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Rahul resurrects garibi hatao

In 'surgical' strike on poverty, Cong pledges ₹72k/yr to each poor family

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Forty-eight-year after Indira Gandhi came to power in 1971 on the ear-catching slogan of "Garibi hatao", her grandson Rahul Gandhi has reinvented the same theme by announcing his own version of "surgical" strike on poverty to revive the Congress fortune in the Lok Sabha elections.

As part of the Congress manifesto for general elections, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said 20 per cent families in poorest of the poor category will be given ₹72,000 each annually as a minimum income.

Making the announcement at a Press conference post the Congress Working Committee meeting, the Congress chief said, "The time for change has come. This will be a 'final assault' to eradicate poverty in the country."

The party manifesto is being framed by a committee headed by former Finance and Home Minister P Chidambaram.

Citing the examples of farmers' loan waiver schemes in three States — Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh — the Gandhi scion said if the party is voted to power the Congress will identify such families who live below the poverty mark and help them to live decent life. He said the scheme is part of the party's plan to ensure minimum income guarantee to every person in the country.



Congress president Rahul Gandhi addresses a Press conference at party headquarters in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

Termining it to be a "final assault" to eradicate poverty in the country, Rahul described the manifesto as a "historic" and "groundbreaking" measure to end poverty. "Five crore families and 25 crore people will directly benefit from the scheme. The final assault on poverty has begun. We will wipe out poverty from the country. I promise that there will be justice for the poor. The Congress guarantees that 20 per cent families belonging to poorest of the poor category in India will be given ₹72,000

each annually," Rahul said soon after starting social media campaign #NyayForIndia.

The CWC had met at the AICC headquarters to discuss and give final shape to the party's manifesto. The Congress chief said the party has studied the fiscal implications of the scheme and has consulted renowned economists and experts before finalising it.

"This is a historic scheme which has not happened anywhere in the world. It is an extremely powerful, ground-breaking and well-thought

GROUND BREAKING

- The final assault on poverty has begun. We will wipe out poverty from the country, said Rahul
- I promise that there will be justice for the poor. The Congress guarantees that 20 per cent families belonging to poorest of the poor category in India will be given ₹72,000 each annually
- This is a historic scheme which has not happened anywhere in the world. It is an extremely powerful, ground-breaking and well-thought through idea. We have consulted many economists on the scheme, said the Congress president

through idea. We have consulted many economists on the scheme. It will be a fiscal prudent scheme," Rahul said

Accusing the Prime Minister of giving money to the rich and not the poor, Rahul alleged the poor have suffered in the last five years and "We are going to provide justice to them." "If Narendra Modi can give money to the rich people in the country, then Congress can give the poor this money," he said.

"Narendra Modi is creating two Indias in the country and we will not allow it, there will be only one India," he said.

Asked where the money will come from and whether it will affect the economy, Rahul

claimed there is enough money in India and the Congress guarantees that 20 per cent poorest families will be given ₹72,000 per year.

"Remember that in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, I had promised that in 10 days farmers will be given a loan waiver. I am promising you today that justice will be done. Scheme will be on a phase basis. First a pilot project will be run then scheme will run," he said.

He claimed that everyday your money is being taken away and "we will show you what is happening. We have been studying this for the last 4-5 months."

The working committee, which is the party's highest decision-making body, will give a final go-ahead to the manifesto. The meeting was chaired by Rahul and attended by former PM Manmohan Singh, Priyanka Gandhi, Ahmed Patel, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mallikarjun Kharge, and AK Antony.

People have great hope from Cong: CM Baghel

SUJEET KUMAR ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who single-handedly led the Congress to a stunning victory in BJP's bastion of Chhattisgarh in late 2018, claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime was a big let-down for people who have now great hope from the Congress.

He claimed that the Congress would throw up a surprise results in April-May parliamentary polls across the country.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has failed to deliver, he failed to keep his prime poll promises such as providing employment, weeding out black money and dealing with farm distress. His entire regime was a big let-down," the 57-year-old politician told The Pioneer in an interview.

He said "the Congress handed over a humiliating defeat to the BJP just in November assembly polls in Chhattisgarh, where it was in power for 15 years. Now the saffron party will meet the same fate in parliamentary polls in my state as well as at the national level."

He claimed that the BJP which had been winning 10 out of the total 11 seats in Chhattisgarh for past two general elections, would not even open an account this time in the mineral rich state.

"Congress was written off for 90-member assembly polls



held in November in Chhattisgarh, everybody was saying the BJP would be surely winning for the fourth time but then the results came as a shocker for political pundits as Congress walked away with record 68 seats. I believe the parliamentary polls will produce similar results in Chhattisgarh and elsewhere in the country," he remarked.

Baghel, who belongs to the OBC community which makes up half of state's over 2.55 crore population, described Congress president Rahul Gandhi "an immensely talented person who is perfectly able to lead the country as the next prime minister".

Swept to power on farm loan waiver promise and imposing a total prohibition in the state, where drinkers contribute heavily to state's GDP, he reiterated his commitment of strongly dealing with agrarian distress, which he described as "a legacy of 15-year-long misrule of corrupt BJP regime led by Dr Raman Singh".

He strongly rejected accusations that his Congress government would go "soft" on Naxal front and offensives against the leftist militants would be slowed down.

"This is entirely untrue, troopers will carry on anti-Naxal drive vigorously but I will not allow anyone to harass innocent civilians in name of Naxal operation, Chhattisgarh government will strive to win people's confidence in Naxal-hit area," Baghel said.

He added that his Government was committed to the welfare of tribals in conflict zone and make them believe that State Government listen to them.

8 candidates file papers for Bastar seat

STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

A total of eight candidates filed nomination papers for Bastar Lok Sabha seats on Monday, the last day of filing nominations for first phase of polls to be held on April 11.

The scrutiny of nomination papers will be done on March 26.

Chhattisgarh will witness a three-phased polling. The notification for the first phase was issued on March 18.

The candidates can withdraw their nomination papers by March 28 till 3.00 pm. The Bastar Lok Sabha seat covers five districts having eight assembly constituencies.

There are 13,61,146 electors in the constituency where voting will be held at 1878 centres.

Those who filed nominations on Monday are Indian National Congress's Deepak Kumar Baij, BJP's Baiduram Kashyap, BSP's Ayatu Ram Mandavi, Communist Party of India's Ramu Maurya, Akhil Bharat Samagra Kranti Party's Manglaram Karma and Ambedkarite Party of India's Panish Prasad Nag, Shiv Sena's Suresh Kawasi and Jaisingh Kawade of Rashtriya Jansabha Party.

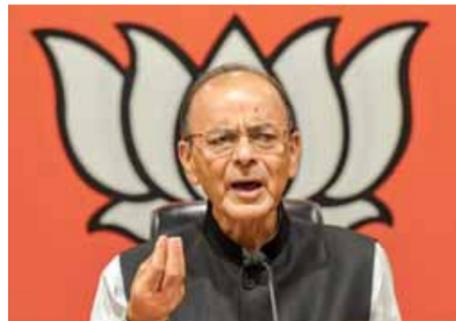
Congress plan will create incentives against work: NITI Aayog's vice chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Monday described as "fraud" and "humbug" Rahul Gandhi's announcement to provide ₹72,000 yearly to the 20 per cent of the poorest of the poor in the country saying the poor are receiving one and half times more in the Modi-regime. People won't be taken in by "chhal kapat" of the Congress, said Jaitley.

Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar and the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) too criticised the pre-poll announcement by Rahul. Addressing a Press conference here, Jaitley said the Congress regimes have defrauded poor in the name of "Garibi Hatao" but only "redistributed poverty" in the country. He said UPA's ten-year rule was replete with "chhal, kapat and dhokha".

He said Congress promised only one time waiver of ₹70,000 crore to farmers but actually gave only ₹52,000 crore. Similarly, in MNREGA, Jaitley said, the Congress announced it will spend ₹40,000 crore but spent only ₹28,000 crore.



Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley addresses a Press conference at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

Jaitley said the Congress which opposed the Modi Government's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is now saying it would use the same in providing money to poor and without any financial burden. This is jugglery, he said. The Finance Minister said the Modi Government was already providing ₹5.34 lakh crore to poor. "We are giving much more to poor and the total amount would exceed ₹7 lakh crore," he said.

"The Congress is misleading poor in the name of removing poverty in 50 years... but poor would not be trapped in the fraudulent trap of the Opposition party," the Finance Minister said, adding, the Modi Government has built "assets" (sadhana) for the poor in forms of road, money in banks, house, electricity.

"Narebaji se garibi nahin

jayegi, sadhano se jayegi," said the BJP leader.

Meanwhile, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Monday said Rahul Gandhi's promise of providing ₹72,000 annually to five crore families will create strong incentives against work and bust fiscal discipline.

"True to its past record of promising the moon to win elections, the Congress president announced a scheme that will bust fiscal discipline, create strong incentives against work and which will never be implemented," Kumar said in a tweet.

In another tweet, he said the cost of the minimum income guarantee scheme at 2 per cent of the gross domestic product and 13 per cent of the budget will "ensure" that real needs of people remain unsatisfied.

Naresh Goyal, wife deboard Jet; lenders take cockpit control

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Giving up chairmanship after more than 26 years, embattled Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal on Monday quit as a board member, with the lenders taking control of the cockpit and deciding to infuse ₹1,500 crore immediately into the ailing airline.

Struggling to stay afloat amid a debt burden of over ₹8,000 crore, the board of the country's first private full service carrier also approved conversion of banks' debt into equity and induction of nominee directors of the lenders, who would become majority stakeholders.

Expressing happiness over the lenders' decision, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said India needs more airlines, "otherwise airfares would rise". "Banks have kept self interest in mind by trying to keep it as a going entity so that they can recover their dues," he said in Delhi hours after the airline's board cleared the debt resolution plan.

Bringing an end to weeks of uncertainty over the future of the cash-strapped carrier, the



board has approved immediate fund infusion of up to ₹1,500 crore by lenders as well as conversion of debt into equity. Naresh Goyal, his wife Anita Goyal and Etihad Airways' nominee director Kevin Knight have quit the board.

Gulf carrier Etihad, a strategic partner, holds 24 per cent stake in Jet Airways while Naresh Goyal has a shareholding of 51 per cent.

Goyal's stake would come down to 25 per cent while that of Etihad would reduce to 12 per cent. The consortium of Indian lenders, led by State Bank of India (SBI), would become the majority shareholders of Jet Airways, the airline said in a statement.

Manoj Tiwari woos Sapna Chaudhary to dance to BJP's tune

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A day after famous Haryanvi singer and dancer Sapna Chaudhary claimed that she has not joined the Congress, Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari met her and said he will be happy if she campaigns for the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. Sapna's much hyped news of joining the Congress was circulated with her pictures with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Tiwari accused the Congress of using the Haryana performer's picture without her consent. "The Congress has used her old pictures to spread the rumour that she has joined the party and will contest from

Mathura. She is the biggest superstar and the Congress has stooped to such a low. This was not expected from Priyanka," Tiwari said.

His reaction came after Sapna was seen with him in pictures on the social media.

When asked about the possibilities of Sapna joining the BJP, Tiwari replied, "Only time will tell".

Earlier, Sapna said she is not harbouring any dream to join the Congress at all. And if she is ever interested in joining a political party, she herself will announce it. She claimed that she never signed any membership form of the Congress and cleared that the photograph with Priyanka was an old one.



Kailash Mansarovar not Ganga's source?

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

An investigation by scientists of Roorkee-based National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) has concluded that as "per current scenario" Mansarovar Lake in Tibet is not the origin of the Ganga River and there is no connectivity between the two water systems.

Hindu religious texts believe that the Ganga descended from the locks of Shiva, and therefore, has a connection with Kailash Mansarovar. There is also perception that Gomukh, (snout of the Gangotri Glacier) is the source of the Ganga. But the present study has refuted claim by China as well some foreign scientists that the Ganga emanat-

ed from Mansarovar Lake. Considering the hydrological and religious significance in India of the Ganga and the Mansarovar Lake, the present study was initiated at the behest of then Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti in 2015 to investigate the data related to the place of origin of the Ganga (Mansarovar Lake and Gomukh) and to find the likely connection between waters of the two systems. The linear distance between the two is approximately 230 km.

The scientists had used water isotope tracer technology and satellite data. "It was found that there were significant variation in isotopic and physiochemical properties of the water collected from the



two systems, suggesting no possibility of surface or subsurface connectivity between the two," said the study which will be published in the forthcoming science journal Current Science.

Satellite data was employed to develop maps and find out the possibility of surface connectivity, whereas isotopic and chemical data, obtained from the field samplings and the published research literature were used to investigate the possibility of subsurface connectivity of the Gangotri Glacier water with that of Mansarovar Lake.

"Topographically, both the water systems are located in different catchment zones, separated by high mountain

ridges, rejecting any possibility of the surface connectivity. Similarly, there are significant variation in isotopic and physiochemical properties of the water suggesting no possibility of surface or subsurface connectivity between water of the two systems," said the study.

The scientists had drawn a longitudinal cross-section (L-section) line between the Gomukh and Mansarovar Lake to see how the pattern in relief changes with distance from the Gomukh to the lake.

The Gangotri Glacier, the largest glacier of the Garhwal Himalaya, is located at an altitude of 4,000 meters in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.

Priyanka to campaign in Chhattisgarh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be among the star campaigners of the party who will campaign for the upcoming LS polls in Chhattisgarh.

Priyanka will campaign in Chhattisgarh along with her elder brother Rahul Gandhi and mother Sonia Gandhi.

Former PM Manmohan Singh, Congress's Chhattisgarh in-charge PL Punia, national general secretary Motilal Vora are other top leaders who will be touring the State. The list of its star campaigners also includes CM Bhupesh Baghel, Panchayat and Health Minister TS Singhdeo and a host of other Ministers in Baghel's Cabinet.

Post-Pulwama CRPF to get anti-mine vehicles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Waking up from slumber post-Pulwama, the CRPF is going to procure a new fleet of mine protected vehicles (MPVs) and the small 30-seater bullet-resistant buses to ensure safety of its convoys in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Motor Transport branch of the paramilitary had been pressing for procurement of these vehicles for the last many years but confusion prevailed owing to lack of clarity from the top leadership that keeps changing stance after the change of the Force's chief, sources said.

The paramilitary has also decided to increase the number of its bomb detection and dis-

posals squads (BDDS) for the 65 battalions of the CRPF deployed in Jammu & Kashmir for anti-terror and law and order duties. The move comes against the backdrop of Pulwama suicide bombing by Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) that ripped a bus killing 44 personnel on February 14.

The MPVs are expected to ramp up the counter-IED capabilities of the paramilitary as there have been Intelligence inputs that the terror groups could resort to more and more IED attacks.

Earlier, about a dozen MPVs were diverted from the Naxal-hit States to Jammu & Kashmir.

Bullet-resistant armour plating of smaller buses is

more feasible than the standard sized buses with a capacity to carry 52 passengers. Armour-plating significantly enhances the weight of the buses and speed is significantly hit due to additional weight of the armour plates.

The additional BDDS squads with more equipment will help detect IEDs on the ground. As the armours will only give protection from firing, new standard operating procedures for convoy movement have been put in place to avoid any Pulwama-type attack.

The new SOP entails convoy movement by restricting the movement of civilian vehicles and regularly changing halting points.

In the wake of Pulwama

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attack, the CRPF had faced criticism for plying large convoys to ferry paramilitary personnel in operationally sensitive Jammu and Kashmir. Following this, the Union Home Ministry had announced last month that all jawans and officers of the paramilitary will get air courier

facility for one year while going in to join duty or for tour and while proceeding on leave.

The CRPF cavalcade that came under attack on February 14 had 78 vehicles and the bus hit by the suicide bomber was fifth in line. The convoy was carrying over 2,500 CRPF personnel.



INSHORT

SAJAN KUMAR'S PLEA: JUSTICE KHANNA RECUSES
New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjiv Khanna on Monday once again recused himself from hearing the appeal of former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar who has challenged the Delhi High Court verdict sentencing him to life term in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. On February 25, Justice Khanna had recused himself from hearing Kumar's appeal when he was sitting in a bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

SC DISMISSES PLEA ON 'TRIPLE TALAQ' ORDINANCE
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea challenging the Constitutional validity of an ordinance which makes the practice of 'triple talaq' a punishable offence. A Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta dismissed a plea of a Kerala-based outfit Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulama and said it will not like to interfere.

2019 Elections Battleground LOK SABHA & ASSEMBLY

Cong moves EC to stall Modi biopic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) threatened to stall the biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Maharashtra, the Congress on Monday moved the Election Commission (EC) to get the release of the biopic deferred till the final phase voting in the Lok Sabha polls (May 19), contending that it violates the code of conduct.

The Congress delegation that met the EC comprised of Randeep Singh Surjewala, Kapil Sibal, and Abhishek Manu Singhvi. "We represented to the EC that there is a film being made on Narendra Modi, to be launched just a few days before election, it's purpose is political. Three producers and actor belong to the BJP, the director is involved in Vibrant Gujarat. This is violative of all norms," Kapil Sibal said.

As per the complaint filed, the Congress said the biopic will be released on April 5, just days ahead of the Lok Sabha elections commencing on April 11. "Modi's party is seeking a second term and the timing of the release has raised questions," the Congress said in the

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- Three producers and actor belong to the BJP, the director is involved in Vibrant Gujarat. This is violative of all norms, Kapil Sibal said
- While MNS chief Raj Thackeray has accused the BJP of propagating their welfare schemes through moves like *Toilet Ek Prem Katha* and *Padman* and now *PM Narendra Modi*, the Congress has demanded that the release be deferred till the last phase of voting

complaint. While MNS chief Raj Thackeray has accused the BJP of propagating their welfare schemes through moves like *Toilet Ek Prem Katha* and *Padman* and now *PM Narendra Modi*, the Congress has demanded that the release be deferred till the last phase of voting.

Opposition parties are contending that it would violate the model code of conduct and influence voters. The model code of conduct is in place across India since March 10, when the EC announced dates for general elections and Assembly polls in four States. Earlier, the DMK and the CPI has already moved the EC seeking banning of biopic on PM Modi till election is over.

Ever since the movie was announced, the Opposition has

accused it of being political propaganda of the saffron party. In the movie, Vivek Oberoi will be seen in the lead essaying Prime Minister Modi. While actors like Boman Irani, Barkha Bisht Sengupta, Rajendra Gupta, Zarina Wahab, Darshan Kumar, Prashant Narayanan, and Yatin Karyekar, will be in supporting role. The movie was recently marred in a controversy regarding credits to for its lyrics being attributed to Javed Akhtar and Sameer Anjaan, who refused to have anything to do with the movie.

Later, it was producer Sandip Singh, who cleared the air and said it was due to the use of songs *Ishwar Allah* from the film *1947: Earth* and the song *Suno Gaur Se Duniya Walon* from the film *Dus*, in the movie whose lyrics have been given by the two personalities.

Cong announces 10th list, 26 names cleared

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday fielded Sanjay Nirupam from the North West Mumbai as it released its tenth list, clearing 26 names for the Lok Sabha elections. The announcement of Nirupam's candidature came on a day he was removed as the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee chief (MRCC). Former Union Minister Milind Deora replaced Nirupam as MRCC chief.

Out of the 26 candidates announced by the party on Monday, 25 were for West Bengal. Mohammad Alam from Barrackpore, Mita Chakraborty from Kolkata Dakshin, Suvra Ghosh from Howrah, and Pratul Saha from Hooghly were among those named in the list. With this, the party has announced a total of 253 candidates so far. The Congress also named four candidates for Assembly polls in Odisha.

It's homecoming for Sukh Ram

New Delhi: Former Union Minister Sukh Ram on Monday rejoined the Congress along with his grandson Aashray Sharma ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, with the party's saying his entry would boost its poll prospects in Himachal Pradesh.

"For me, it is like home-coming," said 93-year-old Sukh Ram who returned for the second time to the Congress which he had last left ahead of the 2017 Assembly elections to join the BJP. The Congress had sacked him in 1997 following his conviction in the telecom scam which occurred when he was a Union minister in the PV Narasimha Rao Government, but he returned in 2004.



Congress president Rahul Gandhi shakes hands with former Union Telecom Minister Sukh Ram after the former rejoined the Congress party in New Delhi on Monday

More continue to join BJP

Former RJD J'khand chief Annapurna Devi, paralympian Deepa Malik in saffron brigade

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

More political leaders joined the BJP on Monday as the party announced the names of candidates for two Lok Sabha seats, including that of former party MP Kharvela Swain, and 19 Assembly constituencies in Odisha.

Former RJD Jharkhand president Annapurna Devi and paralympian Deepa Malik also joined the party. Malik is the first Indian woman to win a medal in Paralympic Games.

Devi, a one-time close aide of RJD leader Lalu Prasad formally joined the BJP at the party headquarters in presence of party president Amit Shah. She was denied the Lok Sabha ticket by the RJD in Jharkhand. Former Odisha DGP Prakash Mishra — who joined the BJP on Sunday — has been fielded from Cuttack Lok Sabha seat, while ex-MP Kharavela



Para-Athlete Deepa Malik and INLD MLA Kehar Singh Rawal (left) join the BJP, in New Delhi, on Monday



Bharatiya Janata Party general secretary Bhupender Yadav presents membership slip to Jharkhand RJD president Annapurna Devi as she joins BJP, at party headquarters in New Delhi, on Monday

Swain — who was re-inducted into the party on Monday in Bhubaneswar — has been given a ticket from Kandhamal parliamentary constituency, currently a part of the country's Maoist belt. A three-time MP from Balasore, Swain had quit the BJP in 2009. Swain was keen on con-

testing the general election from Balasore seat, but the party has already fielded Pratap Sarangi from the coastal constituency.

Malik, a famous para athlete, joined the BJP with the party asserting that her presence will strengthen the organisation. With the BJP yet to

announce all its candidates in Haryana for the Lok Sabha elections, Malik may be in the reckoning for one of the seats, sources said.

She joined the BJP in the presence of the party's Haryana unit chief Subhash Barala and general secretary Anil Jain, who is in charge of its affairs in

the State. "We welcome her into the party. She is an inspiration for all of us. She has made the country proud," Jain said.

Several political leaders have switched sides in last couple of weeks as political parties announced the lists of candidates for the Lok Sabha polls, beginning April 11.

EC to deploy more spl expenditure observers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) is set to increase the number of special expenditure observers to monitor illegal cash and inducements being given to voters during the Lok Sabha polls as it has identified about 120 expenditure sensitive constituencies till now in the country. The EC's special expenditure observers also reviewed the poll preparedness with the two special observers for the subject, Shailendra Handa (Maharashtra) and Madhu Mahajan (Tamil Nadu).

