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# INDIA INCREDIBLY MODI-FIED

## Anti-BJP forces bite dust, fail to stop BJP juggernaut

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

**Modi hai to mumkin hai.** The evocative tagline of the BJP campaign aptly reflects the party's massive victory in the Lok Sabha polls. The brand 'Modi' has outshone every competitor, be it regional satraps or Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who found few takers for his "chowkidar chor hai" jibe at the PM.

The result shows the BJP has emerged as a pan-India force as the saffron party made big inroad into the strongly protected fortresses of Mamata Banerjee's West Bengal and Navin Patnaik's Odisha. Except Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the footprint of the BJP is clearly visible all over the country.

The result emphatically negated pre-poll calculations that the coming together of anti-BJP forces in several States could stop Modi's juggernaut there. While the Uttar Pradesh's mahagathbandhan of Samajwadi Party and BSP did pull down the BJP a bit, but in Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Maharashtra, no one could withstand the force of the all-pervasive Modi wave.

The outcome is particularly worrisome for West Bengal

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had emerged as the most vocal critic of the Prime Minister during the poll campaign. All the seven phases of the polls were marred by violence, and both the PM and BJP chief Amit Shah had warned that those engaged in bloodletting will pay for it after the elections. Now, that the BJP stands neck and neck with the TMC in terms of tally and its voting percentage has increased phenomenally, the party is expected to make a big push to grab power in the State in next Assembly polls.

The West Bengal result shows that, like in every other part of India, there has been a significant consolidation of Hindu voters in the State with 27 per cent Muslim population. The BJP's strategy to centre its campaign around Hindutva paid off rich dividends.

The BJP victory is all the more significant because the party crossed halfway mark of 50 per cent seats in 17 States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh among others.

The Congress will have a lot to think after its pathetic show. Rahul Gandhi may have

won from Wayanad with a record margin, but his humiliating defeat at the hands of Smriti Irani in the family pocket borough of Amethi is the cruelest blow the BJP has inflicted on the Congress chief.

The results show that in direct contest with the BJP, the Congress has no chance to survive. The two parties were locked in direct contest on 184 seats, of which 174 went to the BJP.

There is no denying the fact that Hindutva and nationalism were the two most prominent agenda for the BJP. No surprise Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur was able to vanquish veteran Digvijaya Singh despite calling Nathuram Godse a nationalist. Giriraj Singh's massive victory over Kanhaiya Kumar is also reflection of the success of the party's Hindutva agenda.

The BJP victory is undoubtedly fuelled by the support of all sections and caste, but it is believed that even a significant section of the Muslim voted for the saffron outfit.

Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi put this number to 30 per cent.

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BJP workers welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he arrives at the party headquarters to celebrate the party's victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in New Delhi on Thursday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

## It is victory of people, avows Prime Minister

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that the landslide repeat mandate has surprised the world and put forward a "new narrative" for India for waging a decisive battle against poverty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday promised that he would go all-out to live up to the "big trust" reposed on him by the people. The PM said he would carry all political parties along to make the country prosperous and strong.

Modi, who walked into the BJP headquarters in the evening along with party chief Amit Shah to a tumultuous welcome with thousands of workers chanting "Modi-Modi", "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram", said the ultimate victor in the elections are people of India who "fought the polls".

He said political pundits will have to re-visit their tools to analyse the repeat "prachand bahumat" (massive mandate) saying "this is new India".

Taking a dig at political parties deriving their sustenance from the "tag of secularism", Modi said they were silenced by the big political victory of BJP in 2014. "2014 tak us jamat ne bolna band kar diya", he said saying they were "de-masked".

Vowing that he would go beyond caste-based considerations, the Prime Minister said, "Caste-based political parties received a big shock this election", adding, "with the spirit which prevailed during freedom movement we can remove poverty during 2019 to 24".

Detailing his welfare schemes which fulfilled aspirations of youth, farmers, labourers and middle-class, Modi said his Government would fast-track its war against

poverty next five-year. Taking a dig at Left parties and their alleged commitment to the welfare of workers, he said the BJP Government provided pension to 40 crore labourers in the unorganised sector.

Even as Shah in his address to workers directly attacked dynasty, caste and politics of appeasement and the setback they got in the poll results, the Prime Minister said he would let go of what happened during polls and run the Government with the consensus of all.

"Governments are formed by majority but run by consensus of all", he said adding "we have to look ahead" and taken even our political rivals with us for making India a prosperous and strong country.

Thanking all party workers for their "selfless work", Modi said "aapne is fakir ki jholi bhar di" and it is time "I fulfil my promises". In 2014, he said people did not know him but trusted and "now you trusted after knowing me".

Shah, in his speech, said BJP won more than 50 per cent votes in 17 States including in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

He said this (50 per cent) vote was achieved by shaking up the traditional caste calculations.



## Southern comfort for red-faced Rahul

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

After its success in the three Assembly elections last year, the Congress once again performed miserably against the BJP at the national level. The party president Rahul Gandhi faced the mortification of a humiliating defeat at the hands of Smriti Irani in the family bastion of Amethi.

The party scored a duck in 18 States and saw nine of its former Chief Ministers biting the dust. For the second time, the grand old party did not get enough number to bag leader of Opposition post in the Lok Sabha.

While Rahul lost from Amethi, there were no takers for sister Priyanka Gandhi in UP. The party lost all the seats where Priyanka campaigned or conducted road-shows.

The only face saver for Congress was Kerala (15) and Punjab (8) which helped the party reach a tally 51 (till 8pm) seats which is merely seven more from the tally of 2014

General elections.

The States where the Congress could not even open its account include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Jammu Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Apart from these, the Congress also has no presence in Andaman and Nicobar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura.

The UPA which has Congress as its main constituents could not even touch three digit figure with its major alliance partners like NCP, JD(S) and others showing a dismal performance.

Senior Congress leaders who lost included Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge from Kalaburgi in Karnataka, former Delhi CM Shiela Dikshit from North East Delhi, former Madhya Pradesh CM Digvijay Singh from Bhopal, former Maharashtra Chief Ministers Ashok Chavan from Nanded.

## OVERALL 542/543

NDA	UPA	OTHERS
348	81	97

Following a clear lead on over 300 Lok Sabha seats, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday addressing BJP party workers at the BJP Headquarters said, "Even a single political party could not mislead the country by wearing a mask of secularism." He emphasised how the Opposition could not make inflation or corruption an election issue

## BJP storms Mamata's citadel

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Left and Congress were blown off, LTMC lost much of its roof in the Saffron Fani as 2019 election results on Thursday saw BJP seriously denting Mamata Banerjee's stronghold.

