including FIR No. 281/2016, 509/2016, 19/2018 registered in P/S Pulwama and 33/2018 registered at P/S Litter. He was involved in conspiring and executing many terror attacks in the area.

Similarly, Zaffar was involved in many terror crimes cases which include FIR No. 290/2017, 307/2018, 13/2019, which were registered against him in Police Station Shopian. Agib Ahmad and Mohammad Shafi were also involved in terror crimes in the area

Mizoram civil society body call for poll boycott

Aizawl: An umbrella organisation of major civil societies and student associations in Mizoram on Monday decided to boycott the April 11 election to the lone Mizoram Lok Sabha seat and organise a State-wide indefinite bandh from April 8, sources in it said Monday.

The NGO Coordination Committee said that a decision was taken earlier to boycott the Parliamentary polls if special polling booths are established at Mizoram-Tripura border

Kanhmun village.

"The NGOCC opposed the establishment of special polling stations at Kanhmun by the election department and the state government officials, a statement issued by the committee and signed by NGOCC Secretary Lalhmachhuana said.

The EC is setting up 15 exclusive polling booths in the Mizoram who are housed in six camps in neighbouring Tripura. The step had been taken in the November 2018 Mizoram assembly polls too.

Appeals would again be made to the authorities to ensure that Bru voters housed in the relief camps in North Tripura district should exercise franchise in their respective villages where they were enrolled as voters and indefinite bandh be organised from April eight to pressurise the authorities, the statement said.

The NGOCC appealed to all the commercial and private vehicle owners requisitioned for transportation of central armed police force (CAPC) and state police personnel as also for use by polling officials not to allow their vehicles for the election purposes.

The Bru community in the Tripura relief camps have refused to return to Mizoram for years despite several repatriation efforts.

Outfit claims Faesal's resignation not accepted by Govt, demands probe

Jammu: A Dogra outfit on and had launched his party — Monday claimed that the Government has not accepted the resignation of Shah Faesal from Indian Administrative Service though he has floated a political party after announcing his decision to quit in January, and demanded a highlevel probe into the "delay".

'Èven after more than three-and-a-half months, Shah Faesal's resignation has not yet been accepted by the Government," the outfit Team Jammu's Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal told reporters

Singh said that Faesal tendered his resignation from civil services on January 9 this year

Jammu Kashmir People's

"But his resignation has not yet been accepted for the reasons best known to the administration whereas resignation of another IAS officer Farooq Shah was accepted within a week's time and order issued in this regard," he said.

Alleging that some Government employees were promoting Faesal actively participating in political activities, Jamwal demanded a probe into why his resignation has not been accepted yet.

When contacted, officials refused to comment on the issue.

amount of cash in TN Seizure linked to Durai Murugan

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■

The Income Tax raids at the residence and business premises of DMK treasurer, Durai Murugan, have snowballed into a political controversy on Monday as the Income Tax department disclosed that huge amount of unaccounted money was seized from a local party activist who is linked to Durai Murugan.
The cash, packed in small

bundles, marked with numbers of wards and divisions, was kept concealed at a cement godown located in the residential premises of DMK's Katpadi town panchayat secretary Seenivasan, at Karigiri Salai, in Pallikuppam in Vellore

According to a statement from the I-T department, "The cash shifted from Kingston College (Durai Murugan Educational Trust), Vellore, to a cement godown in the night between 29th and 30th March due to botched up operation by the State Police and revenue authorities was found by I-T

Friday night saw the DMK local workers holding a demonstration blocking the team from IT Department entering the residence of Durai Murugan. It was only after the

arrival of Murugan at the scene the officials were allowed to check the residence. Durai Murugan's son

Kathir Anand is the DMK candidate from the Lok Sabha constituency of Vellore. Friday night and Saturday morning saw sleuths of the IT department and officials of the flying squad deployed by the election Commission swooping down on Durai Murugan's residence and on the engineering college owned by him.

RS Bharati, the legal wing head of the DMK met the Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu and lodged a complaint with him alleging that the raids at Durai Murugan's residence and business premises were part of political vendetta.

HM terrorist behind failed fidayeen attack on CRPF convoy held

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir police ■ on Monday claimed to have arrested a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist behind failed 'fidayeen attack on a CRPF convoy near Jawahar tunnel, Bahihal on March 30. The arrested terrorist has

been identified as Owais Amin, a resident of Shopian. After triggering the explosion, he had managed to fled away from the

A Santro car, loaded with explosives, hit a bus of CRPF at Tethar, Banihal while the Convoy was moving from Srinagar to Jammu. As a result, the CRPF Bus, No. HR66-8067, suffered minor damage and the CRPF personnel, travelling in the bus, had a narrow escape.

Addressing a press conference here in Police control room, late Monday evening, DGP Police Dilbagh Singh said, on Sunday evening at about 2030 hours at Upper Gund (Banihal) one person namely Owais Amin S/O Mohd Amin Rather R/O Vehil, Chatta Waran, Shopian was apprehended by joint Mobile vehicle Check Post (MVCP) of Army and J&K Police who was trying to sneak to valley".

"He was having injuries and burn marks when he was apprehended from a tipper moving towards the Kashmir valley".



Photo released by ISRO, Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-45 lifts from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on

Police officials who handled Pollachi sexual harassment case transferred by TN Govt

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Government on Monday transferred police officials who had handled the Pollachi sexual harassment case, including a Superintendent who revealed the identity of the woman vic-

The case relates to a four member gang woman allegedly trying to strip a woman inside a car near Pollachi, over 500 km from here, recording the act and blackmailing her using the visuals. The victim, who managed to free herself, later lodged a com-

plaint with the police.

A total of eight persons have been arrested in connection with the case. The Government had last month transferred the investigation of the case to the CBI from the state's CB-CID. which had earlier taken up the probe from the local police.

According to a Home Department order, Coimbatore R Pandiarajan and DSP, Pollachi sub-division, R Jayaram, have been transferred with "immediate effect." Further, A Natesan, Inspector, Pollachi East police station, has also been transferred, it said.

The order allocated no postings to them, virtually putting them in the waiting list.

Sujit Kumar IPS, Deputy Commissioner, Traffic. Coimbatore City, has been posted in place of Pandiarajan while KG Śivakumar, DSP, District Crime Records Bureau, Ooty will replace Javaram.

Earlier, there was a public outrage after Pandiarajan revealed the name of the victim during a press meet, with civil society groups demanding action against him.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely Chandni, W/o Sohail, R/o H.No. 2070-71, Gali Haji Kayamuddin Choti Baradari, Hauz Qazi, Delhi has been missing since 22.03.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 1A, dated 23.03.2019, has been registered at P.S Hauz Qazi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the



missing female is as under: Name: Chandni, Gender: Female, Age: About 26 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Hair: Black colour.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing female, kindly inform SHO/ Hauz Qazi, Delhi.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639

DP/6157/CD/19

P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi Ph. No.: 011-23212482, 23210414



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com



E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender. up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes /amendments & corrigendum etc.

A(1) 28/SPE/PE (PH-I)/E-T/ 2018-19

Machinery for cleaning and Desilting of drain from Sabdeep Paper Mill to Harola Sec-4, 19, 27, 28, 29, 37, 38, 40, 41 to Sec-51 Irrigation

Supply of Labour and 3621568.00

(2) 57/SPE/PE (PH)-I/ET/ 18-19

Drain, Noida. Supply of Insecticides 3122000.00 used for Vector Control

in Noida. The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 09/04/19

upto 5.00 PM. Pre - qualification shall be opened /

downloaded on dated 10/04/19 at 11.00 AM.

(S.C. Mishra) Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health)

Sector-39, Noida

Farmer held with Tech to diagnose dementia by tracking eye 14 lion claws in Gujarat's Amreli

been apprehended with 14 claws which he had removed earlier in February from a dead lion in the Tulshishyam Range of Gujarat's Gir Forest, senior official said on Monday.

The farmer, identified as 45-year-old Vashram Dhapa of Pachapachiya village in Khambha taluka from Amreli, was nabbed Sunday from his farm in nearby Sonariya based on a tip-off, DT Vasavada, Chief Conservator of Forests, Junagadh Wildlife Circle said. "In February, a lion, aged

between five to nine years, was

found dead in the Tulsishyam

staff. Fourteen of its claws were missing. We had then formed a special team to nab the person responsible," Vasavada said. 'We zeroed in on Dhapa

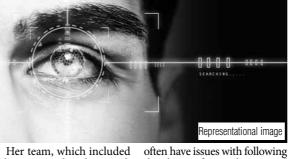
who has confessed that he had removed the claws and hid them near his farm in Sonariya. We have recovered all 14 claws," he informed. He added that, as of now, it had not been established whether Dhapa killed the lion for its claws but the angle was being pursued. "Claws are worn by some people as pendents. We are probing if Dhapa had a connection to gangs dealing in such items," he said. **PTI** | Gandhinagar.

Gandhinagar: Scientists at IIT Gandhinagar have developed a technology that can non-invasively diagnose dementia by tracking a person's eye move-ments, much before the symp-

toms appear.

With a significant rise in ageing population, neurodegenerative disorders are becoming a serious health issue. While dementia cannot be cured, its progression can be delayed if

diagnosed early. "By the time symptoms of dementia are detected, it is too late — Alzheimer's disease kicks in and it can not be managed. But if dementia is caught early, we can delay the progression of Alzheimer's," said Uttama Lahiri, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, at Indian Institute Technology



Ritika Jain and Valay Patel, developed the 'MindEye' project the dot or fixing their gaze," Lahiri told PTI. Researchers can that can track a person's eye then map the eye movements in movement, quantifying gaze response to the stimulus. They in terms of reaction time and can identify subtle patterns correct fixations, in response to that predict whether the person visual stimuli presented on suffers from mild cognitive computer monitor. impairment. "We present a stimulus --

The preliminary results of dots appearing at certain porthe experimental study with 10 tions of the screen at certain healthy participants were promising, Lahiri said. angles. People with dementia

a larger clinical trial is under way in Kolkata and Gujarat, Lahiri said. About 1,600 people have been screened already, she

nology over to the industry and

The researchers used stran-

dard tests - long questionnaires that a patient answers with the help of a psychiatrist to validate their results. The results were presented

this month at the Faculty of Old

Age Psychiatry Annual Conference held in the UK. Existing tests methods to diagnose dementia in patients have several shortcomings. During their research, Lahiri

found that uneducated people in old age homes have difficulty answering the questionnaires, making it harder to give a correct diagnoses.

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— PAPER WITH PASSION = The Wayanad gamble

Rahul Gandhi is looking to maximise the Congress' national tally by going south, not betraying Amethi as a lost cause



t would be too naive to interpret Congress president Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest from Wayanad in Kerala as a thoughtless, hasty move. Neither is he abandoning his homestead of Amethi — though the BJP would very much like you to believe that - nor is he betraying the few alliances he has managed to stitch up with that amorphous entity called the mahagathbandhan by taking on the Left. There are now apprehensions that the Congress is not serious about the Lok Sabha election or stopping the Modi juggernaut and

is using it to just shore up its footprint as a truly national party than be subservient to the federal front. The truth is a layered gambit. And in the end, given that the southern States share 120 seats among them, the party does want to put up a strong fight in winning the elections and be a major political entity in doing so.

First, Rahul has realised that in the personality sweepstakes that this election has been reduced to, a Balakot-armoured, space-faring Narendra Modi has found his beat in the popular pulse of North India, riding a swell of Hindu pride that's no longer dependent on Ayodhya. But Modi has not been able to penetrate the South with such ease, perhaps because these States are helmed by territorial strongmen, who are believed to be in sync with local aspirations, and partly because people here have a far more inclusive idea of India than the 'new India' peddled by the Modi army if not himself. Rahul has actually fared well in opinion polls in these parts. So, by positioning himself as a claimant to national relevance from the South, where it is easier for him to explain his idea of India, he could indeed create a polar opposite in the elections that could work in his favour. Second, Wayanad is a strategic choice because it sits on the trijunction of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and Rahul's campaign here will have some cascading effect in the three States as well, where the party has a more respectable presence compared to the North. Third, the farmers' distress has been most palpable in this drought-hit region and, therefore, sets the right pitch for Rahul to lead a crusade on core livelihood issues. It is also a minority-dominated district and he wants to be seen as the protector of those pushed out of the mainstream discourse. Besides, the South, Karnataka to be precise, has a legacy of loyalty to the Gandhis whenever they have faced their severest challenge and all of them were metaphorically reborn in crucial verdicts. Indira Gandhi contested from Chikmagalur and won after her debacle post Emergency while Sonia Gandhi resurrected her political worth from Bellary despite a fierce campaign mounted by the BJP's Sushma Swaraj. So if he can give the southern States a coordinated voice in the national discourse, then chances are that the Congress' seat tally might improve enough to help it bargain better in power games. For howsoever the Opposition front might complain about being sidelined as power brokers rather than the king, fact is, at this point, the Congress still has the better national recall value and some heartland States in its kitty. So both cannot do without each other.

Even if the Congress were to give up seats in Delhi or settle for just two in Uttar Pradesh, would AAP or SP-BSP be able to make good in other States? The Congress has a better chance of solidifying its scoreline if it focusses on States that are easier to turn around. Both Rahul and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi are caught between the devil and the deep sea. They can either help prop up the Opposition by becoming their B-team and risk losing their voteshare further or consolidate and grow in the long-term. And though the return may be delayed in the latter option, it is worth the investment of building a pyramid from the base. In fact, Priyanka has been vocal about the endangered species status of the Congress, calling out party workers over organisational weaknesses and insisting upon booth-level connect for 2022, the UP Assembly election. Wayanad seems to be the eject parachute that will keep them sailing on an emergency jetpack of improved tallies.

End of the road?

With US-backed Kurdish forces claiming IS territory, its reign may come to an end. But the outfit is still dangerous



s the Kurdish forces of the Syrian Democratic Front (SDF) moved into Baghuz, the last stronghold of the Islamic State (IS), a small town located on a bend of the Euphrates river, reports emerged that sounded eerily similar to events that occurred in Berlin towards the end of the Second World War. Thousands of refugees, mainly women and children, many of the kids fathered by IS fighters, left the city. This created a huge problem for several Western Governments as many refugees were

citizens who now wanted to return. The case of Shamima Begum, a British citizen and her new-born baby, made headlines when the UK rescinded her citizenship and during the vocal debate on whether to take her child back or not, the new-born baby unfortunately died in the heat, dust and unhygienic conditions of a refugee camp. That is another debate and one that Governments in the West will have to ponder about, as will India, where tens of brain-washed youth have traversed all the way to the Levant to rape, pillage and kill 'infidels'. The big question is whether this signifies the end of IS. The loss of Baghuz means it has lost the last shred of real estate that it owned. But just because IS does not have any territory or a population under its control, and most importantly money, the kind it made from trading crude oil as well as through kidnapping and even the slave trade using Yazidi women, does not mean that it is over. The IS ideology survives as do many of the group's leaders such as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, sheltered by friendly tribespersons in Iraq and Syria. Post regimechange Iraq is still a den of corruption and long-standing tribal and religious schisms papered over in the Saddam-era continue to fester. And while Bashir al-Assad's forces have with Russian help ousted many of the forces inimical to the regime in Damascus, much of Syria is still a mess. With US President Donald Trump unwilling to keep more boots on the ground, things could still go haywire.

More importantly, much of what IS achieved was with the internet and using modern communications and media tools to disseminate its information. This led to promoting 'lone wolf' attacks such as those made with trucks in Berlin and Marseilles. This is unlikely to end, even though social networks have cracked down on such pages. Pro-IS propaganda still exists online and recorded audio messages by leaders like al-Baghdadi are available on the internet, imploring supporters to stay active. Without money and material, IS might have been defanged for now but the poison glands are still producing venom. To ensure that the fangs don't re-emerge, Governments must remain vigilant.

opānion

Busting several myths

The NIA's failure to present even an iota of evidence in the court in the Samjhauta Express blasts case has battered its reputation. There is no proof of funding either



he collapse of the Samjhauta Express bomb blasts case against anti-conversion Aseemanand and his "co-conspirators", Lokesh Sharma, Kamal Chauhan and Rajinder Chaudhary, on the March 21 Samjhauta Express Case, has trounced attempts by a previous regime to establish the bogey of "Hindu terror." Aseemanand allegedly mentored people seeking revenge for attacks on Hindu temples (Akshardham, Gujarat; Raghunath Mandir, Jammu; and Sankat Mochan Mandir, Varanasi). The National Investigation Agency's (NIA) failure to present even an iota of evidence in the court has battered its reputation.

Aseemanand has already been acquitted in Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid and Aimer's dargah blast cases. Living among tribals in Dangs, Gujarat, his ability to inspire terror attacks with trifling amounts like ₹25,000 and ₹40,000 seems laughable; no other sums are attributed to him.

The NIA case revolved around Sunil Ioshi, who was murdered in December 2007 in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. As no credible corroborative evidence was forwarded, the case collapsed once Aseemanand withdrew his confession, claiming it was coerced. As his plea of innocence before one judge clashed with his confession before another judge, special judge Jagdeep Singh upheld the forced confession plea. The shoddy probe thus helped those behind the killing of 68 people on the night of February 18-19, 2007, to get away scot-free.