Earlier, the EC has appointed two retired Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officers as special expenditure observers for Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. This is the first time that such observers have been appointed for any polls in the country.

They said few more such observers could be appointed by the next week to oversee the work of about 800 Central expenditure monitoring teams and observers who track black money, liquor, drugs and other freebies given to voters illegally.

The maximum number of election expenditure observers are drawn from the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax), while others belong to the IRS



(Indirect Taxes and Customs). Officials said the Election Commission, till now, has identified about 120 expenditure sensitive constituencies in the country for general elections and it is awaiting the report of some state Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) to identify more such segments.

The identified expenditure sensitive constituencies are in the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, among others, while a similar report from states like Maharashtra and few others are awaited.

An expenditure sensitive constituency is identified as a seat which is prone to high expenditure and corrupt practices. For such a constituency, the EC rules mandate, there shall be two assistant expenditure observers, a similar number of flying squads, static surveillance teams and video surveillance teams.

EC observers meet CRPF, police officials in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The three special observers appointed by the Election Commission (EC) to help it decide on holding Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir on Monday met top officials of the CRPF and the State police. Sources said since the CRPF is the principal security agency in the State, the observers wanted a feedback on how early the Assembly polls can be held in

the State. The CRPF, the sources said, is of the view that elections should first be held in the "most difficult" parts of the State so that the force gets adequate time to dominate the area.

But, the State administration is learnt to be of the view that areas which have previously witnessed high voter turnout should go to polls first to avoid a "drag down" effect on other constituencies.

The sources said the EC will now take a comprehensive view before taking the next call on the subject. Since the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly has been dissolved, the EC is bound to hold fresh polls there as well within a six-month period, which will end in May.

The Government is of the

view that the security situation is complex in the State given the heightened tension along the India-Pakistan border.

The three special observers are Vinod Zutshi and Noor Muhammad and retired IPS officer A S Gill. The observers have been tasked with making a real-time assessment of the situation by meeting political parties, district and State authorities and other stakeholders to enable the poll watchdog take a call on the issue.

The J&K Assembly's six-year term was to end on March 16, 2021, but it got dissolved after a ruling coalition between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fell apart. The other State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha have five-year terms.

SC for more VVPAT matching in polls

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday favoured increasing the random physical verification of VVPAT slips in the upcoming Lok Sabha and assembly polls and told the EC that "no institution should insulate itself from improvement, including the judiciary".

It was not the question of "casting aspersions", rather a matter of "satisfaction" of the electorate, the top court said.

It asked the EC to file response as to whether it can increase the number of sample surveys of VVPAT slips from one in each Assembly segment for the upcoming General and Assembly elections.

The court was hearing a plea filed by 21 Opposition

Apex court tells EC, 'no institution should insulate itself from improvement'

leaders, led by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, seeking the VVPAT slips of at least 50 per cent of voting machines in each Assembly constituency be checked randomly in the Lok Sabha elections next month.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta asked the EC to file its reply on affidavit indicating the reasons of its satisfaction that purity of elections can be maintained and is being maintained.

"The Election

Commission of India (EC) is fully satisfied that the purity of the elections can be maintained and is being maintained. The Election Commission of India shall indicate the above in an affidavit the basis of satisfaction," the Bench said.



It added, "The Election Commission of India shall also indicate that if the sample survey can be extended to a higher level...The affidavit shall be filed by 4 pm on March 28. The matter is listed for further hearing on April 1."

At the outset, the Bench told the Deputy Election Commissioner Sudeep Jain, appearing in person, whether the poll panel can increase the number of random physical verification of VVPAT slips with EVMs from the existing stipulation of only one polling station per Assembly segment. Jain replied that the ECI has adequate reasons to

believe that there was no requirement for changing the present arrangement of random matching of VVPAT slips with Electronic Voting Machine for one polling per Assembly segment.

PTI

SC DISMISSES PLEA SEEKING BAN ON ROADSHOWS, BIKE RALLIES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a petition filed by a former DGP of Uttar Pradesh and an environmentalist seeking a direction to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ban roadshows and bike rallies during polls. "We are not inclined to

entertain this," a bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta told advocate Virag Gupta, who was appearing for petitioners Vikram Singh and environmentalist Shaivika Agrawal. Singh, a former Director General of Police (DGP) of

Uttar Pradesh, and Agrawal had said in their plea that roadshows and bike rallies violate the ECI's instructions and cause damage to the environment.

The petitioners had said that roadshows and bike rallies during the election period cause air, noise pollution and traffic

jams, which result in inconvenience to the general public.

The plea had said that instructions issued by the ECI with regard to roadshows and political processions mandate that vehicles must be registered and a convoy cannot have more than 10 vehicles. PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president Amit Shah during the BJP Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, at BJP headquarters in New Delhi, on Monday

PTI

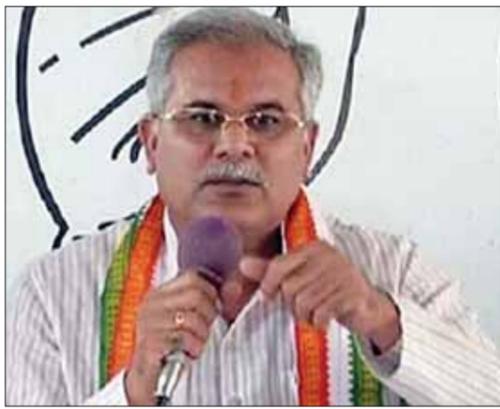
Maoist problem will be solved through talks: Baghel

STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has said that the solution to the state's Naxal problem was not bullet, underscoring that his government would prefer dialogues with all stake holders to solve the problem.

Efforts would be made to find an amicable solution to the Maoist problem after the Lok Sabha elections, the chief minister announced.

Baghel was addressing a public meeting at Jagdalpur on Monday, kick-starting poll campaign for the Bastar Lok Sabha seat where polling will be held in the first phase of elections on



Efforts would be made to find an amicable solution to the Maoist problem after the Lok Sabha elections, the chief minister announced

April 11.

Taking a jibe at BJP's chowkidar-campaign, the chief minister without naming Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national

president Amit Shah said one of the Chowkidars himself allowed the thieves to flee the country, while the other himself was a "Tadipar" who was once not even allowed to enter his home state.

Baghel also took a dig at former chief minister and senior BJP leader Raman Singh for prefixing the word 'chowkidar' to his name, stating that he was involved in civil supplies scam in the state.

He also alleged that son-in-law of the former chief minister indulged in irregularities in DKS super-specialty hospital.

Raman Singh had only let his own family benefitted during his regime and had deceived the people of Chhattisgarh, Baghel alleged.

Filing of nominations for Raipur LS seat from March 28

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Raipur district electoral officer and collector Dr Basavaraju S said filing of nomination papers for Raipur Lok Sabha seat would start after issuance of notification on March 28 for the third phase of polling.

General candidates could obtain the nomination papers through single window by submitting Rs 25000, while Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates would have to submit their caste certificate and deposit Rs 12,500 in cash as security, he said.

"No other instrument of payment will be accepted", he added. The last date for filing of nomination papers is April 4 and

those will be scrutinized on April 5. The candidates can withdraw the nomination papers till April 8. The polling will be held on April 23, while counting is scheduled on May 23.

The DEO informed that candidates and their proposers would have to submit the certified copy of electoral roll along with their photographs while filing nominations.

The certified copy can be obtained on payment of application on a non-judicial stamp of Rs 10. He said to facilitate candidates, a single window system has been made at room number 16 in the office of the collector for granting all necessary permissions related to elections.

Cong names Jyotsna, Pratima for Korba, Durg seats



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Congress on Monday announced names of candidates for the remaining two Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Jyotsna Mahant has been fielded from Korba Lok Sabha constituency while Pratima Chandrakar has been given ticket from Durg.

With the announcement of their names, the ruling Congress has completed ticket distribution for the state's 11 Lok Sabha seats.

Jyotsna is wife of Speaker of the Chhattisgarh state assembly Charandas Mahant while Pratima is a senior Congress leader and a former MLA from Durg region.

'Yeddyurappa's diary': BJP knocks at EC door, demands action against Trivedi

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh BJP has filed a complaint against Pradesh Congress spokesperson Shailesh Nitin Trivedi for raising the contentious issue of former Karnataka chief minister BS Yeddyurappa's alleged diary that purportedly contain noting indicating that the BJP leader had paid Rs 1,800 crore as a bribe to his party top brass.

The BJP said it would give befitting reply to the "lies being spread" by Congress's communication department chairman Trivedi.

Congress national leaders also demanded a Lokpal probe into the diary issue.

BJP state spokesperson and MLA Shivratna Sharma said the bribery allegations was "false and fake."

MLA Sharma said that the Income Tax department denied having any such diary, stating that



just on the basis of a few loose sheets given by a Karnataka Congress leader to the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the Congress was indulging in character assassination of senior BJP leaders.

He added that BJP leadership was already taking legal recourse

against Congress national spokesperson Randeep Surjewala.

Trivedi in a statement cited the alleged noting in the diary to claim that entire top leadership of BJP was corrupt. He said the issue was covered up as top BJP leaders were involved in it.

Raman Singh's son-in-law asked to appear before police

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Raipur police on Monday issued a notice to Dr Punit Gupta, son-in-law of former Chief Minister Raman Singh, in connection with multi-million corruption scam that reportedly happened when he was superintendent of the city's DKS Super specialty hospital.

"We have issued a notice to Dr Gupta to present him before the police and record his statement. We will decide further course of action if he fails to appear before us," Raipur superintendent of police (SP) Arif Shaikh said.

The police team was still investigating the fraud which was reported by incumbent DKS superintendent Dr KK Sahare, the SP said.

The investigating team was communicating with the Punjab National Bank officials and Gupta's chartered accountant (CA) to trace the money trail.

Dr Gupta was earlier



booked on the basis of complaint registered by Dr Sahare, after an audit committee formed on the directives of the state government had found out that Singh's son-in-law while was director of the DKS Hospital was involved in serious financial irregularities.

He has been booked under Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust) 420 (Cheating), 467 (forgery of valuable security etc), 468 (Forgery for the purpose of cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

No rift between JCC-J and BSP, we'll contest 3 seats: Jogi

STAFF REPORTER ■ KORBA

Founder president of the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh-Jogi (JCC-J) Ajit Jogi denied any rift between his party and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) over allocation of Lok Sabha seats.

He also reiterated that he would contest from Korba Lok Sabha seat and that there was no "confusion" over it.

Talking to media persons during his Korba visit, Jogi clarified that his party's alliance with the BSP was intact and it would continue in future too.

The BSP has already announced its



candidates for the state's eight, out of 11, parliamentary seats, triggering speculation about the end of its alliance with the JCC-J.

"We will put up candidates in the remaining three seats", Jogi said, denying that the BSP unilaterally named its candidates.

The JCC-J has not yet declared its candidates.

Jogi said BSP Supremo Mayawati had consulted him before naming her party candidates for Mahasamund and Rajnandgaon seats, which were announced in the party's second list on Sunday.

BJP candidate Baiduram files nomination for Bastar seat

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

BJP Bastar Lok Sabha candidate Baiduram Kashyap submitted nomination papers on Monday, the last day for filing of nominations for first phase of polling.

The nomination papers will be scrutinized on March 26 and candidates can withdraw the same till March 28.

Before going to file nominations, Kashyap took blessings of Goddess Danteshwari and then participated in a public meeting. Thereafter, in a rally he went to file the nomination.

He was accompanied by BJP national vice president and former Chief Minister Raman Singh, BJP state president Vikram Usendi, outgoing



BJP candidates to file nominations today

BJP Lok Sabha candidates Chunnilal Sahu from Mahasamund, Mohan Mandavi from Kanker and Santosh Pandey from Rajnandgaon will file their nomination papers on March 26 at the respective district headquarters.

During filing of nomination papers of Mohan Mandavi, BJP national vice president and former CM Raman Singh, BJP president Vikram Usendi and others will be present.

MP Dinesh Kashyap and former minister Kedar Kashyap among others.

Addressing the rally, former chief minister Raman Singh made an appeal to the party workers to work for victory and take pledge to form Modi government at the Centre.

Attacking present Congress government in the state, he said, "In just 70 days, administration is in disarray due to lack of skills. State government is taking loans again and again. To gain power, it had made false promises by spreading lies, now everything is before the people."

"The promise of unemployment allowance for the state's 23 lakh unemployed is

a lie. The funds allocated for construction and developmental works have been recalled. Due to this wrong policy, developmental works have come to halt. There is a need to raise voice against it."

On Naxal issue, he said, "For the last 15 years, our government had continuously worked to deal with the problem. But the recent spurt in Naxal incidents proves that the present government has failed to put pressure on the ultras."

Citing martyrdom of Bastar's king Praveer Chandra Bhanjdeo, Raman Singh said, "Today is March 25, the martyrdom day of the tribal king. It was the Congress government which ordered the firing, and killing of large number of tribals."

BJP's new-face policy for Chhattisgarh surprises many

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The BJP's choice of candidates for Lok Sabha polls in Chhattisgarh has surprised many and left quite a few brood faces in the party.

The BJP this time decided not to re-nominate any of its sitting MPs in Chhattisgarh, where the party suffered a humiliating defeat in the hands of Congress in 2018 assembly elections.

The sitting MPs were surprisingly replaced by lesser-known candidates.

The saffron party's state leadership, however, defended its strategy, saying similar experiment was mullied even before the last assembly elections.

"Even before the assembly elections, the party had thought of brining in new faces.

But it could not happen at that time and it might have contributed to our defeat," said senior BJP leader of the state Sachidanand Upasane.

He described the decision to back the new faces as a "well thought-out experiment."

"The opposition will not be able to put any allegations against our candidate as they are fresh and new," he said.

Upasane also ruled out the possibility of state assembly elections affecting the results of Lok Sabha polls.

According to him, in 2013,

BJP had lost state assembly seats in Bastar and Surguja regions. However, in the Lok Sabha polls BJP won both Surguja and Bastar.

But not everyone in the party is quite happy with the experiment.

A senior BJP leader and former MLA questioned why such experiment was done only in Chhattisgarh?

Preferring anonymity, he said performance of all sitting MPs was not bad.

"New faces are not that popular in their regions hence the party cadres may not support them whole-heartedly," he said.

"It looks like that party top leadership has lost faith in the

Chhattisgarh sitting MPs," he said.

The Congress on the other hand appeared happy with the BJP's choice of low-key candidates.

Not buying the BJP's fresh-face theory, Bhujit Joshi, a member of the Congress research committee, said practically it was unlikely that that people would forget the misdeeds of the BJP government within a few months of voting it out.

"If the BJP had pitted senior leader like Brijmohan Agrawal, as was speculated before tickets were announced, then it would have been tough for us to win the Raipur seat," a Congress leader opined seeking anonymity.

Congress candidate Baij files nomination from Bastar LS seat

Nominations filing for the first phase of LS elections in insurgency-hit Bastar ST reserved seat of the state ends

STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

Congress candidate from Bastar Lok Sabha constituency Dipak Baij filed nomination here on Monday, the last day of filing nominations for the first phase of elections in the state, where polling will be held in three phases.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Minister for Excise (Commercial Tax) and Industries, Kawasi Lakhma and almost all the Congress legislators of the region were prominently present during his nomi-



nation filing. Baij, accompanied by senior leaders of the party, reached the collectorate's office in Jagdalpur, the district headquarters, and handed over the nomination papers to district

collector Ayyaz Faqir Bhai Tamboli. Baij is the sitting MLA from Chitrakot (ST reserved) seat of the region and is also the vice president of the Bastar Development Authority.

BJP may not repeat its Punjab candidates

MONIKA MALIK ■
CHANDIGARH

Saffron brigade may not lay its bet on the tried and trusted soldiers to hold the fort in the crucial 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is expected to announce the names of its candidates by this week for Punjab, it has been learnt that the saffron party would not repeat the faces which had earlier represented the party. So much so that the party may even replace its sitting MP from Hoshiarpur and the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Vijay Sampla. In fact, the party is trying to romp home to victory by relying on the star power.

BJP contests on three seats — Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Hoshiarpur — in coalition with the Shiromani Akali Dal

BESIDES, THE NAME OF UNION MINISTER HARDIP PURI IS ALSO BEING CONSIDERED. APART FROM THAT, NAMES OF PUNJAB BJP PRESIDENT SHWAIT MALIK, RAJINDER MOHAN SINGH CHHINA WHO UNSUCCESSFULLY CONTESTED 2017 BYELECTION, BJP NATIONAL SECRETARY TARUN CHUGH, AND FORMER MINISTER ANIL JOSHI WERE ALSO IN THE RECKONING

(SAD), which fields its candidates from remaining 10 seats, in Punjab.

Even as Sampla is hopeful of being re-nominated from Hoshiarpur, his not-so-friendly relations with the party's state president Shwait Malik and the presence of his anti-group in his segment may cost him the seat.

The state BJP leaders had held a series of meeting in the national capital and had handed over the panel of names to the central leadership for taking the final call.

For Hoshiarpur, Sampla's bete noire sitting MLA from Phagwara Som Parkash is throwing an open challenge to his candidature. Besides, the former chairman of Punjab Scheduled Caste Commission Rajesh Bagha is also eyeing the party ticket from the seat.

For Amritsar, from where the party had fielded its stalwart Arun Jaitley but lost to Congress veteran Capt Amarinder Singh in 2014 elections, the party is considering the names of Bollywood actress Poonam Dhillon, and

Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh.

Dhillon is presently the vice-president of BJP's Mumbai unit and is a Jat Sikh, like Harbhajan Singh. Dhillon had campaigned for the party during the 2014 Lok Sabha and 2017 assembly elections.

Besides, the name of Union Minister Hardip Puri is also being considered. Apart from that, names of Punjab BJP president Shwait Malik, Rajinder Mohan Singh Chhina who unsuccessfully

contested 2017 byelection, BJP national secretary Tarun Chugh, and former Minister Anil Joshi were also in the reckoning.

After suffering a defeat by more than two lakh votes in 2014 elections, the saffron party is preparing to field a strong candidate for Amritsar seat, which witnessed a top-notch electoral fight between Capt Amarinder and Jaitley during the previous general elections.

BJP's Chhina had also lost to Congress' Gurjit Singh Auja in 2017 by-election by a whopping margin of 1,99,189 votes. Auja had received 5,08,153 votes against 3,08,964 votes casted for the runner up Chhina. AAP's Upkar Singh Sandhu bagged 1,49,984 votes.

In the past, former cricketer and Punjab Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu was the BJP MP from Amritsar between 2004 and

2014. He, however, left the party ahead of the 2017 assembly elections and joined the Congress.

The saffron brigade had won Gurdaspur Lok Sabha seat in 2014. But after its sitting MP and former Union Minister Vinod Khanna's death, the party's candidate Swaran Salaria lost the seat to Congress' Sunil Jakhar in 2017 by-election.

The party is now banking on Khanna's widow Kavita Khanna. Earlier, the party is planning to field Khanna's actor son Akshay Khanna from Gurdaspur, who had campaigned for his father during 2009 and 2004 elections. Other than one from the Khanna family, BJP's former state president Ashwani Sharma, former Minister Master Mohan Lal, and MLA Dinesh Babu are also in the race.

IAF inducts 4 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters

Chandigarh: Four Chinook heavy-lift helicopters made in the US were inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) here on Monday.

After inducting the helicopters, IAF chief B S Dhanoa said induction of Chinook will be a game changer the way the Rafale is going to be in the fighter fleet.

The first four of the 15 CH-47F (I) Chinook helicopters, which were ordered from Boeing in September 2015, were commissioned into the IAF's 126 Helicopter Unit (HU) at a ceremony held here.

The Chinook, twin-engine, tandem rotor, is multi-role, vertical-lift platform, which is used for transporting troops, artillery, equipment and fuel. The helicopter can carry out military operations not only during the day but at night too.

Speaking at the function here, Dhanoa said, "Our country faces a multitude of security challenges, we require vertical lift capability across a very diversified terrain."

"The IAF operates from bases which are from sea level to very high altitude advance landing grounds. The helicopter will give the IAF quantum leap in terms of ability to transport cargo to precarious high altitude locations. The aircraft is one of its best in its category," he said.

The all-weather capable aircraft can also be used for humanitarian and disaster relief operations and in missions such as transportation of relief supplies and mass evacuation of refugees.

"It is a red-letter day for the Air Force as we are inducting the Chinook helicopters which gives us a tremendous capability, primarily in the inter-val-

ley troop transfer. In inter-valley troop transfer, what is very important is ability to operate from high altitudes to take acclimatized troops from one valley to another valley," he said while interacting with reporters here.

Asked about Pakistan Air Force chief Mujahid Anwar Khan Saturday leading a fly-past at the Pakistan Day joint military parade in Islamabad, Dhanoa quipped, "The Pakistan Air Force chief was flying from rear cockpit, just look from where he was flying."

Citing an example about how Chinooks can be helpful in non-military roles, he said, "After the floods which occurred in Uttarakhand earlier and natural disaster in other hilly areas, there is a requirement to lift heavy loads, especially re-construction equipment so that we can open roads and communication can be re-established."

"The helicopter is not only with the Air Force for the military role, it is a national asset," he said.

Named after the courageous American-Indian tribes, the aircraft outperforms in its mobility, agility, flexibility and endurance, the IAF chief said.

He said all the 15 Chinook helicopters will not be stationed at Chandigarh Air Force Station's 12 Wing as another unit of heavy-lift choppers will be created in Dinjan (Assam).

Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Air Command Air Marshal R Nambiar, Major General Robin Fontes from the US, Boeing India head Saili Gupte and Haryana's Director General of Police Manoj Yadava were among others present on the occasion. **PTI**

480 sensitive polling booths identifies in Sirsa

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Sirsa parliamentary constituency (reserved) in Haryana has 480 polling stations categorized as either highly vulnerable or vulnerable.

With a view to ensure peaceful polling in Haryana during general election to Lok Sabha-2019 to be held on May 12, the district Election Office, Sirsa has identified 480 polling stations of Sirsa parliamentary constituency as highly vulnerable and vulnerable, said Prabhjot Singh, returning officer of Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency.

Out of these 254 polling stations were declared as highly sensitive and 226 polling stations as sensitive, he said.

In Kalanwali (reserved) assembly segment, 51 polling stations have been declared as highly sensitive and 67 polling stations as sensitive. In Dabwali segment, 66 polling stations have been declared highly sensitive and 54 as sensitive.

120 polling booths of Dabwali assembly constituency have been identified as highly vulnerable and vulnerable which is the highest in the parliamentary constituency, he said.