In an extraordinarily polarised atmosphere, the Lok Sabha poll results found BJP making massive inroads into TMC "green fort" of Bengal apparently getting a huge chunk of Left Front votes to swing its way.

According to BJP last reports — even as VVPATs were counted —	BJP	Congress	TMC
	18	2	22

the ruling Trinamool Congress was leading in 22 seats conceding 12 seats to the BJP which was leading in 18 seats.

The Congress which won four seats in 2014 was leading in only two seats with former PCC president and sitting MP Adhir Chowdhury clinching the Behrampur seat and AH Khan Chowdhury lead-

ing from the Malda South seat.

Making a record of sorts the Left Front not only transferred 23 per cent votes to the saffron outfit but also for the first time since 1955 drew a blank sending no MP from the erstwhile Red citadel.

Percentage-wise the TMC polled about 43 per cent votes while the BJP got about 41 per cent votes wresting almost 23 per cent votes from the Left which got just about 8 per cent.

# BJP dethrones Congress swiftly

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Only six months ago, after the Congress formed Government in Madhya Pradesh with 114 Assembly seats out of 230, it was believed that the Congress' tally would certainly improve in the Lok Sabha elections. However, the Congress lost two more seats and could win only one seat out of 29.

In the last Lok Sabha elections, the BJP was in possession of 27 seats and later in the by-election, the BJP had lost Jhabua seats, increasing Congress tally to three seats.

The party even could not match its own lowest ever performance of 2014 when the party had ended up with two seats — Chhindwara and Guna.

This time it is only Chhindwara where the Congress party won losing all the remaining 28 seats, a figure anyone hardly imagined was possible after party's resurgence in 2018 when BJP's 15 years of rule was halted.

Besides, Nakul Nath who won in Chhindwara, his father and the Chief Minister Kamal Nath too

won in the assembly by-poll in Chhindwara. Almost the entire Congress party was forced to bite the dust in the state.

Among the two, Nath junior who was to win as a cakewalk against a little known Natthan Shah could barely win by a margin of 37,536.

Father Kamal Nath too trudged to win with little over 25,000 votes against a local candidate Vivek Sahu.

The dismal outcome however does not augur well for the Kamal Nath government keeping afloat with the support of SP, BSP and four independents.

The defeat of the party seniors —all of them—including Digvijay Singh from Bhopal, Jyotiraditya Scindia from Guna, Arun Yadav from Khandwa, Kantilal Bhuria from Ratlam, Ajay Singh from Sidhi and Meenakshi Natrajan from Mandsaur has shaken up the party organisation completely. The winning margins which went up to five lakh and above also narrated the tale of wrong candidate selection by the Congress party.



BJP activists celebrate party's victory in Lok Sabha elections at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

## BJP wins Delhi, 3 AAP nominees forfeit deposit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is on course to retain all the seven seats that it had won in 2014 in Delhi. BJP candidates continued to dominate the trends with five of its candidates taking the lead by the highest margins ever. BJP's roller coaster victory that remains a mere formality now, saw BJP

7 went into celebratory Congress 0 mode with jubilant support Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) AAP 0 porters of the saffron party starting to burst crackers and shouting slogans at various counting centres. Singer-turned-politician Hans Raj Hans was leading in the Northwest Delhi constituency with a whopping margin of 5.04 lakh votes.

He is pitted against AAP's Gagan Singh, who is on the second position and Congress' Rajesh Lilothia at the third spot.

the 67 Assembly seats that it had won in 2015 Delhi Assembly elections.

Its candidates were placed third in vote share in 48 Assembly constituencies. Even Gole Market and Patpraganj seats held by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia voted poorly in favour of AAP candidates.

The BJP already made with jubilant supporters of the saffron party starting to burst crackers and shouting slogans at various counting centres. Singer-turned-politician Hans Raj Hans was leading in the Northwest Delhi constituency with a whopping margin of 5.04 lakh votes.

He is pitted against AAP's Gagan Singh, who is on the second position and Congress' Rajesh Lilothia at the third spot.

# Art & craft workshop held at Mayaram Srijan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

It was a wonderful day spent by school students on Thursday as they learnt to create something new and unique at the Art and Craft Workshop. The summer camp of art and craft is being organised by Ekkrang Socio Welfare Society at Mayaram Srijan Bhavan. At the monthlong summer camp the participants are enhancing their creative skills. From Best out of Waste to different forms of paintings all are taught to the participants. Starting from the basics like cutting, pasting and folding, the children have learnt to make 2D and 3D objects. They are

also learning to make the decorative items, greeting cards, and also 3D projects as well. Expert Swati Joshi is training them in different art works. Recently the participants learned to create 3D models and artistic pieces from paper. It was a wonderful experience for all of them. The young artists are learning to create various art pieces that portray their hidden outlook about what they feel. They wonderfully played with the colours and created pieces according to their artistic perceptions. Under ceramic workshop the children are also taught to create their different pieces using paper-

mache. Interestingly, the children are enjoying the workshop and are taking full pleasure of it as they are learning new things under it. The workshop would continue till June 2. Notably, Ekkrang Socio Cultural Society every year organizes summer workshop for the school students to learn new things that may also include dance, music, painting, acting, theatre, embroidery and more. These workshops are being organised for the students to enhance their skills into different artistic fields which may also prove beneficial for them in the coming years.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the popular museum series 'Exhibit of the Month' of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, a traditional object is displayed in the appearance for a whole month. The exhibit for the month of May is the exhibit for the month of May, 2019 - 'Chamunda Kali' (A Wooden Gambhira mask of Goddess Kali) from Polia and Deshi communities of Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar districts of West Bengal has become popular in amongst visitors coming to the museum. This exhibit of the month has been curreted by Soma Kiro (Assistant Curator).

## EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH

# Chamunda Kali display at IGRMS

**The exhibit for the month of May is the exhibit for the month of May, 2019 - 'Chamunda Kali' (A Wooden Gambhira mask of Goddess Kali) from Polia and Deshi communities of Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar districts of West Bengal has become popular in amongst visitors coming to the museum. This exhibit of the month has been curreted by Soma Kiro (Assistant Curator)**

Craft and Craftsmanship - Masks of the Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar districts of West Bengal are prepared by the craftsmen of Polia and Deshi communities using the wood of Gamir. Use of mask is strictly confined to the member of these communities.