Interestingly, the US Department of the Treasury informed the 1267 committee of the UN Security Council that Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) was behind the attacks and that Fazeel-A-Tul Shaykh Abu Mohammed Ameen Al-Peshawari; Arif Qasmani; Mohammed Yahya Mujahid; and Nasir Javaid had carried out train bombings in India. The 1267 committee stated on June 29, 2008, that these people were financed by proclaimed offender Dawood Ibrahim. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered an FIR and Safdar Nagori of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) admitted in October 2008 that the Samihauta blasts were executed by SIMI activists with the help from LeT from Pakistan. The judge observed that the NIA did not follow these leads. Survivors reported that some people had got off the train midway but this line of investigation was totally neglected.

In 2010-11, the investigators began to pursue the "Hindu terrorists" theory. Aseemanand "confessed" in January 2011 that Bharat Rateshwar at Balpur and was told to expect some "good news"; Joshi later told him that his (Joshi's) men were behind Samjhauta and other incidents. Even prima facie, this does not suggest Aseemanand's involvement

İn NIA vs. Naba Kumar Sarkar @ Swami Aseemanand and others, Aseemanand denied



confessing any crime to convict Abdul Khaleem Chanchalguda Jail, Hyderabad. The judgement agreed that this was unlikely as Aseemanand was in solitary confinement. It noted that while the "confession" said Indresh Kumar, Pragya Thakur, Bharat Rateshwar and others also attended meetings (denied by them), the NIA had not charged them as co-accused.

According to the retracted confession, in March 2006, Sunil Joshi met Aseemanand at Shabridham and asked for money to purchase a SIM card and pistol from Jharkhand and received ₹25,000. However, the NIA failed to prove that the SIM card or pistol was used to execute the Samjhauta Express blast. Besides, as the judgement observed, no material evidence was recovered from places associated with the alleged conspiracy, namely, Thakurghar, Shabridham and Balpur Mandir; instead the NIA took Aseemanand to unrelated places like Daman. The prosecution claimed

that Lokesh Sharma, Rajinder Chaudhary, Kamal Chauhan and Amit Hakla came to Old Delhi Railway Station from Indore on railway dormitories but offered no evidence in this regard. There was no evidence (train tickets/reservations or other records) to establish that the accused people travelled from Indore to Nizamuddin station and then to Old Delhi Railway



'NO CONCRETE

ORAL DOCUMENTARY OR **SCIENTIFIC** EVIDENCE' REGARDING **MOTIVE TO** INDULGE IN THE CRIME: NOTHING TO SHOW HOW AND FROM WHERE **RAW MATERIALS** FOR MAKING **BOMBS WERE** PROCURED; WHO **COLLECTED THE** MATERIAL; WHO ASSEMBLED THE **BOMBS: WHO**

BOMBS IN THE

Station. Similarly, they allegedly escaped to Jaipur by train and then travelled to Indore by bus; but no evidence was furnished to support their journey.

The prosecution claimed that the bombs were transported in two suitcases, whose covers were stitched by tailor Iqbal Hussain of Kothari Market, Indore. Suitcase covers of two unexploded bombs were recovered from the crime scene. However, the NIA did not bother to conduct a Test Identification Parade (TIP) to establish if any of the accused people had got the covers stitched at the said shop. More glaringly, the report of the finger print expert was not matched with the fingerprints of the suspects or accused people to get vital clues.

The prosecution claimed that the accused people were trained in Bagli Forest area in 2006. Sand samples from the alleged site were reportedly taken in December 2012 from a pit created at the time of training. The judgement observed that it was highly improbable that any pit would remain in the same condition after more than six years. especially when the site was a hill slope; soil erosion and weather complexion of the site.

More pertinently, scientific literature states that after six months, RDX turns into Nitrite; after the explosion, RDX would turn into carbon in the shape of ash. Hence, the prosecution's claim of finding "traces of RDX"

in the alleged sand samples collected from Bagli Forest area suggests that the investigating agency went whole hog in order to create fake evidence to ensure false implication of the accused ... by any means, whether scientific or not and that, too, with a totally irrelevant piece of evidence". Lt Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit is accused of providing the RDX in

this and other "Hindu terror"

cases; this verdict may help him.

Thus, after five years of investigations and seven years of trial, the NIA failed to furnish any evidence regarding any agreement to commit the crime among the accused people. There was "no concrete oral, documentary or scientific evidence" regarding motive to indulge in the crime; nothing to show how and from where raw materials for making bombs were procured; who collected the material; who assembled the bombs; how and from where technical knowhow was arranged; who planted the bombs in the train.

Above all, there is no evidence regarding the funding of this gigantic exercise. The NIA built its edifice on extracted confessions revolving around the culpability of the deceased judge bemoaned the "gaping holes in the prosecution evidence"; this is a blistering indictment of the NIA.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are



We have seen in recent times how the dignity of the RBI was diminished. Sanctity of these high offices must be maintained

TMC chief —Mamata Banerjee

Privanka is fantastic... (I would) love to work with her... I am talking to her for something. I am not going to say what it is.

Director



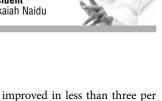
China is in close communication with various parties and has made positive progress on Masood Azhar. The US knows that very well

Chinese official



Education must lay the foundation for developing a society that is strongly grounded in ethics and moral values to ensure peace in life.

Vice President



Sujit De

LETTERS

China must mend ways

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "US move on Azhar" (March 29). After Beijing used its veto to stall the sanction committee's unanimous decision to designate Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar a global terrorist, its double-speak became abundantly clear. On the one hand it maintains a firm stand on terror, on the other, it seeks to promote Pakistan.

Already, China's inconsistent policy on terror has drawn the ire of the US, the UK, France and other European countries. Before stonewalling repeated attempts to bring extremists to book, China must set its own house in order. Repeated human rights violations on Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang have been reported. This is humiliating and must be condemned.

It's high time that China falls in line to support the resolution at the Security Council instead of remaining a stumbling block to declare Azhar a terrorist with unconvincing defence.

KR Srinivasan Secundèrabad

The need to be wary of jingoism

Vith poll dates nearing, things are really heating up. If Prime Minister Narendra Modi's crafted speeches in the initial stages of the high-profile election campaign are anything to go by, we can safely say that there's going to be more of jingoism, bellicosity and sabre-rattling against a well-argued discourse on bread-and-butter issues of politics from the side of the ruling BJP. It can be argued that the BJP and the Prime Minister have made hyper-nationalism their campaign pitch as they cannot run the risk of running their narrative on below-par performance indicators on the economic front. The plank of national security suits the party to divert people's attention away from the economic situation, visibly blighted by unemployment and farmer distress. It is an undeniable fact that an overarching appeal of Hindutva nationalism has diminished passion for secularism and social justice.

The virulent nationalism represented by the Hindu right, of which the BJP is a principal and prominent part



is a far cry from true patriotism. But then the BJP has a dubious and diabolical strategy to juxtapose desh bhakts (nationalists) with desh drohis (anti-nationals) to score brownie points. Nevertheless, most of the time it is the so-called desh drohis who take up the political cudgels on behalf of the country's impoverished people. **G** David Milton

Maruthancode

There will be no takers

cent of the total forest cover in

India where traditional inhabi-

tants became managers of their

forest land. The need is to improve

upon the Forest Act, 1927 and

implement it soon so that it can

be extended to the remaining 97

per cent of our forests

Sir — In times when the Congress'

political fortunes have reached a low, it isn't surprising that it has come up with the Nyuntam Aay Yojana scheme. What is astounding is that the plan is being backed by some eminent economists, who have thrown their sacred principles to the winds and rushed to back this idealistic scheme that would only make this nation a country of idlers and beggars. No self-respecting Indian would like to receive alms and, therefore, this scheme is an insult to their dignity.

Shivansh Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Protect the protectors

Sir — This refers to the article, "Return our green cover" (March 28) by VK Bahuguna. It is shameful that instead of rewarding the forest dwellers for their outstanding contribution towards protecting the forests, efforts have been made to jeopardise their symbiotic

The Bishnoi tribe of Rajasthan, for example, follows

relationship with the ecology.

rules as prescribed by their guru. Felling trees and killing animals are treated as crimes under their purview. The Bishnois are righty called the first environmentalists of India. They build water storage tanks that can store rain water for humans and animals. They bury the deceased instead of

to cremate the dead. They do this to avoid wastage of firewood and air pollution. To minimise the use of trees, they use cow-dung cakes as fuel for cooking. They only collect dead wood. Further, this tribe has been fighting court cases against poachers, no matter how big the suspect may be.

following their religious tradition

Indeed, the environment and the lives of forest dwellers

RANCHI | TUESDAY | APRIL 2, 2019

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Journey towards sustainability

The energy revolution looks much more attainable, undeterred and above all promising than it has ever seemed so. But challenges need to be addressed,

say **MEGHA JAIN** and **AISHWARYA NAGPAL**

ndeniably, financial volatility and climate change are considered to be the twin prime catalysts for alteration in the global ecology that can profoundly impact businesses and society alike. It has been universally acknowledged that in the last one decade, corporate sourcing of renewables holds the potential to churn substantial surplus investments in the renewable energy sector. With the right framework in place, it can enable not just the acceleration of energy transition but shift the world closer to achieving the ambitious Paris Agreement goal.

While on the one hand, 2018 drew to a close with a hotlycontested 'Katowice Climate Package' finalised at COP24, which established a set of guidelines to make the Paris Agreement operational by 2020, on the other, the findings of a May 2018 report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has startled most of us as it indicated that corporate sourcing occurs only in roughly one-third of the countries across the world (ie about 75 countries), even as most Governments are yet to adopt specific policies to nurture such demand. The said report also hinted towards tremendous potential that still remains to be tapped by the rest of the world.

Against this backdrop, it will be worth mentioning that a coalition of companies, committed to 100 per cent internal energy sourcing from renewables by 2050, has come into existence and is popularly known as RE100. The alliance works as an international NGO and has global presence with offices located in London, New Delhi and New York. RE100 initiative is led by the Climate Group in association with the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). Placing renewables at the core of corporate strategy, the existing 155 members (as of November 2018) are generating demand for 188 terawatt hours (TWh) of renewable power yearly, which is comparable to the 23rd biggest economy power consumption all over

In such a small span of time, RE100 members' commitments envelop more than 140 markets globally. Till now, big corporate houses like Sony, Facebook, H&M, Infosys, Tata Motors and Mahindra Holidays among others, have pledged to rely 100 per cent on renewable power in their overall setup by joining RE100. Some other groups like Google, Apple, Jupiter Asset Management and Wells Fargo among others have already met their 100 per cent renewable electricity target. Of course, India is striving to attain the RE objective, which offers enormous prospect for investors and corporates to create a level-playing field for the growth of India's renewable sector. Let's dig deeper to understand the complete rationale behind the RE100 setup.

The RE installation sourcing can be pursued either through corporate Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or self-generation via direct investments. Going ahead, it is most likely that growth will come through PPAs and captive production as no fresh renewable energy capacity is coming under REC because the industry has decisively moved towards tariffs and determined competitively through bids, thus leaving no scope for RECs. Even in the current market scenario, the enforcement of RECs is not so strong and needs a lot of reforms before its true realisation. Thus, it is envisaged that to fulfill the dream, the need is for greater investment and as RE prices go down, more and more companies may adopt RE financing.

Way forward: While financing of utility-scale RE projects by well-established RE developers has improved substantially over the years, corporate sourcing of RE has nuances that need to be sorted out to ensure a better spread. This, as and when it happens, will create volumes that will result in financing that may tap help debt capital markets, both in terms of gathering required capital to put up the projects and refinancing of some assets with access to a larger pool of funds outside the banking system. Issues have been many. Take, for example, Apple's publication of green bonds, dedicated to financing clean energy projects across its global business operations. Clearly, the need is also to spread awareness regarding the number of corporates, who have financed some

Since the entire process of transformation involves multiple patrons, backward and forward linkages need to be strengthened in advance. Also, a step forward could be to ensure an energy market structure that allows for direct contracting between companies and renewable energy developers. Last but not the least, the process of environmental stewardship and benchmarking remains incomplete until these RE100 companies amalgamate disclosure, awareness, management and leadership together.

(The writers are Senior Research Fellows, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

CONGRESS PEOPLE WOULD FEED BIRYANI TO TERRORISTS, WHILE MODI'S ARMY GIVES THEM BULLET OR BOMB. THIS IS THE DIFFERENCE. —UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER





YOGI'S COMMENT IS HIGHLY CONDEMNABLE. THIS IS A CLEAR WAY OF INTIMIDATING THE VOTERS AND CREATING A FEAR PSYCHOSIS IN THEIR MINDS. —CPI LEADER

Footprint for a fintech hub

Though it's almost next to impossible for India to become cashless in the immediate future, we can at least give it a shot. A start has to be made by changing people's mindset



¬he financial industry that serves the lower income segment has gone through distinct transformations in recent times - from social banking to microfinance; to financial inclusion; and now to technology-driven financial services or 'fintech'. The last represents the potent inter-section of finance and technology, has changed people's lives and transformed the business landscape forever. It has enabled us to trade dollars for bits and bytes. For the millennial — those for whom the internet, mobile phones and plastic cards are a fact of life — cash is now quaint and transactions are mostly *via* digital tools. Banking is fast moving to a paperless and real-time era. While bank branches will always be there, banks are gradually becoming "invisible" in how they deliver services.

Today, India is the world's second biggest fintech hub with 2,035 start-ups operating in this sector, according to India Fintech Report 2019. India's digital payments market is set to grow to \$500 billion by 2020 and to \$1 trillion by 2023. Industry research has projected that \$1 trillion or 60 per cent of India's retail and SME credit will be digitally disbursed by 2029. The year 2018 was particularly significant for financial technology and financial services ecosystem in the country. With \$2.34 billion being raised across 145 deals, fintech finally unseated e-commerce from the top.

The fintech sector comprises mobile payments, money transfers, crowdfunding, loans and asset management among others. It is creating highly sophisticated intellectual property assets in advanced risk management and artificial intelligence that has the potential of leapfrogging India in the global digital economy and demolishing most barriers to accessing financial services like distance, cost and paperwork. It is expected to bring diversity in banking, broaden its spectrum and ensure that banking no longer remains black and white.

Fintech stands for financial technology or an application used for the financial sector. It comprises multiple technologies like Artificial Intelligence, virtual reality, blockchain, cloud-based software, machine learning — all of which provide a powerful and revolutionary mantra to financial institutions to power themselves with limitless reach. Fintech offers an array of benefits:

■ Financial flows can be accurately tracked, resulting in safer and speedier transactions and less

■ Suppliers can get useful insight from the transaction patterns of the clients. This helps them design products that are better suited to customers'

■ Firms can use financial histories to develop products that are tailored to the customers'

■ Providers can instantly relay account information of clients and use them to develop automatic reminders. It also provides helpful default options via mobile phone menus, making it easier for consumers to track and monitor their accounts. Further, clients can also sign up for services quickly on their own.

■ Direct deposits (including wages and social assistance) allow money to "bypass" the client's pocket, thus helping users save rather than spend and often gives more financial authority to women within the family.

The phenomenal footprint of data, thanks to



CONSUMERS WILL ADAPT THE PLATFORM AND EMBRACE NEW **TECHNOLOGICAL** OPPORTUNITIES ONLY WHEN THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY WILL **RESOLVE EXISTING ISSUES** IN THE ECONOMY. THUS, WE HAVE TO ADDRESS REAL PAINS, NOT JUST ÓFFER BENEFITS. TRUST MUST BE EARNED AND SUSTAINED **THROUGH** CONTINUOUS



REINFORCEMENT



smartphone or data-connected mobile phones, is a blessing for people with limited credit-accession account. It provides an unprecedented opportunity of bringing people with limited credit-history into the formal mainstream. Various research studies have shown that even simple and easily accessible variables from digital footprints can be analysed to produce alternate credit profiles.

The digital world offers both major opportunities and challenges. Technology and infrastructure are only a part of the and infrastructure are only a part of the picture. Appropriate regulations and consumer protection safeguards are of paramount importance. Sparse population, inconsistent network coverage, insufficient capital for building new business models, lack of trust and of comfort with technology and literacy needed to fully use these services, can stand in the way of success, particularstand in the way of success, particularly in connecting remote communities.

While ground-breaking technology and innovative business operations pronew risks, too, are there. Challenges related to implementing digital financial services are not just operational and technical. Loss of privacy is the most dangerous. Despite all efforts to create ample safeguards, they remain inevitable. For the financial inclusion industry to be able to fully capitalise on the benefits of digital financial services, it is essential that accompanying risks are understood and addressed adequately. Though these issues can't be eliminated, they can be mitigated. We need to keep in mind the concerns of security, affordability and safety.

Although it's impossible for India to become a cashless economy in the immediate future, the country can, of course, look forward to becoming one. Making India cashless is like treating multiple chronic societal diseases with

one injection. However, there are several challenges peculiar to our country that may constrain a full-scale digital transition in the foreseeable future.