In Rania assembly constituency, 74 polling stations are highly sensitive and 19 sensitive. Similarly in Sirsa, 28 polling stations are highly sensitive and 27 as sensitive.

In Ellanabad assembly constituency, 35 polling stations have been identified as highly sensitive and 59 as sensitive areas.

Prabhjot Singh said that keeping in view the incidents during the previous elections, the entire parliamentary area has been categorized into highly sensitive and sensitive areas. As per the directions of Election Commission of India, all these polling stations would be specially monitored and the micro observer would be deployed in the polling stations who would give information of each moment to the election office. Apart from this, police force would also be specially deployed in these polling stations, he said.

He further said that flying squad and static surveillance team would specially keep vigil on these areas and all the teams have been instructed to make video-recording of all kind of incidents.

He added that incidents of illegal distribution of funds, various types of gift items for influencing voters would be liable for punishment under various sections of The Representation of People Act, 1951 and Indian penal code (IPC).

Another MLA deserts INLD, joins BJP

JNISHU MAHAJAN ■
CHANDIGARH

The exodus from the Indian National Lok Dal in Haryana continued on Monday with party's MLA Kehar Singh Rawat joining the ruling Bharatiya Janta party, triggering fears of more defections in the INLD, which is facing a tough time in election season.

Kehar Singh Rawat is MLA from Hathin assembly constituency, which falls under Faridabad Lok Sabha seat. Kehar Singh joined the BJP in New Delhi in the presence of Anil Jain, BJP's in-charge for Haryana party affairs and Haryana BJP chief Subhash Barala.

Last week, INLD MLA Ranbir Gangwa had left the party and joined the BJP. Gangwa, a former Rajya Sabha MP was elected from Nalwa assembly segment in Hisar Lok Sabha constituency on an INLD's ticket in 2014 assembly polls.

As general election looms near-

er, the INLD is showing no signs of revival with continuous exodus of its senior party leaders to the rivals' camp following party's split and formation of Jannayak Janta Party last year.

While the ruling BJP is strengthening its position in the state with new entrants into the party fold ahead of polls, the INLD, which was the main opposition party in Haryana after 2014 assembly polls is struggling to keep its flock together, leaving it in an uncertain position ahead of May 12 polling on 10 parliamentary seats in the state.

After joining the party, Kehar Singh Rawat, while talking to the mediapersons appreciated the policies of BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed his intent to work under him. The INLD remains on the back foot after its split last year. While the INLD is struggling to stitch an alliance in Haryana after Bahujan Samaj Party deserted it, its leaders are also quitting the party one by one.

The current scenario has led to a situation where the party faces an uphill battle to retain Sirsa and Hisar Lok Sabha constituencies, which it had won in 2014 general elections.

The party is likely to go it alone in the polls after Mayawati's BSP had broken its ten-month old alliance with the former and had joined hands with Loktantra Suraksha Party (LSP) of BJP rebel MP Raj Kumar Saini.

Looking for an alliance partner to contest polls, the INLD chief OP Chautala had recently expressed willingness to join hands with the BJP but the saffron party had rejected the offer.

"The party is going through a crisis and a meeting has been convened in Rohtak to decide the future course of action," said a senior INLD leader.

He said that the party's political affairs committee is likely to meet on Wednesday now to discuss the current happenings and election strat-

egy. A day before, INLD secretary general Abhay Chautala had said that the party will announce its candidates for Lok Sabha polls a day before the filing of nomination papers.

Notably, Abhay Chautala had on Saturday resigned from the post of leader of opposition in Haryana Assembly and sought disqualification of five of his MLAs for alleged anti-party acts.

While Ranbir Gangwa had joined the BJP, four other MLAs -- Naina Chautala, Anoop Dhanak, Pirthi Nambardar and Randeep Phogat -- had joined the Jannayak Janta Party.

The INLD's popularity has been declining after the formation of its splinter group Jannayak Janta Party headed by Ajay Chautala and his sons. INLD's chief OP Chautala elder son - Ajay Singh Chautala - is patron of the JJP while his two sons -- Hisar MP Dushyant and Digvijay -- are spearheading the party in his absence.

Cane growers protest in Punjab; AAP, SAD demand immediate release of dues

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Taking the ongoing protest by Punjab's sugarcane growers to another level on Monday, four sugarcane farmers climbed on the roof of Dhuri SDM's office carrying a bottle of petrol to stage a protest for the release of their dues.

One of the farmers, Harijeet Singh Bugra, said that they had started an indefinite hunger strike, and in case the police would try to remove them forcibly, they would consume cephos.

This is the third such protest by sugarcane farmers.

Already, two protests have

been going on for the release of Rs 80 crore of cane-growers' dues in Dhuri. Cane growers with their families have been sitting on an indefinite dharna on the Sangrur-Dhuri road near Benra village since March 7.

BKU (Lakhowal) leader Ujagar Singh, with the support of various organisations, including BKU (Rajewal), Kul Hind Kisan Sabha Punjab, Kisan Mukti Morcha and Aam Aadmi Party, has started an indefinite hunger strike in front of the sugar mill.

Meanwhile Thousands of farmers in Punjab staged 'dharnas' in their respective districts on Monday to protest against 'anti-

farmer' policies of the State Government. Besides, the farmers were demanding paddy sowing from first of June instead of June 20.

BKU Ekta president Joginder Singh Ugrahan and general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokary said that in all the districts, the farmers submitted memorandum to the Deputy Commissioners of their district demanding paddy sowing from first of June instead of June 20 as directed by the State Government.

GOVT SHOULD ISSUE CHEQUES INSTEAD OF NOTES: AAP

Taking offence on the way

Punjab Government had been going overboard by issuing notices to gag the voice of the cane growers up in arms against the non-payment of their whopping dues pending with certain private mill owners in the state, AAP on Monday demanded that the Government should immediately review its dictatorial decision and mull a rollback sooner than later.

"In case the Government failed, AAP would be left with no choice but to 'gherao' the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM)," said AAP MLA and the Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Harpal Cheema, adding that sugarcane growers were already over-stressed due to

non-payment of their arrears worth more than Rs 80 crore to be paid by the private sugar mill owners in the state.

Cheema pointed that notices were served on the agitating farmers by Dhuri SDM in the area. "It is a dictatorial decision on part of the government that smacked of infringement in their right to free expression...These draconian decisions show the anti-farmer face of both the preceding governments changing hands in power by denying their rightful claim on the pending dues," he said.

He accused the Government of confounding the issue as a major chunk of the private mill owners in

the state were either the kin of influential leaders of both the SAD and Congress parties, or themselves, which, he said, were running the show without an iota of fear of the law of the law.

SAD WANTS GOVT TO PAY 20% INTEREST ON LATE PAYMENTS

Accusing Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh of denying sugarcane farmers their dues after promising to clear pending payments, SAD on Monday said that it was this constant backstabbing of the farm community that had led to farm suicides crossing 900 figure in the last two years in Punjab.

Khaira launches campaign in Bathinda to end Badals' feudal politics

PNS ■ BATHINDA

With Aam Aadmi Party's two "rebel" MLAs by his side, Punjab Ekta Party (PEP) president and Bholath legislator Sukhpal Singh Khaira on Monday launched his election

campaign for Bathinda Lok Sabha seat declaring that he has accepted the challenge to contest from here "to end feudal politics of the Badal family".

Khaira, who launched his campaign with a road show from Mansa to Bathinda, said

that he was confident of winning the Bathinda seat with a huge vote margin.

"I accepted the challenge to contest the Bathinda Lok Sabha seat to defeat sitting MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who is a symbol of feudal politics of the Badal family. My aim is to build a fight against feudalism and family politics and end feudal politics of the Badal family," said Khaira.

Accompanied by AAP's two 'rebel' MLAs — Nazar

Sngh Mansahia from Mansa, Jagdev Singh Kamalu from Maur— and suspended MP from Patiala Dr Dharamvir Gandhi, Khaira blamed the previous Akali Dal-led regime in Punjab of "nepotism and rampant corruption".

"Former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and incumbent Capt Amarinder Singh, both represent the same feudal mindset. Both are helping each other to rule in Punjab turn by turn," he alleged.

Khaira, who formed the PEP after quitting AAP in January, had challenged the Union Minister and sitting Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal for an open debate to discuss the burning issues of the State.

Khaira would be contesting May 19 elections under the banner of Punjab Democratic Alliance which is a group of six political outfits comprising PEP, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Lok Insaaf Party (LIP),

Dr Gandhi-led Punjab Manch, Communist Party of India and the Revolutionary Marxist Party of India.

Hitting out at Badal, Khaira said: "He was the Chief Minister for 10 continuous years, but he failed to resolve problems of people...Drugs, unemployment, poverty and sufferings of peasantry were core issues, but nothing was done to tackle these."

"The condition of common people mainly the farm-

ers of Mansa and Bathinda districts was deplorable. The highest number of farmer suicides is reported from Mansa and Bathinda districts," he alleged while claiming that Harsimrat had failed to set up any major industry in the Malwa region though she was food processing minister at the Centre.

She failed to take up issues of Punjab farmers and rising unemployment with the BJP-led NDA government at the

Centre," he alleged.

Khaira claimed that the people of Punjab were fed up with the SAD-BJP alliance and the present Congress government in the state.

"PEP will fill political vacuum in the state and provide a better alternative to the people of state. People of Punjab were fed up from SAD-BJP alliance and Congress government. The massive response to road show has boosted the morale of PEP workers," he said.

PDA to announce remaining candidates

Chandigarh: Punjab Democratic Alliance (PDA) would soon announce the names of its remaining five candidates. The meeting to decide the names of the PDA's nominees is scheduled to be held on March 30.

Till date, the Alliance has announced its eight candidates, out of the total 13 seats in Punjab. The parties in the alliance have arrived at consensus on 12 seats while leaving the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat "open" as of now under "special circumstances".

Besides Sangrur, the party will meet to decide on the names of its candidates for Ludhiana, Amritsar, Ferozepur, and Gurdaspur.

As per the seat sharing arrangement, BSP gets Sri Anandpur Sahib, Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur constituencies, PEP gets Bathinda, Faridkot and Khadoor Sahib, LIP gets Ludhiana, Amritsar and Fatehgarh Sahib, Dr Dharamvir Gandhi's party got Patiala, while CPI gets

Ferozepur, and RMPI gets Gurdaspur.

Aam Aadmi Party's "suspended" MP Dr Gandhi would seek his re-election from Patiala, while former AAP leader and PEP president Sukhpal Khaira would contest his first Lok Sabha election from Bathinda.

Human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira's widow Paramjit Kaur Khaira will contest also make her electoral debut from Khadoor Sahib, while Manvinder Singh Giaspura — who had raised the issue of Sikh genocide at Hond Chillar in Haryana — will contest from Fatehgarh Sahib.

AAP's former leader and sitting MLA Master Baldev Singh Jaiton will contest from Faridkot, international Polo player Vikram Singh Sodhi from Sri Anandpur Sahib, former journalist Balwinder Kumar from Jalandhar, and retired IAS officer Khushi Ram from Hoshiarpur as PDA members.

Capt hails RaGa's promise of min income for poorest of poor

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday hailed Congress national president Rahul Gandhi's promise of minimum income to 20 per cent of India's poorest families as a path-breaking initiative by the Congress, "which is completely focused on constructive policies in sharp contrast to BJP's destructive and disruptive game-plan for the Lok Sabha elections".

"With one stroke, Rahul has brought hope into the lives of the country's poorest of the poor and exposed the Narendra Modi government's failure to reach out to the 250 million people who would benefit from the Congress president's proposed minimum income guarantee scheme," said Capt Amarinder.

As per the scheme, any family earning less than Rs 12,000 a month would receive Rs 6,000 every month, the Chief Minister pointed out, adding that this

would bring 50 million families out of the stark penury in which they were barely surviving. Instead of wasting time in countering the BJP's negative poll propaganda, Rahul was wholeheartedly focussing on figuring out ways of addressing the basic problems of the people of India, who had suffered abominably under the Modi government, Capt said. While the Modi government was busy politicising the defence forces and trying to take credit for the recent IAF strikes across the LoC, the Congress was engaged in exploring ways to alleviate the sufferings of the people, said the Chief Minister.

Capt lashed out at the BJP for failing to deliver on any of its promises, including employment for youth and doubling of the farmers' income, over the past five years. The BJP leaders were busy filling their own pockets at the expense of the common people of India, whose conditions had worsened under the

Modi government, he added.

The CM lambasted the ruling party over its attempts to centralise the election campaign on the defence forces in order to neutralise the people's grievances on issues of their livelihood and basic necessities. "This is being done to cover up the gross failures of the Modi government on all fronts. Prices of essential commodities spiralled out of control in these five years, farmers are committing suicide due to their unmanageable debts which the central government had adamantly refused to waive off, and youth are struggling against the problem of unemployment created by the Modi government," he said.

He said that the BJP had no answers to the questions of the people of India and that was why they were trying desperately to take refuge behind the armed forces, which had always remained a neutral institution working selflessly in the cause of the nation.

Slogan on admit cards of 7L students to encourage voters' registration

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To encourage voters' participation in general elections 2019, a slogan 'Loktantar ke Imtihaan Ki Tayaari, Vote Banana Pehli Zimevaari' has been printed on the admit cards issued to more than seven lakh students appearing in the secondary and senior secondary examination 2019 of Board of School Education Haryana and Open School in the state.

Haryana Chief Electoral Officer, Rajeev Ranjan on Monday said that for the first time, the slogan has been printed on the admit cards issued to 7,65,549 students, to convey the message to the prospective voters to get their voters' card made.

Haryana has become the first state in the country to reach out to the new voters through admit card in an innovative manner, he said while presiding over a review meeting of State Level Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral

Participation (SVEEP) Core Committee, here.

Ranjan said that for the first time, special facility has been provided for the Kashmiri displaced voters by the Election Commission of India. For this, a special link has been given on the website of Commission for Form-M and Form-12C. The displaced voters can exercise their voting franchise by getting their current resident certificates, migration certificates and Electoral Photo ID Card (EPIC), verified by the concerned EROs, he said.

The Election Commission has discussed the matter with the chief electoral officers of all the states through video conferencing, he said.

During the meeting, it was informed that for the first time in Haryana, employees who are drawing their salary from the state exchequer would be appealed through SMS about becoming a voter and to exercise their voting rights.

May isolated as Brexit strategy hangs in balance

AFP ■ LONDON

Accused of presiding over an unprecedented national humiliation in her chaotic handling of Brexit, British Prime Minister Theresa May has all but lost control of her party and her Government.

The Conservative leader has in the past won praise for her determination and ability to survive what has often felt like one long political crisis since the 2016 referendum vote to leave the European Union. But her approach to the endgame, refusing to accept MPs' opposition to her divorce deal and agreeing to delay Brexit to try for a third time to get it through, has prompted frustration and anger on all sides.

Ministers from both the pro- and anti-Brexit camps in her cabinet have in recent weeks joined scores of Conservative MPs in defying the government in parliamentary votes.

And this weekend, after yet another bruising Brussels summit for the prime minister, British newspapers were full of moves by her colleagues to oust her.

In an editorial, Conservative-supporting Spectator magazine suggested May was the "worst prime minister in our history". It condemned her "lack of imagination, inability to lead a team or solve complex problems" -- although it also accused the ruling party itself for failing to find a better leader.

May's former director of communications, Katie Perrior, wrote in The Times newspaper that the prime minister was "a passenger at the time when the country needed a rally driver". She backed a suggestion made by some MPs that May offer to quit in parliament backs her divorce deal, allowing someone else to lead the next stage of the EU negotiations. The top selling The Sun



tabloid also embraced this plan, praising May's "remarkable resilience in the face of repeated humiliations, but saying it was 'time to move on'."

"She has lost the backing of much of the country and now her party," the paper said. May took office after the 2016 referendum, and despite having campaigned to stay in

serious problem after a disastrous snap election in June 2017, when May lost her parliamentary majority.

She was forced to strike a deal with Northern Ireland's pro-Brexit Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), and since then has struggled to keep her party and its allies together.

Naturally reserved and reliant on her husband Philip and a few close aides, May often says she is just quietly "getting on with the job".

But in the last election, she struggled to engage with voters and was dubbed the "Maybot" after churning out the same answers and speeches over and over again.

May's legacy from her previous role as interior minister has also been called into question in recent months, with growing criticism of her crackdown on irregular migration.

However, May has been written off before. She has survived the resig-

nations of a string of high-profile Brexit supporters, notably former foreign secretary Boris Johnson, and has endured constant sniping from MPs on the sidelines.

She won a leadership challenge within her own party in December, a victory that made her immune from a similar challenge for a year, even if she had to promise to quit before the next scheduled election in 2022.

As a result, it is not clear how MPs might depose her now if she refuses to quit.

May's critics are deeply divided, and their inability to unite behind a rival candidate has foiled previous attempted coups. Her finance minister, Philip Hammond, condemned any talk of replacing May as "self-indulgent", warning that the problem remained what to do about Brexit.

"This is not about the prime minister or any other individual, this is about the future of our country," he said.

EU completes no-deal Brexit preparations

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

The EU announced on Monday it has completed its preparations for Britain crashing out of the bloc without a divorce accord, as fears of a chaotic "no-deal" Brexit grow.

"As it is increasingly likely that the United Kingdom will leave the European Union without a deal on 12 April, the European Commission has today completed its 'no-deal' preparations," the commission, the bloc's executive arm, said.

The gloomily worded statement, just days after Brussels agreed to postpone Brexit from its previous March 29 deadline, piled fresh pressure on Prime Minister Theresa May as she gathered her cabinet to discuss the way forward.

Unless British lawmakers approve a withdrawal agreement to ease the country out of the bloc, EU rules and agreements built up over 46 years of membership will cease

to apply overnight, threatening havoc in almost every domain of life. May has been seeking to rally support for her twice-rejected deal, but there is speculation that if she fails, she could allow MPs to vote on what happens next.

The commission outlined measures in 13 key areas, from rules on flying and road transport to travel regulations, fishing rights and banking -- while stressing that they would only reduce the disruption, not prevent it altogether.

"The EU's contingency measures will not -- and cannot -- mitigate the overall impact of a 'no-deal' scenario, nor do they in any way compensate for the lack of preparedness or replicate the full benefits of EU membership," the commission statements said.

"These proposals are temporary in nature, limited in scope and will be adopted unilaterally by the EU. They are not 'mini-deals' and have not been negotiated with the UK."

Pak approves plan to open ancient Hindu temple corridor in PoK

Islamabad: The Pakistan Government on Monday approved a proposal to establish a corridor that will allow Hindu pilgrims from India to visit Sharda Peeth, an ancient Hindu temple and cultural site in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, according to a media report.

The Sharda Peeth corridor, when opened, will be the second religious tract after Kartarpur corridor in Pakistan-controlled territory that will connect the two neighbouring nations.

Pak military says no F16 used to shoot down Indian aircraft

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military has rejected India's claim that it used US-made F-16 fighters jets against India in retaliation to its pre-emptive strikes on a JeM terror camp in Balakot, saying that JF-17 Thunder combat aircraft developed jointly with China were used in the operation.

Pakistan Army spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor said the Indian jets violated the Pakistani airspace on February 26, dropping payloads without inflicting any casualties or damage to infrastructure.

7 held over forced conversion, marriages of 2 Hindu girls in Pak

PTI ■ LAHORE

At least seven people, including a man who assisted in solemnising the wedding of two teenage Hindu girls after their alleged abduction and forced conversions, have been detained in Pakistan, amid reports that the victims approached a court seeking protection.

The two girls, Raveena (13) and Reena (15), were allegedly kidnapped by a group of "influential" men from their home in Ghotki district in Sindh on the eve of Holi. Soon after the kidnapping, a video went viral in which a cleric was purportedly shown solemnising the Nikah (marriage) of the two girls, triggering a nationwide outrage.

On March 20, the girls' family lodged a First Information Report against their alleged forced conversion to Islam.

Trump has no problem with release of Mueller report: White House

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump would have no problem with the release of the Mueller report into Russia's meddling in the 2016 US election, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on Monday.

"I don't think the president has any problem with it," Sanders said on NBC's Today show.

"He's more than happy for any of this stuff to come out because he knows exactly what did and what didn't happen and now frankly the rest of America knows."

Special Counsel Robert Mueller found no evidence that Trump or his campaign conspired with a Russian effort to influence the election in his favour, but stopped short of exonerating the president of obstruction of justice.

Attorney General Bill Barr,

Macron under fire for lecturing elderly woman hurt at protest

AFP ■ NICE (FRANCE)

France's Emmanuel Macron was accused Monday of lacking empathy after criticising an elderly "yellow vest" protester who was badly injured during a demonstration in Nice at the weekend.

Macron has repeatedly been accused of harbouring an arrogant, dismissive attitude towards ordinary people who complain about having difficulties making ends meet.

Last year he famously told an unemployed gardener, who complained about not finding work after sending out hundreds of job applications, that he only had to "cross the road" to find work. He also told elderly citizens protesting over pension cuts that the French should moan less, and described people who took to the streets over his reforms to the labour code as "slackers".

Macron has repeatedly been accused of harbouring an arrogant, dismissive attitude towards ordinary people who complain about having difficulties making ends meet.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED WOMAN

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely **Kamlesh W/o Arvind Kumar R/o B-1/21, Sharma Colony, Budh Vihar, Ph-II, Delhi Age : 24 years, Height : 5', Face : Round, Complexion : Fair, wearing orange colour suit and salwar, has been missing/kidnapped since 15.01.2019 from the area of P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 20-A dated 16.01.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped woman may kindly inform to the following.
E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in
Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>
Fax: 24368639, SHO : P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi
Tel.: 24368638/24368641 Ph. : 011-27052772, 27052773

7, Sethi Bhawan, Rajender Place, East Patel Nagar Branch, New Delhi-110008
Tel.: 011-25727717 Fax: 011-25725245

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Syndicate Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 01.01.2019 calling upon the borrower and also owner of the property/surety to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 19,83,707.81/-** (Rupees Nineteen Lacs Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight and Paise Eighty One Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
HOUSE NO.35, GROUND FLOOR, RIGHT SIDE, DDA COLONY, NEW ZAFRABAD, SAHADARA DELHI
Bounded:
ON THE NORTH BY SERVICE LANE
ON THE SOUTH BY ROAD 40FT.
ON THE EAST BY PLOT NO.981
ON THE WEST BY PLOT NO. 979
Date : 22.03.2019
Place : New Delhi
Authorised Officer
Syndicate Bank

SAROJINI HOUSE 6, BHAGWAN DASS ROAD, NEW DELHI-01
Tel.: 011-23070420, E-mail: ro.delhi@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Syndicate Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 26.11.2018 calling upon the borrower's **Mrs. Sangeta Taneja** and also the Sureties namely **Mr. Suresh Taneja** and **Mr. Inder Kumar Chanda** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 22,58,231/-** (Rupees Twenty Two Lacs Fifty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty One Only) within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of the property bearing Industrial Plot No. 256, Block No. Udyog Kendra Extension-II, Sector-Ecotech-III, GNIDA, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Owned By Mr. Suresh Taneja and Bounded on the north by land owned by Police, on the South by wide road, on the East By Plot No. 257, on the west by Plot No. 255.