The uniqueness of the masks is the provision of slit openings for eyes below the painted lower margin of the eyes instead of the usual circular opening. One of the features of the Gamira mask is its ferocious expression. The Gamira masks consist

of Shiknidhal, Chamunda, Mashan Kali, Buri Bura, Bagh Mashan, masks of different animals like tiger, bear, etc. They are made of Gamir wood for the mask is specially preferred for the convenience of carving. Gamir Wood is the principal material of Gamira mask. The local craftsman prepares the mask by carving wood with the help of iron tools and produces the required shape of a specified mask. Sand paper is used for smoothening the surface of the mask. Natural colors such as Ash, Vermilion, white and saffron colored clay and vegetable color are used for coloring the mask. The smooth finishing of the mask indicates the craftsmanship of the maker.

# Urban youth to explore Gujarat under 'Go Rurban'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

To let the urban youth explore the lifestyle and tradition of rural India, a team of youngsters will travel to Gujarat. The most impactful trip is organised under an event 'Go Rurban'. The registrations for the same are going online. Go Rurban is a social event organized jointly by youth organization Ansh Happiness Society and Ekta Parishad.

Notably, it is the Seventh youth camp under the event Go Rurban organized with the objective to know about the life in rural environment. Founder member of Ansh Society Mohsin Khan said, "Till now we have done Go Rurban camps in Madhya Pradesh but this is the first time we are moving out of State."

Application forms for the Go Rurban Camp June 2019 (Gujarat) are now open. Go Rurban camps aims to bring young people closer to rural India in order to generate new understandings and connections - with ourselves, with each other, and with nature; through a lifestyle that is truly Rurban. This camp will take place in rural parts of Gujarat from June 14 to 24.

Mohsin informed that the camp will include interaction and living with the nomadic pastoral Maldhari community, participating in their national parliament and an interaction with Gandhian thoughts at the banks of Sabarmati River in celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Kasturba and Mahatma Gandhi.

The basic idea of this camp is to explore the shortcomings and highlights of both the urban and rural lifestyle.

Elaborating more, he said, "It is only through this exploration that we can build a bridge between both the ends and can actually be the combination of both rural and urban, Rurban."

# VD Sharma wins Khajuraho seat with 4.9 lakh votes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Amidst the wave of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP's Organisational Secretary VD Sharma succeeded in wresting the Khajuraho seat with a huge margin of around 4,91,884.

He was seeking party ticket from at least five seats and finally, in the last list, he was nominated from Khajuraho. The candidate VD Sharma had even vehement opposition from within. The local party leaders even burnt his effigies.

The former national general secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Sharma had tried taking a political plunge in assembly polls by contesting election from Govindpura seat in Bhopal.

After the party made it clear that it was not planning to re-nominate the 86-year-old Gaur from Govindpura, the crafty politician almost took on the entire BJP to make sure his daughter-in-law Krishna Gaur.

The logjam had continued for a while after the ticket was offered to Krishna Gaur reportedly on the intervention of BJP president Amit Shah.

As the 2019 lok sabha polls

**However, his plans hit a roadblock after Narendra Singh Tomar who was facing internal unrest in Gwalior, from where he won in 2014, decided to switch his seat and was named from Morena. Sharma then was pinning his hopes from a ticket from Gwalior but eventually lost out to Mayor Vivek Shejwalaker who also has strong bonding with the RSS**

approached, Sharma yet again was in the

hunt for a ticket, especially from the backing of RSS with which he has strong bonding. Initially, Sharma, the former head of Nehru Yuva Kendra, had in the contention from Morena, his hometown.

However, his plans hit a roadblock after Narendra Singh Tomar who was facing internal unrest in Gwalior, from where he won in 2014, decided to switch his seat and was named from Morena. Sharma then was pinning his hopes from a ticket from Gwalior but eventually lost out to Mayor Vivek Shejwalaker who also has strong bonding with the RSS.

Then Sharma pinned his hope for a nomination from Bhopal where too he had to face opposition from partymen who dubbed him as an outsider.

BJP/RSS too backed out on his nomination after Congress party fielded veteran Digvijaya Singh from the seat.

In between Sharma's name also did rounds for candidature in Vidisha, the RSS stronghold which had in the past sent Brahmin MPs to parliament including late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Still luck did not favour Sharma who eventually was named from Khajuraho.

# Electrical goods, sanitaryware over ₹1.5 lakh burgled

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Electrical goods and sanitaryware over ₹1.5 lakh were burgled from Viceroy Park society under Shahpura police station area on Thursday. Police said that the victim Dinesh Singh Bhadoria's house was under construction and electrical goods and sanitary ware were kept at the under construction house and when the victim reached the house in the morning goods were found burgled.

A complaint was lodged with the police stating that part of house was razed and electrical goods and sanitary ware was kept in the remaining part which was locked and he used to visit for construction work. On Thursday when he visited electrical goods and sanitary ware were found burgled.

The police said that as part of the investigation, CCTV cameras would be investigated. The neighbours have expressed ignorance over the burglary. The locks were broken by the miscreants.

**A complaint was lodged with the police stating that part of house was razed and electrical goods and sanitary ware was kept in the remaining part which was locked and he used to visit for construction work**

Meanwhile electronic goods worth ₹45000 were stolen from Priyanka Nagar under Koalr police station area on Thursday. The victim Amardeep Bhatnagar found that locks were broken and electronic goods were found burgled when he visited house in the morning on Thursday.

An LED TV set and electronic devices worth ₹45000 were burgled claimed the victim. The house belongs to victim's brother Sunil who lives in Raipur. The police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation.

# Hindi play 'Sanjhe Virse' performed

Bhopal: The little artists of the city showcased immense talent in a Hindi play Sanjhe Virse. The play was performed to mark the conclusion of a summer camp for children in summer holidays.

The play Sanjha Virse was staged on the occasion of concluding the Bal Natya Workshop which was conducted for nearly a month. In the play, about 20 children from 18 years of age have shown their acting skills.

The story of King of a State was presented by the school students. It is to be noted that the workshop was organised in the city by Natubundale, the famous drama troupe of Bhopal. The play was directed by Krishnakant Verma and theater actor, cinema and TV actor Ajay Pal, directed the play.