To start with, India has 438 languages, with each having multiple dialects and different scripts. Further, India has to contend with geographical and cultural divide of a great magnitude. The aversion of the 'other India' to digital finance has more to do with its aversion to everything that has to do with technology. This stems from a lack of trust. It is also partly on account of low technical literacy of consumers. Women often face additional barriers: Less access to mobile phones, lower literacy and numeracy levels, less confidence in using technology and restrictions on travel or social interaction. Furthermore, villagers' value personal relationships particularly when it comes to money.

Migrating from a cash-based economy to a digital one demands a recast of mindset. In fact, the last mile of digital the users. Equally critical is the smooth functioning of the last mile touch point. Making gadgets available will not help unless we bring about a change in the overall outlook of the people. This aspect requires much thinking on the part of motivators to pull the consumers into this new space. The issue is a lot more nuanced than what we see today. Nuances change from culture to culture and consumer segment to consumer segment.

Changing the financial framework, too, may not be enough. Consumers will have to walk an extra mile if they want to reap benefits of new financial tools. The new revolution will have better chances of success if driven less by financial punditry and more by empathetic governance. People take to new technologies when they see clear benefits; have greater confidence in the markets and services; find it convenient; and can afford it. The painful reality is that providers, too, often focus on short-term incentives at the expense of long-term consumer trust and loyalty.

Consumers will adapt the digital platform and embrace new technological opportunities only when they are convinced that they will resolve existing issues in the economy. Thus, we have to address real pains, not just offer benefits. Trust must be earned and sustained through continuous reinforcement. How secure is it? How long will it take to get one's money back? Are there any hidden fees? The key is to offer digital financial services in an empathetic way and to understand the development needs of the community to drive adoption.

The central bank has rightly been espousing a cautious approach in addressing concerns around consumer protection and law enforcement. The key objective of the regulator has unhindered innovations by fintech, expanding the reach of banking services for the unbanked population, regulating an efficient electronic payment and providing alternative options to the

There have been two highly significant developments in this space. The first is the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018, which specifies that a private entity must seek user consent before collecting personal data. A user can also choose to remove consent at any point while availing a service. The second is the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions (OSDT) for redress of

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

Ukraine election no laughing matter

Is Zelensky just a stalking horse behind which Kolomoysky can take control of Ukraine away from Poroshenko? Not necessarily. The two men may have a pragmatic alliance but their own separate agenda



nlike comedian Alec Baldwin, who is famous for his impersonation of US President Donald Trump on Saturday Night Live, comedian Volodymyr Zelensky is famous for playing the anti-President, an accidental hero who sweeps into the presidency of Ukraine and cleans up all the corruption. He used to play it for laughs and

now, he's playing it for real.

Zelensky had been leading the opinion polls for the Ukrainian election that was held on March 31, with 25 per cent of the vote, well ahead of incumbent president Petro Poroshenko (12 per cent) and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (18 per cent). (She's the one who used to wear

her hair in braids wound up around her head.) With no one expected to secure a majority, a runoff with the leading two candidates, Zelenskiy and Poroshenko will be held on 21 April. Baldwin will never be the US president, but there's a good chance that Zelensky will be the Ukrainian president.

What a heart-warming story, I hear you murmur. Humble comedian plays even humbler high-school history teacher Vasyl Holoborodko, whose classroom diatribe against the corruption of Ukrainian politics was secretly filmed by a student. It goes viral on the internet and humble teacher is instantly elevated into the presidency by a grateful public.

The story gets even better. In real life, 'Servant of the People', the TV show about the teacher-turned-President, plays on the country's biggest television channel, 1+1, and is a nation-wide hit. Then the guy playing the teacher, comedian Volodymyr Zelensky, decides that he has a chance of working the same miracle in real life. So he puts himself up for the presidency and

lo! The public agrees. This is not art imitating life; it is



old cynic, who suspects the worst about people's motives, then you are probably right, at least in this case. Zelensky is not just a simple comic

who got lucky.

A little background. Ukraine is one of the less fortunate post-Soviet countries, with ageing heavy industries, few natural resources and barely a third of Russia's per capita income (in terms of purchasing power parity). It has been mired in a low-intensity war with Russian proxies in its eastern provinces

Crimea to Russia for good.

You might think that in these circumstances, political debate would concentrate on ending the war and raising popular living standards but the war is barely mentioned and the main economic debate is about 'corruption'.

That debate would make sense if it was really about cleaning up an extremely corrupt political system dominated by the 'oligarchs' (who also control most of the media). In practice, it is mainly a struggle between rival oligarchs, using accusations of corruption to target each other when in fact they are all corrupt almost by definition.

Poroshenko, a leading oligarch who won the election after the 2014 revolution, was at daggers drawn with Ihor Kolomoysky, the second-richest man in Ukraine, from the beginning of his presidency. In 2016, he nationalised Kolomoysky's PrivatBank, the largest bank in the country, and Kolomoysky went into self-imposed exile in Israel while fighting Poroshenko's actions in the courts and the media.

It was at this time that Kolomoysky and Volodymyr Zelensky, already a successful comedian with his own production company, began developing the TV series about the accidental president and it went on air on Kolomovsky's 1+1 channel two years ago. It was an instant runaway hit and now Zelensky is the leading candidate for the real presidency.

Is Zelensky just á stalking horse behind which Kolomoysky can take control of Ukraine away from Poroshenko? Not necessarily. The two

men may have a pragmatic alliance but their own separate agenda. But it is noteworthy that Zelensky showed up at Kolomoysky's birthday party last year and was introduced as "our

That large numbers of Ukrainians should fall for a fake maverick (who doesn't even offer much in the way of concrete policies) is a measure of their disappointment with the status quo of rule by oligarchs behind a facade of democracy. Russia's relative prosperity is mostly due to its oil but it also owes much to the fact that Vladimir Putin has brought its oligarchs under control. In Ukraine, their rivalries still dominate everything. There is not much reason to believe that Ukraine will finally turn the corner in this election and escape from the miseries and failures of its first three decades of independence. On the other hand, it's not getting any worse either and for the moment the war in the east seems encysted and confined. Hope dies last and maybe Zelensky will surprise us.

(The writer's new book is Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work)



SETTING A GLOBAL STANDARD IN LEADERSHIP

Unexpectedly faced by an appalling atrocity, Ardern has shown exemplary leadership skills. Her instinct was to trust her humanity and the humanity of others. By quickly moving to meet, embrace and comfort the bereaved, by wearing the hijab, by taking swift action on gun control and by refusing to acknowledge the killer, she brought out the best in her fellow citizens.

(The Guardian editorial)

RBI to inject \$5 bn more liquidity through 2nd \$/₹ swap auction

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said it will inject long-term liq-uidity worth \$5 billion into the banking s y s t e m through dollar-rupee buysell swap for a tenure of three years on April 23, the second such auction within month.

Earlier on March 26, the central bank had bought \$5 billion

through similar swap auction in a bid to ease liquidity ahead of elections.

"In order to meet the durable liquidity needs of the system, the RBI has decided to inject Rupee liquidity for longer duration through long-term foreign exchange Buy/Sell swap in terms of its extant Liquidity Management Framework," the RBI said in a statement.

The USD/INR Buy/Sell swap auction of \$5 billion for tenor of three years will be held on April 23, 2019, it said.

The swap will be in the nature of a simple buy/sell foreign exchange swap from the Reserve Bank side. Under the

swap, a bank would sell US dollars to the RBI and simultaneously agree to buy the same

of the swap period.

The US Dollar amount mobilised through this auction would also reflect in RBI's foreign exchange reserves for the tenor of the swap while also reflecting in RBI's forward lia-

amount of US dollars at the end

bilities, it added. It further said the market participants would be required to place their bids in terms of the premium that they are willing to pay to the RBI for the tenor of the swap, expressed in paisa terms up to two decimal

The auction would be a multiple-price based auction successful bids will get accepted at their respective quoted

The minimum size of each bid should be \$10 million and in multiples of \$1 million thereafter.

The swap will increase India's foreign exchange reserves while injecting liq-

uidity into the financial system. The auction is meant to give RBI greater flexibility in managing banking system cash while helping absorb any potential large dollar inflows, which could make the rupee

NMDC passes

Sebi proposes amendments to norms governing SROs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday proposed proposed amendments to norms governing Self Regulatory Organisations, including recognising such entities on a nomination basis.

Coming out with a consultation paper, the watchdog said that an SRO would be defined as an organisation of intermediaries or an entity promoted by a stock exchange, recognised by the board.

A Self Regulatory Organisation (SRO) is considered as the first level regulator.

"As per the proposed process, instead of inviting applications, Sebi would recognise an entity as an SRO on nomination basis, after conducting due diligence," the regulator said.

Sebi proposes to constitute a nomination committee to consider and give recommendation to the regulator regarding the suitability of an organisation or entity to be recognised as an SRO.

The committee will comprise external experts and will preferably be headed by a retired judge of a High Court or Supreme Court.

Sebi also said the recognition of an SRO may be on permanent basis subject to certain conditions.

The paper further suggest-

ed that a governing board may consist of elected representatives of members of SRO public interest directors nominated by Sebi and shareholder directors.

The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the SRO will vest in the board and its creation, composition and functions will be specified by Sebi from time to time, it

The SRO shall provide for a dispute resolution mechanism including arbitration to settle disputes between investors and its members and disputes between its members.

Besides, the SRO of distributors of MF products shall not handle disputes between the distributors and the MFs. They shall continue to be governed under their contractual arrangements.

Among other criteria, eligibility criteria for an entity to be recognised as an SRO includes that its minimum net worth shall be Rs 1 crore.

The paper was floated after Sebi initiated process of selection of SRO for distributors of MF products and got nod from the Supreme Court to amend SRO norms that included recognising a company as an SRO, without calling for applications after considering its experience and

RBI reshuffles lead bank responsibilities post banks merger

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank has reshuffled lead bank responsibilities in some districts of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Union Territory Dadra & Nagar Haveli following the merger of Dena Bank and Vijava Bank with Bank of Baroda.

Amalgamation of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda has been notified on January 2, 2019. The notification has come into force on April 1, 2019, the RBI said in a notification.

Following the merger, the RBI has decided to assign the lead bank responsibility of districts hitherto held by Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank, the central bank said.

The lead bank responsibility in seven districts in Chhattisgarh has been assigned to Bank of Baroda from Dena Bank.

In Gujarat, Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar will get SBI as the lead banker from Dena Bank earlier. While eight other districts in the state will be deputed to Bank of Baroda from Dena Bank.

Three districts in Karnataka goes to Bank of Baroda from Vijaya Bank.

There is no change in the lead bank responsibilities of the other districts across the country," the RBI said.

TRAI issues showcause notice to BARC India for not releasing TV viewership data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $B_{\rm has\ issued\ a\ showcause}^{\rm roadcast\ regulator\ TRAI}$ notice to Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC India) for not complying with its direction on release of TV viewership data on website during the sector's migration to the new tariff regime, according to a source. The regulator has asked

BARC India to explain, by April 5, why action should not be taken against it for contravention of sections of the TRAI Act, the source privy to the development said.

Reached for comments, a BARC India spokesperson said it had temporarily suspended making public limited set of data given the "significant volatility in data" due to "distribution disruptions" in the NTO (new tariff order) transition period.

It said making public such "misleading" data would be against public interest and could be open to "misuse by vested interests."

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its showcause notice dated March 29 noted that BARC India did not comply with its past direction given on February 22, 2019, seeking immediate release of viewership data (for the week ending February 8 and subsequent weeks) on its website.

BARC India has been

granted registration by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to carry out TV rating services. The source said that following the directive, BARC India had approached the regulator seeking additional time for response.

The stand-off between TRAI and BARC India over viewership data has been brewing for the last few months now. TRAI's past directive had said that BARC India modified its Fair and Permissible Usage Policy on February 14, 2019, despite being repeatedly asked by the regulator to not stop publishing of rating data and viewership data on its website during the migration to new regulatory framework unless explicitly permitted by the

TRÁI had rued that BARC India did not comply with its past instructions despite being repeatedly asked by the authority to publish rating and data of the viewership of different TV channels. BARC, on the other hand, had argued that disruption caused by transition to the new regime could prevent consumers from accessing the channels of their choice, thus not giving fair and true picture of TV consumption in India.

But TRAI has maintained it would not be appropriate to stop rating of channels as these changes were an outcome of consumer choice and real reflection of market dynamics.

RBI to unveil this fiscal's first bi-monthly policy decision on April 4

Industry and experts are expecting that the banking sector regulator may cut the key lending rate

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will unveil on Thursday its first bi-monthly monetary policy decision of this new fiscal

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet bi-monthly policy statement for 2019-20, the central bank said in a release Monday.

"The resolution of the MPC will be placed on the website at 11.45 AM on April 4, 2019," it said.

Industry and experts are expecting that the banking

30 million tonne production PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $N_{ ext{ducer}}^{ ext{MDC}}$, the largest producer of iron ore in the sector regulator may cut the key lending rate — at which it lends to commercial banks country has once again showby 0.25 per cent so as to boost cased excellent performance the economic activities as fears for the year 2018-19. NMDC loom large about global ecohas surpassed the 30 million tonnes figure of production and sales for the 3rd year connomic slowdown impacting India's growth prospects.

The RBI had cut the repo secutively.

rate by 25 basis points (bps) or Inspite of suspension of 0.25 per cent in February after Donimalai Mine operations a gap of one-and-a-half years. Ratings firm ICRA said: for 5 months, no exports upto August 2018, highest rainfall in Bailadila Sector "We expect a 25 bps rate cut in the upcoming meeting of monand poor off take in Karnataka in Q1, NMDC etary policy committee..." With the subdued growth has produced 32.44 MT and outlook and moderate inflasales of 32.38 MT iron ore tion. The RBI does not seem to

during FY-19. iron ore projects have clocked their best in a single day, monthly and annual production and sales figures.

Baijendra Kumar, IAS, CMD, NMDC congratulated all the employees for their dedicated hardwork and excellent team work.

GST collection records ₹1.06 lakh cr in March

For fiscal 2019-20. the GST collection target has been budgeted at ₹13.71 lakh crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections scaled record high of ₹1.06 lakh crore in March, up from ₹97,247 crore in the previous month, as compliance improved amid increased number of returns filed.

'Total gross GST revenue collected in March, 2019 is ₹1,06,577 crore of which Central GST is ₹20,353 crore, State GST is ₹27,520 crore, Integrated GST is ₹50,418 crore official statement said.

Total number of summary sales return GSTR-3B filed for the month of February up to March 31, stood at 75.95

The collection in March 2019, has been highest since introduction of GST and also

General public is hereby informed that

one girl namely Shweta Thakur, D/o

Shri Jay Shankar, R/o H.No. C-79/7,

Aram Bagh, Paharganj, Delhi has been

missing since 24.03.2019. In this regard

D.D. No. 32-A, Dated 24.03.2019 has

Paharganj, Delhi. Her physical

description is as under:- Age: 18 years

P.S. Paharganj, Delhi

SHO

Date: 02-04-2019

Ph.: 011-23520787, 23524746

been lodged at Police Station

SEARCH FOR MISSING

& 5 months, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'0", Face: Long,

Hair: Black, Build: thin, Identification: She has six

fingers in left hand, Clothing: Wearing yellow colour suit &

Any person is having any information/Clue about this

SEARCH FOR MISSING

salwar, blue colour jeans and hawai chappal in feet.

missing girl, may inform undersigned.

reflects a 15.6 per cent growth over March 2018, collection of Monthly average of GST

revenue during 2018-19, stood at ₹98,114 crore which is 9.2 per cent higher than the previous fiscal. These figures indicate that the revenue growth has been picking up in recent months, despite various rate rationalisation mea-

The Government has lowered the GST collection target for 2018-19 fiscal to ₹11.47 lakh crore in the revised estimates, from ₹13.71 lakh crore budgeted initially.

GST collection stood at ₹1.03 lakh crore in April, ₹94,016 crore in May, ₹95,610 crore in June, ₹96,483 crore in July, ₹93,960 crore in August, ₹1,00,710 crore in October, ₹97,637 crore in November, ₹94,725 crore in December 2018, ₹1.02 lakh crore in January 2019 and ₹97,247 crore in February 2019.

For fiscal 2019-20, the GST collection target has been budgeted at ₹13.71 lakh crore.

ONGC gas output jumps 6.5% to record high in FY19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 R^{eversing} years of decline, state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has reported a record 6.5 per cent jump in natural gas production to 25.9 billion cubic meters in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019, as it doubles up efforts to raise domestic output to curb

Natural gas production from ONGC-operated nomination fields, NELP blocks and joint venture assets reached 25.819 BCM in 2018-BCM output in the previous fiscal, ONGC Chairman and Managing Director Shashi Shanker said here.

The company is on course to produce 42 BCM by end of fiscal 2022, when its prized KG basin discoveries will come onstream.