BORROWERS	SURETIES
Mrs. Sangeta Taneja W/o Suresh Kumar Taneja P-5 & 6, First Floor, Private Colony Srinivaspuri, Delhi-110065	1. Mr. Suresh Kumar Taneja P-5 & 6, First Floor, Private Colony Srinivaspuri, Delhi-110065 2. Mr. Inder Kumar Chanda O-3, J.J. Colony Srinivaspuri, South Delhi-110065

Date : 20.03.2019
Place : Delhi
Authorised Officer
Syndicate Bank

SYNDICATE BANK, G B Road, Delhi
Govri Building, 1st Floor 5200, G B Road, Sharda Anand Marg,
Delhi-110006 E-mail: br.9037@syndicatebank.co.in

Ref No: 46240 Date : 18-03-2019

- Borrowers:
1. Hari Ram Garvit Kumar : A128, 2nd Floor Naya Bazar, Delhi-110006
2. Neelam Bansal : A-23, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052
3. Gauri Shankar Bansal : A-23, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052
- Sureties:
1. Manjula Bansal : A-23, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052
- Dear Sir/Madam
Notice U/S 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

1. We have, at your request, granted to borrower/s various credit limits for an aggregate amount of Rs. 1/- and we give below full details of various credit facilities granted by us:

Sl. No.	Nature of facility	Limit	Outstanding liability	NPA Date
1.	90371400000284	1	18751253.07	27/02/2019
		1	18751253.07	

2. As you have defaulted in repayment of your liabilities, we have classified your account/s as Non performing Assets on the dates mentioned above in accordance with the directions of guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

3. In view of continued default in payment as against agreed terms of loan documents, the write amounts has become payable hence a sum of Rs. 1,87,51,253.07 (Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Lacs Fifty One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Seven Only) is due along with interest from 01-03-2019 and costs etc.

4. We also inform you that in spite of our repeated notices and oral requests for repayment of the entire amount due to us you have failed to pay the same.

5. You are aware that the various limits granted by us are secured by the following assets (secured assets):

U/RENT OF PROPERTY 1-1/2 STOREYED BUILDING (INDUSTRIAL SEED AND GODOWN) AT KHASRA 684, 692, 694 SITUATED AT VILLAGE SIRASPUR NEAR AT ROAD NH-1, DELHI 110042 owned by SMT MANJULA BANSAL and Bounded

On the South by 35' WIDE ROAD
On the North by MCD SHC001
On the East by OTHER PROPERTY GODOWN
On the West by OTHER PROPERTY

6. For the reasons stated, we hereby call upon all of you to discharge in full your liabilities to us within a period of 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, we will be exercising the powers under Sec. 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act against the secured assets mentioned above. The powers available to us under Sec. 13 of the Act inter-alia includes (i) Power to take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets, (ii) Take over the management of the business including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale & realise the secured debt, and any transfer of secured asset by us shall vest in the transferee all rights, or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer had been made by you.

7. The amount realised from exercising of the powers mentioned above, will first be applied in payment of all costs, charges and expenses, which in this opinion of us have been properly incurred by us or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly applied in discharge of the dues of us as mentioned above with contractual interest from the date of this notice till the date of actual realisation, and the residue of the money, if any, shall be paid to you.

8. Please take note that after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise and of the Secured Assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of the bank (Secured Creditor). If done it is an offence punishable Under Section-29 of the act.

9. Your attention is also invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

10. Please take further note that this is without prejudice to the rights of the bank to proceed against all of you before the DRT/Competent Court for recovery of the entire balance amount outstanding or any part thereof along with interest payable and costs till the date of realisation.

Date : 18.03.2019 (Authorized Officer)
Place : New Delhi Syndicate Bank

Ex-official: Duterte photographed with drug-linked Chinese

AP ■ MANILA

A former senior Philippine police official says President Rodrigo Duterte has been photographed with two Chinese men involved in illegal drugs and sent a report to warn him about the two.

Dismissed Senior Superintendent Eduardo Acierito told a news conference

late Sunday that he's unaware what government action has been taken after he submitted his report about the Chinese men to top police officials starting in December 2017.

Instead, Acierito said he's now facing illegal drugs complaints and has been the target of drug threats that forced him to go into hiding recently.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Amrit S/o Sh. Randhir R/o H. No. C-1/159, Nand Nagri, East Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 143/12 u/s 379/411 IPC, PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Amrit** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Amrit** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Amrit** of **FIR No. 143/12 u/s 379/411 IPC, PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on **26.04.2019**.

By order
Smt. Pooja Aggarwal
Metropolitan Magistrate-04
(North East) Room No. 112,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/2706/RD/19

Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 38 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 5 Inch, Complexion : Black, Face : Round, Built : Strong, Wearing : Red Colour T-shirt and Light Blue Colour Jeans Pant, has been found dead on 22.03.2019 Kamla Market Chowk, Near Ramelela Ground, Kamla Market, Delhi and dead body preserved in Maulana Azad Medical College's Mortuary for 72 hours. In this regard a DD No. 51-A Dated 22.03.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
PS. Kamla Market, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23230623, 23233743

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Sapna, D/o Mukesh, R/o H.No. 1, Ranhola Ext., Nilothi Ext., Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 05.03.2019 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 162/19 u/s 363 IPC, dated 06.03.2019, has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Sapna, Gender: Female, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Pink colour Top-White colour Jeans Pant, Red colour Sweater and Blue colour Hawal Slippers in Feet.

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

E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. No.: 011-25946700, 25946710
DP/2025/OD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body of male, Age about 35/40 years, Height 5'8", Complexion Sallow, Oval Face, Normal Build, Long Black Hair, French Cut Mustache, Wearing Green colour T-shirt and grey colour pant was found dead at DDA Park Near Shanti Van Service Road Rajghat, New Delhi on 14.03.19.

In this regard a DD No. 30-A dated 14.03.19 has been lodged at PS Daryaganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for Identification at Maulana Azad Medical College mortuary for 72 hours.

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

SHO
PS : Daryaganj, Delhi
Ph.: 23274683, 23279331

MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy, Name: Abhishek, S/o: Santosh Kumar, R/o: G-209, Bhagat Singh Park, Siraspur, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped since 12.06.2018 from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. In this regard, a Case Vides **FIR No. 485/18, Dated 12.06.2018, has been lodged at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi**. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the boy could not be traced. The description of the missing/kidnapped boy is as under:

Name: Abhishek, S/o: Santosh Kumar, R/o: G-209, Bhagat Singh Park, Siraspur, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'5" Feet, Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Red Colour Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans & Black Colour Jeans. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped boy, then please inform P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

email: cic@cbl.gov.in
Fax: No.011-24368639 SHO
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph. No.: 011-27854757, 27854799
DP/2633/RD/19.

GLOBE TROTTER

FLOODS IN SOUTHERN IRAN KILL AT LEAST 12
Tehran: Iranian state TV is reporting that flash floods have killed at least 12 people and injured 15.

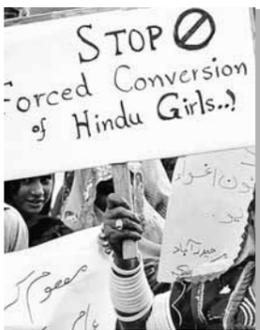
DEATH TOLL CLIMBS TO 78 IN CHINA'S BLAST
Beijing: With the death of 14 more people, the toll from a chemical plant explosion in China rose to 78 on Monday, as Cabinet ordered a nationwide inspection of industries.

LANKA IMPOSES DAILY 4-HOUR POWER CUTS
Colombo: Sri Lanka's Govt is imposing daily four-hour power cuts as dry weather lowers the output of hydropower plants.

AIR STRIKE KILLS 13 CIVILIANS IN AF
Kabul: At least 13 civilians were killed, mostly children, in an air strike by "international forces" in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz late last week, the United Nations said on Monday. The strike happened between late Friday and early Saturday in support of ground operations conducted by pro-Government forces fighting Taliban terrorists.

Another face of jihad

The abduction and forced conversion of two Hindu girls in Pakistan is another example of its attempts to infuriate India



This is a gross human rights abuse at so many levels — the abduction, conversion and marriage of two Hindu minor girls in Sindh district of Pakistan — that it merits not only India's but the world's concern. For it is about child abuse, possibly trafficking and slavery, a perverted suppression of free will, religious persecution of minorities and the propagation of a Salafi ideology-driven jihad of using women and girls as human shields to Islamise non-believers and for procreating a mass army of believers.

Worse, use them to take care of the "needs" of jihadi warriors in conflict zones and birth their offspring. Considering that religious minorities comprise only about a minuscule three per cent of the Pakistani population with Hindus at one per cent, this would look like a systematic annihilation of that community. Had that nation really cared for preservation, it would have acted immediately on the complaints of the girls' brother and father and not attempted to put out a doctored video of the victims saying they converted to Islam voluntarily. Pakistan is not just hosting terror havens; so radicalised are its civil structures at the dictates of the Army, which in turn draws its strength from ideological extremists, that it has insidiously linked the war outside to the war within. India, despite the provocation of Hindus, has at this point been very graded and mature in its reaction, sending out a note seeking suitable remedial action to protect and promote safety, security and welfare of minority communities. And though Pakistan's Information Minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain may have taken on External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj over the protection of minorities here, he would have done well to remember that their percentage is thriving and not as paltry as that of Hindus in Pakistan, amounting to 1.2 per cent.

Truth be told, Pakistan's *raison d'être*, of emerging as an Islamist State in opposition to a Hindu-dominated but a secular India, has dictated its policies no matter what its founding fathers felt. Its minorities have been under a siege for a long, long time. Pakistan even disowned the Ahmadis, declaring them non-Muslim by an official writ, and has been systematically targeting non-Muslim minorities such as Christians, Hindus and Sikhs, by destroying their identified neighbourhoods, attacking their faith shrines, killing them on trumped up charges to justify its cleansing efforts and converting them forcibly. Graves of Christians and Ahmadis have been vandalised while Hindus have been routinely kidnapped in Sindh and Balochistan provinces for ransom. Except now the forced ghettoisation is even more acute and anybody can be killed on the slightest pretext of blasphemy. In recent years, the number of Hindu persecuted returnees to India has been rising and the day is not too far when Hindu minorities won't find a place in Pakistan. The abduction and conversion of Hindu women is not new either. Though the case of Rinkel Kumari is well-known with a lawmaker aiding her conversion and marriage, around 20-25 kidnappings and forced conversions of Hindu girls are reported from Sindh every month going by a report of the Asian Human Rights Watch. The selective targeting of Hindu girls, therefore, looks like another ruse to rile India. Then there's Pakistan's infamous blasphemy law which allows it to book any minority citizen as guilty of harming Islamic interests by suspicion. No charges, nothing. Just a rabid vigilantism couched as law, which is the strictest among proclaimed Islamic nations. Asia Bibi, a poor Christian woman from Punjab, was the first woman in Pakistan's history to be charged with blasphemy and sentenced to death, though acquitted now. In 2012, a Pakistani Christian girl, Rimsha Masih, was accused of blasphemy though her case was dismissed too. For long the Pakistani civil society is a subterranean presence, completely subverted and defanged by the Army and radicalised religious groups. The whole nation has been held hostage, not just the Hindu girls. And it is in Pakistan's own interest to get back to civilities if it doesn't want to be proscribed as a failed state.

A lack of civility

In this age of widely-available cameras, instant uploads and viral videos, should our politicians be more circumspect?



Some of the comments by political leaders about their opponents, or even potential adversaries, have made headlines for all the wrong reasons. Many statements are often crudely misogynistic, sexist, racist and in some cases, openly advocate violence. In an era where widely-available camera technology on mobile phones allows people to record anything and everything, coupled with high-speed data networks that allow subscribers to upload and download video in seconds, a statement

could go from being uttered to becoming a viral sensation within hours if not minutes. But despite the shock and horror of some statements, most politicians and their voters shrug them off and the Election Commission remains a mute spectator. While the media makes a hue and cry, the attention deficit disorder on Indian television news channels ensures that the outrage is quickly forgotten and the cycle moves on to the next big thing to feign disgust at.

As the election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States proved, no matter what you say or do, from claiming to offend women sexually or even working alongside your nation's sworn enemy, your actions will not make an iota of difference. Possibly, as mankind has moved to the rapid news cycle and where catchphrases such as 'Make America Great Again' or in India 'Main Bhi Chowkidar' or 'Chowkidar Chor Hai', depending on your point of view, any publicity is good publicity for politicians. But that has for obvious reasons spelled doom for Indian policy — catchphrases have become the latest craze and have become viral on social media with few proper policy decisions being discussed. So much so that political manifestoes, often released months ahead of an election, have now become almost unnecessary and only released just ahead of polling to garner some more media attention. While the Indian television media, no matter which languages it broadcasts in, is incorrigible, seemingly beyond repair and will continue to make heroes of politicians who are decidedly uncivil, maybe it is time for the Election Commission to set up a system of checks and balances to bring back a sense of civility in our public discourse. A series of escalating fines or deductions from a candidate's permitted expenditure, if he/she makes personal attacks on opponents that go beyond just policy, could be a corrective. And if that does not work, the threat of being debarred from elections must be there. Other than forcing the issue, there is no way to really address the situation, so such extreme measures must be taken.

opinion

Lasting legacy of corruption

There are invaluable proofs on how the Nehru-Gandhi family went about the business of funding their activities and election campaigns. Nobody can claim to be clean



A SURYA PRAKASH

The shrill and abusive attacks launched by Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his oft-repeated diatribe "Chowkidar Chor Hai" has brought the political discourse to a new low. By doing so, he carries on the family's tradition of disrespecting democratically-elected political leaders who do not belong to it. It also brings to the fore the debate on corruption, an issue which no member of the Nehru-Gandhi family has the moral authority to talk about. So, here is a quick look at how the Nehru-Gandhis have funded their politics.

During the Nehru era, the Congress collected funds from Indian industrialists and businessmen and sometimes this landed the party and the Government in trouble. For example, Mundra, an industrialist owning many companies and businesses, who had funded the Congress in the 1950s, ran into financial problems and signalled to the Government that it was payback time. The Nehru Government obliged him by directing the Life Insurance Corporation to buy his companies' shares at inflated prices. The then Finance Minister, T T Krishnamachari, who was obviously acting on orders from above, lost his job when the truth came out in what came to be known as the LIC-Mundra scandal.

However, things changed after Indira Gandhi engineered a split in the party in 1969. Soon after the break-up, she began relying heavily on the communists and so, naturally, the Soviets came to her rescue. Vasili Mitrokhin, who was in-charge of the KGB archives, made explosive revelations of the KGB's activities around the world. He talked about how the KGB funded the Congress in the 1971 elections and of how they even had moles in her Cabinet.

Many honourable citizens of the country, who have held key positions in politics, Government, bureaucracy and industry in the post-1970 era, have provided us invaluable evidence of how the Congress went about the business of funding its activities and election campaigns. These witnesses to that era say that the Congress decided on a new mode of raising funds — via commissions collected on mega international defence and other contracts. A very respected witness to this era was BG Deshmukh, who was Cabinet Secretary between 1986-89 and his autobiography — *A Cabinet Secretary Looks Back* — is very enlightening.

Deshmukh says, "The genesis of the Bofors affair lies in the practice initiated by Indira Gandhi and further refined by her son Sanjay Gandhi for collecting funds for the Congress. Till the middle of the 1960s, during the regime of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the collection of funds



for the party was a more transparent deal and business houses were also permitted to make open donations."

Indira Gandhi, he says, was in dire need of funds to fight elections and establish herself as the undisputed leader of the Congress. For this, she depended on loyal supporters like Rajni Patel and Vasant Naik. "Later, when she had established her supremacy in Indian politics, she decided that a far better way to collect funds for the party was through claiming cuts from foreign deals. Sanjay Gandhi perfected and refined this still further from 1972 onwards."

Deshmukh said when Indira Gandhi came back to power in 1980, he was Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs. "My colleagues told me that in January 1980 itself, Sanjay Gandhi called senior officers from certain concerned ministries for giving orders, making deals and clearly and firmly told them how they should be finalised. Trusted senior officers were posted to Ministries such as the Defence and also to the Department of Defence Production. Even the death of Sanjay Gandhi in the mid-1980s did not change this practice."

The second unimpeachable witness is BK Nehru, a distinguished civil servant, Ambassador and Governor and uncle of Sanjay and Rajiv Gandhi. In his autobiography, *Nice Guys Finish Second*, he recalled that at Sanjay Gandhi's cremation, he asked Rajiv Gandhi "whether the money Sanjay had collected allegedly for

the Congress was safe?" Rajiv said, "All they found in the almirahs of the Congress office was ₹20 lakh." Nehru then asked Rajiv Gandhi how much Sanjay had. To which he said, "He (Rajiv) held his head in his hands and said crores and unaccounted crores."

Two more equally unimpeachable witnesses to this era are former President R Venkataraman and industrialist JRD Tata. In his autobiography, *My Presidential Years*, Venkataraman recounts a conversation he had with JRD Tata when the latter called on him in August 1987. Venkataraman said their conversation veered round to the statement Rajiv Gandhi had made in Parliament a few days earlier on the Bofors bribery scandal.

"Tata said that though it was quite possible that neither Rajiv nor members of his family had received any consideration in the gun and other defence deals, it would be difficult to deny the receipt of commissions by the Congress. That was because he (Tata) felt that since 1980, industrialists had not been approached for political contributions and that the general feeling amongst them was that the party was financed by commission on deals."

Since this was the established mode of fund collection, Bofors was certain to happen. In this scandal, Rajiv Gandhi and others were accused of taking kickbacks when India purchased field guns for its army from the Swedish arms manufacturer, Bofors. Rajiv Gandhi vehemently

denied this charge in Parliament. However, the Nehru-Gandhis have never been able to explain why Bofors remitted \$ 7.30 million into the account of Maria and Ottavio Quattrocchi soon after India sent the first tranche of payments to the company. The Quattrocchis moved this money around several banks in several locations and it was finally traced to the Channel Islands in the UK.

The Vajpayee Government got the UK Government to freeze the account but the Manmohan Singh Government asked the UK Government to withdraw the order, resulting in the Quattrocchis eventually getting away with the loot.

Why did this Italian knock off a commission when we bought field guns for our army? Why did Sonia Gandhi get the Manmohan Singh Government to de-freeze the account? These questions will continue to haunt the Nehru-Gandhis.

And as if this was not enough, there are the Volcker Committee's conclusions on the "non-contractual beneficiaries" of Iraqi oil sales under the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme, which said that the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had funded the Congress. Also, it seems Saddam Hussein's Iraq was just one of the two nations that had supported Indira Gandhi's dictatorship during the Emergency!

Do we need to say more?
 (The writer is Chairman, Prasar Bharati)

SOUNDBITE

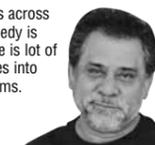
Priyanka Gandhi is a Siberian bird who migrates from one place to another after seeing weather conditions.

BJP leader — Mohsin Raza



I have written films across all genres but comedy is the toughest. There is lot of hard work that goes into making comedy films.

Director — Anees Bazmee



It is important that no stone is left unturned to get to the bottom of how this act of terrorism occurred and what, if any, opportunities we had to stop it.

New Zealand Prime Minister — Jacinda Ardern



It was PDP-BJP Government led by Mehbooba Mufti that let RSS enter J&K and allowed it to take out processions brandishing guns and swords.

NC leader — Omar Abdullah



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welcome decision

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "India firm on terror" (March 25). India's refusal to attend Pakistan's National Day celebrations to protest the Pakistan High Commission's invite to Jammu & Kashmir separatist leaders for the event is not only a step in the right direction but has sent a clear message to Islamabad that terror and peace cannot co-exist. Further, the Centre's ban on the Yasin Malik-led Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) — a dreaded terrorist outfit responsible for merciless killings and mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley before and after 1989 insurgency — though late is welcome.

Even as Pakistan has explicitly assured the international community that it will 'firmly' deal with terrorists housed in its soil, the rogue nation has been bluffing its way by not only allowing Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar to roam free but is also continuously engaging India in a proxy war and has resorted to indiscriminate firing and shelling across the Line of Control. This has

Old guard must make way for new players

This refers to the editorial, "End of Advani era" (March 23). Both the print and visual media, including the Opposition parties, are talking about the unceremonious ouster of the BJP *margdarshak* LK Advani from electoral stakes. It is always a painful task in Indian politics for the old guard to yield ground to the younger lot or accept new ideas. So parties are often ruthless about keeping their ideological *gurus* from active electoral politics. Almost every political party goes through upheavals when leadership changes hands. Therefore, it is not surprising that in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections, the BJP is opting for younger faces in preference to the seniors, upsetting them in the process.

The induction of new blood in the party might enthuse the workers as they would begin to feel that they too might have a chance to progress in the party. Otherwise, they wouldn't stay invested enough. Compared to other professions, age has been no bar for politicians in India. If indeed this is a principled deci-



sion of the BJP, based on the criterion of age, it would be worthy of emulation by other parties too. For the journey to continue through time, every discipline, politics included, must be dynamic. It is a new BJP, not the party of the 80s or the 90s, for better or for worse.

JS Acharya
 Hyderabad

The menace has started assuming enormous proportion to engulf the youth of this country. Youth are the asset of the nation.

A ban is unlikely to be an effective solution. Its implementation will not only require a consistent effort but will also push the sale underground. A better option, therefore, for the Government is to focus on raising awareness.

TK Nandanam
 Chennai

Think and vote

Sir — The 2019 Lok Sabha election will decide the future course for our country. Post the Pulwama incident, circumstances have changed. The Opposition is more divided than ever. Only a united force can change the present situation. One only hopes that voters exercise their franchise in a way that ensures the protection of the rights of citizens, the Constitution and, most importantly, India's identity as a democracy.

Sunita
 Via email

Send your feedback to:
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

E-smoking dangers

Territories of India have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enforce a ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). A steep rise in the use of electronic cigarettes has made India the second largest population of smokers in the world. Doctors have warned of serious consequences if the Government fails to ban its use immediately.