The scenario of this drama is written by Krishna Kant Verma is ancient, but it is accurate on the system of today's situation. In the drama, Murakra Raja, the king did some tactics in the assembly of ministers and generals and takes such decisions, thereby causing deep loss to the state but not to the entire people, and the situation of humor is created by these decisions of the king.

But in the end, the wise person is aware of the mistake of the wise person, and by returning his wrong decisions, he declares the right and the decisions of the people. How cleverness and knowledge defeated the cruelty. The play was beautifully performed by the students which was much appreciated by the audience. The scenes and the acting skills that were learned during the workshop were showcased by the students splendidly. SR



BJP Mahila Morcha activists celebrate party's victory in Lok Sabha elections at BJP State headquarters (left) and PCC headquarters wears a deserted look(right) after party's defeat in Lok Sabha elections in Bhopal on Thursday



Pioneer photo

# DGP VK Singh releases second edition of 'Newsletter'

Bhopal: Second edition of News Letter published by police State headquarters CID was released by DGP VK Singh on Thursday at the state police headquarters.

The second edition was published under the guidance of Additional Director CID Rajiv Tandon.

The facts related to the crimes related to women and children, Narcotics, cyber crime etc. have been published and the publication of the factual information related to the judicial penalization and disclosure of criminal incidents has been published.

DGP Singh appreciated the content of the newsletter and wished for publication of more such News Letters in future. On the occasion of the release, ADG Rajiv Tandon, IG D. Shrinivas Verma, Assistant Police

**DGP Singh appreciated the content of the newsletter and wished for publication of more such News Letters in future. On the occasion of the release, ADG Rajiv Tandon, IG D. Shrinivas Verma, Assistant Police Inspector General, Kiranlata Kerketta and Mahaveer Mujalde and Inspector Mukhtar Qureshi were present**

Inspector General, Kiranlata Kerketta and Mahaveer Mujalde and Inspector Mukhtar Qureshi were present. Meanwhile, summer training camp would be inaugurated

at Motilal Nehru Stadium by Additional Director General of Police (DGP) Vijay Yadav at 6 in the evening on May 24 at Motilal Nehru Stadium. The school children of families residing in police colonies along with other school children of nearby colonies will also participate in this summer training camp.

At the summer training camp around 600 children would attend the camp. The camp which would be organised for a month would witness professional trainers who would be providing training to the participants.

The summer camp more emphasis would be given on sports especially for traditional sports like Volleyball, hockey, kabaddi, handball and wrestling. Arrangements of training of 600 children have been made at the summer training camp. SR

# Daylong seminar on 'how to do research in English literature'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A daylong seminar on "How to Do Research in English Literature" was held at Sanchi University.

The expert Vikas Jaodker of by the Department of English of Hamidia College, Bhopal conducted the seminar for the students of English Department.

Besides, Prof. Jaodker, talked on "How to choose a topic of research" for MA, M.Phil and Ph.D students, what is the difference between research dissertation and research paper, on career options after higher education in English literature.

Professor Jaodker told students how many types of research paper can be presented. He suggested using the Modern Linguistic Approach to write a thesis.

**Besides, Prof. Jaodker, talked on "how to choose a topic of research" for MA, M.Phil and Ph.D students, what is the difference between research dissertation and research paper, on career options after higher education in English literature**

Pro. Jaodker told the students how the conceptualization should be understood and what the hypothesis could be for any student's subject. He also mentions various sources for research. He explained how poetry, novel, drama, essay etc. are the primary sources for research in English literature.

In reference to a research conducted by the famous English novelist and journalist Kamala

Markandey, the university's research students told how the research can be carried forward. He told the students about the rules of the UGC made against the quotes, anti-plagiarism (research theft) for research.

Navin Mehta, the University's Department of Excellence and Department of English, gave vote of thanks.

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# Pragya defeats Digvijaya

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur of BJP defeated Congress nominee Digvijaya Singh with around 3,64,324 votes in the Bhopal Lok Sabha elections, probably due to the polarization of votes.

Bhopal candidate had taken a lead against Congress party veteran in initial counting and the lead continued till end.

Thakur who managed to polarised atmosphere in Bhopal, a saffron hub since 1989, took an early lead against Singh after the counting begun in the state capital. However, things did not look too bright

**A former ABVP activist, Pragya was considered no match for Singh**

for the two-time Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh as the Sanyasan, an accused in 2008 Malegaon blast case, raced past him and took a lead of over 69,000 votes by around noon.

Contesting her maiden poll, Thakur a former ABVP

activist was considered a no match for Singh but she gained ground as the campaigning progressed and she raked up sentiments with her stinging takes.

Though Thakur did not have much time to undertake campaigning properly, she did turned heads with her takes on Hemant Karkare, Babri Demolition and her custodial torture. The 49-year-old had proudly boasted her role in Babri demolition of 1993.

She had raked up a major trouble while claiming that late Maharashtra ATS chief Hemant Karkare had tortured her immensely in custody in order to frame her in Malegaon

blast case. The firebrand sadhvi had even claimed Karkare was killed by the terrorists due to her curse.

Singh, who had his own past to counter in this poll, was battling his pro-minority image and was seen in his religious avatar throughout the campaigning.

He even got hundreds of seers under Computer Baba, a controversial saint of Madhya Pradesh, to do a yagna and roadshow for him in Bhopal.

However, Singh could not win government staffers who expressed widespread resentment against him over anti-employee policies of his government prior to 2003.

# First timer Lalwani wins Indore

PNS ■ INDORE

A new leader, first-timer Ashankar Lalwani wrested the Indore parliamentary seat with around 4,91,884 votes.

Lalwani had replaced eight-time MP and lok sabha speaker Sumitra Mahajan who had voluntarily stepped away from the race of ticket.

The former Indore Development Authority chairman Lalwani was leading over his nearest rival—Pankaj Sanghvi of Congress by over 5.37 lakh votes and was set for a record win. He is perhaps among the highest margin victory among BJP candidate nationally.

Lalwani has even broken Mahajan's record already who

**Lalwani had replaced eight-time MP and lok Sabha speaker Sumitra Mahajan who had voluntarily stepped away. Lalwani was leading over his nearest rival Pankaj Sanghvi of Congress by over 5.37 lakh votes and is set for a record win**

has won by 4.66 lakh votes in year 2014. His win ushers in a fresh leadership in Indore BJP which till now was bifurcated between Mahajan and BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya for years.