Business Corner



Rakesh Kumar, CMD, NLC India Limited joins SCOPE as Chairman. He was



Vipin Anand has taken charge on Monday as Managing Director of LIC of India. He was appointed Managing Director vide Government of India Notification dated 14th March, 2019, Prior to taking charge as Managing Director he was In-charge of LIC's Western Zone, headquartered at Mumbai and comprising of 23 (Twenty Three) Divisions covering the states of Maharashtra, Guiarat, Goa and Union Territories of Daman, Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Earlier, he has also headed LIC's Fast Central Zone headquartered at Patna

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo) namely Pika S/o Sh. Uttam Chand R/o R-1368, Mangol Puri, Delhi Aged - 47 Years has been reported missing/ kidnapped since 21.02.2019 vide DD No. 28-A dated 26.02.2019 registered at Police Station Raj Park, Delhi. His physical description is as



cut the policy rate again dur-

ing its next meeting. I think

that the relevant question is

whether the bank would cut

the rate by more than 25 bps,"

said Sujan Hajra, Chief

Economist and Executive

Director, Anand Rathi Shares

Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, ID Mentally Weak, Clothing: Red coloured t-shirt, green coloured pant and sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped man, may inform SHO, Raj Park, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Raj Park, Delhi FAX No.: 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-27910070, 27910071 DP/2060/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MAN



inform P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

General public is hereby informed that a Man namely Krishan Pal, S/o: Ram Lal, R/o H. No. K-2, Nihal Vihar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 27.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 89-A, dated 10.03.2019 has been KRISHAN PAL registered at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to

The description of missing Man is as under: Name: Krishan Pal, Age: 29 Years, Height: 5'7", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Blue Jersey- Black

trace out this missing Man but no clue has come to light so far.

Pant and black Sleeper in feet. If anyone have any information about this missing Man please

Email: cic@cbi.gov.in Web: http://cbi.nic.in SHO Fax: 011-24368639 Police Station, Nangloi, Delhi Ph: 011-25947225, 25949470 음 Tel.: 011-24368638/24368641



Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

DP/6156/CD/19

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely Vivek Kumar, S/o Shri Sukhnandan, R/o H.No. 157, Extn 2-D, Nangloi, Delhi has been missing from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi since 11.03.2019. In this regard D.D. No. 54-A, Dated 12.03.2019 has been

lodged at Police Station - Nangloi, Delhi. His physical description is as under:- Age: 25 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'8", Face: Round, Clothing: Blue colour shirt, Blue colour jeans & shoes in feet. Any person is having any information/Clue about this

missing person, may inform undersigned.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/2054/OD/19

Website: http://cbi.nic.in

P.S. Nangloi, Delhi Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470

UP RERA issues show cause notices to Ansal API

The Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory LEstate Regulatory Authority (UP RERA) Monday said it has issued show cause notices to Ansal Properties and Infrastructure over alleged fraud and diversion of funds.

In October 2018, the authority ordered forensic audit in registered projects with a view to investigate into the affairs, especially the accounts of Ansal API to find out the propriation.

possible diversion of funds, and causes of inordinate delays, among others.

The authority had also appointed Currie and Brown (C&B) for conducting the forensic audit, it said in a state-

The show cause notices have been issued to the developer following a report submitted by forensic auditor that had investigated 91 projects of Ansal API over the last three months for financial misap-

MOTHERSON GROUP ENTERS VEHICLE LOGISTICS

 $S^{\text{amvardhana Motherson Group tied}}_{\text{up with Japanese logistics major}}$ Hamakyorex to establish a 'finished vehicle' logistics firm in India. With the Indian automotive market expected to grow manifold in the next few years. both companies hold high-hopes for this joint-venture which will bring a professional, safer and technologydriven solution to automotive manufacturers in India

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE **ICICI B**ank

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007 Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051 Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext., New Delhi- 110055

ICICI Bank Limited

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public ir general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

	Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Date of Physical Possession	Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice(Rs)	Name of Branc				
		Gautam/ LBGHZ00002014386	House No. III- K- 35/5, Ground Floor Without Roof Right, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad/ 29- March-2019	June30, 2015 Rs. 31,39,325/-	Ghaziat				
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the am else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this No as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.									

MARUTI SALES GROWTH **SLOWS IN 2018-19**

The country's largest carmaker Maruti-Suzuki released details of the sales for March 2019 and for the financial year 2018-19. As the company had indicated in previous appouncements sales growth was slower than in previous four years and domestic sales growth increased by 6.1 per cent to 1.753.700 units from 1.653.500 units in the previous financial year. Maruti-Suzuki Chairman R C Bhargava had in his year-end press-conference in 2018 mentioned that sales growth slows dramatically in pre-election years and the last major time sales growth had stalled was 2013-14, but there was usually a commensurate pick-up in sales in a post-election environment Maruti-Suzuki launched several new models in the past few months including new generation models of the Ertiga and WagonR.

TOYOTA SALES GROW IN FY 2018-19

With 150,525 units sold in 2018-19, Toyota-Kirloskar Motors saw sales grow by seven percent from 140.645 units in the previous year. While the company said that demand for the Innova and Fortuner continued, there was a slowdown in consumer spending ahead of polls and demand has slowed down in the past few months, sales growth in March 2019 over the same month last year was just two per cent Toyota and Suzuki Motor Corporation parent of Maruti-Suzuki recently announced a partnership by which Tovota would sell versions of the Ciaz and Ertiga through Toyota dealerships and would also be producing the Vitara Brezza at their manufacturing plant at Bidar, Karnataka, In addition, Toyota would sell cars produced by Maruti-Suzuki in the African market.

CaffeinePunch

Finding it hard to concentrate? A study, published in the journal Consciousness and Cognition says that just looking at something that reminds us of coffee can cause our minds to become more alert and attentive

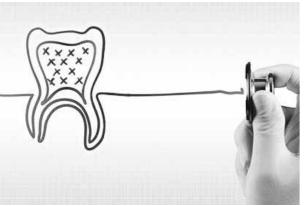


DOCYARD DR KEERTHILATHA M PAI

Dean, Professor, Oral Medicine and Radiology

MANIPAL COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES, **MANIPAL ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION**





Keep gums in tip top condition

Gum related problems occur when good oral hygiene is not maintained. This leads to plaque build-up, which is a thin sticky layer of bacteria that accumulates on the teeth. Over time, if not taken care of plaque will eventually irritate your gums causing redness with bleeding, swelling, and soreness. If the condition worsens then the gums tend to move away from the teeth, opening gaps putting your teeth at greater risk

Yet, many people choose to ignore bleeding gums when they brush and floss, or even while eating, thinking it is a normal, common occurrence. The main concern about gum disease is that many people are not aware that they have it, as it can be symptomless.

■Myth 1: There is a commonly held view that bleeding gums are a part of everyday life and can be ignored.

Fact: If you notice bleeding from your gums, it is always best to consult with your dentist or doctor to determine the cause. The good news is that, most of the time, it is easily preventable- part of it you can do yourself through sound oral hygiene measures, coupled with regular dental check-ups.

Brushing too hardMyth 2: Gum disease occurs to those who have cavities bleeding gums, but this could also be also recommended

can cause and have poor oral hygiene

a sign of gum
disease —

Gum disease affects many
people all over the world, with
around 50 per cent of adults Gingivitis. It is experiencing Gingivitis during

to change your toothbrush every

Myth 3: Brushing too hard can cause gum bleeding Fact: Brushing too hard

three months can cause bleeding gums, but this could also be a sign of gum disease — Gingivitis. It is also recommended to change

your toothbrush every three months.

■Myth 4: Do gums grow back after receding? Fact: While receding gums don't grow back on their own,

you can talk to your dentist or periodontist about the number of treatments available to correct the issue and prevent it from getting worse

■Choice of toothpaste: If you struggle with bleeding gums, you may want to consider a toothpaste that can neutralise the plaque found around the gumline. Floss daily: Flossing is one of the most important ways to

help prevent bleeding gums and maintain good oral health. ■Avoid Tobacco: Tobacco use can damage your gums, and canalso make you far more likely to develop gum disease. ■Maintain a healthy lifestyle and balanced diet ■Regular dental check-ups can prevent cavities and gum

bleeding

WHEN TO SEE A DOCTOR?

See a dentist if gum bleeding does not improve within seven to 10 days. Your doctor may also check for vitamin deficiencies that could cause gum bleeding. If you don't have gum disease, but still suffer from bleeding gums, don't ignore the problem for it may also be caused by bleeding disorders, leukemia, Vitamin K deficiency, medications, hormonal changes during pregnancy, wrong selection of toothbrush, poorly fitted dentures, medical issues, stress, tobacco products and sores or lesions.

SUMMERCOOLERS

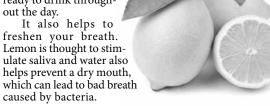
EMON: The lemon is a species of small evergreen tree. Citrus fruits like lemons are high in vitamin C, a primary antioxidant that helps protect cells from damaging free radicals. Vitamin C may reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke, and lower blood pressure.

Vitamin C found in lemons may help reduce skin wrinkling, dry skin from aging, and damage from the sun. Some people drink lemon water as a daily morning laxative to help prevent constipation. Drinking warm or hot lemon water when you wake up may help get your digestive system moving.

Lemons can also be used to prepare lemon water which helps

you stay hydrated and refresh in the scratching heat. Keep a pitcher of lemon water

ready to drink through-It also helps to



Nephrologists tell you the warning signs and foods to avoid to keep your kidneys healthy

FOR HEALTHY

lobally acute and chronic kidney disease is now recognised as a major medical prob-Jem and in several countries it is now among the top five causes of death. In India, kidney disease is ranked as the eighth leading cause of death.

Kidneys are very important parts of the body that perform critical functions such as regulating the acid content, potassium, and salt content. Along with producing Vitamin D and balancing the body's fluids, kidneys also perform waste removal of the

It is true that early signs of kidney diseases are not easily attributable. But that is not the reason to stay ignorant of the most common symptoms. While the best way to know if there is any issue with the kidneys is to get tested by a doctor, it is still highly recommended to look out for the following most commonly observed symptoms of kidnev diseases.

■ Fatigue and lack of concentration: Build up of toxins and impurities in the blood can be the result of a severe decrease in kidney function. This can exhaust people and can make it hard to concentrate. Anaemia is another complication of kidney disease, which can cause weakness and fatigue.

Trouble in sleeping: When the kidneys do not

filter properly, toxins stay in the blood rather than leaving the body through the urine. This can make it difficult to sleep. Also compared with the general population, sleep apnoea is more common in those with chronic kidney disease,

■Dry and itchy skin: Advanced kidney diseases, when the kidneys are no longer able to keep the right balance of minerals and nutrients in the blood are often accompanied by mineral and bone diseases and dry and itchy skin can be a sign of that. ■Increase in tendency to urinate: The increasing urge to urinate, especially at night can be an indicator to kidney diseases. When the kidney's filters are damaged, it can cause an increase in the tendency to urinate. But sometimes it can also be a sign of a urinary infection or enlarged prostate in

■Blood in urine: While healthy kidneys typically keep the blood cells in the body when filtering wastes from the blood to create urine, the damaged kidney filters can "leak" out the blood cells into the urine.In addition to being a sign for kidney diseases, blood in the urine can also be indicative of tumors, kidney stones or an infection.

Foamy urine: Excessive bubbles in the urine indi-

cate presence of protein in the urine. It can be a sign of kidney issues. Persistent puffiness around the eyes: Due to

damage of kidney's filters, the protein of the body the eyes can be due to the fact that the kidneys are leaking a large amount of protein in the urine, rather than keeping it in the body.

■Swollen ankles and feet: Decrease in the function of kidney can lead to sodium retention, causing swelling in your feet and ankles. However, swelling in the lower extremities can also be a sign of heart disease, liver disease and chronic leg vein

Poor appetite: It is a general symptom for so many diseases. But that does not cancel the possibility of it being a potential symptom of kidney diseases as the build-up of toxins resulting from reduced kidney function can be one of the causes.

In view of rising burden of kidney disease, there is an urgent need to make people aware not only about the symptoms for preventive measures but also about the advanced treatment now available. The writer is Dr Vikram Kalra, Additional Director, Nephrology and Renal Transplantation, Aakash Healthcare



LOOK OUT FOR

There is a link between I inflammation, chronic disease and certain foods. There are food which have antioxidants, these antioxidants neutralises from radicals and protect the body. Most of these foods are good for kidney health.

■ Garlic: It lowers cholesterol and reduce inflammation. You can add it to the vegetables, lentils and spinach.

Onion: It contain Quercet, a powerful anti-

oxidant, that can help to reduce heart disease and provide protection against certain cancers. Onions also contains Chromium, which helps in carbohydrate, protein and fat metabolism.

■ Cauliflower: It contains Indoles, Glucosinolates and Thiocyanates, they help liver neutralise toxins that can damage DNA. It is also packed with Vitamins C, folate and fibers.

■Cabbage: It contains phytochemicals, which neutralises free radicals and hence protects against cancer and foster cardiovascular health. They are a good source of Vitamin C, K,

B6, folate and fibers. Cabbage are low in potassium, hence good for patients with kidney dis-

■ **Red bell pepper:** They are rich in Vitamin A, C, B6, folate and fibers. They are low in potassi-um and rich in antioxidant lycopene. ■ Apple: They are high in fiber

and anti- inflammatory compound. Potassium content is low in apple, which is good for patients having kidney disease

■ Red Grapes: They contain flavonoids which are anti-oxidants and is cardio protective and reduces formation of blood clots. Resveratrol, found in grapes improves blood flow by stimulating nitric oxide. ■ Fish: It contains high quality protein

and anti - inflammatory fat, omega-3. Omega-3 helps lower LDL cholesterol (bad cholesterol) and raises HDL cholesterol (Good cholesterol) ■Olive Oil: Mono unsaturated fat and polyphenols in olive oil are antioxidant and anti- inflammatory

> The writer is Dr Umesh Gupta, Senior Consultant & Director, Nephrology, Aakash Healthcare Super

STAY AWAY

chronic

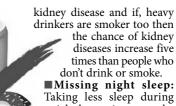
Being the most important part of human body, we compromise it with some of our common habits

Painkiller addiction: To counter your body pains, people take NSAD (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) which affects kidney. Doctors and stuck to recommended dosage only.

■Processed foods: One of the studies has warned that the consumption of junk and processed food cause damage to kidneys, cause heart diseases in long run and also triggers diabetes, digestive problems, weakness, fatigue, and abnormal blood sugar level.

■Less drinking water intake: Intake of adequate drinking water, cleanses the toxins from your body and keep you safe from kidney problems as painful kidney stones

■Alcohol intake: Excess alcohol intake doubles the risk of



Taking less sleep during night hours, increases the working hour of Kidney and disturbs its overall kidnev function.

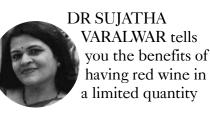
sugar level: It is advisable to avoid sugar concentrated food items, if your blood sugar level gets more than 180mg/dl,

then kidney starts flushing out sugar into urine. It indicates sugar is causing damage to your kidney. **■Too much red meat:** Intake

of high amount of red meat (pork) increases the protein level in our body that generates acids in the blood that is harmful for kidney and cause acidosis. The writer is Dr Sunil Prakash, Senior

Consultant & Director, Nephrology & Renal Transplantation, BLK Super Speciality Hospital

GIVE ME RED



We all have a question, is the hype around the red wine is so good to be true? Keep in mind that a modest glass is all you need. Beyond psychological happiness, drinking red wine one or two ounces of cup a day might enjoy alcohol health benefits. Centuries ago, wine was used to treat various health conditions. Wines, especially red have been studied extensively. However, research suggest any health benefits from red wine can be driven only by applying to moderate drinking.

PREPARATION

Red wine is an alcoholic drink derived by fermentation of grapes and other fruits.

The sugars are converted into alcohol and carbon dioxide either in a natural process or with the help of yeast. It is made from the pulp of red and black grapes. White wine is made from crushed grape to extract the juice and skin is removed

The process of wine making takes months to years, from fermentation to ethanol, and sent in tanks where skin is removed and malo-lactic acid conversion done by a bacterial process. Then it goes in to oak casks, settled and clari-

COMPONENTS

■Acid: The most important component, consisting of tannic acid, malic acid, citric acid and ascorbic acid. Sugar content increases as grapes ripen and acid decreases. The acid balances alcohol and sweetness.

■ **Alcohol:** Produced by the fermentation when yeast comes in contact with grape sugar.

■ Tannins: Belong to a group of poly phenols, are derived from skin and seeds. These are flavonoids found in plants. Anti-oxidants (Catechins, Resveratrol) flavonols, Anthocyanins (pigments).

■ Carbohydrates: Simple sugars and complex carbohydrates such as pectin's and glycan's. Residual sugars are those left in wine after fermentation.

■Preservatives: Sulphur dioxide, sodium or potassium metabisuphite, potassium sorbate. ■Inorganic components: Potassium salts (contribute to acidity) iron, copper, phosphate chloride, sulphate.