KR Srinivasan
 Secunderabad

FIRST COLUMN

The face of a city

It is disheartening that despite an overwhelming diversity and plethora of artists, India lacks a conducive atmosphere for public art



VIBHOR SOGANI

Public spaces are a reflection of a society and its culture. With urbanisation and integration of the global economy, it is essential to build an image of a city. Public art evidently contributes towards the visual quality of an urban environment. The fact that globally, citizens have successfully embraced public art and have engaged with it, indicates its importance in the urban context. Public art adds massive value to the social, cultural, economic and aesthetic value of a city. Urban design and public art contribute to its identity and legibility, encourage community pride while enhancing a visitor's travel experience.

These artworks represent our society, add uniqueness to our cities and define the values of our community. Art is a strong medium to propagate or spread message — it holds the power of creativity and can aesthetically express a cause, value or an issue that a society embraces. Since public art is accessible to all and is not confined to museums and galleries, the reach is immense and all-encompassing. It reflects upon who we are and what we like ourselves to be surrounded with while affecting the sub-consciousness of the community at large.

As citizens, we identify ourselves with the cities and remember those places that have been empowered with icons. Appearing and engaging public art leaves an imprint on the mind, aids in navigation and gives directional instructions within the city. Thus, it manifests itself as a significant factor in the visual recognition of a particular area. Public art can become a symbolic landscape of a city, bring people together at a popular meeting place in order to facilitate interaction and communal gathering in public spaces. Different types of art can result in promoting various kinds of collaborations and engagement — static art can be quiet and contemplative; whereas dynamic art is often thought-provoking and open to various interesting interpretations.

Along with predominant social relevance, the cultural importance of public art is an integral component of its overall value. Inhabiting space on an everyday basis in the form of sculpture, statue and installation among others, it naturally gains recognition and cultural value. By augmenting and inducing the public space that it inhabits with meaning, tangible and intangible benefits make the artwork an integral and beloved part of the culture. These installations and artworks create unforgettable memories or what constitutes the image of a place or neighbourhood.

While many may believe that such art is a huge investment, its economic viability cannot be ignored. Not only does it provide professional opportunities to budding artists, but cultivates an environment in which the creative mind thrives. In India especially, artists are never given the professional recognition that they deserve and this is the means to propagate the inclusion of local artists, craftsmen and designers, recognising them as contributors to the economy while generating employment. Globally, public art serves as a catalyst to economic success, boosting the tourism sector and playing an important role in drawing crowds.

In the bustle of life, we often underestimate the power of a sensory experience — sometimes what we see and hear influences how we feel and think. Public art not only makes a space come alive but evokes emotion within the community. With rapidly changing urban development, the value of art and culture in Indian cities is fading away. The rich Indian landscape has a rather poor policy support towards the development of cultural infrastructure, unlike social and economic infrastructure like schools, hospitals and corporate offices. The approach of building an identity for the city is lacking. It is crucial for the Government to endow artists and their profession with social and economic recognition in order to promote them.

However, it is heartening to see that there has been progress in attempts to engage with public art projects. When we travel abroad, we are blown away with art installations that are beautifully woven into an urban space. On the other hand, in India, despite its overwhelming diversity and plethora of never ending artists, public murals and installations lack the aesthetic beauty that we are capable of constructing and curating. Indian cities possess a great opportunity to introduce contemporary art harmonised with the urban landscape. Cities that have an active and dynamic cultural scene are more attractive to individuals and businesses and help build a stronger visual identity. It is, therefore, incumbent on us as a society to encourage public art installations, sculptures, murals and similar initiatives while also being responsible about their outreach and impact on citizens.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IF ABHISHEK BANERJEE'S WIFE HAD NOTHING TO HIDE, WHY DID SHE AND THE WOMAN ACCOMPANYING HER RESIST THEIR LUGGAGE BEING CHECKED?

—BJP SPOKESPERSON
 SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN



IF MY WIFE WAS CARRYING GOLD, WHY WAS IT NOT SEIZED? WHAT WERE THE CHOWKIDARS DOING? I WILL QUIT POLITICS IF CHARGES ARE PROVED.

—TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MP
 ABHISHEK BANERJEE

Flying with a broken wing

The Jet Airways meltdown has been like a slow-motion car crash that has suddenly sped up. But what next for the airline and its founder Naresh Goyal?



KUSHAN MITRA

Many years ago when Air Deccan had just started its services, this columnist met GR Gopinath, founder of India's first low-cost carrier, in a south Delhi guest-house. Gopinath is a man who is never shy to speak his mind. He made it very clear during my meet that his plans were being held up by Naresh Goyal, the founder chairman of Jet Airways. He called Goyal the best connected person in the Indian aviation sector and swore that Air Deccan would still manage to soar.

In fact, Gopinath reiterated these allegations in a column for *The Economic Times* last week as the Jet Airways crisis reached its endgame. This is not for the first time that Jet Airways is faced with an existential crisis. This could, however, be the first time that Goyal and his airline will not survive unscathed with the airlines' very existence in doubt.

This was certainly not how Goyal or Jet Airways employees had thought their silver Jubilee year would come to an end. After all, the airline faced it all — change in ownership, regulations, Governments and even rivals — and survived everything. Jet is the only airline from the mid-1990s aviation boom — when the Government opened domestic services to private carriers — to have survived. This despite an almost public humiliation by Vijay Mallya when the bombastic businessman spoke of a potential Jet-Kingfisher merger after Jet laid off thousands of cabin crew amidst a payments crisis. Goyal and Mallya had a famous late night press conference where the latter almost lorded over the former.

Yet, the reticent and media-shy Goyal had the last laugh when Mallya came crashing down to earth harder than Icarus. But his battle with Mallya is what doomed both men as they went for ill-advised decisions to buy Air Sahara (Goyal) and Air Deccan (Mallya). These financially profligate decisions destroyed the finances of both the companies.

A decade after buying Air Sahara, Jet Airways was unable to fully integrate the airline into its operations, not for any fault of its own but the way the airline industry is regulated in our country. But as Mallya and Goyal fought, new entrants to the Indian aviation market, particularly Indigo, that flooded the market with capacity and lower fares, was what sounded the death knell for Kingfisher at first and also likely doomed Jet Airways into a long, slow decline.

One white knight that Jet Airways found was the Abu Dhabi-based airline, Etihad. Early in 2014, Etihad pumped in money into Jet Airways and made the Indian airline part of an ambitious global alliance of airlines that included the German carrier, Air Berlin; Italian national carrier, Alitalia; Serbian national airline JAT; and some other small airlines across the world. This was all part of a scheme to build traffic through its hub in Abu Dhabi to compete with the Dubai-based Emirates airline in a seeming clash of egos.

Since then though, Etihad has bled money and has shuttered many of its routes. It refused to sink more money in Air Berlin,



which went bust last year and surrendered its stake in Alitalia that is currently on life-support in not a very different situation to Jet Airways. With Etihad's losses totalling over \$4 billion, there has even been murmurs that the airline will merge with Emirates.

That said, Etihad did initially express a desire to take control of Jet Airways, or as much as the Government's Foreign Direct Investment rules would allow. But Etihad demanded that Naresh Goyal step down from the board of the airline and cut his stake down to under a quarter in perpetuity. On that front, they were little different from the Indian banks, which have a major exposure to the airline, and who demanded the same: For Jet to survive, Goyal must go. Finally, he did.

Jet has been unable to pay its staff or even the leasing companies from whom it borrows planes. Over the past few years, Jet has been gradually selling its planes to these leasing companies before renting them back. This allowed them to generate a certain amount of cash upfront. But now, with little money in the bank and no rescue plan, the airline has failed to make payments and barely 35 aircraft out of a fleet of over 140 are at one-time fly. This means that over a million seats have suddenly disappeared from the Indian market in less than a month with cancellations rife.

So, while the Jet Airways crisis did not impact the passengers in the past other than the occasional withdrawal of lounge access and the end of free meals on board, the spate of cancellations has meant that commuters are directly impacted with refunds being held up. Worse still, several travellers, who booked their travel on low, cheap fares several months in advance, find that even with refunds they will

WITH AIR TRAVEL BOOMING IN INDIA AND AIRLINES SUCH AS INDIGO SUFFERING SEVERE GROWTH PANGS, JET AIRWAYS IS A NATIONAL ASSET. THE BANKS MUST BE WARY OF WHAT TO DO NEXT BUT THEY SHOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE A HAIRCUT ON THEIR LOANS BECAUSE IF THEY DO NOT, THE AIRLINE MIGHT NEVER RECOVER AND THE INDIAN TAXPAYER WILL END UP HOLDING THE CAN FOR THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY

be stuck with expensive last-minute fares today. With many travellers also having paid for hotels and other trip features in advance — and other airlines refusing to accept Jet Airways tickets, and in some cases being unable to cancel their tickets due to egregious fees — they are in a lose-lose situation.

So, should the Government and lenders step in? After having lost billions of dollars during the collapse of Kingfisher Airlines and learning that a grounded airline is worthless, the banks want to protect some amount of their money to find a suitable buyer for Jet Airways, which is what the provisional resolution plan suggested by the banks want.

But can the banks find a proper professional to run the airline? With Jet's pilots refusing to fly until their dues are cleared, with salaries not having been paid for months, even with Goyal's departure, the sun, which features prominently on Jet Airways' tail logo, is not shining brightly.

However, it remains a great asset. With air travel booming in India and airlines such as IndiGo suffering severe growth pangs, Jet Airways still has potential. The banks must be wary of what to do next but they should be willing to take a haircut on their loans because if they do not, the airline might never recover and the Indian taxpayer will end up holding the can for the airline industry once again, just like they did for Kingfisher Airlines and continue to do with Air India.

The bottom-line is that Jet Airways must survive for the healthy growth of the aviation sector in our country and as a corollary, the Indian economy.

(The writer is Managing Director, The Pioneer)

A case against shareholder interests

The idea floated by high-profile entrepreneurs, seeking dual-class share structure along with differential voting rights for founder-promoters of startups, is flawed. The Government must look for better ways to help small businesses



UTTAM GUPTA

An advocacy group, IndiaTech, representing some of the most high-profile entrepreneurs, has made a submission to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the markets regulator, Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), seeking a dual-class share structure along with differential voting rights for founder-promoters of start-ups that can encourage the country's most valuable companies to get listed on the domestic stock exchanges instead of overseas exchanges such as Nasdaq and New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). At present, the Companies Act 2013, permits firms having consistent track record of distributable

profits for three years to issue shares with differential voting rights (DVR) subject to a cap of 26 per cent of the total share capital. The lobby group wants the MCA to dispense with this caveat. Alternatively, the Ministry may consider allowing companies, who meet certain revenue threshold, to issue shares with DVR without having to meet the profitability criteria.

IndiaTech has also asked for increasing the current cap on shares with differential rights from existing 26 per cent to at least 51 per cent of a company's post-issue, paid-up equity share capital. It has also sought conversion of ordinary shares into equity shares carrying DVR and equity shares with DVR into ordinary shares.

Typically, startups work on an innovative idea that holds the potential for huge business opportunities. Seeing this, 'strategic' investors pump in equity capital, which in turn leads to an increase in their shareholding and corresponding reduction in the stake of a promoter. Depending on the scale

of investment, the former may even acquire majority stake, reducing the latter to minority. The intent behind issuing DVR is to nullify this outcome.

A share having differential right is greater than what is available to an ordinary shareholder. As a result, even with lower share in the total equity capital, the promoter will be able to hold on to the driver's seat (major beneficiaries are expected to be the so-called 'unicorns' — an acronym for start-ups which have a market capitalisation of over \$1 billion). The idea is flawed.

First, a fundamental tenet of corporate functioning is that the voting power of an investor has to be proportional to his investment or the shares held by him in the company. This applies to all investors, including the promoter. Yet, any attempt to give disproportionate voting rights to the promoter, which can only be at the cost of other investors, will be 'unfair' and 'discriminatory'.

Second, when strategic and

financial investors bring in funds, the promoter gains due to increase in business prospects and phenomenal growth in his personal wealth. Then, for him to also remain in the driver's seat — in so far as the management and control goes — sounds like having the cake and eating it too.

Third, in some cases, the promoter either exits or sells a portion of his/her shares at huge premium raking in the moolah (for instance, in Flipkart, one of the co-promoters sold his stake making billions of dollars). In such a scenario, he has to necessarily get reconciled to reduced or no control over the company.

Fourth, what makes one presume that the promoter alone is best positioned to run the affairs of the company in a manner so as to achieve the stated objectives? In fact, for strategic investors having made substantial investment, the sheer need to protect and grow it will make them eligible to take charge.

To expect that only the promot-

er is best suited to run (merely because he set up the company) is an untenable argument.

Even so, nothing prevents the strategic investors (albeit with majority stake) to vest the promoter with powers by passing necessary resolution in this regard. That indeed is the way forward instead of the founder-promoter wanting to ride piggyback on law-makers and regulators to indulge in muscle-flexing.

In their obsession to remain at the helm, come what may, the promoters of startups want the Government to even dispense with the profitability track record criteria. This is bizarre. It means that even when a promoter pushes the company into losses continuously and despite being reduced to a minority shareholder, he/she should have the eternal right to remain in command and control.

In the same vein, they want to have the flexibility of conversion of ordinary shares into equity shares carrying DVR and equity shares with DVR into ordinary shares.

This is done with an aim to enable all existing promoters to get into the drivers' seat wherever the majority shares have slipped into the hands of strategic investors.

Letting the promoters have shares up to 26 per cent with DVRs — already allowed under the Companies Act, 2013 — was bad enough. To raise the cap to 51 per cent as demanded by the advocacy group, would substantially aggravate the imbalance.

This could be counter-productive for none other than the startups themselves. This because faced with the denial of voting rights in sync with their share holding, strategic investors will be disinclined to pump in capital, thereby nipping the chances of their growth in the bud.

To sum up, the idea floated by high-profile entrepreneurs is flawed. The Government should dismiss it with the contempt it deserves. There are better ways of giving support to startups.

(The writer is a freelance journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



PROVOCATION ON THE GOLAN

Trump's proposed reversal of decades of US policy on the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights has more to do with Israeli politics than American interests — or good sense. Trump, facing his own re-election, no doubt hopes his decision will build support among his base of pro-Israel evangelicals and American Jews. It's more likely to exacerbate divisions among Americans over his administration's unwavering support for Netanyahu.

(The New York Times)

HAL meets Tejas deadline

Rolls out 16th Tejas LCA fighter jet for IAF

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

Unperturbed by the criticism over delay in production and supplying of aircrafts and helicopters, the State-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Monday rolled out 16th indigenously built Light Combat Fighter Jet Tejas to Indian Air Force in Initial operational clearance (IOC). The Fighter jet will be inducted into 'Flying Daggers' an air force squadron of the IAF. "We have produced 16th LCA as per the target till March 31. The customer flights are expected to be completed by the end of March," HAL said in a statement.

The defence behemoth has an order from IAF for 40 LCAs (16 each in IOC and final operational clearance (FOC)). "The first aircraft in FOC con-



figuration may roll out by the end of this calendar year (2019)," HAL said. Production of the fighter began in 2014 with a capacity of eight aircraft per annum. A second production line has been set up at Aircraft Division in this aerospace hub, which carries out structural assembly, final assembly and equipping of the aircraft.

The production of LCA commenced in 2014 with a current production capacity of

eight aircraft per annum. A second production line has been established at Aircraft Division (Bangalore Complex), which is carrying out structural assembly, final assembly and equipping of the aircraft.

Recently HAL had received drawings and documents related to FOC with limited clearance for LCA (Tejas) from CEMILAC and ADA. With this HAL can start working towards productionisation of FOC standard fighter aircraft.

The first aircraft in FOC configuration may roll-out by the end of this calendar year.

"LCA demonstrated its combat capability in the IAF's 'Gagan Shakti' exercise by firing the Air-to-Air BVR Derby missile. Two LCAs will be flying at the Langkawi International Maritime Aerospace Expo (Lima-2019) in Malaysia beginning tomorrow. HAL team will be providing the technical support at the show" the statement said.

SP's Badaun MP disowns brother-in-law for joining BJP

Lucknow: A day after his brother-in-law joined the BJP, Samajwadi Party's Badaun MP Dharmendra



Yadav on Monday said his name should not be linked with him as he cannot have any relation with any BJP leader.

Dharmendra Yadav's brother-in-law Anujesh Pratap Singh Yadav joined the BJP Sunday in Agra.

Reacting to the development, Dharmendra Yadav said, "I have come to know that Anujesh joined the BJP. The media has presented him as my brother-in-law in their reports. I want to clarify that I cannot have any relation with any BJP leader, so I do not have any relation with Anujesh. I request the media not to report him as my relative," the third-term MP said in a statement. **PTI**

TMC, MNM forge alliance for Andaman and Nicobar

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In an apparent bid to consolidate the Bengali and Tamil votes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and with Mamata Banerjee deciding to field her party's candidate in the island constituency, Trinamool Congress on Monday struck an alliance with film star Kamal Haasan's MNM for the island constituency.

Haasan who came calling to Bengal's State secretariat at Nabanna in Howrah said after an hour-long meeting, the Chief Minister, that his party would back the TMC in Andaman.

Banerjee said, "we have formed an alliance with Kamal Haasan's party for the Andaman. He is giving us full support," adding the reason behind this alliance was the Tamil superstar's "good credentials among the masses." We are grateful to him that he came here," Banerjee said adding there will be a joint rally at



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Makkal Neethi Maiam (MNM) president Kamal Haasan during a meeting at Nabanna (State Secretariat) in Kolkata on Monday **PTI**

Andaman on April 6. Haasan whose party was likely to contest all the seats in Tamil Nadu said the "meeting was excellent." He said, "We are proud to say that Makkal Neethi Maiam is an ally with the Trinamool Congress for Andaman. We hope the relationship evolves in future." In a parallel development

the Chief Minister mounted a scathing attack on the "forces that try to divide the society in the name of religion."

Addressing the devotees of a Hindu religious order at Baranagar in northern fringes of Kolkata, Banerjee said "religion brings humanity, culture, education, love and respect for others."

NCP corporator's husband hacked to death by mob in Beed

Mumbai: The husband of an NCP corporator was on Monday hacked to death in Maharashtra's Beed district allegedly by a mob which suspected he was helping members of the Shikalgar community in a kidnapping case, police said.

Pandurang Gaikwad (50) was attacked with swords, sickles and sticks in Phule Nagar area of Parli-Vajinath town in the district, over 470 kilometres from here, an official said.

"Gaikwad sustained serious injuries in the attack in the early hours of Monday. He was rushed to a nearby hospital but was declared dead on arrival," the official said.

Police said the attack might be a fallout of the kidnapping of a 16-year-old boy four months ago allegedly by members of the Shikalgar community as the minor was in love with a girl



from that community.

A kidnapping case was registered at the time with Purna police station, and the boy's body was found a few days later, enraging local residents and kin, an official said.

"The mob, which included the mother of the kidnapped minor boy, attacked Gaikwad suspecting he was helping the Shikalgar community members in the kidnapping case," said Inspector Balasheeb Pawar of Sambhajinagar police station.

11 people, including two women, attacked and killed Gaikwad, 5 of whom have been arrested and charged with murder

He said 11 people, including two women, attacked and killed Gaikwad, five of whom have been arrested and charged with murder.

Efforts are on to nab the rest of the accused, he added.

The Shikalgar community is spread across the state and are traditionally engaged in making and sharpening weapons made from iron.

The community's name is derived from an Arabic word for sharpening. **PTI**

CONTROLS OF SERVICES IN DELHI

AAP Govt moves SC seeking larger Bench

New Delhi: The AAP Government on Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking constitution of a larger Bench to expeditiously decide the issue of control over administrative services in Delhi.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi told the Delhi Government counsel that it will look into the matter.

The apex court had on February 14 referred the issue of control of services to a larger Bench after delivering a split verdict.

The two-judge Bench had said the Centre should have the final word on posting and transfer of bureaucrats in the national Capital administration, but their disagreement

finer details resulted in a split verdict and the matter got referred to a larger Bench.

The Bench, which was called upon to decide on six vexatious issues pertaining to a long-running feud between the Central and the national Capital Governments, had given a unanimous verdict on the remaining five counts and had ruled that the Delhi Government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) cannot probe the Centre's employees in corruption cases. Out of six contentions issues, the Delhi Government had won in three and lost to the Centre on two critical aspects of investigating power to probe central government employees and for setting up of enquiry commissions.

While it left for a larger bench to conclusively decide who will have control over administrative services in the national Capital, the apex court had unanimously ruled that the power to appoint enquiry commissions would rest with the Centre as "there is no 'State Government' in the Union Territory and the State Government (for this purpose) shall mean the Central Government".

In its 202-page verdict, the court had, however, held that the elected Delhi Government will have the right to appoint public prosecutors, to decide land revenue matters and also to appoint or deal with electricity commission or board. **PTI**

B'desh Home Minister to visit India next week

New Delhi: Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan is likely to visit India next week during which he is expected to discuss various issues, including anti-terror cooperation and movement of illegal immigrants, officials said.

According to the plan, Khan will have bilateral talks with Home Minister Rajnath Singh on May 1, where issues concerning both the countries will be discussed threadbare.

Anti-terror cooperation, movement of illegal immigrants, and smuggling of cattle, arms and ammunition and a few other issues are expected to be discussed during the talks which will also be attended by top internal security officials of India and Bangladesh, a Home Ministry official said.

However, no pact or memorandum of understanding will be signed during the



Bangladesh Home Minister's visit as the model code of conduct is in force due to the Lok Sabha election.

Radicalisation of youths and Rohingya refugees issues may figure in the dialogue, another official said.

During the delegation-level talks, steps to be taken to strengthen the existing mechanism to check movement of illegal immigrants and smuggling of cattle, narcotics and other items through the porous India-Bangladesh border will figure prominently, the official said. India shares a 4,096-km-long border with Bangladesh. **PTI**

NCP releases manifesto for LS polls, promises talks with Pak

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In its manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has promised open talks with Pakistan to discuss the issue of terrorism, undertake modernisation of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and other Ordnance Factories, proper implementation of OROP and 33 per cent reservation to women in parliament.

In the manifesto released by its senior State leader and former Speaker in the State Assembly, Dilip Walse-Patil, the NCP also promised voters structural reforms to drive sustainable agriculture, a complete loan waiver to all farmers and initiative to compliment the Minimum Support Price (MSP) through a system of incentives and commission payments. The NCP said it was committed to provide adequate attention to promote agriculture growth, productiv-

ity, income and access to market.