Meanwhile, Lalwani initially was not considered a winning candidate with her lack of experience against Congress's Pankaj Sanghvi who had been in mainstream politics for decades and even had lost narrowly against Mahajan in 1998.

It was also uncertain how much support the rookie can draw from Mahajan and Vijayvargiya camps. Mahajan's possible inclination was important for Lalwani, a prominent Sindhi community leader, as Mahajan holds sizable sway on

Marathi community which is an important faction of voters in Indore.

However, it seems a strong Modi wave saw Lalwani through without any trouble whatsoever. Lalwani was among those who had went to meet Mahajan after she had announced not to contest lok sabha poll.

Mahajan had been an MP in Indore since 1989 when she defeated former Chief Minister Prakash Chandra Sethi.

An election rally of PM Narendra Modi in favour of Lalwani at Indore seems to have done the trick for him while Priyanka Gandhi's though drew sizable crowd in the city but failed to turn the crowd into votes.



BJP candidate for Bhopal Lok Sabha elections Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur flashes victory sign (left) and Congress candidate Digvijaya Singh and his wife Amrita Singh (right) at old Central Jail in Bhopal on Thursday



Pioneer photo

# After Assembly jolt in MP, BJP bounces back

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Both Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh that had witnessed the end of 15-year-rule of the BJP in the States, once again saw a jolt for Congress.

Out of 29 parliament seats in Madhya Pradesh, the BJP candidates were winning at 28 seats while Nakul Nath, son of CM Kamal Nath was the only one who was heading for a win. While in Chhattisgarh as well, BJP seemingly turned the tables on Congress despite a crushing defeat in assembly polls as BJP candidates were leading in nine out of 11 seats.

In 2014, Congress was left with two seats while in Chhattisgarh the grand old party had ended 2014 polls with a single seat Durg.

The Congress party despite a reversal of losing streak in assembly poll is set for a massive defeat in Madhya Pradesh as most of the regional satraps were trailing by around noon.

Those prominent among heading towards defeat include two-time Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh, former union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia,

**Those prominent among heading towards defeat include two-time Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh, former Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, former Union Minister Kantilla Bhuria, former Leader of Opposition in MP assembly Ajay Singh and Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha and former Union Minister Arun Yadav**

former union minister Kantilla Bhuria, former Leader of opposition in MP assembly Ajay Singh and Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha and former union minister Arun Yadav.

Though the Congress was making claims of winning at least 22 seats but insiders were claiming that the party was expecting to enter double digits in Madhya Pradesh and the imminent results are completely against expectations.

After the Congress had won 114 seats in assembly polls in MP and formed the government with allies, it expected that the party could enter into double digits in lok sabha polls.

# Regional satrap Congress' Scindia loses to Modi wave

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As several Congress party regional satraps in Madhya Pradesh lost the Lok Sabha elections in the State, the most surprising among them was Jyotiraditya Scindia, former union minister and the AICC general secretary in charge of UP (West).

Scindia is a tall figure in Madhya Pradesh Congress and a strong contender for the post of Chief Minister in the State. With his claims, the high command was delayed in taking decision for the name of Chief Minister in December 2018.

The Guna MP was trailing against BJP's KP Yadav with over 1,24,750 votes till latest reports came in. Yadav is a former close aide of Scindia

who also worked with him as MP-representative in the past.

Scindia who guided the Congress to thumping win in Gwalior-Chambal region in 2018 assembly polls was seen as a giant to his former aide KP Yadav in Lok Sabha polls. Having denied ticket in assembly polls, Yadav had switched over to the BJP in 2018. When he was fielded against Scindia, many believed that he would not be a strong opponent to Scindia, the Gwalior royal family scion who had won the last polls by over 1.20 lakh votes against BJP's Jaibhan Singh Pawaiya.

Scindia has represented Guna since 2002 after demise of his father late Madhav Rao Scindia who also represented this Scindia bastion four times besides Vijaya Raje Scindia

who was also an MP from Guna half a dozen times under various banners.

However, the party was of the view that Scindia should contest from elsewhere in 2019 but the former union minister had the last say. He also declined party offers to field his wife Priyadarshi Raje from anywhere in Madhya Pradesh.

Scindia, besides now Chief Minister Kamal Nath was the only MP in Madhya Pradesh who had survived a massive Modi wave in 2014 as BJP had swept the polls winning 27 out of 29 seats. Scindia however had remained limited to his region during campaigning and also had left for abroad once the polling was done in the Gwalior-Chambal region.

# Woman arrested for threatening husband

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Shahpura police have booked Sa Jhansi based married woman for taking valuables worth lakhs of rupees; case was registered after complaint was lodged by her husband.

Police have booked Garima Gupta after her husband and victim Varun Gupta lodged a complaint against her of threatening of life and criminal breach of trust.

The victim lodged complaint stating that he married to the victim on May 5, 2016 and later due to disputes between the two they continue to have fights. On August 21, 2018 she left to celebrate Rakshabandhan along with silver jewelry, one diamond stud-

**Police have booked Garima Gupta after her husband and victim Varun Gupta lodged a complaint against her of threatening of life and criminal breach of trust**

ded finger ring, one gold chain and other valuables worth lakhs of rupees.

The victim tried to persuade her to return but Garima refused and few days ago when he had gone to bring her back father and uncle of Garima threatened her of life and later they used to call him and demand ₹1.5 crores or they would lodge complaint of

dowry against victim after which he lodged a complaint with the police.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation, police have registered a case under section 506,507,406 and 34 of the IPC and started further investigation. The victim works as accountant with Rural Development Authority.

During the investigation police found that the couple used to have fight over issues of suspicion over character. They used to suspect each other and which resulted in the fights and later woman decided to leave house with the valuables. The victim has demanded gold which his family had gifted her in the marriage but woman refused.



# 22-year-old motorcyclist dies in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 22-year-old youth died while his friends escaped with injuries after a jeep hit their motorbikes near Berasia under Berasia police station area in the evening on Wednesday.

Police said that the injured were rushed to nearby hospital where one of the youths died while other survived with injuries. The deceased was identified as Kallu alias Bhagwan Singh while the youth who escaped with

injuries was identified as Lalchandra Singh and undergoing treatment.

The deceased were on the same bike and after shopping they were on their way to Nazeerabad when their bike was hit by speeding Jeep at around 7 in the evening.