HEATH BENEFITS

■ Heart and blood vessels: Free radicals are held responsible for the effects of aging, inflammation and immune response. They are released as a result of the effect of pathogens, UV damage, environmental pollution and toxins. Resveratrol is known to slow down process of atherosclerosis. It inhibit platelet aggregation, plaque formation and relaxes coronary arteries. ■Cholestrol: Reduces LDL cholesterol and

■ Diabetes: Help lower blood sugar, maintain better insulin response. ■Brain and Nervous System: Helps reduce age

related free radical damage, plaque formation and lessen the age related dementia and Alzheimer's disease. ■ Renal System: Prevents stone formation, by

flushing effect and inducing diuresis.

SIDE EFFECTS

Alcohol is hepatotoxic and neurotoxic and unreasonable quantity can damage liver and nervous system. Contaminants found in wine such as sulphur can cause allergic reactions. Ideal amount recommended for women is

one glass per day and two glasses per day for men. Maximum of five glasses per week is said to be ideal. The writer is Health & Lifestyle coach and Nutrition

DadiKaKehna

Parts of Central and South India are already reeling under the temperatures well over 40 degrees C. It won't be long before North comes to a boil as well. ROSHANI DEVI shares tips to prevent heatstroke



ne of the most important things to keep in mind to prevent a heatstroke is to remain hydrated all the time. Drink plenty of water. If the nature of your work keeps you outdoors, carry a bottle of water with

you. Peak sun hours are from 10 am to 4 pm. Try and avoid going out during this time.

Onions are great to prevent a heatstroke. Eat them in any form, though raw would be best.

The juice of coriander or basil leaves are also very effective in keeping the body

Drink coconut water a couple of times in a day.

allow your body to breathe can keep you cool. Cotton is the best options. Lighter shades do not absorb heat and helps to keep the body cool. Wear loose fitting clothes. When going out, cover your head

with widebrimmed hat, cap or a scarf. One can carry an umbrella to shield themself from the sun's

Eat healthy. Yogurt is a great cooling food and easy to digest. Eat more fruits that are high in water content. Drink at least two glasses of buttermilk. Stay away from hot and spicy foods.

TIPTOP

People who wish to live longer must reduce their sitting time and replace it with just 30 minutes of physical activity, according to findings of a recent study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology. The results highlight the importance of movement — regardless of its intensity or amount of time spent moving — for better health. Studies indicate that about

Adults who sat for long stretches at a time — an hour or more without interruption - had a greater risk of early death than those who were sedentary for the same total amount of time but got up and moved around more often. Thus, even short bursts of activity - of just a minute or two — can provide

one in four adults spends

more than eight hours a day

former national resident of Indian Medical Association said: "Modern and advanced technology has certainly made life easy and convenient for us. Online shopping, online payments and accessing information all of which can

Speaking about this, Dr KK Aggarwal,

be done from the comfort of our homes but at the cost of our health. The benefits of exercise are well-established. But, the level of physical activity among all age groups has decreased. A heavy work schedule is often a deterrent to physical activity for many of us."

Replacing just 30 minutes of sitting with low-intensity physical activity may lower the risk of early death by 17 per cent. Swapping the same amount of sitting for moderate to vigorous activity would be twice as effective, cutting the risk of early death by 35 per cent.

SLIMLINE

health benefits

rinking one alcoholic drink daily as well as being overweight can increase the risk of developing breast cancer, warns a study of over two lakh women.

"That means that consequently, even relatively small preventable proportions translate into large numbers of preventable breast cancers," said Maarit Laaksonen, from the University of New South Wales in

Over the next decade, drinking alcohol

will lead to 13 per cent increase of breast cancer cases in pre-menopausal women and six per cent in post-menopausal breast cancers. Being overweight or obese will contribute to 13 per cent cases.

Together, these modifiable risk factors regular alcohol consumption and excessive weight gain — will be responsible for nearly 30,000 cases of breast cancer by next decade, noted the study published in the International Journal of Cancer.

STUDYCENTRE

→ tatistics indicate that Sindia accounts for one-third of all measles-related deaths worldwide. Measles is high-

ly infectious and as per the WHO, a country needs to ensure that at least 95% of all children receive two doses of the vaccine. About 15 per cent of vaccinated children fail to develop immunity from the first dose, meaning that if only 80 per cent are fully immunised, an outbreak is likely.

Measles is a highly contagious and spread by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing. The infection is followed by high fever, rash that spreads over the body, cough, running nose and red watery eyes. Measles weakens the immune system and often leads to serious complications. The vaccination schedule:

BCG 1 dose at Birth (up to 1 year if not given earlier). DPT Toxoid 5 doses; Three primary

OPV 5 doses; 0 dose at birth, three primary doses at 6,10 and 14 weeks and one booster dose at 16-24 months of age. Hepatitis B vaccine 4 doses; 0 dose

doses at 6 weeks, 10 weeks and 14 weeks.

Two booster doses at 16-24 months and

within 24 hours of birth and three doses at 6, 10 and 14 weeks of age.

Measles 2 doses; first dose at 9-12

months and second dose at 16-24months. TT 2 doses at 10 years and 16 years

— Courtesy Heart Care Foundation of India



British MPs seek new Brexit plan

 $B^{\mbox{\scriptsize ritish MPs}}$ will try again to Chart a new Brexit path on Monday after rejecting Prime Minister Theresa May's deal for a third time, but the EU warned its patience was wearing thin.

Less than two weeks before Britain risks crashing out of the European Union, MPs will hold a second round of votes on various options to try to break the political deadlock.

But any attempt to force May to accept a closer relationship with the EU risks splitting the government, and there is widespread speculation she might try one last time to get her deal passed this week. European Union leaders

have called an emergency summit on April 10 and have warned that unless Britain sets out what it wants to do, it risks severing ties with its largest trading bloc two days later with no deal at all.

"With our British friends we have had a lot of patience, but even patience is running out," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told Italian public TV channel Rai 1 on Sunday.

Britain voted by 52 per cent to leave the EU in a 2016 referendum, but the process has been mired in divisions over the terms of the divorce and what kind of future ties to seek. May struck a divorce deal with the EU last November, but it has been repeatedly rejected by MPs, the last time on Friday even after she promised to resign if her rebellious

IN THE MATTER OF:-

aforesaid Mobile no.

respect to the remainder.

again put to auction

assigning any reason.

costs has been paid to the undersigned.

-Versus-

Conservative colleagues helped push the deal through.

The impasse has forced May to postpone Britain's original exit day from March 29, but she said it would be "unacceptable" for a further delay beyond European Parliament elections held from May 23 to

Frustrated with her approach, MPs in the House of Commons last week voted to give themselves powers to find

Dated: 16.10.2019

NATCONN ENGINEERING (P) LTD.

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DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, Delhi, 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN

TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE
NOTICE UNDER RULE 52(2) OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO
THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 25(A) THE
RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS & FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993.

1. Natconn Engineering Pvt. Ltd. Through Its Director (Borrower) Having its office At: A-209, Second Floor, Arcadia Commercial Complex South City-II, Gurgaon-122001

2. Vijay Shanker Manohar Jha, S/o Manohar Jha, (Guarantor & Director), R/o 45, Town/ Village- Babhni, Anchal - Falka, District Katihar -

Whereas the execution of recovery certificate no. 493/2018 in OA. no.

84/2015 dated 17.05.2018 ordered by the Hon'le Presiding Officer Debts Recovery Tribunal-II DELHI for recovery from defendants recoverable

and whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of movable assets mentioned in schedule assets for satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate Notice is here by given that in the absence of any order of postponement the said assets shall be sold by Shri Sukhdev Limbhore, Authorized Officer, Mobile No. 9561087522, who has been appointed as Court Austrianses by this Forum they have been shared.

appointed as Court Auctioneer by this Forum through public auction between 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm on 26.04.2019 at site for further details Shri Sukhdev Limbhore Authorized officer can be contacted on the

The sale will be of the movable assets of the above named applicant

Company, subject to the liabilities and claims attaching to the said assets, if any. If the amount to be realized by sale is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the assets the sale shall be immediately stopped with

The sale will also be stopped if before any lot is knocked down the arrears mentioned in the said certificate interest costs (including costs of sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate along with the interest and

At the sale the public generally are invited to bid either personally or by duly authorized agent No officer or other person having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, either directly or

indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the assets

The assets is being sold "As is where is basis" The sale shall be subject

to the condition prescribed in the Second schedule to the income tax act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the following further

The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to

the best of the information of the under signed, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or ommission in this

Hypothecated vehicle i.e. commercial Hypothecated vehicles namely. (i) CONCERT BATCHING PLAT, Reg. No. 10468391, Model ST-30-TS-IB-CN, engine no. AF827, Chassis No. AF827. (ii) BATCHING PLANT, Reg No. 10468391, Engine No. AF827, Chassis No. AF827.

Reserved Price for (i) Rs. 3,15,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Only) - EMD Rs. 31,500/- (Rupees Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred Only) for (ii) Rs. 5,85,000/- (Rupees Five Lacs Eight Five Thousand Only) - EMD: Rs. 58,500 (Rupees Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Only)

1. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be

determined by the Officer conducting the sale, In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to bidder, the lot shall at once be

2. Intending bidders shall be required to deposit an earnest money

as mentioned above for each by way of pay order/demand draft payable at New Delhi and in favor of Recovery Officer -II, DRT II Delhi, The said deposit shall be adjusted in the case of unsuccessful bidders;

proceeds by way of pay order/demand draft favoring the Recovery Officer-II, DRT II, Delhi immediately at the fall of hammer, after adjusting

the earnest deposit stated above, failing which the earnest deposit shall

4. The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds

along with poundage fee@2% upto Rupees 1,000/-@1% of the sale price exceeding Rupees 1.000/-by 4.00 PM on the next working day. The poundage fees shall be deposited through a demand draft

5. In the case of default the amount earlier deposited by the bidder, if the

undersigned considers fit, after defraying the expenses of the sale shall be forfeited and the assets shall be resold, and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the assets or to any part thereof or of any part of

6. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if

found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without

Details of

Schedule of assets

the same shall be refunded without interest, on the date of sale 3.Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale

payable in favor of the Registrar, DRT-III, DELHI

the sum for which it may subsequently be sold

Description of assets Revenue

Hypothecated vehicle i.e. commercial Hypothecated vehicles namely.

an alternative strategy, by holding a series of "indicative votes" on various options.

No single plan won a majority in the first round but MPs hope to whittle down the proposals on Monday evening, with voting starting at 8.00 pm (1900 GMT), and another day of debate is scheduled for this Wednesday.

The two most popular options last week were a new EU-UK customs union or a

special envoy Zalmay

U Khalilzad said on Monday

he was in Kabul to meet with

Afghan officials, ahead of a new

round of talks with the Taliban

aimed at ending more than 17

adviser tweeted that he had met

with several government rep-

resentatives with responsibili-

ty for the Afghan peace process.

of making progress on intra-Afghan dialogue," Khalilzad

with representatives from a

The Afghan-born US

'We discussed the urgency

He later said he had met

AFP ■ KABUL

years of war.

public vote on any agreed deal. There were a large number of abstentions on another widely discussed option, based on Norway's membership of the single market.

In an interview with the BBC released Monday, Chief Whip Julian Smith — the man responsible for enforcing discipline among May's MPs and ministers — suggested that a closer relationship with the EU was "inevitable". The 2017

during all negotiations".

Khalilzad held talks with

the Taliban in Doha that were

originally slated to last two days

in February, but dragged on for

16 days, eventually ending

March 12 with Khalilzad say-

ing "real strides" had been

als to get foreign armed forces

to leave Afghanistan, and the

Taliban to guarantee the coun-

try cannot be used as a spring-

board for terror groups to

week said Khalilzad's trip was

"part of an overall effort to

facilitate a peace process that

The State Department last

launch any future attacks.

On the table were propos-

election where May lost her parliamentary majority meant this would be inevitably a kind of softer type of Brexit", he said. He also denounced the behaviour of May's own ministers, who he said were trying to undermine her. "This is I think the worst example of illdiscipline in cabinet in British political history," he said.

While some pro-European might support a customs

Afghan negotiations". So far,

however, the talks have not

included the Kabul govern-

ment. The Taliban have long

refused to speak with Kabul,

deeming the administration of

President Ashraf Ghani — who

is seeking re-election this year

told AFP they may consider

meeting Afghan government

officials in a fresh round of

talks in Doha, reportedly due

the Afghan government, but

they might meet with some

Afghan government officials as

independent politicians," the

official said. New talks come as

Afghanistan remains on edge

Taliban will not meet with

to begin mid-April.

puppets of the West. But a senior Taliban official

US peace envoy returns to Kabul ahead of Taliban talks

Britain voted by 52 per cent to leave the EU in a 2016 referendum, but the process has been mired in divisions over the terms of the divorce and what kind of future ties to seek

union, she herself is opposed and it threatens mass rebellion among the rest of her ministers.

Brexit-supporting minister Andrea Leadsom has reportedly organised a letter signed by 170 Conservative MPs including 10 cabinet ministers, demanding a swift Brexit, with or without a deal.

The votes by MPs are not legally binding but carry political weight, and the government fears they may lead to legislation that would force May's

"I fear we are reaching the limits of this process in this House," she said last week. Speculation is growing that the only way out may be a general election.

But many Conservative MPs oppose the idea, and polling on Sunday put Jeremy Corbyn's Labour party ahead. Conservative deputy chairman James Cleverly told Sky News: "I don't think an election would

solve anything.
"Time is of the essence, we have got Brexit to deliver. We members of May's cabinet don't want to add any more unnecessary delay?

ahead of a new fighting season

in the spring, and amid fears of

an increase in Taliban attacks

to gain leverage at the negoti-

ers attacked a convoy carrying

Afghanistan's vice president

northern province of Balkh.

Abdul Rashid Dostum in the

Dostum's bodyguards but the

former warlord escaped

unhurt. A spokesman for

Dostum said he would not be

attending the Doha talks, but

representatives from his polit-

seen him stop in London and

Brussels as he seeks global

support for a peace deal.

Khalilzad's trip has already

ical party would be.

On Saturday, Taliban fight-

The attack killed one of

ating table.

Turkey election

blow for Erdogan in two big cities

People walk past posters showing Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Binali Yildirim, the mayoral candidate for Istanbul of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) a day after the local elections in Istanbul on Monday AP

AFP ■ ANKARA

Turkish President Recep ■ Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party suffered a major upset on Monday after local election results showed it lost the capital Ankara and Istanbul after a decade and half in power.

Losing the country's two major cities would be a stunning defeat for Erdogan, a former Istanbul mayor himself, whose ability to win at the ballot box has been unparalleled in Turkish history.

Erdogan campaigned hard, portraying Sunday's vote for mayors and district councils as a fight for the nation's survival, but the election became a test for his Justice and Development Party (AKP) after Turkey slipped into a recession for the first time in a decade.

The opposition CHP party candidate for Istanbul mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu, was leading by nearly 28,000 votes with most ballot boxes counted, Supreme Election Board (YSK) chairman Sadi Guven said.

Imamoglu won almost 4.16 million votes while the AKP candidate, former premier Binali Yildirim, won 4.13 million. Both claimed victory in the early hours following a tight race for the country's largest city after results showing them in a dead heat.

"We want to start working as soon as possible to serve people," Imamoglu told reporters on Monday.

"We want to cooperate

with all institutions of Turkey

to quickly meet the needs of

In Ankara, opposition mayoral candidate Mansur Yavas had 50.89 per cent of votes ahead of the AKP's Mehmet Ozhaseki on 47.06 per cent, Anadolu state agency reported, with 99 per cent of ballot boxes counted.

"Ankara has won. The loser in Ankara is Ozhaseki, dirty politics has lost," Yavas told supporters who were waving Turkish flags and setting off fireworks at a celebratory rally.

But in a sign of possible turmoil ahead, AKP officials said they would challenge the alleged invalidation of tens of thousands of votes in both

AKP secretary general Fatoih Sahin said the party will appeal in Ankara, saying the gap between the candidates will narrow down and I believe it will eventually turn into a positive result for us."

Speaking to supporters in Ankara after Sunday's polls closed, Erdogan had said the election was a victory for the AKP, which along with its coalition partner, the rightwing Nationalist Movement Party, won more than 50 per cent of votes overall.

The loss in Istanbul, analysts said, would be especially sensitive for Erdogan, who grew up in the city's workingclass Kasimpasa neighbourhood, and liked to tell AKP rank-and-file that victory in the city was like winning all of

brings all Afghan parties women's network, saying women "must be at the table together in inclusive intra-31 killed, 600 injured as 30 dead in major

freak storm hits Nepal **PTI** ■ KATHMANDU

freak storm battered sev-A treak storm batters Nepal on Sunday, killing 31 people and injuring 600 others as high speed winds tore down houses, flipped vehicles and toppled trees and electricity

Massive winds accompanied by hailstorms and rain struck Bara and the adjoining district of Parsa late on Sunday evening. According to officials, 28 people were killed in Bara, 128 kilometers south of Kathmandu, one person died in neighbouring Parsa, while two more died in other parts of Southern Nepal.

High winds flipped cars and blew one passenger bus off

a highway, causing fatalities. According to police, many people were either killed after getting buried under rubbles of houses and metal roofs that flung all over the settlements, or after coming under the electric pylons and trees that were uprooted as the disaster advanced.