To create jobs, the NCP in its manifesto — that stressed on "Aao Milke Desh Banaye, Humara Aapka hum sabka Bharat — has promised to boost skill development through active engagement of private and public sector, academia, domestic and international organisations of repute. "We will introduce adequate skilling programme to suit and benefit from the changing environment. Considering huge potential of job creation, financial assistance to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) will be increased and restructuring of their loans will be done," the manifesto said.

Apart from opening talks with Pakistan during which we will insist on discussing terrorism, the NCP said it "will continue to be responsive to the newly elected Sheikh Hasina Government in

Bangladesh." "We will work to move Russia away from getting too close to China and Pakistan by frequent high level exchanges. We will keep all channels open to China but demand that it opens its market to exports of Indian pharmaceuticals, agriculture products and IT services. We will continue to expand relations with the United States of America, including for import of defence equipment" the NCP manifesto said.

Slamming the NDA Government for its "miserable failure", the NCP stated in its manifesto: "The NDA Government, in five years, has failed miserably to contain terrorism. In these five years of NDA rule, there have been three terror attacks on military and para military forces under its nose. There has been a criminal failure of intelligence in preventing such attacks. No responsibility has been fixed. No one is held accountable."

Mamata triggering constitutional crisis, says BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of triggering a constitutional crisis and creating classes of VIPs and non-VIPs, the BJP on Monday charged the local Kolkata Police with threatening customs officials who checked luggage of Mamata's nephew and TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's wife at Kolkata airport.

BJP spokesperson Shah Nawaz Hussain told reporters the State Government seems to be working to protect a family.

The Chief Minister should tell the people what was being brought in those suitcases that the Kolkata Police had to "terrorise" customs officials to prevent them from checking them, he said. He also alleged police

threatened the customs officials.

Abhishek, who is a Lok Sabha member, has claimed that his wife was chosen by customs officials because of her profile and rejected claims of BJP leaders that she was carrying anything in violation of laws. He charged a political vendetta behind the airport checking.

Rajya Sabha member Swapna Dasgupta, who is affiliated to the BJP, asked why the Kolkata Police entered an area which falls under the jurisdiction of the customs department.

He said the TMC chief was creating classes of VIPs and non-VIPs with different sets of rules and laws. Mamata Banerjee is deliberately trying to provoke a constitutional crisis, he added.

Cong sacks Nirupam as State party chief

Milind Deora new president

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a sudden mid-poll development, the Congress high command on Monday evening sacked its Mumbai unit president Sanjay Nirupam and replaced him with former MP Nehru-Gandhi family loyalist Milind Deora.

More than seven weeks after Deora went to town saying that "infighting" was threatening "our base in Mumbai", AICC general secretary KC Venugopal issued a brief statement that read: "Congress president Rahul Gandhi has appointed Milind Deora as president of MRCC. The party appreciates the contribution of outgoing president Sanjay Nirupam." Nirupam, a journalist-turned-politician who

had been appointed as the Mumbai Congress in March 2015, has been named Congress candidate from Mumbai North West which was represented in the past by late Gurudas Kamat.

Milind Deora, who has replaced Nirupam, is the son of late Congress stalwart Murlidhar Deora who had been the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee (MRCC) president for a record 22 years from 1981 to 2003.

Milind, who was a junior minister in the Dr Manmohan Singh-led UPA government, is also the Congress candidate from Mumbai South.

An erstwhile Shiv Sena functionary, Nirupam is a two-term Rajya Sabha member and one-time Lok Sabha member from Mumbai North. Nirupam had over the past several months come in for severe criticism for his "ad hoc" style of functioning and his "failure" to take

senior leaders along. In a way, Milind Deora has also contributed Nirupam's ouster. It may be recalled that on February 5, Deora had said that "infighting" was threatening "our base in Mumbai" and that the city party unit "cannot become a cricket pitch for sectarian politics, with leaders pitted against one other".

A day after he said he might even re-consider "if it is worth fighting elections or not", Deora said he was "disappointed" with "infighting" within the Mumbai Cong and indirectly blamed city party unit president Sanjay Nirupam for contributing to "sectarian politics" within the party set up. In a series of tweets put on the sorry state of affairs within the Mumbai, Deora had said: "In a city like Mumbai, we need to bring people together. The Mumbai Cong cannot become a cricket pitch for sectarian politics, with leaders pitted against one other".

If you don't vote for Modi you commit sin: Jitendra

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

If you don't vote for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, you will commit a sin and waste your vote. It is time to isolate anti-nationals, Pakistani supporters, terrorist sympathisers and all those who consider 'abusing' Indian Army is their religion. They have ganged up together. They want to defeat Prime Minister Modi, defeat BJP and defeat Jitendra Singh.

This is the message Dr Jitendra Singh, BJP's candidate from Udhampur-Doda Lok Sabha seat, is taking to the door steps of electorate in his parliamentary constituency while building up his campaign in the run up to the voting day, April 18.

He is contesting from the same seat for the second time.

In 2014, Dr Singh had defeated Congress heavy weight Ghulam Nabi Azad by a margin of over 60,000 votes in his maiden outing in the Lok Sabha polls.

In the absence of Ghulam Nabi Azad in the fray Dr Singh is in the commanding position but facing numerous challenges as the electioneering is peaking.

Both Congress and the National Conference have fielded Vikramaditya Singh, son of Congress stalwart Dr Karan Singh, against him. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is also lending its support to him to consolidate 'secular' votes and ensure defeat of BJP candidate.

Pak man living in India for 50 yrs to get c'ship: HC told

Mumbai: In a major relief to a Pakistani national living in India for over 50 years, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs told the Bombay High Court on Monday that he will be granted Indian citizenship within 10 days.

Asif Karadia, whose parents are of Indian origin, had approached the HC in December 2016 when his previous long-term visa (LTV) expired and the authorities refused to extend the visa unless he produced a Pakistani passport.

Following much litigation and several orders of the court, the ministry finally confirmed before a bench of justices A S Oka and M S Sanklecha on Monday that Karadia will be granted Indian citizenship.

The bench accepted the statement as an undertaking given by the ministry under oath, and disposed of Karadia's petition.

Karadia (53) had approached the HC through his counsels Ashish Mehta and Sujay Kantawala after his LTV expired and a deportation notice was issued against him.

Karadia told the HC that he did not have a Pakistani passport or any other valid identity documents issued by the government of the neighbouring country. The petitioner said though he was born in Karachi, he was brought to India by his mother when he was a just a few days old and has stayed in Mumbai ever since.

His father and mother were born in Gujarat before the Partition, and his wife and three children are all Indian citizens, according to the petition.

Karadia said he had been living in India, earning a living by working at a local restaurant, paying taxes and had Indian ID proofs such as an Aadhaar

card, a ration card, a PAN card and even a voter ID card, but no passport.

His citizenship application too has been pending before the government for over seven years.

He, thus, urged the court to ensure the deportation notice against him was stayed, and his LTV extended till the government decides on his citizenship application.

In 2016, another HC bench had denied him any interim relief, observing that even if a person was entitled to an Indian citizenship, he or she could not "at any given time, be authorised to reside in the country without valid papers".

However, in January 2017, the court observed that Karadia's case was "unique" and in an interim order, directed the Maharashtra Government and the Centre to not take any coercive action against him. **PTI**

Khaitan beneficiary of ₹850-cr slush funds generated out of Defence deals, says ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday alleged that Delhi-based lawyer and accused in the VVIP chopper scam Gautam Khaitan, has also been a beneficiary of ₹850 crore slush funds generated out of Defence deals.

The ED statement came after the agency filed a prosecution complaint (charge sheet in police parlance) against Khaitan before a Special Court here under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

"On the analysis of his foreign bank accounts, it was revealed that ₹850 crore approximately in foreign currencies are received from suspected

accounts. Gautam Khaitan has created structures viz companies which are under his control to launder the Proceeds of Crime related to criminal activities such as kickbacks of defence deals, the ED said in a statement.

"Khaitan has held beneficial interest/ownership in foreign assets/ company/ account, and did not disclose the same in his return of income filed before the Income Tax Authorities for assessment year 2009-11 to 2019-20," the ED alleged.

Khaitan holds bank accounts either singly or in joint names of his family members as well as corporate structures with beneficial interest in three banks in foreign jurisdiction namely, Barclays Bank, Singapore Bank and UBS Bank.

ROW OVER SIVANGA SEAT

Karti's name upsets Congress leader

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Congress in Tamil Nadu, which is facing the wrath of the Christians for non-inclusion in the list of candidates selected for the Lok Sabha election, suffered another setback on Monday as a senior leader of the party went public and aired his displeasure for denying him the Sivanga seat.

Sudarshana Nachiappan, a popular Congress leader, who had represented the Sivanga constituency during 1999 to 2004 alleged on Monday that he was not considered for the constituency this time because of the pressure exerted by senior Congress leader P Chidambaram.

The Congress High Command had on Sunday nominated Karti Chidambaram as the party candidate for Sivanga. The junior Chidambaram who had contested the seat in the 2014 Lok



Sabha election had forfeited his security deposit and had finished fourth in the race.

Karti, the one and only son of Chidambaram and Nalini Chidambaram, is facing investigations by the CBI and the ED in a series of cases including money laundering in the INX Media scam. He had told reporters that there were no criminal cases against him and he faced no case in any court. "There are only unfounded allegation against me and no courts has framed charges against me," said Karti while speaking to reporters.

C D Meyyappan, senior AICC member from the State who was the only leader avail-

able TNCC head quarters at Chennai said there were no major issues in the party as on Monday. "These are all initial hiccups which would be resolved in days to come. While the campaign picks up, the party leaders would put up all these issues behind them and focus on winning the election," said Meyyappan, former president of Tamil Nadu Youth Congress.

He the Congress High Command has done a tight rope walking while selecting the ten candidates. "Since our party is too democratic, leaders express their disappointment in public. There is no need to worry as we are all united in ensuring the victory of the DMK-led front in the State," said Meyyappan.

The Bishop Council of Tamil Nadu had expressed their displeasure over the Congress High Command ignoring the plea of the Church that community members be included in the list of candidates.

Nominations for first phase of LS elections end in Maharashtra

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Two Union Ministers, Nitin Gadkari and Hansraj Aher of BJP, Congress leader and bitter Narendra Modi critic Nana Patole were among those who filed their papers, as the nominations for the Phase-1 of the Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra ended on Monday.

Seven constituencies in eastern Maharashtra — Wardha, Gadchiroli-Chimur, Ramtek, Nagpur, Bhandara-Gondiya, Chandrapur, Yavatmal-Washim — will go to polls on April 11 in the first of the four-phased elections in the State. Accompanied by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and other senior leaders from the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance, Gadkari filed his nomination papers in his home town of Nagpur.

Talking to media persons after filing the nominations, "I am overwhelmed by the response from the ordinary Nagpur citizens and the party workers... I am confident that

I shall win with a record margin and strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

Gadkari takes on Patole in Nagpur. It may be recalled that in December, 2017, Patole had resigned from BJP and his Bhandara-Gondiya Lok Sabha seat, citing 14 reasons which include 14 reasons including the increasing number of farmer suicides, demonetisation and GST. Before and after his resignation, Patole had criticised Modi. Former Shiv Sena MLA Suresh Dhanorkar, who was given the Congress ticket after resigning and joined the Rahul Gandhi-led party, filed his nomination for the Chandrapur seat. He was a last-minute nominee after the party on Sunday hacked the name of Vinayak Bangade following huge Opposition.

Former Union Minister and ex-Chief Minister Sushilkumar Shinde filed his papers from Solapur, while former state Congress President Manikrao Thakre filed his papers from Yavatmal-Washim.

FINALISE SEAT-SHARING DEAL IN 24 HOURS

BJP faces ally's wrath in UP

Lucknow: An ultimatum has been given to the BJP by its disgruntled ally and chief of Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, Om Prakash Rajbhar, to finalise the seat-sharing process in 24 hours for the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh. Rajbhar has demanded five seats out of 80 LS seats.

Rajbhar, who is a Cabinet Minister in the Yogi Adityanath Government, slammed the BJP for failing to decide on the NDA seat-sharing with all of its allies in UP. "We are fighting for our rights. We were called for a meeting with Amit Shah along with Apna Dal and our demands were asked. Seat-sharing was decided for the Apna Dal, but we are still being kept in the dark. I have given 24 hours to the BJP to take a decision on our seats else we will go our way," Rajbhar said.

The SBSP has demanded a list of five seats including Chandauli, Ghosi, Ambedkarnagar, Jaunpur and either Machlishehar or Lalgaon.

"If Apna Dal was assigned seats then why a decision could not be taken on our demands? They (BJP) finalised alliances in Maharashtra, Goa, Bihar,



Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Then why are we kept waiting," Rajbhar added.

Further, when asked about chances of joining the Congress, Rajbhar said his party can go "anywhere" as "all options are open". The party's decision to stay with the BJP will be revealed on Tuesday, the Minister added.

Earlier in February, Rajbhar had handed over the charge of the backward classes welfare department to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. In his letter to CM Yogi, he had cited non-payment of dues and discrepancies in scholarship to students hailing from backward castes as the reason behind his decision. He had

also dared CM Yogi to throw him out of the Cabinet.

The SBSP has been demanding the implementation of a sub-quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. "I will continue my fight for the poor. I am the only 72-year-old Minister who is fighting against a Chief Minister," the disgruntled Minister had said.

Moreover, Rajbhar had also announced that his party may go solo on all the 80 seats in UP in the general elections if the BJP decided to keep SBSP out of the coalition. The SBSP has four MLAs in the UP Assembly.

The Minister has been a frequent critic of Yogi Adityanath and has time and again claimed that his party was not getting the "due respect". He had also attacked the UP Government for renaming the cities of Mughalsarai and Faizabad. "They say they (the cities) were named after the Mughals. They have national spokesperson Shah Nawaz Hussain, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, UP Minister Mohsin Raza, three Muslim faces of the BJP, change their names first," he had said. AGENCIES

Consume poison, survive: Guj Minister's Shiva dare for Rahul

Ahmedabad: A Gujarat Minister on Monday tapped into controversy by asking Congress chief Rahul Gandhi to consume poison to check if he was indeed an 'avatar' of Lord Shiva as claimed by his party workers.

Addressing a gathering at Bardoli in Surat, Gujarat Tribal Development Minister Ganpat Vasava said Gandhi's "Shiva reincarnation" can be considered true only if he survives after having "500 grams of poison".

"People from the Congress claim Rahul Gandhi is an avatar of Lord Shiva. Now, since Lord Shiva used to consume poison to save people, I want Congress workers to make their leader drink 500 grams of poison,"

Vasava said. "If he survives like Lord Shiva after consuming poison, we will all believe he is the true reincarnation of Lord Shiva" Vasava claimed.

The BJP minister's Shiva jibe incensed the Congress which called it "extremely unfortunate" and reflective of that party's "true character" and stemming from the fear of poll defeat.

"Such comments about our leader are extremely unfortunate. This shows the true character of BJP and its leaders. They are making such statements out of frustration as they are seeing defeat in the Lok Sabha polls," Gujarat Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi said. PTI



Worker prepares election campaign material for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of elections in Ahmedabad on Monday. PTI

LS polls: Tough contest awaits BJP in 7 Guj seats

Ahmedabad: If the Congress's performance in the 2017 Gujarat Assembly polls was any indication, the BJP may have to sweat it out in at least seven Lok Sabha seats, most of them in its bastion Saurashtra.

In the Assembly elections, the Congress won 77 seats, improving its tally by 16 seats in the 182-member House. The BJP was restricted at 99 — the party's worst performance in the last two decades. The Congress bagged 30 of the 54 seats in the Saurashtra-Kutch region. The Assembly poll results came as a shot in the arm for

the Opposition party after it drew a blank in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and the BJP won all 26 seats in the State.

Congress leaders are confident that the party might wrest at least four Lok Sabha seats in the Saurashtra region — Amreli, Junagadh, Botad and Surendranagar — from the BJP.

The Congress is also betting big on Anand in central Gujarat and Banaskantha and Patan in north Gujarat.

It is also eyeing Dahod, Chhota Udepur, Sabarkantha and Patan. "People in Saurashtra sup-

ported us overwhelmingly in the 2017 elections, as a result of which we won a significant number of seats in the region. This is clearly going to be a factor in the Lok Sabha election," Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi said.

"We expect to gain four-five seats from that region," he said. In Saurashtra, the BJP is struggling with the perception that it failed to reach out to people affected by 2016 floods.

Doshi said the Congress hopes to win at least 12-13 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat —

Chamling files nomination from 2 Assembly seats

Gangtok: Sikkim Chief Minister and Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) president Pawan Kumar Chamling, the longest serving Chief Minister of the country, on Monday filed his nomination papers from two Assembly constituencies.

Chamling, who has been in power since December 12, 1994 will fight to retain office for the eighth successive term.

The 68-year-old chief minister is seeking re-election to the state legislative assembly from Namchi-Singithang and Poklok-Kamrang seats in his native south Sikkim. PTI

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL, ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT)
VIDYUT BHAWAN, DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM ROAD, NEW DELHI-110011

e-procurement Tender Notice

Name of Work: CITC of HT Panel Board, BTU, Earthing and Allied works at proposed Electric Sub-Station (Metering Room) at UIDAI Headquarter Building, Bangla Sahib Road, New Delhi.

Estimated cost: ₹6,01,932.00

Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution: 25.03.2019

Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution: 04.04.2019 upto 03:30 PM

Date/time for opening of bid through e-procurement solution: 04.04.2019 at 04:00 PM

Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with NIC is mandatory. Sd/-

Tender ID No. 2019 NDMC 171564.1 Executive Engineer (E) C-II

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Monika Sharma D/o Anil Sharma R/o RZF-32, Nihal Vihar, Delhi Aged-22** Years has been reported missing / kidnapped since 28.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi vide **DD No.50-A dated 01.03.2019** lodged at Police Station Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'4", **Face:** Long, **I.D. Mark:** Mentally disturb **Clothing:** White Coloured Suit, Pink Colour Salwar and Jutti in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Paschim Vihar West, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Paschim Vihar West, Delhi
DP/2042/OD/19 Tel. : 011-25268394, 25280980

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Kajal, D/o: Prem Prakash Rai, R/o: H. No. C-380, Aman Vihar, Kirari, Delhi, Age: 16 Years, Height: 4'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing: Suit Red & White colour lines & Salwar White Colour and White Shoes in feet** has been missing/kidnaped since 16.02.2019. In this regard **FIR No. 52/19, dated 16.02.2019** has been lodged at **PS. Aman Vihar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnaped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnaped girl please inform the undersigned.

E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
PS, Aman Vihar, Delhi, Ph.: 011-23014046, 23015218

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice (Parking)

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Chg., Northern Railway, New Delhi invites sealed Quotations for the allotment of Cycle/Scooter contract at Narela Railway Station as per New Parking Policy issued by HQ office letter no. 120-MC-Parking-Station-2015 dated 18.11.2016 for the period of 3 (three) months, detail is as under:-

S N	Railway Station	Stn Ctg	Type of Pkg.	Pkg. area (in Sq mtr)	*Reserve Price for three months (in Rs)	EMD @ 2% of Total Contract Value (in Rs)
1.	Narela (NUR)	D	Cycle/ Scooter	1065.51	2,78,446/-	5570

* Applicable Taxes will be extra. In addition to above Reserve price, GST as applicable on date (presently @ 18%) and TCS @ 2% or as applicable over the license fees has to be paid by parking contractor. Date and Time for submission of Quotations: - Up to 15:00 Hrs. on 03/04/2019 to be open immediately. For more information and obtaining Quotation forms, interested bidders may contact to the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, DRM Office, State Entry Road New Delhi From 27/03/2019 to 02/04/2019 in any working days between 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs and on 03/04/2019 Up to 13:00 hrs. The draft submitted for Earnest Money deposit should be in favour of "Senior Divisional Finance Manager New Delhi" and have been prepared from the bidders own bank account and in case found otherwise/fraud, Railway Administration shall be at liberty to initiate any action, including termination as deemed fit at a later date also. Relevant information is also available on the official Web site of Railways: i.e. www.nrd.indianrailways.gov.in File No. 23AC/393/Cycle-scooter/NUR/2016 917/19

Serving Customers With A Smile

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

LOST & FOUND

As per information, original allotment letter no. 171, dt. 19-10-2006 property no. M 1-233, Azad Nagar, Moradabad has been lost by Seema & Shahdeen D/o Mr. Ashkar Husain R/o Jabbar Colony, Moradabad. If any body finds, shall inform within 15 days at below, otherwise it shall presumed above the property is free from all encumbrances. Further any proceedings regarding above property shall be accepted & no claim shall be acceptable.

Nitesh Agarwal (Advocate)
Ch. No. 153, Court Compd, Moradabad, Mob. 9897208955

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 26.03.2019

Sealed tenders under five Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following jobs:

NIT No.	Brief Work Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of opening
CMC/BY/18-19/RB/VS/102	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV XLPE INSULATED ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR POWER CABLE OF SIZES 4CX300 MM ²	13.53 crore	13,53,000	16.04.2019, 14:30 HRS	16.04.2019, 15:30 HRS
CMC/BY/18-19/RB/VS/103	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV GRADE AERIALY BUNCHED CABLE OF SIZES 3CX150 (Ph)+1CX150 (N)+1CX125 (M)+1CX16 (SL) MM ²	4.23 crore	8,46,000	16.04.2019, 14:30 HRS	16.04.2019, 16:00 HRS
CMC/BY/18-19/RB/VS/104	TURNKEY PACKAGE FOR DESIGN, ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, SUPPLY, LAYING, JOINTING, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 33KV, 3X400 SQ.MM. WITH REQUIRED ACCESSORIES AS PER THE SCOPE OF WORK, FOR BYPL, DELHI (INDIA)	3.00 crore	6,00,000	16.04.2019, 14:30 HRS	16.04.2019, 16:30 HRS
CMC/BY/18-19/RB/VKS/105	Implementation of Enterprise Management System (EMS)/ Network Management System (NMS)	50.00 Lakhs	1,00 Lakhs	16.04.2019 upto 2:30 PM	16.04.2019 at 3:00PM
CMC/BY/18-19/RB/VKS/106	Supply of Lug and Ferrule as per BYPL specification	35.00 Lakhs	0.70 Lakhs	16.04.2019 upto 2:30 PM	16.04.2019 at 3:30PM

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1180/-
For details in respect of qualifying requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase and Services /Submission of tender documents/Corrigendum (if any) etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD -> Tenders -> open tenders. Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakil Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U04109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-39997111 | Fax: 011-39992076 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE NO. 32/FOICE/RZ/DDA/2018-19

On-line percentage rate tenders are invited through E-Tendering for the following works by EE/RPD-7, EE/RPD-10 & EE/Eld.9, Madhuban Chowk, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-85 EE/RPD-1, Deepal Chawk, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-85, EE/EI.D-12, DDA office complex, PaschimVihar, New Delhi-110063, on behalf of DDA from the approved and eligible contractors registered under Civil/Electrical category only of DDA & CPWD and those of appropriate list of MES, BSNL and Railways. Last date of submission of tenders is **04.04.2019 upto 3.00 PM**.