In the head on collision impact proved fatal for Kallu while Lalchandra is undergoing treatment at Hamidia hospital.

After the preliminary investigation police have sent the bodies have been sent for

post mortem and a case under section 304 A of the IPC was registered against the errant driver. Police are yet to ascertain details and have claimed to start search for the absconding accused who still remains missing and unidentified.

The deceased was resident of Nazeerabad and came to Berasia for shopping with Lalchandra of Bheemkund.

Meanwhile a 17-year-old girl committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at her house near Kamla Park

area under Shymala Hills police station area on Wednesday.

According to police, the deceased was found hanging and was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was declared dead. The deceased was frustrated from a youth Deepak who used to live in the same building and which was claimed in suicide note recovered by police. The police have registered a case under section 174 of CrPc and have started further investigation.

# Fluctuation in weather seen

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Weather conditions in eastern Madhya Pradesh have soared to extreme levels while western Madhya Pradesh remained around the same temperatures maintaining the weather conditions at bearable levels on Thursday.

The state capital recorded little dip from the extremes recorded two days ago. The day temperature was recorded at 43.1 degree Celsius while night temperature was recorded at 26.6 degree Celsius.

Bhopal is likely to witness increased temperature on Thursday and day temperatures would be recorded around 42 degree Celsius and night temperatures would be recorded around 27 degree Celsius.

The night temperatures were recorded at higher levels Jabalpur, Raipur, Raigarh and Satna recorded night temperature at 30 degree Celsius, Tikamgarh, Chhindwara and Damoh recorded night temperature at 29 degree Celsius. Sidhi recorded night temperature at 28.1 degree Celsius.

Warning of thundery activities and speedy winds of speed 30-40 km/hr light rainfall has been issued for Chambal division and Gwalior, Datai, Shivpuri, Chhatrapur and Tikamgarh districts.



College students cover themselves from scorching heat in Bhopal on Thursday

Pioneer photo

**Bhopal is likely to witness increased temperature on Thursday and day temperatures would be recorded around 42 degree Celsius and night temperatures would be recorded around 27 degree Celsius**

Damoh, Umaria and Sidhi districts in the next 24 hours.

Rewa, Sagar, Hoshangabad, Bhopal and Ujjain recorded significant rise in the temperatures. Several places recorded rise in the night temperatures have been recorded at several places in the state.

Among the divisions in the past 24 hours Gwalior divisions witnessed light rainfall while remaining divisions witnessed dry conditions. In the past 24 hours Umaria, Chhatrapur, Tikamgarh, Damoh and Khargone witnessed hot waves conditions.



Visitors going through a painting exhibition created by kids of Special Armed Force (SAF) police personnel, in Bhopal on Thursday

Pioneer photo

# Naveen magic cuts Baijayant to size

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Baijayant Jay Panda, who had been ejected from the BJD for his challenge to Naveen Patnaik's leadership, was a leading political figure who was shouting from rooftops that Odisha was in for a "change" of regime in this election.

Panda, whose family-owned OTV channel, went full blast against the BJD and in favour of the BJP, joined the saffron party and became its national vice-president and also its candidate for the Kendrapada Lok Sabha seat.

He had expected that he would register an easy win riding the Modi wave in the



wake of the Pulwama-Balakot episode.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose Kendrapada as his campaigning venue on the last day of his Odisha visit. And here, Modi had predicted the end of the BJD rule in the State making a statement in a raised

voice, "Naveenbabu, aap ja rahe ho" meaning "You are going out of power". And Baijayant Panda, who was present, had a hearty laugh cherishing that his earlier call for a change in power was almost achieved.

Panda's followers gloated when the BJD announced its Rajya Sabha member and cine star Anubhav Mohanty as the contestant against Panda since they thought Mohanty was a mere "film entertainer" and no match for an "intellectual Jay Panda." But the Naveen magic cut Panda to his size when Mohanty had an almost unassailable lead of votes indicating his defeat



Children of Maharashtra community take part in a sacred mass thread ceremony (Unnayan Sanskaar) in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

# Modi wave gives a sweeping victory to NDA in Dhanbad, Giridih

PNS ■ BOKARO

Modi wave gave a sweeping victory to the BJP in Dhanbad and NDA in Giridih Lok Sabha constituencies. Giving a clean sweep BJP's sitting MP, Dhanbad PN Singh won the poll battle with a margin of over 3,17,691 lakhs votes by defeating Congress candidate Kriti Azad.

There were 20 candidates in the poll fray and Singh got 5,67,759 votes while Azad got 2,50,068 votes, informed district electoral official of the constituency.

While NDA candidate Chandra Prakash Choudhary from AJSU defeated Jharkhand Mukti Morcha candidate Jagarnath Mahato by 2,48,347 votes. There were 15 candidates in the poll fray and Choudhary got 6,48,277 votes while Jagarnath Mahato 3,99,930 votes, informed KN Jha DC Bokaro cum electoral officer Giridih Constituency.

After accepting the greeting Singh said people of Dhanbad constituency loves him. "They are satisfied with my work and progress of the constituency. People chose me as MLA in 1995 than 2000,

2005; later as MP in 2009 in 2014 and again in 2019. Now keeping the promises which I was made with my people during the campaign would be in my priorities," he said.

"I won the poll battle but all the credits goes to Narendra Modi. Nobody has expected quite such an emphatic victory of BJP across the country. Inevitably people have given Modi a free hand again to do whatever he wants for holistic development at a national level," Singh added.

There is one more thing, "People want a strong Prime Minister to represent our country so they voted for BJP. I hope in this new tenure Modi led government will definitely bring a radical change across the country and it will fetch prosperity with happiness," Singh added. On his massive victory, Chandra Prakash Choudhary said, first of all, I want to give thanks to all the residents of Giridih Constituency, who extended their blessings. "Though, I won the election but this is the victory of the people; people are happy with Modi's work and given a massive mandate to the NDA," added Choudhary.

# Niranjan trailing in both seats



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as the Congress lost its main Opposition party status in the Assembly by not even touching a figure beyond 10 as against 16 in 2014, the Pradesh Congress Committee president Niranjan Patnaik was losing both the seats he contested for the State legislature as

per the latest reports available.

Patnaik was lagging behind in Ghasipura in his native Keonjhar district by a huge margin from Minister Badri Narayan Patra. He was also trailing in his fight against Minister Prafulla Samal in Bhandaripokhari in Bhadrak district.