According to Province 2 Attorney General Dipendra Jha, majority of the 600 injured are from Pheta and Bhulahi Bharwaliya areas in Bara's Pheta Rural Municipality, which have mostly been affected by the hailstorm.

Every year hundreds die in landslides and floods during Nepal's monsoon season, but storms causing such high casualties in spring are rare

China forest fire

t least 30 people, including At least 50 people, median-27 firefighters, were killed while battling a huge forest fire in the remote mountains in southwest China's Sichuan province, the state media reported on Monday.

The firefighters were sent to put the fire which broke out on Saturday in Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture in Sichuan province, China Daily reported.

About 30 people have been unaccounted for since Sunday afternoon after a sudden change in wind direction caused "a huge fireball", according to authorities in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture.

Local authorities have dispatched 689 people to douse the blaze which broke out at about 6 pm at an altitude of about 3,800 meters.

Firefighters are still trying to contain the blaze, the report quoted the PLA Daily, the official organ of the Chinese military as saying.

A team sent by the

Ministry of Emergency Management has arrived in Muli County in Liangshan to coordinate the rescue efforts.

Meanwhile, a separate forest fire in the northern province of Shanxi was brought under control on Sunday after burning for two days, the official Xinhua news agency

At least 20 dead in Peru bus fire

Lima: At least 20 people were

killed and about 10 injured on Sunday night in a bus fire at an illegal transport terminal in the Peruvian capital, emergency services said. A number of the victims burned to death, trapped on the upper level of the interprovincial bus in Lima, firefighters said.

Passersby described scenes of panic and cries of terror. Much of the vehicle was reduced to a skeleton, and the corpses of some victims could still be seen in the seats. Others asphyxiated on the stairway connecting the upper and lower levels. The tragedy reflected the chaos of Peru's public transport system, particularly in the capital of 10 million people where authorities are overwhelmed by transport problems. AFP

HARRY POTTER BOOKS Warsaw: Catholic priests in Poland burned books they say are sacrilegious this weekend, including tomes from British author JK Rowling's Harry

Potter series of fantasy novels.

B'DESH EX-PM ZIA SENT TO Hospital from Prison

Dhaka: An official says Bangladesh ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is being treated in a State hospital after being taken there from the centuries-old jail where she has been imprisoned.

ICC PREZ URGES US TO JOIN CRIMINAL COURT

The Hague: The International Criminal Court's top official has called on the US to join and support its work after Washington recently stepped up its dispute with the global legal body.

Sri Lankan authorities publicly destroy 770kg of cocaine

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Cri Lankan authorities on Monday destroyed nearly 770 kgs of cocaine, a day after President Maithripala Sirisena said he has decided a time period for the execution of the capital punishment of convicted drug traffickers.

The drugs were burnt in Sri instructions of the President, who also witnessed the destruction of the psychotropic substance.

Speaking at a mass protest against drugs organised by religious leaders led by Colombo Archbishop Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith here Sunday, Sirisena on said that he has taken a number of steps to strengthen laws Lanka's Puttalam town on the relevant to curbing illicit drug

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Woman in Kim assassination to walk free next month

Shah Alam: A Vietnamese woman accused of assassinating the North Korean leader's half-brother will walk free in May after pleading guilty to a lesser charge, her lawyer said.

Doan Thi Huong welcomed the "fair sentence" after the judge handed down the verdict in a Malaysian court, where she has been on trial for the murder of Kim Jong Nam with a nerve agent. Huong was sentenced her to three years and four months in jail from her arrest in February 2017.

But her legal team said that with usual sentence reductions, she would be released next month.

"In the first week of May, she will go home," lawyer Hisyam Teh Poh Teik told reporters in the Shah Alam High Court, outside Kuala SC orders Musharraf to appear before court in treason case on May 2 Islamabad: Pakistan's former military dictator Pervez

Musharraf was ordered to appear before a special court on May 2 by the Supreme Court in the high treason case and warned him that he would lose the right of defence if he failed to turn up. A special court indicted

General (retd) Musharraf for high treason in March 2014. Musharraf, 75, left for Dubai in 2016 to "seek medical treatment" and has not returned since. Last month, he was admitted to a hospital in Dubai after suffering a reaction from a rare disease.

A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa was hearing a petition filed by a lawyer, who pointed out that the proceedings of the treason case — being heard by a special court since 2014 — had come to a halt as Musharraf had not returned to the country since 2016.

Facebook deletes pages, groups, accounts linked to Pak Army's media wing

 $F_{103} \ \text{``assets''} - \text{pages,} \\ \text{groups and accounts} - \text{linked}$ to employees of Pakistan Army's media wing and involved in "coordinated inauthentic behaviour", the social media giant said on Monday.

The company — which shared details on "four separate, distinct and unconnected" takedowns linked to both Pakistan and India - said it had removed the pages, accounts and groups set up by the net-works "for violating Facebook's policies on coordinated inauthentic behaviour or spam".

"Today we removed 103 pages, groups and accounts for engaging in coordinated inauthentic behavior on Facebook and Instagram as part of a network that originated in Pakistan," said a state-

ment issued by Nathaniel Gleicher, the company's head of Cybersecurity Policy. The coordinated inauthentic behaviour is when groups of pages or people work together to mislead others about who they are or what they are doing. "Although the people

to conceal their identities, our investigation found that it was linked to employees of the ISPR (Inter-Service Public Relations) of the Pakistani military," the statement said. There was no immediate

behind this activity attempted

comments from the Pakistan Army on the issue. Quoting Gleicher, Dawn

newspaper said, "the takedown is because there is this network of fake accounts that they are using to conceal their identity and make these pages look independent, when in fact they

any en-cumbrances which have been put forward to the to be sold with names of co- owners where the assets belongs upon the assets or any to which the to the defaulter and any other persons is co-owners liable particulars bearing on its nature and value (I) CONCRETE BATCHING PLAT, REG NO.10468391, MODEL ST-30-TS-IB-CN, ENGINE NO.AF827. BATCHING PLANT N.A. Reg. No. 10468391 Engine No. AF827 Chassis No. AF827 Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at New Delhi on this 16th day of February, 2019.

DRT-II, De

Claims, if any

RANCHI | TUESDAY | APRIL 2, 2019

the pioneer

I am interested in politics: Pankaj

Actor PANKAJ TRIPATHI, who will be seen in the forthcoming web series Criminal Justice, says though he has an interest

in politics, he still has time before he pursues

> Pankaj said, "I have an interest in politics but I am not going to explore that interest now. I have time for that. I believe that only a well-read, wellaware individual can make a great leader and build a progressive nation. I tend to read a lot of books and believe in a certain ideology. I think reading and travelling not only make us good artistes but also broaden our hori-

human being."

helps us to become a good

zons and open our mind. It really

Living life in the public eye can be very difficult

sometimes. As much as it is a blessing, it also comes with its

downside. Over the last two years, I've gained weight. I'm going to bring you on the journey of becoming the best version of myself again, and I want you to join me on this journey too. -Nargis Fakhri

Actor SUSHANT **SINGH RAJPUT**

will have many "funny sequences" with his former Shudh Desi Romance co-star

Naineesh Neel in

the forthcoming film Chhichhore. "The film will focus on an engineering college where different types of students study. My character's name is Pandu who is a cook. He is very interesting. He is a bit comical and also helps people win games," Nalneesh said. "I enjoyed working with Sushant in Shudh Desi Romance too, he

said. Nalneesh will also be seen in Bhor, directed by Kamakhya Narayan Singh, and will be playing a lead role for the first time.

Kim anxious about her baby

Reality TV star KIM KARDASHIAN **WEST** is anxious about baby

number four. During an episode of Keeping Up with the Kardashians, the 38year-old shared that she and husband Kanye West are expecting their fourth child via surrogate. "We have an announcement to make," Kim told her family. "We're having a baby. We're having a boy." Kim later admitted to sister Kylie Jenner that she's "low-key freaking out" about the pregnancy. "I didn't think it was going to hap-

pen. I thought like 'Oh, it probably

won't even take," she said.



Actor VIKRANT MASSEY, who plays a rape and murder accused in Criminal Justice, tells Ayushi Sharma that a discussion on the Indian Judicial System is a never-ending one

ndia or rather Indians do not cover themselves in glory when it comes to to sexual assault and crimes against women. Despite formulating numerous women-friendly laws and doing away with outdated ones, the country still has a long way to go in delivering justice to many rape victims.

Criminal Justice, a crime drama captures Aditya Sharma's (played by Vikrant Massey) journey, as one fateful incident completely turns his life around. He is ambitious but is aware of his middle-class roots, a boy who drives his father's cab to add to the family income. But his life turns upside down when during his last trip for the night, he ends up being accused of rape and brutal murder of his passenger. As skeletons tumble out of his closet, one begins to wonder whether Aditya is innocent or guilty of the terrible crime?

Vikrant apprises us that playing the character of someone who has been accused of rape and murder took a mental toll on him. He says that he had to prepare "quite a lot" in comparison to what he has done earlier. The character required a lot of intensity as well as a huge amount of research. From the nuances of Indian prisons to the life of criminals locked inside, "every little detail was important." He says, "It was torturing, be it physically, emotionally or mentally.

The actor feels that one can never even imagine being in that position or envision what it is like to be an accused.

"Hence, it becomes even more difficult to put yourself in that person's shoes and be in that mindset. I have never been to jail and have always lead a very happy and protected life." (Touches wood). He goes on to add, "System jaise Aditya ko todta hai, main vaise kabhi nahi toota (I have never been as broken as the way the system breaks Aditya). There were days when it made me emotionally drained, but that is what all powerful stories do," says the actor who is going to star opposite Deepika Padukone in the forthcom-

As an artist, to be in the mental state of the character is important for him to live it "as when you are mentally ready for something, your body, gestures and everything else follows you automatical-

ing film Chhapaak.

'ONE CAN NEVER EVEN ENVISION WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE ACCUSED OF RAPE. HENCE, IT **BECOMES EVEN** MORE DIFFICULT TO **PLAY THE** CHARACTER AND PUT YOURSELF IN THAT PERSON'S SHOES'

The show is the Indian adaptation The show is the Indian adaptation of the renowned BBC's eponymously-named series, which was later adapted into the Emmy Award-winning HBO show *The Night of.* Vikrant says that the show is relevant and has been moulded to Indian preferences. "We obviously knew the sensibilities of Indian audience and that they differ in many ways ence and that they differ in many ways — culturally as well as in terms of tra-ditions. I wanted Aditya to be that one boy which every family has. The whole structure of the show is based on the Indian Judicial System."

When asked about what he thinks of the judicial procedures of India, Vikrant laughed and said that the topic was very lengthy and no amount of time would be sufficient to discuss it. "I don't think main iska jawab aadhe ghante me bhi de paunga. There are pros and cons of everything. It is up to us how we contribute towards any kind of change," he

Rather than feeling apprehensive while working with veteran actors like Pankaj Tripathi and Jackie Shroff, Vikrant feels that it's an opportunity for him. "There is a sense of motivation. I had a fan boy moment with Jackie Shroff ii. It was incredible seeing him in person, almost like a dream come true. I still remember when I was a kid and he was shooting and I was one of the hundreds of people standing there and trying to get a glimpse. I never thought I'll work with him," says the Mirzapur

(It will air on Hotstar from April 5.)



Acid attack survivor LAXMI AGARWAL says that she's happy to see Bollywood coming up with real stories

axmi Agarwal, whose life as an acid attack survivor has ⊿inspired an forthcoming Bollywood film Chhapaak, said she found it amazing how people were finding beauty in the 'burns' that actress Deepika Padukone sported for the movie.

Laxmi was attacked when she was all of 15. Over the years, she has been vocal about her experience and actively campaigns against acid attacks. Last week, Deepika unveiled

Gulzar's Chhapaak, and it was widely lauded by the film fraterni-

What was Laxmi's first reaction on seeing Deepika's look? "I was happy to see Deepika's first look from the film. The response and the messages I got on social media was overwhelming. In fact, it was my daughter's birthday, and more than messages for her, I got congratulatory messages about the

"I was feeling good that a celebrity has come in that look. A lot of make-up artistes changed a natural face to acid distorted face after that (on social media). And I felt, 'see, they are finding beauty in an acid-burnt face," said Laxmi.



who was a showstopper at the just concluded India Runway Week.

Laxmi was on her way back home from music class when a home from music class when a man, twice her age, threw acid on her for rejecting his advances. Her face and other body parts got disfigured in the attack.

With Chhapaak, she feels happy that Bollywood is coming out with real stories "People are

out with real stories. "People are intrigued by Bollywood. A long time ago, a film named Tezaab came out. It spoke about beauty. shown in a different manner and the youth will see and learn," she

Asked about her involvement with the film, Laxmi who has remained largely tight-lipped about it said, "I was involved with the film," and was happy to share the story of her struggle and survival with the makers of the film.

"I am always open about my life because I have seen several people in my journey who are doing a lot in front, but are suffering behind. I feel if you are an inspiration for someone, then you should come out and talk about these things. Laxmi is an open book," she said.



Marvel universe to get LGBTQ superhero

vengers: Endgame codirector Joe Russo says the Marvel universe will introduce a LGBTQ superhero very soon.

time for a LGBTQ superhero in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Joe said, "One hundred per cent and you will see

one very soon." There has been talk that a LGBTQ superhero may find space in the Marvel world after Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige spoke about the possibility. He had said it's

"percolating". Rumour mills are also abuzz that Angelina Jolie is in talks to star in Marvel Studios' The Eternals in what would be the actress first venture into the superhero realm.

Created by Jack Kirby in 1976, the story of The Eternals

is set millions of years ago when the cosmic beings known as the celestials genetically experimented on humans to create super-powthe eternals — along with the villainous Deviants.

For now, the studio is set to release Avengers: Endgame, starring Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evans and Scarlett Johansson. It will release in India on April 26 in English, Hindi, Tamil and

The film, directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, is a continuation of Avengers: Infinity *War*, which left Marvel fans in shock with the failure of the superheroes against the supervillain Thanos.

the film.

Joe is in India to promote

AN AWARD FOR CREATIVITY

After creating a platform to acknowledge short films, critics now unite for feature films

fter the success of the short film awards, critics unite for the first Feature Film Awards as a pan-India category to celebrate the diversity of the Indian cinema.

The awards will be a celebration of the best of Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam cinema.

Anupama Chopra, chairperson, FCG said, "The FCG is the first registered body of film critics in India. We are a pan-Indian, pan-language, pan-platform body. We have critics from print, television, radio and digital and our opinions reach millions of people including 32 lakh on

Twitter alone. It gives us great

pleasure to announce the first Critics Choice Film Awards to honour and celebrate the finest talent in the Indian cinema. We hope that these awards will contribute to setting and raising standards for films in the country.

With entries coming in from all parts of the country, a panel comprising India's top film critics have first curated and shortlisted the nominees. The Guild as a whole then voted for and felicitated the best short films



from across the country with the aim of acknowledging and appreciating the rising growth of the industry as a whole

While the short film awards were decided based on entries by filmmakers, the Critics' Choice Film Awards will decide on nominees and winners based on theatrical releases from the year 2018. With the participation of credible film critics from all over India, the awards aim to honour films based on the art of filmmaking as

opposed to mere popularity.
"We bring credibility and the team has worked creative elements around this property which will truly give it a premium feel. We believe CCFA can become a benchmark in the years to come, through which quality films will be recognised and the masters of this craft can be given their due hon-

The nominations will be announced in the first week of the month, while the ceremony will take place on April 21.

Filmmaker Zoya Akhtar will grace the announcement.



THE PAINTER'S DILEMMA

History, legend and a tale about RAJA RAVI VARMA come together in this 1881 oil on canvas which came up for sale recently. By UMA NAIR

midst a range of artworks at the Saffron Sale, one painting, which was the cynosure of all viewers and art aficionados, was from the Income Tax department, Lot 13 — Nirav Modi's Raja Ravi Varma. The 1881 oil on canvas represented history, legend and the royal lineage of the Maharaja of Travancore.

Replete with tropical elements, royal

Replete with tropical elements, royal bodyguards standing in knee-deep water with a houseboat, the scene was epic. The rare oil painting illustrated the welcoming of the third Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, Richard Temple-Grenville, on his official visit to Trivandrum, a Princely state in southern India in 1880.

Temple-Grenville was the Governor General of Madras (1875-1880). In the artwork, Visakham Thirunal, the younger brother of the Maharaja Ayilyom Thirunal of Travancore, is welcoming the Duke, who is accompanied by his aide-de-camp and a few British army officers. Raja Ravi Varma was invited to document this historical event, and to paint "the moment when Buckingham alighted from the splendid barge, which must have undoubtedly brought him through the waterways of Kerala," noted the sale.