- NIT No. 96/EE/RPD-1/DDA/2018-19: Name of work:** M/o scheme under Nazul A/C-II, Rohini Zone. SH: Repair of boundary wall & footpath at Sector-14, Rohini (Behind Rohini Court) Green Belt. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 19,84,641/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.39,693/-, **Period of Completion:** Three months
- NIT No. 97/EE/RPD-1/DDA/2018-19: Name of work:** M/o scheme under Nazul A/C-II, Rohini Zone. SH: Improvement of NHP near Pkt.5, Sector-25, Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 18,40,763/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.36,815/-, **Period of Completion:** Three months
- NIT No. 99/EE/RPD-1/DDA/2018-19: Name of work:** M/o scheme under Nazul A/C-II, Rohini Zone. SH: Annual Maintenance contract of 11 nos. open gym having 14 nos. equipments each including SBR flooring in various DDA parks in Rohini Zone. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 13,16,531/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.26,331/-, **Period of Completion:** Twelve months
- NIT No. 20/EE/RPD-7/DDA/2018-19: Name of work:** M/o various colonies under Rohini Zone. SH: Maintenance & scavenging of roads (30 mtr. & 60 mtr. R/W road) & repair of internal roads in Pkt.C-1 & C-2, sector-30 & Maintenance of internal water supply in Sector-29 (Pt.) & Sector-30 (Pt.), Rohini. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 19,76,602/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.39,532/-, **Period of Completion:** 3 months.
- NIT No. 19/EE/RPD-10/DDA/2018-19: Name of work:** Protection of vacant land in Rohini Zone. SH: Repair & raising of boundary wall, jungle cleaning, disposal of malba on different vacant DDA plots in Block-A, B & C, Mangolpuri Industrial Area, Phase-I. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 21,34,083/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.42,682/-, **Period of Completion:** 180 days.
- NIT No. 63/EE/Eld.9/DDA/2018-19 (Specialized Work):** Name of work: M/o scheme under Nazul A/C-II, Rohini. SH: Maintenance and Operation of sewage pump set, substation equipment, IEI and compound lighting etc. at SPS No.1 in Sector-26, Rohini Ph.IV. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 10,17,774/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.20,355/-, **Period of Completion:** Six months.
- NIT No.71/EE/Eld.9/DDA/2018-19: Name of work:** M/o DDA Multistoried Zonal office building at Madhuban Chowk, Rohini. SH: Repairing & servicing of evaporative Air Cooler & Ceiling Fan. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 8,53,844/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.17,077/-, **Period of Completion:** One month.
- NIT No.89/EE/Eld.12/DDA/2018-19: Name of work:** M/o parks/plantation, trucks and other equipments of Hort. Wing. SH: Augmentation of lighting in various parks/greens as per Annexure-A (Inventory) under Hort. Division-10, North zone. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 19,52,657/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.39,053/-, **Period of Completion:** 06 months.
- NIT No.90/EE/Eld.12/DDA/2018-19: Name of work:** M/o completed scheme of Nazul A/C-II under SWZ. SH: R/M/O of Unfiltered sewage treated water pump sets at Keshopur pump House. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 7,19,028/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.14,381/-, **Period of Completion:** 12 months

Note: 1: For the works costing upto 60.00 lacs under B & R (Civil) category, the tenders shall be issued to the contractors registered with DDA only.

Note: 2: For details of eligibility criteria and other particulars of all the tenders, please visit the website of Central Public Procurement Portal at <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. For any assistance in e-tendering, please contact National Informatics Centre on 1800-3070-2232.

Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at www.dda.org.in or Dial Toll free No. 1800110332

Please Visit DDA's website: www.dda.org.in or Dial Toll free No. 1800110332

Congress' promise to bust fiscal discipline: Niti VC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Monday said Congress party President Rahul Gandhi's promise of providing ₹72,000 annually to five crore families if voted to power will create strong incentives against work and bust fiscal discipline.

At a press conference here, Gandhi announced that 20 per cent families belonging to the poorest category will be given ₹72,000 each annually as minimum income if his party comes to power.

True to its past record of promising the moon to win elections, Congress President announces a scheme that will bust fiscal discipline, create strong incentives against work and which will never be implemented," Kumar said in a tweet.

In another tweet, he said the cost of the minimum income guarantee scheme at 2 per cent of the gross domestic product and 13 per cent of the budget will "ensure" that real needs of people remain unsatisfied.

Kumar also said the Congress party had promised 'Garibi Hatao' in 1971, 'One Rank One Pension' in 2008, food security in 2013 to win elections, but could not fulfil any of those.

The "same unfortunate fate" awaits the populist and opportunistic promise of minimum income guarantee, he added.

The Economic Advisory



Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) also criticised the pre-poll announcement by Gandhi in a series of tweets, but later deleted them after it was pointed by a Twitter user that they were in violation of the model code of conduct.

EAC-PM had tweeted that in the last five years, a lot of hard work has gone into striking the right balance between economic growth, inflation and fiscal discipline.

"INC's income guarantee scheme (as of 25/03/2019) would either upset this balance or severely cut critical government spending. Both options dangerous," it said.

The proposed income guarantee scheme fails the economics test, fiscal discipline test and execution test, it added.

When Twitter user

@sumedhbhagwat pointed out to EAC-PM members that the tweets were in violation of the model code of conduct, Council's Chairman Bibek Debroy deleted the messages on the micro-blogging site.

"Tweets being deleted. Thanks for pointing out," Debroy said in a tweet.

EAC-PM member Shamika Ravi also tweeted, "The ONLY detail that matters: will this be BUDGET NEUTRAL? In plain English: Are we to replace FOOD+FERTILISER+FUEL subsidies?"

Ratan P Watal, Rathin Roy and Ashima Goyal are also members of the council.

About 900 million are eligible to vote to elect the next Lok Sabha in seven-phased polling beginning April 11.

₹ settles flat at 68.96 vs \$ ahead of RBI swap auction

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee ended almost flat at 68.96 per US dollar on Monday as participants preferred to wait on the sidelines to see the outcome of RBI's first-ever rupee-dollar swap auction.

The forex market sentiment revived towards the fag-end, offsetting early losses amid increased selling of the greenback by exporters, traders said.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange market, the rupee opened on a weak note at 69.09 then fell further to 69.17 against the US dollar. The local unit, however, erased the initial gains and finished at ₹68.96, down by just 1 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee had ended lower by 12 paise at 68.95 against the American currency on rise in demand for the greenback from importers and sell-off in domestic equities.

The rupee-dollar swap auction announced by the RBI earlier in March will infuse ₹35,000 crore into the system. The auction of \$5 billion for a tenure of three years will be conducted on Tuesday.

"The currency, sovereign-debt and credit markets are in the waiting mode to see the result of this new swap auction. The move is largely being seen as one of RBI buying dollars to create domestic liquidity," said V K Sharma, Head PCG and Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

Food inflation likely to go up to 2% in FY20: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Food inflation in the country is likely to go up to 2 per cent in fiscal year 2019-20 from the 0.7 per cent estimated for FY19, a report said on Monday.



It can be noted that the low food prices have been one of the prime factors which has aided the RBI to be more accommodatory in its rate setting recently.

In the report, foreign brokerage Goldman Sachs attributed the low food prices in the last few months to the prices of cereals and vegetables which have been low for some time.

Deregulation of markets, which saw delisting of vegetables from the Agriculture Produce and Marketing Committee Act (APMC) in 14 states, has helped the vegetable prices, it said.

In the case of cereals, "active food management" policies have helped, it said, adding the Government released buffer stocks in large quantities and went in for higher imports on this front.

Going forward, the food inflation is unlikely to shoot up

sharply unless there is some shock related to weather events, it said.

"Food inflation is likely to remain subdued going forward," it said, adding average food inflation will go up in the 1.5-2 per cent range in FY20 from the 0.7 per cent in FY19.

The brokerage said the focus has now shifted to farmers who are protesting against low food prices and demanding higher returns on their crops.

It can be noted that in the last year of the current regime, there have been multiple marches by farmers, especially the one in national capital as well as one at the financial capital to voice their concerns.

The Government responded first by assuring to double farmer income in five years, then promised a return of over 150 per cent to farmers and also announced income support of ₹6,000 per year for the small and marginalised farmers.

Business Corner



General Manager, Northern Railway TP Singh conducted an extensive inspection of Jind-Shakurbasti-New Delhi rail section on Monday. He was accompanied by RN Singh, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Northern Railway, Delhi, Principal Head of Departments of Northern Railway & Senior Divisional Railway Officers of Delhi Division. TP Singh started inspection from Jind station. He inspected circulating area, passenger amenities, booking office, health unit etc and also participated in a tree plantation program at the newly developed park at the station.



NBCC CMD Anoop Kumar Mittal addressing the employees at the 14th edition of the Samvaad with the Navratna CPSE will have to step-up its order book execution capabilities



The second edition of Dance & Music in the Park was organised by Airports Authority of India in collaboration of SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) on 23rd and 24th March, 2019 at Nehru Park to celebrate composite heritage, and to bring awareness about a peaceful and clean environment

Sad day for Indian aviation: SpiceJet chief on Jet Airways

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

SpiceJet chief Ajay Singh on Monday said it was a "sad day" for Indian aviation as Naresh Goyal and his wife Anita Goyal stepping down from the board of Jet Airways.

Naresh Goyal is the Founder and Chairman of Jet Airways, a full-service airline that has been flying for more than 25 years.

Referring to the latest developments, Singh, who is the Chairman and Managing Director of budget carrier SpiceJet, also said it was a wake-up call for the country's policymakers to address structural challenges that is making domestic airlines uncompetitive.

Irdai asks insurers for easy crop insurance claim settlement, use of vernacular language

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The general insurers will have to provide details about crop insurance claims to farmers in vernacular languages, apart from Hindi and English, regulator Irdai has said.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) said it has been receiving various complaints and suggestions in respect of crop insurance claims.

Irdai, in a circular, said there is a need for effective implementation of crop insurance schemes.

Insurance companies should put in place a robust system to register all the requests of individuals loss assessment, and if an individual loss assessment is rejected, a written rejection letter mentioning the reason should be



sent to insured, Irdai said.

"Insurers should ensure that all call centres/toll-free numbers responses should be available in state's official language other than Hindi and English. Websites of insurers should disclose crop insurance related details in the vernacular language for the benefit of farmers," it said.

Among others, widespread awareness programmes should be conducted for educating farmers on scheme guidelines, claim settlement process and grievance redressal process, it further said.

Govt moves NCLT, seeks immunity for directors of IL&FS arms

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Government on Monday filed an application with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) here, seeking immunity for the newly-appointed directors of the subsidiaries of the crippled IL&FS group from any future adverse outcomes.

It can be noted that soon after taking over the company after its defaults and appointing a new board last October, the Government had sought immunity to the newly-appointed six directors of the group from any legal action against them for the past deeds of old directors.

"We are issuing a direction that for the past actions of the suspended directors or any of the officers of the company and the past wrongs of the suspended directors and its officials, no action should be initiated against the newly-

appointed director, without prior approval of the tribunal," NCLT Mumbai had said in an interim order on October 5.

The Government move came in after it felt that the Uday Kotak led board should be protected from any legal hurdles in executing its task of finding a "fair value and resolution" for the debt-laden company.

Following this, the Corporate Affairs Ministry Monday moved the Mumbai NCLT seeking protection for these directors of group entities as well from any future adverse proceedings as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, IL&FS has also filed an application seeking dispensation from appointing independent director on the group companies.

A two-member NCLT bench of VP Singh and Ravikumar Duraisamy scheduled both the matters for detailed hearing on April 12.

The Government has appointed an eight-member board headed by banker Uday Kotak to steer the IL&FS group out of the crisis after it began to default payments due to severe cash crunch since late August.

The Government superseded the previous board on October 1, 2018.

The Government expects a resolution to the crisis over the next four-five months.

The Government plea was initially rejected by the Mumbai bench but subsequently, which the Government challenged in the appellate tribunal (NCLAT) which had on October 15 passed an interim order admitting the government plea.

The IL&FS group has 348 subsidiaries and together they owe over ₹94,000 crore to a clutch of commercial banks mostly state-run lenders and other financial institutions.

'87% women would quit over sexual harassment, bias in hiring'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In the wake of various public allegations of misconduct a recent survey has revealed that 87 per cent of women would be likely to leave their job if a gender-based scandal like sexual harassment, bias in hiring among others occurred at the company they work for.

Job site Indeed in a survey found that 82 per cent of men were in agreement and said they would likely to leave their job in a similar scenario.

It also revealed that close to 80 per cent of respondents said they would be likely to leave their job if a technology-based issue such as data breach, product failure, among others occurred at the company they work for.

About 75 per cent of respondents would leave their job if issues such as the CEO or senior leaders expressing political views or contributing to policies against their own political beliefs occurred at the company for they work for, it added.

Indeed conducted a survey of employees across various companies in the technology sector in the country. It was conducted by Censuswide with 506 workers in the technology industry between December 27, 2018 and January 11, 2019.

Further it revealed that close to 70 per cent considered changing their jobs India depending on the nature of the scandal, their loyalty to

the firm and how well, or poorly, the employers handled these situations.

About 80 per cent of respondents said they were more likely to report misbehaviour in the wake of last year's public offences, with women (85 per cent) more likely to do so than men (76 per cent), it added.

Around 92 per cent of respondents said they would be more likely to stay at their job if their company was quick to respond to a public scandal by fixing errors and communicating internally and externally, it said.

It also revealed 95 per cent of respondents saying if their company was transparent about the issue in question and made attempts to correct it, they would be more likely to stay at their job.

Over 80 per cent respondents believed that technology companies are ethical, however, close to 90 per cent think that technology companies need to be more regulated, it added.

"While it is the responsibility of organisations to ensure the integrity and prevent breaches or untoward activities under their purview, no sector is immune to the occasional offence. In such cases the company should step up and take ownership of their actions and address the issue in a transparent and timely manner, to restore stakeholder trust," Indeed India head of Engineering Venkata Machavarapu said.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Gaurav Sahu S/o Laxmi Narayan Sahu R/o H.No. GH-9/6635, Paschim Vihar West, Delhi Age-17 years, Height-5'4" Face-Oval, Complexion-Fair, Identification-A Cut mark on head Right side, Wearing: Checkdard Colour Shirt- Blue Colour Jeans has been missing/kidnapped since dated 08.03.2019 from the area of P.S Paschim Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a vide FIR No. 110/19 u/s 363 IPC Dated 09.03.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this boy please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO
Fax : 011-24368639 P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25268394, 25280979
DP/2034/OD/19 7065036130

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Poonam, D/o Shri Titihu, R/o R-58, Gali No. 25, Swatanter Nagar, Narela, Delhi, Age 22 years, Height 5'2", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Green colour suit & salwar white colour chunni and blue colour hawai chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Narela, Delhi since 26.02.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 91-A dated 26.02.19 has been lodged at PS Narela, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail ID:cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Narela, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 27282350, 27285839
DP/124/ON/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Babli D/o Khillan R/o H.No. A-1001, Shyam Colony Gali No.13, Budh Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi. Age: 20 yrs, Height: 5'2", Fair complexion & Round Face. Wearing Cream colour suit & black salwar, Cream colour Jarshi & Jutti in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 11.01.2019 from the area of P.S. Prashant Vihar, Delhi.**

In this regard a DD No. 77-A dated: 13.01.2019 has been lodged at PS Prashant Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O.,
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-24368638
011-24368641 P.S., Prashant Vihar, Delhi
DP/2660/RD/19 Ph.: 011-27557184, 27550522

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Anjali, D/o: Om Prakash, R/o: Kamra No. 20, Hari Dal Mill, Village-Kureni, Narela, Delhi, Age: 14 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue Colour Kurti, White Colour Salwar and White Colour Shoes in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 11.03.2019 from the area of PS. Narela, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 86/19, dated 12.03.2019 u/s 363 IPC has been lodged at PS. Narela, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform the undersigned.**

E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Fax: 011-24368639 PS, Narela, Delhi,
DP/128/ON/19 Ph.: 011-27282350, 27285839

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a Girl namely **Sunita @ Payal, D/o: Akhilesh, R/o H. No. 178, Block-D, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi has been missing since 06.03.2019 from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Outer North District, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 64-A, dated 07.03.2019 has been registered at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Outer North District, Delhi.**

The description of missing Girl is as under:
Name: Sunita @ Payal, Age: 20 Years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Red Colour Suit and Cream Colour Salwar and Chappal in Feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing Girl please inform P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Outer North District.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Shahbad Dairy, Outer North District, Delhi
DP/120/ON/19 Ph.: 011-27821047, 27822207

"Form No. INC-26"

[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014] Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another Before the Central Government Northern Region

In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND

In the matter of M/S. Ultra Engineering Private Limited having its registered office at Flat No.515, 2nd floor, Pocket GH-2, Sector-28, Rohini, New Delhi-110042. Registrar (Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 11th day of March, 2019 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from the 'State of National Capital Territory of Delhi' to 'State of Uttar Pradesh'. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or affidavit to be delivered or send by registered post of his/objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of objection to the Regional Director at the Address B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi - 110003 within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: For and on behalf of the Applicant SHASHI SHEKHAR DIRECTOR Flat No.515, 2nd floor, Pocket GH-2, Sector-28, Rohini, New Delhi-110042 Date: 26.03.2019 Place: New Delhi

Sindhu, Srikanth seek to reclaim crowns

Top Indian shuttlers look to get back into winning ways as country's premier BWF tournament kick starts today

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

Former champions P V Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth will look to shrug off their erratic form and ensure an Indian sweep at the \$ 350,000 India Open, which is shorn of star power this time.

With Saina Nehwal pulling out of the country's blue-riband tournament after failing to recover from acute gastroenteritis, the onus will be on Sindhu and Srikanth to keep the tricolour flying at the business end of the tournament starting on Tuesday.

Olympic Silver-medallist Sindhu, who claimed the World Tour Finals in December last year, will be the firm favourite to secure the women's title after receiving the top billing following the pullout of Chinese top seed and reigning All England champion Chen Yufei due to medical reasons.

The absence of Japanese players will also help Sindhu's case.

Sindhu had a decent start to the new season with a quarterfinal finish at the Indonesia Masters but a first-round exit at the prestigious All England Championship came as a major jolt.

The Indian ace however will draw inspiration from her performance in the last two editions where she had reached the finals and claimed the title in 2017.

Sindhu will open against compatriot Mugdha Agrey and is expected to face fast-rising Danish Mia Blichfeldt, seeded eighth, in the quarterfinals. A win is likely to pit her against Chinese third seed He Bingjiao.

Youngsters Vrushali Gummadi and Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka will also be in the fray in women's singles at the World Tour Super 500 event.

The tournament will hold a lot of prominence for third seed Srikanth, who has endured a title draught for the last 17 months.

With defending champion and top seed Shi Yuqi pulling out, Srikanth will be at the forefront along with former world champion Viktor Axelsen, who had claimed the title in 2017 after three back-to-back finals.

The 26-year-old Srikanth, who clinched the title in 2015, will begin his campaign against familiar foe, Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent, and might come across fellow Indians Sameer Verma or B Sai Praneeth later as both are in the same half of the draw.

Fifth seed Sameer, after reaching the semifinals at the World Tour Finals, will open against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke,



INDIAN OPEN WINNERS (Last 5 years)

Year	Men's Singles	Women's Singles
2014	Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)	Wang Shixian (China)
2015	Srikanth Kidambi (India)	Saina Nehwal (India)
2016	Kento Momota (Japan)	Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
2017	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)	PV Sindhu (India)
2018	Shi Yuqi (China)	Zhang Beiwon (United States)

Faisal Features



Kidambi Srikanth returns a shot during his match

BWF/File Picture

It's irritating to lose close q/f matches: Kidambi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian ace Kidambi Srikanth said it was irritating to lose close quarterfinals in a title-less season and stressed on the need to get physically and mentally tougher to win medals at the World Championship and Olympic Games.

Srikanth, who had clinched four titles in 2017, lost nine quarterfinals and two semifinals while reaching the finals only once at the Commonwealth Games in the last 15 months.

"I think the series of quarterfinals are more irritating for me than losing in the first round," Srikanth said on the eve of the India Open.

"I think I have been consistent against a few players and then not able to get that win against a few others at quarterfinals and semifinals, that is what I'm working on — to last the whole week.

"Probably, if I can do well in next 3-4 months before the World Championship. If I can get better physically and tougher mentally, I think I can do well at World Championship," he added. Srikanth had suffered a

leg injury at the 2017 Senior Nationals and ever since he has been troubled by small injury woes, especially related to his ankle, which affected his performance.

"I'm working on my fitness, I had too many injuries in late 2017 and 2018 and so if I can keep working on my fitness then I will have a great chance to win titles," he said.

"That is what worked for me in 2017, because I could sustain an hour and half hour. But 2018 and early 2019, I had some injuries and withdrew from tournaments.

Srikanth said he just wants to focus on improving the little things and maintain his momentum to do well at the Olympics.

"I couldn't produce the results that I wanted to but still I'm happy with my improvement. So I am in that process now," he said.

"I'm not desperate, I just want to improve on different things, to be able to pull out crucial points in tough matches and be more consistent. All I am working on now is to do well at the Olympics. If I can hold on to the momentum and keep improving till the Olympics, I can do well there," Srikanth added.



Germany leave it late in thriller

Schulz's last minute strike help Loew's new look side secure thrilling 3-2 win against Netherlands

AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Germany's Nico Schulz sealed a thrilling 3-2 win over the Netherlands in a see-saw Euro 2020 qualifier as Joachim Loew's new-look line-up survived a severe test.

Elsewhere, World Cup finalists Croatia stumbled to a 2-1 defeat in Hungary, and Eden Hazard celebrated a century of caps with the opening goal in Belgium's 2-0 win over Cyprus.

A revamped Germany raced into a 2-0 lead in Amsterdam with thrilling strikes from Leroy Sane and Serge Gnabry but the hosts struck back with a second half header from Matthijs De Ligt before Memphis Depay pounced for an equaliser on 63 minutes.

The four-time world champions were put under immense pressure from a Netherlands side seeking a winner but the visitors, who were booed by their own fans in a 1-1 friendly draw against Serbia last Wednesday, snatched victory in the 90th minute through 25-year-old Schulz.