Besides, Patnaik's son Navjyoti Patnaik lost the polls in the Baleswar Lok Sabha seat finishing a poor third. That the days of Niranjan Patnaik as the PCC chief are numbered is already evident from a section of senior party leaders questioning his stewardship since Wednesday.

# Split vote: Aparajita ahead



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

How the split voting for the BJD for the State and the BJP for the Centre worked significantly was, for an example, evident from the Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha constituency, where BJP candidate Aparajita Sarangi led over her BJD rival Arup Patnaik.

The dual voting propped up Sarangi although the BJP came a cropper in all the seven Assembly segments under the

Parliamentary constituency. While the BJD candidates were in the lead in as many as six of the Assembly areas, Bhubaneswar Central, Bhubaneswar North, Ekamra, Jayadev, Khordha and Begunia, the Congress's Suresh Routray was leading in Jatni.

Sarangi had campaigned for her candidature quite early even before the declaration of the election schedule. Much later, the BJD named its candidate for the LS seat.

# Damodar gets Naveen lesson while son wins as BJD's

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Foul-mouth politician Damodar Rout has been taught a lesson by Naveen Patnaik, who wanted the former to realise that he is a zero without the BJD tag.

Patnaik's game resulted in a victory for Rout's son Sambit Routray as the BJD candidate for the Paradip Assembly seat, from where Rout had won in 2014 on a BJD ticket.

And Rout, who joined the BJP after being thrown out of the BJD for his series of anti-Naveen Patnaik remarks, was humbled as the saffron party nominee in Paradip's neighbouring constituency Erasama-Balikuda.



His BJD rival Raghunandan Das, who had come to the BJD fold after quitting the BJP on the eve of the elections, defeated him.

Interestingly, the "know-all" Damodar Rout had been insisting in his prediction that Odisha was going to have a hung Assembly this time.

# BJP's victory sparks off celebrations

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

It was all about dhol and Inagaras (Traditional drums) outside the Jamshedpur Co-operative College campus where counting was underway. Though JMM supporters erupted in premature celebrations after postal ballot counting showed mahagathbandhan candidate Champai Soren leading but soon it started changing as the counting moved ahead. The jubilant mood turned sombre after 10 am as BJP's Bidyut Baran Mahto started edging out his rival on the lead front.

Celebrations sparked out on Thursday across the Steel City as the BJP retained the Jamshedpur parliamentary seat with record numbers of vote.

The mood at the party's camp near the strong room at Jamshedpur Co-operative College was upbeat soon after counting started at 8 am. Supporters smeared with gulal displayed V-signs as the counting process started.

Enthusiastic party cadres burst crackers amidst the beat of dhol soon after the BJP candidate Bidyut Baran Mahot caught an early lead.

Mahto had gained early lead, which infused enthusiasm among the party workers. Drum players played the victory tune after announcements of each round of counting exercise.

Leaders and supporters of JMM too had constructed makeshift tents, however, it was the tent of BJP that was brimming with joy with every passing rounds. After the announcements of every round results, it was the BJP camp of supporters that rejoiced in jubilation.

As the day went ahead the supporters of JMM and JMM started vanishing while the crowd swelled at the saffron brigade. By the 12 round the BJP candidate had already taken a lead of more than one

lakh. From the very first day, we were confident of our victory and we feel relieved to see our candidate heading towards an easy win. We are happy that the party has retained the Jamshedpur parliamentary seat. Every party worker had toiled and they deserve to be lauded. Modi's charismatic personality and his vision of development too favoured our candidate, voters has shown faith in his leadership," said Dinesh Kumar, president, district BJP.

BJP office at Sakchi was also abuzz with activities since the counting exercise commenced in the morning. After the results were finally announced the party workers came out on the roads and burst crackers and distributed sweets.

BJP flags ruled areas of Jugsalai, Burmamines, Sakchi, Bistupur and Sidhgora with party workers distributing sweets and bursting crackers.

"It is the victory of our nation. We are more than happy that the party has retained the Jamshedpur seat. The victory of Bidyut indicates that people have faith in BJP. Moreover, Champai was a weak candidate, the voters had no choice but show him the doors," said Satbir Singh Somu, a senior leader of youth wing of BJP.

On the other hand silence prevailed at the camp of JMM after the defeat. Party leaders were sad with the results.

"I cannot comment as what led to our defeat. Our senior leaders will sit and review the performance of the party in the elections. However, we do accept that Modi factor played an important role," said a district leader of JMM.

The roads remained almost deserted while parking slots in markets also were the same look. Footfall at business establishments was also affected as poll results kept most people indoors.



Congress and BJP candidates Digvijay Singh and Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur at old Central Jail counting centre during counting of votes for Lok Sabha elections in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

# Modi factor works wonders in Haryana

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

The "Modi factor" worked well for the Bharatiya Janata Party in Jatland-Haryana. The saffron party managed to sweep the northern state, winning all 10 Lok Sabha seats.

The BJP, which was contesting on its own on all 10 parliamentary seats in Haryana, registered a rise of three seats in its tally from last general elections 2014. Its main challenger Congress failed to retain its stronghold -Rohtak, which witnessed a nail-biting finish.

The ballot battle in Haryana was multi-cornered this time with the BJP, the Congress, the Indian National Lok Dal, Jannayak Janta Party-Aam Aadmi Party alliance and Bahujan Samaj Party-Loktantra Suraksha Party combine in the fray.

Riding high on a "Modi-for-PM" and nationalism plank, the BJP swept Haryana as bigwigs of its main challenger - Congress-tasted humiliating defeat. The Congress' heavyweights who suffered defeat included two-time former Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda, his

son Deepender Singh Hooda, Haryana state party chief Ashok Tanwar, Rajya Sabha MP Kumari Selja, four-time MP Avtar Singh Bhadana.

Other political players in the fray including INLD, JJP-AAP alliance and BSP-LSP failed to make any major impact in the electoral contest in the state. The poll battle remained confined to BJP Vs Congress except on one i.e. Hisar, where JJP leader and outgoing MP Dushyant Chautala finished at second place.

In general elections, the anti-incumbency factor failed to pierce through the "Modi factor" as the BJP successfully played the nationalism card with continuous references to Pulwama terror attack and the Balakot air strikes during its campaigning in Haryana. On the other hand, the Congress, which targeted the BJP over non-fulfilled poll promises and alleged corruption in the Rafale fighter jet deal, failed to impress the voters in northern state of Haryana, which is ruled by BJP Government under Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

As the BJP pulled out all stops on the campaign trail to

protect its 2014 tally, the "Modi factor" also compensated for the anti-incumbency and allegations of lack of personal connect faced by the Haryana BJP MPs, who sought votes in the name of Prime Minister and his brand of nationalism.