The Maharaja is seen standing behind his brother in the building which bears the image of a conch shell, the symbol of the state of Travancore, as well as a welcoming banner for the Duke. It is likely that the ceremony depicted in the present lot took place at the Vallakadavu Boathouse, which was built in the 1820s and served as an important waterway hub for travel and cargo activity during the Travancore era. "Historical records reveal that the boattupura, as it is known to the locales, was used by the stately barges of the Travancore kings. The royal parties which went picnicking in the Veli Lake used to set sail from the boathouse. The priests, scholars and nobility who used to come to Thiruvananthapuram from far and near, used to alight here," wrote T Nandkumar in 2004.

According to Erwin Neumayer and Christine Schelberger, during the Duke's visit to Travancore, he was eager to meet Ravi Varma, a fact that made the Maharaja jealous. This visit ultimately turned out to be disastrous for the painter. "When the Duke met Ravi Varma in the presence of the king, he asked him to sit with them, which, according to the custom of the land was unthinkable. Ravi Varma declined to sit in the presence of the king and the three, the governor, the king, and the painter, remained standing while talking. Ravi Varma knew that he was now out of favour with the king and left Trivandrum never to come back



REPLETE WITH TROPICAL ELEMENTS,
ROYAL BODYGUARDS STANDING IN KNEEDEEP WATER WITH A HOUSEBOAT, THE
SCENE IN THE PAINTING ILLUSTRATED THE
WELCOMING OF THE THIRD DUKE OF
BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS, RICHARD
TEMPLE-GRENVILLE, ON HIS OFFICIAL
VISIT TO TRIVANDRUM

during the lifetime of the king." (Erwin Neumayer and Christine Schelberger eds., Raja Ravi Varma, Portrait of an Artist: The Diary of C Raja Raja Varma, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005, p. 300)

Upon completion, the present lot was gifted to the Duke as a token of appreciation. After his death, the painting passed on to his eldest daughter Baroness Kinloss. In the 1920s, it changed hands and became a part of Castle House, Buckingham, the offices of Buckinghamshire County Council and remained there until 1974, when a private collector acquired it. The scene in all its perfection its intricate details and the allure of the cultural fabric of those times created a once in a lifetime panorama of panache and royal regalia.

In search of oneself

Australian soprano DEBORAH CHEETHAM tells Ayushi Sharma that she found similarities with her Aboriginal roots

She visited India for the first time in 2017 and ever since she has loved the country and its people. "I knew that I will return," said Australian Soprano Deborah Cheetham, as she marked the closing ceremony of the six-month long Australia Fest in India recently.

The lyric soprano said that even though her visits to the country have been limited.

The lyric soprano said that even though her visits to the country have been limited, "Indian music and art have been an important part of music and fashion for most of my life. Now that I have visited the source, I understand better why Indians know and love their culture and are attentive to their craft."

There are always certain stories and narratives etched deep in the songs that opera singers perform. Talking about the one that Cheetham narrated at the festival, she said that it is *Songs of Belonging*, which narrated "my journey of discovering my

identity as a Yorta Yorta or Jotijota (indigenous Australian people who have traditionally inhabited the area surrounding the junction of the Goulburn and Murray Rivers in present-day north-eastern Victoria and southern New South Wales) woman."

She believes that such events

initiate a cultural dialogue between two nations as "they help us understand each other on a much deeper level." Recalling one of her past experiences in India, she said that she plans to expand the art in the country. "Whilst in Mumbai, we

she plans to expand the art in the country. "Whilst in Mumbai, we visited a school at the Darvai Transition Camp. Although we have no plans to open a school here, I plan to stay in touch with the children who we met in order to mentor them," said she.

Having performed across the world, she talked about how

she has explored different kinds of audience and music practices. "There are fundamental truths which bind humanity together. The desire to understand and realise that you belong to the world is a universal theme and so I find this recital has resonated well with the audience. Also there is so much about Australia which is not fully understood especially the

shared history since colonisation and the effect it had on the Aboriginal Nations."

Talking about the evolution of the industry, she said, "It is true to say that the digital age has changed the way people connect to music thus opening up many new pathways. There is instant gratification everywhere. However I know there is still a place when you are seated in a theatre and the house lights are switched off and you wait in breathless

anticipation for the

music to be played

The fire within

Percussionist ANURADHA PAL tells Chahak MITTAL that when music is universal, its creators cannot be specific to one gender. She further discusses her struggle to become the biggest female tabla player of all time

Recently a daily quoted: 'If there's a female equivalent of Ustad Zakir Hussain, it's Anuradha Pal.' While the percussionist feels that the two can never be compared as he is "my guru", she is much more — an inspiration, a fighter, a writer as well as a trend-setter.

Even though her journey of more than 40 years in the industry has been rewarding, she says, it has been challenging as well. Coming from a non-musical and male-dominated background, Pal struggled to find her way through the restrictions and challenges the society imposes on a woman, to become the first professional female tabla virtuoso in the world. "I had to be really at the top of the game to prove my niche and have a unique set of offerings that would make an impact. I had to train myself very hard and practice for eight to 10 hours each day to reach the level of the best musicians. I had to make sure that my work does the talking since I didn't have any Godfather. Neither did I take any external help," she says.

She explains why she has never chosen to stop. From being featured in the

Limca Book of Records, to receiving a number of national and international accolades like the Excellence Award from the government of Canada, First Ladies award from the President of India, Women Achiever's Award and many more. She says, "I started receiving awards when I was 10-years-old. With every award that I brought home, my parents told me 'Very good, but you have to work harder.' Honestly, their attitude helped me reach out for more. I needed to do more for excellence in the field."

The legend, who has performed in the biggest international music festivals as both the youngest and the most senior musician, had begun the Anuradha Pal in Tabla Jugalbandi with Herself, a series of live events across the country, where she played solo and narrated interactive stories through innovative rhythmic dialogues.

The world of classical instruments, especially that of tabla, has been dominated by men from the beginning. This was one thing she has aimed at changing ever since she began playing the percussion instrument. She formed the all-



woman ensemble Stree Shakti, the firstof-its-kind in an era when there were hardly any women's music groups. What also made it unique was that it combined both Hindustani and Carnatic styles. cannot be specific to one gender. When I started performing at the age of 10, I started encountering a lot of opposition, most of which was on account of my gender. I don't give up easily. I was studying science and until then I hadn't decided that I will dedicate myself to music and tabla," she says and adds that this was the time when she felt that there would be many other women who must have felt the same way.

Creating a platform for them was important. She says, "I formed Stree Shakti to give strength to women and change the society's perception that they can't do things other than what they are supposed to. I wanted the band to be different and develop as a community. It's also special since there is not even a band of men that has attempted to combine so many different styles of music — Hindustani, Carnatic, vocal and percus-

'With the Naari Shakti anthem, I wanted to document the journey of resilience and power that women have become over time. It's a fight against the numerous acts of monstrosity against them'

sion — together. It is a meeting of many different souls and streams."

Pal says that she was determined to make it something different, rather than just women-centric. "It had to be something beyond a singular aspect. It had to be powerful and make a statement that inspires other women too. Even though many all-woman bands have come up today, this band created a revolution 23 years ago as it was a concept, completely unheard of. It was important to make people understand that women have a lot of potential that we don't realise," says the trend blazer.

The ambassador of the *Beti Bachao*, *Beti Padhao Yojana* recently launched and composed the *Anthem* for *Naari Shakti* campaign in India. "The idea of the lyrics for the anthem birthed when we (*Stree Shakti* team) were on our concept tour across Europe celebrating our 21st anniversary. I wanted to document this journey of resilience and power that women have become over time. I also wanted to give a voice to those who needed one," she says.

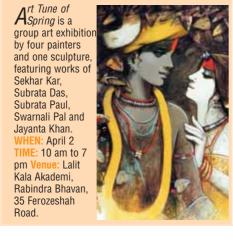
Pal has been exposed to writing as well since her mother was a writer. And it was one of her Hindi poems or prose that inspired the lyrics, which go like... "Khud ko tu pehchaan de khuddari ko choom ke! Padh kar apni pehchaan bana, stree shakti ki misaal de." (Give yourself an identity by becoming self reliant! Educate yourself and become a symbol for woman power.)

The anthem, she says, calls out the evils in the society against women, be it dowry, *sati*, or female foeticide and numerous other acts of monstrosity. "It's a fight against all the acts of injustice against women, and an initiative to show solidarity towards making India a superpower of women," she adds.

WATCH



Callery Espace presents artist Akshay Raj Singh Rathore's solo exhibition, *unpractised frugality*, showcasing his vision that "surpasses the present sense of contemporary contemplation." WHEN: Till April 13 TIME: 11 am to 6 pm WHERE: Gallery Espace, 16 Community Centre, New Friends Colony.



hidden behind a veil in India, screaming to be told, revealed, expressed and staged. Aaina, the Indian Dance Theatre, brings a range of performances as a reflection of the human condition, mirroring up to give people a glimpse of their desires, anxieties, fears, and emotions. 7 pm onwards April 4 and 5 E: Kamani Auditorium

here are many stories





The Needle Reverence, a story stitched by the thrift of Bengali women, is an exhibition of Kanthas from the late 19th century till pre-Independence, and contemporary Kantha created in the 1990s initiated by late sculptor Meera Mukherjee. WHEN: April 4 to 12 TIME: 11 am to 7 pm WHERE: Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex.

Art Spice and Art Magnum presents Eclectic Strokes, an art exhibition featuring a wide collection of art pieces by all the Indian senior masters like S H Raza, M F Husain. Ram Kumar, F N Souza, to name a April 10 TIME: 11 am to 8 pm WHERE: Art Spice gallery at the Metropolitan Hote & Spa.



FEDERER GOES FOURTH IN RANKINGS

PARIS: Roger Federer jumped up one spot to fourth in the ATP rankings released on Monday after capturing his 101st career title with his victory over John Isner in Miami. The Swiss great switched places with Austria's Dominic Thiem, who had briefly climbed to fourth after defeating Federer in the final at Indian Wells two weeks ago. Rising Greek star Stefanos Tsitsipas moved up to a career best of eighth, while Canadian teenager Denis Shapovalov cracked the top 20 for the first time following his run to the Miami semi-finals. Felix Auger-Aliassime, 18, soared 24 places to 33rd after matching compatriot Shapovalov's run to the last four.

GHOSAL ENTERS TOP-10 IN PSA RANKINGS

New Delhi: Saurav Ghosal on Monday became the first Indian male squash player to enter the top 10 in the latest PSA world rankings. Indian women squash players — Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal — had earlier reached top-10 in the world rankings. Riding on his recent performances, Ghosal has moved up two places to a career-high ranking of 10. Ghosal made it to the quarter-finals of the 2018-2019 PSA World Championships in Chicago, USA for the first time in his career. He was also a quarter-finalist at the prestigious Grasshopper Cup in Zurich, Switzerland. In the women's rankings, Joshna continued to be the best-ranked Indian, moving up to the 15th position.

MARQUEZ CLAIMS 45TH MOTOGP TITLE TERMAS DE RÍO HONDO: World champion Marc Marquez emerged triumphant at the Argentina MotoGP ahead of his rival Valentino Rossi. Marquez put up an impressive show aboard his Honda RC213V as he claimed his 45th career victory in the elite class, finishing almost 10 seconds ahead of Rossi on a Yamaha. Andrea Dovizioso, who won the seasonopener in Qatar, finished third on a Ducati. Marquez is currently leads the 2019 championship after two rounds with 45 points. "Today was a perfect day," he said. Honda now moves to the top of the Constructor's Championship as a result of the victory

SL CAPT APOLOGISES FOR BEHAVIOUR

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Test captain Dimuth Karunaratne apologised on Monday for his "unbecoming behaviour" after being arrested for drinkdriving in an accident that left a taxi driver injured. Karunaratne, 30, was taken before a magistrate who suspended his driving licence and fixed a trial for May 2. The cricket star was also asked to take a medical test. "My actions were utterly unbecoming of a Sri Lankan national cricketer and I do apologise to all of you for this incident," Karunaratne said in a statement. Sri Lanka's cricket board said it would investigate the incident "in order to take necessary action.

Benzema saves Real blushes

French forward scores in last minute of regulation time to help Madrid win 3-2

AFP ■ MADRID

arim Benzema stopped Real Madrid's underwhelming La Liga season going from bad to worse on Sunday after firing a last-minute winner to hand the European champions a barelydeserved 3-2 winner over bottom club Huesca

Humbled by Ajax in the Champions League and dumped out of the Copa Del Rey by deadly rivals Barca, third-placed Real showed little signs of improvement in Zinedine Zidane's second game in charge but Benzema, subject to rumours he may leave Madrid in the summer for Manchester United, struck with a fine curling finish the to snatch the three points at a sparsely populated Santiago Bernabeu.

"We are happy with him and I am going to count on him, now there are nine games left and then we will see what happens. He is a Real Madrid player and I don't think this will change," Zidane said.

You have to accept it. If the people want to come to the Bernabeu to see us so much the better, but I understand that since we are not going to win anything fewer people come."

Zidane's son Luca was given his second ever start between the sticks for Real but got off to the worst possible start, picking the ball out of his own net within three minutes after Cucho Hernandez lashed home Ezequiel Avila low

Isco levelled the scores in the 25th minute when he tapped home Zidane junior had to be alert to a Brahim Diaz cross after Benzema's low shot was well saved, stop Damian Musto from glancing but it was the away side — playing home a header nine minutes before their first ever La Liga game at the the break, while Avila punched the Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadiground in frustration in first half um — who went closer going into stoppage time after flashing a power the break ahead. shot over from the edge of the box.



HEARTBROKEN HUESCA

ALAVES 4-0 ON

SATURDAY

Real continued to disappoint in the second half but took the lead just after the hour mark thanks to Dani Ceballos, who bundled home the second after Gareth Bale's beautiful cross was headed back across goal by

Bale then missed a glorious opportunity to put the game beyond Huesca when he somehow put Alvaro Odriozola's low cross over the bar from just yards out.

Huesca pounced on that awful miss to draw level when Xabier Etxeita powered home Moi Gomez's cross from a short corner.

However Benzema was on hand to break Huesca hearts with his 14th league goal of the season, which gives Zidane two wins from his first two matches back in



Pogba has big part to play at Utd: Ole

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer says Paul Pogba has a "big, big part" to play at Old Trafford despite speculation linking the French World Cup winner with a move to Real Madrid.

Real boss Zinedine Zidane is expected to be busy in the summer transfer market as he tries to reinvigorate a side that crashed out of the Champions League in the last 16 and are lagging 12 points behind leaders Barcelona in La

United midfielder Pogba last week described Madrid as a "dream club for every player" while on international duty with France and Zidane on Saturday hailed him as "a player who knows how to do everything".

But Solskjaer is determined that Pogba, one of the world's most marketable players, will not be a part of Zidane's rebuilding plans and believes the midfielder simply gave a straight answer to a

"I don"t like to talk about other teams' players," the Norwegian said ahead of his side's Premier League match against Wolves on Tuesday. That is one of the challenges of the international break.

"Players are available all the time and it's a different environment and it's more of a general talk.

"Paul is a very nice and polite man and he answered a general question. Of course, Zidane is an icon in France. Zidane is a fantastic manager and he used to be a fantastic player and I played against

So Paul has politely answered that question. But he is happy here. He is going to be a big, big part of things

here.
"I have always said that you would like to build your team around him and that has not changed at all."

India finish with

16 Gold medals

at Asian Airgun



SRIKANTH HEADS TO MALAYSIA AFTER INDIA OPEN HIGH

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

strong finish at the India Aopen will hold him in good stead when Kidambi Srikanth yet again strives to end his long title drought at the \$ 700,000 Malaysia Open, beginning here on Tuesday.

Srikanth, who last won a title at the 2017 French Open, came close to ending the lean patch when he reached the finals of the India Open but Denmark's Viktor Axelsen thwarted his challenge on Sunday. Despite the loss, it was a

good week for the 26-year-old as he quelled the challenge of one opponent after another on way to his first summit clash of a BWF world tour event in 17

On Wednesday, Srikanth will begin his campaign against a qualifier, following the withdrawal of Malaysian legend Lee Chong Wei, who was supposed to play his first event after recovering from nose cancer.

"I'm just happy how it has been last week. I just want to take it the way it comes. I know I was trailing in most of the matches but somehow I wanted this kind of momentum. I wanted these kind of wins and want to continue this form now," Srikanth said after the final on Sunday. Olympic Silver medallist P

V Sindhu too was on course for a title win before she blew a four game points to lose the semifinal against He Bingjiao

of China last Saturday.

The fifth seeded Indian will cross swords with Japan's

Aya Ohori in the opening round of the BWF World Tour Super 750. She is likely to get a chance to avenge her firstround loss at the All England Championship against Sung Ji Hyun of Korea, who she is expected to face in the second round.

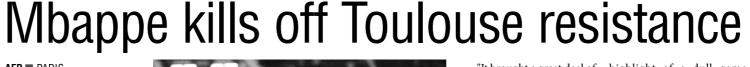
Indonesia Masters champion Saina Nehwal, who had battled pain after developing pancreas infection en route the All England Champion quarterfinals, will look for a good outing after skipping the Swiss Open and India Open. The eighth seeded Indian will face Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in the first

Among others, H S Prannoy will look to continue his promising show after regaining some form at the India Open where he reached the quarterfinals. He will square off against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus. Sameer Verma will also

look to snap his run of early exits this year but it will be easier said than done as he faces world No 2 Shi Yuqi of

Men's doubles pair Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy, the only Indian pair to reach the semifinals at New Delhi last week, will face seventh seed Chinese pair of Han Chengkai and Zhou Haodong in the first round, while Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will take on Korean pair of Baek Ha Na and Kim Hye Rin.

Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki will meet İreland's Sam Magee and Chloe Magee in



 $K_{\text{Saint-Germain to their}}^{\text{ylian Mbappe fired Paris}}$ with a stunning goal that earned the champions a 1-0 victory at Toulouse on Sunday and kept them miles clear at the top of the league.

The 20-year-old World Cup winner crashed home his

27th league goal of the season, his seventh in as many league games, with 16 minutes left as he continues to shine in the absence of the injured duo Neymar and

"We had to wait, be patient and in the end we won with Kylian's speed," said PSG skipper Marquinhos.



Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring against Toulouse during Ligue 1 clash

"It brought a great deal of highlight of a dull game joy to our fans, I'm sure of which was otherwise lit up by PSG now have 80 points,

20 ahead of second placed Lille with a game in hand to Coach Thomas Tuchel said he was delighted that the

runaway leaders have not been tempted to take their foot off the gas.
"Many of our players were away in the international

break and there was a bit of fatigue in some of them," said the German. "It could have been with the lead we have in the

league, but nobody does it and I like that.' Mbappe's goal was the

a cheeky PSG fan sneaking onto the pitch to snap a selfie with the striker. The video assistant refer-

system ruled out Marquinhos' tap-in just before half-time after Mbappe was judged offside, and the runaway league leaders threatened little other than

However they maintain their huge gap on secondplaced Lille, who earlier on Sunday scored three quickfire second-half goals to comevital win that kept them firm favourites for direct qualification for the Champions

C'ships PTI ■ NEW DELHI ndian shooters continued their dominance claiming five Gold medals on the final day of the Asian Airgun Championships to

sign off with a total of 25 medals in Taoyuan, Taipei. India finished with 16 Gold, five Silver and four Bronze.

On the last day of the competition, Yash Vardhan and Shreya

Yash finished on top in 10m Air Rifle men's junior event. He then clinched the yellow metal in Team competition with his partners — Keval Prajpati and

Aishwary Tomar. Yash scored 249.5, while Keval and Aishwary shot 247.3 and 226.1

for Silver and Bronze respectively. Earlier Vardhan and Shreya

combined to win the Mixed Team Rifle junior event. Shreya won the Gold in the

10m Air Rifle women's junior event. She also won the Team Gold along with Mehuli Ghosh and Kavi Chakkaravarthy.
Shreya's Gold winning 24-

shots ended on an impressive 252.5, while Mehuli settled for individual Bronze with an effort of 228.3. Kavi was fourth.

Indian shooting's next assignment is scheduled at Al Ain, UAE where the ISSF Shotgun World Cup stage two commences on

Pep believes pressure will bring out best in Man City players

 $\mathbf{AFP} \equiv \mathsf{LONDON}$

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola believes the pressure of needing to win every one of their remaining Premier League matches to finish ahead of Liverpool will boost their quadruple bid.

City, with the League Cup already in the bag, are chasing an unprecedented clean sweep, with the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup also in their sights. They can return to the top of the table if they win their game in hand against struggling Cardiff on Wednesday.

City play an out-of-sorts Tottenham in the Champions League quarter-finals next week and Brighton in the FA Cup semi-finals on Saturday.

Liverpool, seeking their first English top-flight title since 1990, beat Spurs in a dramatic finish on Sunday to restore their two-point lead.

"For the semi-final and for the Champions League, being in the position in the Premier League where you know if you don't win you are going to lose the Premier League, maybe that's going to help us for the other competitions," said "If you are 10 points in

front you can maybe be a little more selective. "But now there's no other

option, we don't have any other choice, so every game we have to win, if not you drop that competition "So that's why sometimes to

play with that pressure is nice, it's necessary to get the best out of ourselves." Guardiola is bidding to add a second Premier League title to go with the three he won in Germany and three in Spain with Bayern Munich and Barcelona.



Finch sounds WC warning as Aus confidence rockets

Captain Aaron Finch warned Australia will embark on their World Cup defence next month with confidence riding high after completing an ODI sweep against Pakistan on Sunday hot on the heels of a series victory in India. Written off after a torrid 15

months which saw Australia win just three of 18 one-day internationals, Finch led the 2015 World Cup winners from 2-0 down last month to beat Virat Kohli's formidable side 3-2, Australia's first series win in India since

They then romped to a 5-0 rout of a depleted Pakistan who rested six top players for the series played in the United Arab Emirates, including regular captain Sarfraz Ahmed, ahead of the World Cup.

"We'll go to the World Cup with a lot of confidence now, even after a lot of people wrote us off," said Finch who was declared man of the series for his 451 runs including two hundreds



"Potentially we had a real focus coming here and that was our last hitout before the World Cup so we wanted to go into that tournament with a lot of momentum," he said after inflicting a fourth whitewash on Pakistan in a bilateral series.

Winners of 2015 World Cup at home, Australia had endured a miserable time in limited-overs cricket since last year's ball-tampering controversy in South Africa.

TOUGH SELECTION CALLS

Finch admitted the potential return of Warner, who has been in top form in the Indian Premier League, and Smith would mean some difficult choices when the World Cup squad is named later this month. "There will be some unlucky guys," said Finch of squad that could also see the return of fast bowlers Mitchell Starc, Jos Hazlewood and Pat Cummins after

injury.
"Everyone who has an opportunity has played some great cricket. At the

end of the day there will be some tough calls, but its exciting for Australia at the same time because six month back a lot of people were slamming us. "A lot of people were writing us

off, not in just the one-day cricket but in all forms of the game. It's been really positive last couple of months and we have been building nicely.

Pakistan's head coach Mickey Arthur, who has also coached South Africa and Australia, said the defending champions were in good shape. "All the final jigsaw pieces are

coming together nicely. Australia look a very, very good side. They will be a threat at the World Cup," said Arthur.

Arthur defended leaving out key players Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Sarfraz, while Mohammad Hafeez was missing injured. "All we can do is prepare as best we can," he said. "We got on the road in September

last year for the Asia Cup and then went to South Africa and then had the Pakistan Super League so we had to

Gayle-less Kings manage 166-9 against Delhi

The lack of batting depth in hosts' line up was thoroughly exposed as KXIP just managed 37 off the final 5 overs, while losing five wickets



PTI MOHALI

hris Gayle's absence at the top of the order did have an impact as Kings XI Punjab could only manage a par-score of 166 for 9 against Delhi Capitals in an IPL encounter here on Monday.

With the 'Universe Boss' ruled out due to back injury (lat strain), KXIP batsmen despite being good at times could never really take the Delhi bowling

Save David Miller (43 off 30 balls) and Sarfaraz Khan (39 off 29 balls), other batsmen didn't have a good day against the trio of Chris Morris *(3/30), Kagiso Rabada (2/32) and young Sandeep Lamichhane (2/27 in 4 overs).

Morris was the pick of the bowlers, removing KXIP's last-match hero KL Rahul (15) with an inswinger as he played across the line.

Sam Curran (20, 10 balls) promoted up the order did hit a couple of lusty blows but Lamichhane

got him with a flipper. Mayank Agarwal went for a non-existent single and couldn't beat Shikar Dhawan's direct throw at

Miller and Sarfaraz however didn't get bogged down as they added 62 in 6.4 overs carrying out a

the non-striker's end.

recovery process from 58 for three. While Miller attacked

Lamichhane hitting him for a six over long-on, Sarfaraz played his now patent "closed eyes scoop shot" over keeper's head.

But lamicchhane had the last laugh as he edged

one to Rishabh Pant behind the stumps while Miller offer the Capitals skipper an easy skier trying to hit Morris out of the

In the end, Madeep Singh (29 no off 21 balls) took the team past 160-run

Royals and Challengers eye first win



HEAD M 18 RR 9 RCB

PTI .JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, the only two teams yet to win a game in the 2019 IPL, will be desperate to outdo each other in a clash of strugglers at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium here on Tuesday.

Both teams have been more than disappointing thus far in the IPL and need a win to revive their respective campaigns.

Royals have failed to tighten the screws when it mattered most. In the all three matches, they were in a good position but could not grab the moments, losing to Kings XI Punjab, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Chennai Super Kings respectively.

In Chennai on Sunday, Royals had CSK reeling at 27 for three before skipper M S Dhoni smashed an unbeaten 75 off 46 balls to bail the hosts out of trouble and eventually win the game by eight runs. Royals, who boast of star play-

ers such as Steve Smith and Ben Stokes, have failed to live up to the expectations.

In the first match against Kings XI Punjab, Royals' bowlers allowed the visitors to some vital runs in death overs and later the batsmen disappointed after being put on victory course by Rahane and Jos

The same story has as batting and bowling units have failed to perform in tandem. The likes of Sanju Samson,

who had hit first ton of this IPL, Buttler and Rahane have been good. Rahul Tripathi also looked impressive during his 39 against CSK but Smith and Stokes are yet to set the tournament on fire.

The hosts face an equally hun-





gry outfit in RCB, who too are looking to redeem themselves. Their skipper Virat Kohli had conceded that the defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday afternoon

"We just need our players to put a better challenge up front. here are still 11 games to go. The pitch will be nice in Jaipur against the Royals. We need to bring our Agame, like we did against Mumbai and play with that kind of intensity," said Kohli after RCB's third loss in a row.

was "one of their worst losses".

The visitors certainly have the resources in their ranks to beat

Rajasthan Royals defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 30 runs at Jaipur

Rajasthan Royals beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 19 runs at Bangalore

FOR THE RECORD

Prayas Ray Barman, aged 16 years and 157 days, is the youngest player to appear in IPL. He made his debut for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the last match after playing just four Twenty-20 matches. Javdev Unadkat who claimed

148 wickets in 118 innings of 119 matches, needs just two wickets to become 10th Indian and 72nd bowler overall to take 150 wickets in Twenty-20 **Faisel Features** cricket.

Royals.RCB have a destructive batting order comprising Kohli, AB de Villiers, Parthiv Patel, Moeen Ali and Shimron Hetmyer, yet their batting failed miserably in two out of the three games.

Both teams will also have to deal with the soaring heat in the the Pink City with temperatures nearing 40 degrees celsius.

Wanted p'ship after early wickets: Mahi

IANS CHENNAI

oming in to bat at 27/3, the Ustage was set for a typical MS Dhoni innings at the Chepauk Stadium and the CSK skipper did not disap-46 balls to help the team put on 175 in their 20 overs. The end result was a 8-run win for the lions in their den.

Speaking after the game on Sunday, the 'Man of the Match' Dhoni once again looked at the team, rather than focusing on his own innings. Dhoni also added that he kept the dew in mind while planning his innings. Coming in, Dhoni said his first thought was to stop the fall of wickets and build a partner-

ship.
"We wanted to get a partnership going — that was needed. We knew there was some dew on the field. We knew it would get easier as the game progresses. We bat quite deep until 9 (Mitchell Santner). We could accelerate in the last few overs, and we wanted to get a partnership going at that time," he said.

> of the International Cricket Council and will

> work alongside Dave

Richardson, who will step

down after the World

Sports MD Sawhney has

already been working alongside outgoing Chief

Executive Richardson for

Former ESPN Star

PTI ■ DUBAI

Cup in July.

Sawhney takes charge

as ICC Chief Executive

Media professional Manu Sawhney on Monday took charge as Chief Executive

the last six weeks to ensure a smooth transi-

July as originally planned to oversee the deliv-

ery of the World Cup in the United Kingdom.

Sawhney was appointed in January.
"I am absolutely delighted to be taking over

the reins from David, who has steered the sport

so capably over the last seven years. I am excit-

ed by the opportunities ahead and I am look-

ing forward to working in partnership with our

Members, partners and staff to ambitiously

accelerate the global growth of the game," said

Richardson will remain with the ICC until



completes his half century against Rajasthan Royals during IPL clash on Sunday

Commenting on giving Santner a go against the Rajasthan Royals, Dhoni said: "We have a stable XI and there were a lot less left-handers in the opposition, so we gave Mitch Santner a go. It isn't that not necessary. As the tournament progresses everyone will get more chances.

Dwayne Bravo might have conceded 19 runs from the 18th over of the RR innings, but Dhoni still showed faith in the West Indian all-rounder and handed him the ball with the team needing 12 off the last over. Dhoni said that with every game the bowlers will only get better at execution.

"As the tournament progresses, bowlers start executing their plans much better. Initially I thought we would look at how the fast bowlers would bowl so we could bring in the spinners. Jadeja and Santner found it hard to grip the ball. Irrespective of the results, it is important to cut the boundaries and it is difficult for the fast bowlers to execute. It's better to keep hitting the same mark," he explained.



Dhoni unreal as captain: Tahir

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Veteran spinner Imran Tahir described Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni as "unreal", saying even without talking much he has the capability to lift the

"The way he carries himself is just unreal. He won't say much but he knows how to lift the team up. He is a great leader and a great human being," Tahir said at the post-match press conference after Chennai beat . Rajasthan by 8 runs on Sunday.

The South African also credited Dhoni for living up to his reputation

of being one the best finishers in the world and a good tactician.

'You know Dhoni plays really well in these situations because like (Dwayne) Bravo he's done this so many times, and that's why he's called Mr Cool. He works hard on his game plan. Even in practice sessions, he helps his team-mates. And

we respect that. "I think as a bowling group we did really well. Even while batting, Mahi bhai played unbelievably well and set the tone for us. I'm just really happy with whatever we did as a team," he told reporters after the



PTI CHENNAI than Royals all-rounder Ben Stokes has said Kthat his team can't afford to lose another game

be easy after losing

4-5 games: Stokes

Comeback won't

after suffering three consecutive defeats in the IPL Stokes said there is no point in looking back and

focus on the upcoming games because if they lose the next two, bouncing back could be beyond Royals' "Our first three games we got ourselves into a

real good position to win All three, and we know it is just (about) winning those crucial moments. (This game) it was the last over and unfortunately we couldn't cross the line," Stokes said at the post-match press conference after the eight-run loss.

always been one point in the three games where haven't been a better team. Losing the first three come back from that," he

games you probably would say we can't (take positives), but we are trying to and there is no point in looki n g back...Because if we lose 4-5, it's going to be really tough to

said. Stokes also hailed CSK captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni saying there was a lot to learn from him. Dhoni smashed an unbeaten

75 to bail his team out of trouble from 27 for three. 'Hindsight is a wonderful thing, if you look back at it like that. He just takes it deep as he possibly can. He's a great person to learn from and watch how he

goes about his innings whether it's setting a total or chasing a total. Sometimes you got to hold your hand up and say the best players in the world can do that. He cer-

tainly showed that tonight." Paying tribute to Dhoni's finishing skills, the

Englishman said he is one of the greatest finishers to have graced the game and the Royals tried to attack him but he got reprieves which could have been a turning point. "Especially when he comes in early, every team

knows what he's going to try and do to start with and we tried to attack him. Getting him out was our main objective. There was a dropped catch which you can't blame anyone for — that happens — and the ball hitting the stumps and the bails not com-

RETAIN TEST C'SI D YEAR I

India retained the ICC Test Championship Mace and won the purse of \$ 1 million for a third year running after a memorable season that saw them winning their maiden series in Australia.

India finished at the top of the ICC Test team rankings on the cut-off date of April 1 while New Zealand have ensured second place, the world

body said in a statement on Monday.

"Retaining the ICC Test
Championship Mace once again is something we are all really proud of. Our team has been doing well across formats but it gives us extra pleasure to come out on top of the Test rankings," India captain Virat Kohli said reiterating his love for Test cricket.

"We all know of the importance of Test cricket and of how only the best can prosper in the format," he

A top place finish was never in doubt for India, while New Zealand's consistent performances over the past year saw them climb from third position, needing them to only avoid losing the home series against Bangladesh last month to finish at the same position.

The Kane Williamson-led side, who also had the satisfaction of seeing their captain get the ICC Spirit of Cricket award for 2018, earned \$ 500,000 after finishing with 108 points, eight behind India.

South Africa, who had finished second the previous two times, will now get a prize money of \$ 200,000 for finishing third with 105 points while Australia who edged out Engalnd on decimal points at 104 points bag \$100,000.

"Our team has a lot of depth and I am sure this will stand us in good stead once the ICC World Test

Championship commences later this year. That is again something we are really looking forward to as it adds more context to Test match cricket,' Kohli said. New Zealand captain Kane

Williamson said it is an "awesome" achievement for his side to finish second in the ICC Test Team Rankings

...As a team we should be very proud. It's come off the back of a lot of hard work and perseverance; not just by the eleven guys on the field, but the entire squad and support

"It's been especially pleasing to see the consistency we've shown in the longest form of the game over a decent period of time.'

Nine Test nations will compete across 27 series and 71 Test matches to reach the World Test Championship Final in 2021 where the champions will be crowned.