The Hoffenheim midfielder, who made his international in August, tapped home a loose ball after a tireless Sane had taken the defence with him on a run into the box.

The win comes after Loew took an axe to Germany's squad ahead of the qualifying campaign in the aftermath of last year's calamitous World Cup elimination, when he told Bayern Munich trio Thomas Muller, Jerome Boateng and Mats Hummels they had no future in the national side.

Bayern stopper Manuel Neuer may also come under pressure for his place after De Ligt beat him with a flying header just after the restart. Neuer, 32, was also slow to react as Depay pounced for the equaliser.

Dutch keeper Jasper Cillessen was left with little chance after Gnabry ended his mazy run by outwitting Virgil Van Dijk before sending a rasping long-range effort into the bottom corner in the early action.

MODRIC POWERLESS

Chelsea star Hazard celebrated his 100th cap by scoring the opener in their 2-0 win over Cyprus in Group I with Michy Batshuayi grabbing the second as Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois went largely untested in the Belgian goal.

Ballon d'Or winner Luka Modric was powerless to stop beaten World Cup finalists Croatia from slipping to a 2-1 defeat to Hungary in Group E on Sunday as Mate Patkai notched a 76th minute winner in Budapest.

Croatia had struggled against Azerbaijan in their opening qualifier last Thursday before escaping with a 2-1 win, but they made the perfect start in the Hungarian capital when Ante Rebic put them ahead on 13 minutes.

But Hungary pulled level through Adam Szalai's fifth goal in as many games and with a quarter of an hour left, 31-year-old Patkai scored his first international goal to pull off a famous victory.

FINCH PUNISHES PAK IN AUS WIN

AFP ■ SHARJAH

Aaron Finch struck back-to-back centuries to lead Australia to another thumping eight wicket victory over a hapless Pakistan in the second one-day international in Sharjah on Sunday.

The Australian skipper smashed 143-ball 153 not out for his 13th ODI hundred — also his highest score in ODIs — to anchor Australia's comfortable chase of a 285-run target in 47.5 overs which gave them a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Finch, who scored 116 in Australia's eight wicket win in the first game at the same venue on Friday, put on a solid 209-run opening wicket stand with Usman Khawaja who made 109-ball 88.

Finch struck six sixes and 11 boundaries in a dominating innings, improving on his previous highest one-day score of 148 against Scotland at Edinburgh in 2013.



The victory becomes more memorable as it was 100th one-day international match between the two countries.

Finch and Khawaja thrived against the novice attack, with Finch striking two sixes in the final overs while Khawaja's knock had eight boundaries.

Finch completed his hundred with a couple of debutant Hasnain on his 97th ball, making successive hundreds for a second time in his career. He scored consecutive hundreds against England in Australia last year.

Khawaja fell to leg-spinner Yasir Shah with 76 needed while Glenn Maxwell cracked two sixes in his 19 before he was run out. Pakistan owd their total of 280-7 — after winning the toss — to Mohammad Rizwan's maiden century.

Rizwan, only playing because regular keeper and skipper Sarfraz Ahmed has been rested for the series — added 52 for the third wicket with Haris Sohail (34) and an invaluable 127 for the fifth wicket with stand-in captain Shoaib Malik.

COOLEY JOINS AUS FOR ASHES TOUR

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Australia on Monday appointed ex-England bowling coach Troy Cooley for their upcoming Ashes series as they bid to win the urn on away soil for the first time in 18 years.

Meanwhile Adam Griffith, a former head coach of Tasmania and assistant to national coach Justin Langer at the Western Warriors, takes charge of the bowlers for the team's World Cup campaign in England.

Their appointments follow the departure of another former England bowling coach, David Saker, who quit in February.

Tasmanian Cooley recently coached Australia's one-day bowlers for an away series win against India and is currently with the squad in the United Arab Emirates for their limited-overs clashes against Pakistan.

Richardson dislocates shoulder, faces WC battle

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Australian fast bowler Jhye Richardson has dislocated his shoulder and will head home from the Pakistan tour, officials said, as he faces a battle to be fit for the World Cup.

Richardson took 2-16 in the



second one-dayer in Sharjah on Sunday but fell awkwardly on his bowling arm and left the field in the 11th over.

"Unfortunately it's a dislocated shoulder for Jhye Richardson," Cricket Australia tweeted.

The governing body added on its website that the 22-year-old — who

has gone from strength to strength in recent months — would fly back to Perth on Monday and undergo scans to assess the damage.

Losing another quick bowler is a big blow for Australia barely two months out from the World Cup with Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood also battling injuries.

Djoker downs Delbonis, Halep sets Venus clash

AFP ■ MIAMI

Novak Djokovic remains on course for a record seventh Miami Open title, but the world number one admitted to a loss of focus in a 7-5, 4-6, 6-1 victory over spirited Federico Delbonis which booked his place in the last 16.

Djokovic is hoping to eclipse Andre Agassi's six ATP crowns in South Florida over the next week and although the 31-year-old endured some shaky moments at Hard Rock Stadium, he still possessed enough quality during the key moments to see off the battling Delbonis.

He will need to tighten up his game if he is to reach next Sunday's final with Roberto Bautista Agut waiting in the fourth round after the Spaniard defeated Italian Fabio Fognini 6-4, 6-4.

The world number one was getting incredibly frustrated, he received a warning for racquet



abuse and was furious for allowing a 3-1 lead to slip in the second set. But his opponent couldn't keep the pressure on and when Djokovic managed to get 3-1 ahead in the



final set, this time there was no way back for the 28-year-old from Azul who rightly received an ovation from the center court crowd for his monumental efforts.

Defending champion John Isner blew Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas off court with serves touching 139 mph as the American sealed an ultimately comprehensive 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) win to set up an intriguing match with Kyle Edmund in the last 16 after the British number one impressively saw off Canadian Milos Raonic 6-

4-6-4. In the women's draw, Simona Halep kept alive hopes of regaining the world number one ranking on Sunday, beating Polona Herczeg 5-7, 7-6 (7/1), 6-2 to reach the last 16 where she will play Venus Williams.

Halep, 27, lost her place at the top of the rankings following Naomi Osaka's triumph at the Australian Open earlier this year.

But with the Japanese faltering on Saturday, Halep can return to the position she last held at the end of 2018 if she lands the Miami Open for the first time.

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Williams, meanwhile, swept past Russian Daria Kasatkina 6-3, 6-1.

Elsewhere in women's action, American Sloane Stephens's title defense ended in a 6-3, 6-2 loss to Germany's Tatjana Maria.

It was another disappointing ending for Stephens, who fell in the third round at Indian Wells.

SINGLES

STUANI HELPS URUGUAY WIN CHINA CUP

SHANGHAI: Stand-in forward Cristian Stuani scored his third goal in two games as Uruguay taught Thailand a footballing lesson to win the China Cup with a 4-0 victory on Monday. The 2018 World Cup quarter-finalists hardly missed the injured star striking duo of Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani as they made it seven goals in two games. Unmarked Inter Milan midfielder Matias Vecino headed home after just six minutes and it was 2-0 on 38 minutes when Gaston Pereira prodded in after the Thai defence went AWOL. Stuani, starting because of the absence of PSG's Cavani and Barcelona's Suarez, made it 3-0 just before the hour with a close-range bullet header from a corner. Substitute Maxi Gomez made it 4-0 two minutes from the end of normal time with goalkeeper Sivarak stranded out of position. Earlier in the day, Uzbekistan defeated Fabio Cannavaro's China 1-0 to leave the hosts last of the four teams involved.

VIJENDER INJURED, DELAYS US PRO DEBUT

NEW DELHI: Indian boxing star Vijender Singh's much-awaited professional debut in the USA, scheduled for April 12, was on Monday postponed after he injured himself during a sparring session in Los Angeles. The 33-year-old, India's first Olympic and world championships medallist in boxing, was to make his US debut at the Staples Center on the Vasily Lomachenko-Anthony Crolla undercard. "I got hurt during a sparring session on Friday. My left eye has received two kinds of stitches and doctors have told me they would remove the just the external stitches on coming Friday," Vijender said from his training base. Asked if the new schedule for his debut US fight has been decided, the Haryana pugilist said, "It will only be known once my injury heals. It is going to take some time."

PKL: 29 PLAYERS RETAINED

NEW DELHI: A total of 29 players have been retained by their respective franchisees of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) under the 'Elite Retained Players' category, the organisers announced on Monday. The number of retained players for the upcoming season, starting July 19, has increased from the previous season's 21. The non-retained players will go under the hammer at the auctions, to be held on April 8-9. The League this time introduced a new category where a franchise can retain a New Young Player, once his two-year contract is completed under the 'Retained Young Players' category. These retained young players are over and above the existing cap of six 'New Young players' that a franchise can have. Experienced players such as Rohit Kumar (Bengaluru Bulls), Fazel Atrachali (U Mumba), Pardeep Narwal (Patna Pirates), Deepak Hooda (Jaipur Pink Panthers), Joginder Narwal (Dabang Delhi K.C.) and Maninder Singh (Bengal Warriors) have also been retained by their respective teams.

RHODE WINS WORLD CUP GOLD MEDAL

NEW DELHI: Sheeraz Sheikh was the best-placed Indian with a score of 48 out of 50 in the men's skeet event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shotgun World Cup in Acapulco, Mexico. In the women's event, American legend Kimberly Rhode nailed her sixth ISSF World Cup stage Gold over the last two years on Sunday. Sheeraz was placed 22nd in the pecking order on count-back with 14 others in a field of 95, shooting the same score. Four, including world champion Vincent Hancock of the USA, shot a perfect 50 while 12 others missed one bird each. Among the women, Kimberly shot 57 to leave New Zealand's Chloe Tipple way behind in Silver medal position with a score of 48. The American legend has won a total of 54 international medals, including 30 Gold in a remarkable career spanning over three decades. Agencies

LEADERBOARD	
RUNS	85 David Warner (SRH)
WICKETS	3 Imran Tahir (CSK)
6S	43
4S	98

I HAVE SEEN RISHABH GETTING MATURE IN HIS GAME AND HE WILL WIN MANY MORE GAMES — **RICKY PONTING**



UNIVERSE BOSS ARRIVES WITH BANG

Gayle smashes 47-ball 79 as Kings XI post 184-4 against Rajasthan Royals



PTI ■ JAIPUR

Chris Gayle struck a belligerent half-century to guide Kings XI Punjab to a challenging 184 for four against Rajasthan Royals in their opening Indian Premier League match on Monday.

Opening the innings, Gayle started in an uncharacteristic fashion but grew in confidence as the innings progressed. He scored 79 off 47 balls and hit eight boundaries and four sixes in the process.

Besides Gayle, young Sarfaraz Khan (46 not out off 29 balls) also played a good hand.

But Rajasthan's decision to bowl first on a two-paced wicket was bang on target as K L Rahul lasted just four balls before edging an outgoing Dhawal Kulkarni delivery to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler, who took a brilliant one-handed catch.

Gayle and Mayank Agarwal (22) then struggled to hit big shots against Kings XI's disciplined bowling as they garnered just 32 runs in the powerplay overs.

The duo finally broke their shackles, hitting Jaydev Unadkat for a four and six to yield 13 runs of the bowler's opening over.

Gayle then opened up his arms again and hit Krishnappa Gowtham for a maximum in the first ball of the ninth over.

But Gowtham broke the 54-run stand



BESIDES GAYLE, YOUNG SARFARAZ KHAN (46 NOT OUT OFF 29 BALLS) ALSO PLAYED A GOOD HAND FOR KXIP

between Gayle and Agarwal after the latter was holed out a long-off by Kulkarni.

Brought back into the attack in the 12th over, Unadkat was taken to the cleaners by Gayle as he hit the left-arm pacer for three consecutive fours and then a straight six over the bowler's head to bring up his fifty in 33 balls.

Unadkat's second over, that produced 17 runs, opened the floodgates for Kings XI

as Sarfaraz too joined the party and together with Gayle punished the bad deliveries.

After playing cautiously initially, Gayle went on a rampage, stood on his crease and clobbered Ben Stokes (2/48) for two boundaries and six before being holed out at mid-wicket fence by Rahul Tripathi in the fifth ball of the same over.

Gayle and Sarfaraz added 84 runs for the third wicket and in the process gave Kings XI the much-needed momentum.

After Gayle's dismissal, Sarfaraz took the onus on himself and took Kings XI past the 180-run mark.

Up Next CSK battle against spirited Capitals

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2

HEAD TO HEAD

M 18

DC 6

CSK 12

DC vs CSK

NEW DELHI

TUESDAY 8:00 PM

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

The shrewd tactician in Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be plotting a rampaging Rishabh Pant's downfall when Chennai Super Kings face Delhi Capitals in an Indian Premier League encounter on Tuesday.

It will be a battle where experience will be pitted against youth and astuteness will square off against flamboyance when the King faces his heir apparent on what is expected to be another sluggish Feroz Shah Kotla track.

Pant has once again set the tone with a magnificent 78 off 27 balls in Delhi Capitals' 37-run away win against Mumbai Indians.

CSK, with their experience of winning important moments, will certainly make Capitals wary.

However, Chennai Super Kings will be a different challenge for the Capitals, who don't have an enviable record against Dhoni's men at their home ground.

The nature of the Kotla track makes CSK favourites with their spin trio of Harbhajan Singh, Ravindra Jadeja and Imran Tahir having already hit the straps in the low-scoring opener against the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

A look at Pant's track record indicates that he has had problems against slow bowlers and Dhoni, who has seen enough of the youngster, will love to exploit the chinks in his armoury.

The Kotla pitch, which gets slower with passage of play, might force Dhoni to start with his pacers and keep Harbhajan and Tahir for the overs when



LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

Delhi Capitals defeated Chennai Super Kings by 34 runs at Delhi

Chennai Super Kings beat Delhi Capitals by 13 runs at Pune

FOR THE RECORD

Rishabh Pant's strike rate against Mumbai Indians in the last match, 288.88, is the highest in an 50 plus innings for Delhi Capitals in IPL. Overall it is the third best for them.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni who scored 487 runs at 32.46 in 19 innings of 21 matches against Delhi Capitals, needs just 13 runs to become the eighth batsman to score 500 runs against them in IPL.

Faisal Features

Pant is expected to be in action.

Harbhajan, after his man of the match performance against RCB, will be relishing the challenge of bowling to a left-handed batsman, who loves to play his shots.

Having disposed off Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers in the first match, 'The Turbanator' won't mind showing Pant the dug-out way.

While CSK will expect their batsmen to score more freely at the Kotla, Capitals would want their opening bowlers Trent Boult and Ishant Sharma to be a bit more economical.

Chennai won't focus on Pant alone: Fleming

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals star Rishabh Pant might have played a stellar role on Sunday to win them the opening game against Mumbai Indians, but Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming made it clear that overplanning keeping one player in mind would not help the team.

"You have to respect so many players in the tournament and he is one of them. But there are others as well. Have to be sure you don't overplan. He is one of the great young prospects in Indian cricket. But there is Shikhar Dhawan, Colin Ingram, captain Shreyas Iyer. One thing is to find a weakness, but have to use it well. You must focus on own strength," he explained.

Asked if the conditions in Ferozshah Kotla will help the Chennai side as CSK too banks on spin on their home ground in Chepauk, Fleming said: "The last game was difficult for the batters. The bowlers excelled. The fact that we use spinners is one of our tactics, we have seaming bowlers as well to exploit situations. We will spend time to look at the conditions. Getting the combination right is important." Fleming was all praise for senior spinner Harbhajan Singh and said that the off-spinner will definitely be considered for Delhi game.

'GLAD TO BAT AT ANY POSITION'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Dashing India wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant said he is "glad" to bat at any position his team wants him to after blasting a stunning 27-ball 78 during Delhi Capitals' opening match which brightened his World Cup selection prospects.

"Well, I am glad to bat anywhere the team wants me to," the 21-year-old Pant said after powering Delhi Capitals to a 37-run win over Mumbai Indians.

Asked about his rapid rise to the top, he said, "It's been a great journey, I'm trying to learn every day of my cricketing career. It feels good when your team wins. I always play according to the situation most of the time."

"This time I needed to increase the run rate for the team, and I took my chances, and it came off today. Especially in T20, you have to do something different. When the bowler cramps you for room, you need to make your own room."

The Delhi dazzler's seven towering sixes and as many fours at the Wankhede Stadium left the Mumbai Indians bowlers traumatised and gave rechristened Delhi Capitals the fresh beginning they longed for.

Lauding Pant's knock, Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma said he would change the team combination in the next game.

"First game is always a bit of a challenge for most of the teams. Lot of new players in the squad as well. We made a lot of mistakes today, as simple as that. We were pretty much in the game in the first 10 overs when we were bowling, but the way Rishabh batted, you've got to give him credit."

Leading the perennial slow starters, he added, "The combination might change for the next game. We want to see what combination the opposition plays and then decide. The ball was still coming on well when we batted. We ended up getting 180, still. Nobody went on to get a big score."

"Yuvi batted brilliantly, and there were a few cameos. If one of the top three or four had scored 70-80, things would have been different."

Delhi skipper Shreyas Iyer said, "To be honest, I was really well prepared to take on the captaincy. I've been leading India A as well as my domestic side. It's been a great experience so far, we've been bonding and training really well."

"(Pant) is a really destructive batsman. Over the years I've seen him maturing a lot. He faced a few dot balls early on and then suddenly his strike rate was 250. Amazing batsman, great to have him on our team."



I will be first to hang boots when time comes: Yuvraj on retirement

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Yuvraj Singh's cricketing future has been a topic of discussion for some years now but the player said that he would be the first one to bid adieu when he feels that his time is up.

Out of national team's scheme of things for good, Yuvraj has had poor track record in IPL but started on a bright note with a half-century for his latest franchise Mumbai Indians.

"When the time comes, I will be the first one to hang my boots," Yuvraj told mediapersons after MI's 37-run defeat.

However India's 2007 World T20 and 2011 World Cup hero did admit that at times he felt indecisive about carrying on.

"The last two years, have been up and down (for me). And I could not decide on what to do," said the 37-year-old.

Yuvraj said that when he did a self-introspection, he found that he is still enjoying the game just as he did as an U-16 cricketer not thinking about national team selection.

"The main thing for me was why I played the game when I started off. I played the game because I enjoyed playing cricket. When I enjoyed playing cricket, I was not



playing for India. I was playing for U-14s and U-16s. So till the time, I enjoy playing cricket, I am going to play."

Important to groom Rishabh as he is next big thing: Yuvi

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rishabh Pant is an outstanding talent and should be groomed properly so that he becomes the next big thing in Indian cricket, feels India's 2011 World Cup hero Yuvraj Singh.

Yuvraj's comments came after Pant showed his heroics with the bat once again and played a match-winning unbeaten 78 off just 27 balls for Delhi Capitals against Mumbai Indians in the lung opener between the two sides.

"I can't really say about (World Cup) selection but Rishabh was outstanding today," 37-year-old Yuvraj said at the post match media conference.

"He (Pant) had an outstanding season last year as well. He is playing well in Test matches as well. To score two hundreds overseas at such an age (21 years) shows his character. It is important that we groom him well and hopefully he is the next big thing for us," said Yuvraj.

Yuvraj said that skipper Rohit Sharma's early dismissal had an effect as they were chasing a big total.

"Losing Rohit early (was one of the reasons). de Kock was going well but (we) lost his wicket. (Kieron) Pollard came and quickly lost his wicket. We really couldn't get partnerships going. The wicket was more of 180-190 wicket, 215 (213) was quite a match-winning score," said Yuvraj, who also lauded Delhi's bowling attack.

Bumrah's shoulder scans are clear: BCCI official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Allaying fears about India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's shoulder injury, a BCCI official on Monday said there are no major concerns since the scans have come clear.

A vital cog in India's World Cup plans, Mumbai Indians' Bumrah landed awkwardly on his left shoulder while fielding during Sunday's IPL contest against Delhi Capitals, causing concern in the Indian camp.

The national team relies heavily on Bumrah, who has earned the reputation of being the world's best bowler in death overs.

The Gujarat pacer did not come out to bat in Sunday's match, which added to the concerns about his injury. "Bumrah had some shoulder scans



done in the morning and BCCI was kept in the loop. His scan reports were okay. The tests that were done were all recommended by the BCCI," the official said.

When asked why Bumrah was still in Mumbai while the team has already left for Bengaluru, the official said, "Since the reports came late and the team has already left, he is travelling separately."

SIDE NETS



RUSSELL ONE OF MOST POWERFUL HITTERS: KALLIS

KOLKATA: Iconic all-rounder and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) head coach Jacques Kallis on Monday said that Andre Russell is one of the most powerful hitters he has seen. Russell walked in to bat when KKR needed 68 off 27 balls against SRH on Sunday and the big-hitting Caribbean all-rounder first hit Siddharth Kaul for 19 runs in the 18th over and smashed 21 more off Bhuvneshwar in the 19th to steer KKR home with two balls to spare. "In terms of finishing, he is one of the most powerful hitters that I have seen," Kallis said. "It was a good knock. He timed it well. And there were issues, the light wasn't incredible. But it was some of the best ball striking I have seen in a long time," said the former South Africa all-rounder.

leading up to the World Cup. Hopefully I get some game time here and can contribute to some good performances. And then hopefully the England selectors will be watching them," said Denly, who recently made his Test debut for England in the lost series against the West Indies.

MALINGA LIKELY TO PLAY NEXT TWO MATCHES

NEW DELHI: Lasith Malinga is likely to be available for the next two IPL matches for Mumbai Indians after Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) softened its stance on the participation of the veteran pacer in a domestic ODI tournament. SLC had earlier announced that only those



players would be eligible for selection in the World Cup squad, who would compete in Super Provincial One-Day domestic tournament, slated from April 4 to 11. The diktat had forced Malinga to make himself unavailable for Mumbai Indians' first six matches. However, according to a report, the SLC has changed its stance after a few calls by BCCI. SLC Chief selector Ashantha de Mel said that Malinga's place in the World Cup bound squad is guaranteed, so he is free to participate in the IPL. "We have no issues if he goes to IPL — the board had given him a no-objection certificate already, so he's free to go. Anyway he has been one of our best bowlers in one dayers, so there's no question about his place in the team," Mel said.

DENLY EYEING WC SPOT THROUGH IPL

KOLKATA: England all-rounder Joe Denly is looking at the ongoing Indian Premier League to impress upon the national selectors and guarantee his place in this year's World Cup squad. Denly's form in white ball cricket for Kent in 2018 has brought him on the selectors' radar for a spot in England's World Cup squad. Denly hopes to get selectors' attention by doing well for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. "I want to play as many games as I can. It's important