In the last parliamentary elections also, the BJP while riding high on "Modi wave" and with the help of several political turncoats had managed to win seven of eight Lok Sabha seats the party contested in the state. Its ally Haryana Janhit Congress (BL) at that time could not win a single seat losing two it had contested, while INLD had won two seats and Congress had won one seat i.e. Rohtak.

For the 2019 parliamentary polls, the BJP keen to strengthen its grip on the state had retained its five MPs, fielded four new faces and one prominent turncoat candidate. The Congress, which was trying to put a formidable fight and make a comeback in Haryana ahead of State Assembly polls in October, had placed its bet on tried and trusted heavyweights.

Both national parties had also brought out their bigwigs

in the run-up to the general elections, with PM Narendra Modi, BJP chief Amit Shah, Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi holding several rallies featuring blistering personal attacks.

The state voter witnessed about 70 percent turnout on May 12 with Sirsa parliamentary constituency (reserved) recording the maximum voting with 73.48 percentage and Karnal recording the lowest with 64.68 percentage.

As many as 223 candidates including 11 women contested on 10 Lok Sabha seats, which went to polling on May 12 in the state.

As far as contest on parliamentary seats is concerned, two-time former Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda was among the heavyweights ending up on the losing side in the general elections. Hooda, who is seen as Congress' most prominent face in Haryana was defeated by BJP's MP Ramesh Chander Kaushik in Sonapat parliamentary seat by over 1.6 lakh votes.

With the embarrassing defeat, Hooda's aspirations to

become Congress' Chief Ministerial face in Haryana assembly polls due to be held later this year seems implausible now.

The former Chief Minister's son Deepender Singh Hooda lost with a margin of about 2600 votes against BJP's nominee Arvind Kumar Sharma.

Another prominent Congress leader, Rajya Sabha MP Kumari Selja lost election in Ambala Lok Sabha seat to BJP MP Rattan Lal Kataria by a margin of 3.4 lakh votes.

Two Union Ministers—Krishan Pal Gurjar and Rao Inderjit Singh—managed to retain their parliamentary seats. Krishan Pal Gurjar won from Faridabad seat against his nearest rival Congress' Avtar Singh Bhadana by a huge margin of over 6.15 lakh votes. Krishan Pal had won by a margin of over 4.6 lakh votes against the same rival Avtar Singh Bhadana of Congress in 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Rao Inderjit Singh registered third consecutive victory on Gurgaon Lok Sabha seat with a margin of over 3.8 lakh votes against Congress' nominee Capt Ajay Singh Yadav.

In Bhiwani-Mahendragarh parliamentary seat, BJP MP Dharambir Singh trounced Congress' Shruti Choudhry for the second consecutive time. Dharambir won the seat by a margin of over 4.3 lakh votes against Shruti Choudhry, who is the daughter of CLP leader Kiran Choudhry and granddaughter of former Chief Minister late Bansi Lal.

Haryana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar faced second consecutive defeat in general elections on Sirsa Lok Sabha seat. BJP's Sunita Duggal defeated Tanwar by a margin of over 3 lakh votes. In Chief Minister's hometown—Karnal, his confidant and political greenhorn Sanjay Bhatia registered his victory in style recording the highest winning margin of over 6.5 lakh votes in the state. Recording an emphatic victory, Bhatia defeated Congress' MLA and former Speaker Kuldeep Sharma on Karnal parliamentary seat. In Kurukshetra, the land of Mahabharata, the BJP's Nayab Saini, Minister of State in Haryana Cabinet trounced his closest rival Nirmal Singh of Congress with a margin of 3.8 lakh votes.

# BAU to host youth festival

PNS ■ RANCHI

An Inter University Youth Festival will be organized by Birsra Agricultural University (BAU) from May 25 to May 28. Over 300 students will participate in the Festival from eight universities of the State.

As many as 40 students each from Ranchi University, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag, Binod Bihari Mahto Koyalanchal University, Dhanbad, Kolhan University, Chaibasa, Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka, Nilamber-Pitamber University, Medininagar, BAU and National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi will show their creative talent in 19 events of music, dance, literary, theatre and fine arts groups at the four-day event. Most of the teams along with their team managers will reach the Kanke venue of the youth fest on May 24.

BAU, Vice Chancellor (VC) Parvinder Kaushal said the festival will not be just an assemblage of students from different universities of the State who will compete under one roof but also a platform for sharing ideas and thoughts, promoting national integration and communal harmony, while manifesting a zest of friendliness. This will be a unique forum for youths for expressing their creativity, knowledge and talent where State's cultural

heritage will come alive in colourful vivacity.

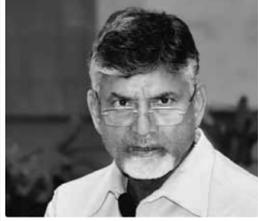
The event will be formally inaugurated by Governor Droupadi Murmu on May 25. The inaugural function and valedictory function will be held in Ranchi Agricultural College Auditorium while 19 events will take place at 7 venues on the campus just as Ranchi Veterinary College Auditorium, Agricultural Engineering Department, Lecture Hall, RAC Examination Hall, Model Class Room, RAC Botany Dept, lawn of Damodar International Guest House and RAC Auditorium. The events include light vocal (solo), quiz, skit, on the spot painting, western vocal, elocution, mime, collage making, group song (patriotic and regional), debate, mimicry, poster making, rangoli, classical dance (solo), extempore, one act play, clay modeling, cartooning and folk dance.

Director Students' Welfare of BAU, MS Yadava informed that accommodation of boys has been arranged at new building of Agricultural Engineering College (AEC) while girls will stay at Krishak Bhawan. Team managers will stay at International family Hostel. Food for all participants will be at AEC. All teams have been asked to arrive at the Kanke venue of the youth fest by the afternoon of May 24.

# ASPIRING KINGMAKERS' BASTIONS BREACHED

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

**Mamata Banerjee:** The most vocal and combative, TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister nursed Prime Ministerial ambitions; launched a blistering campaign against Narendra Modi and was averse to backing Congress president Rahul Gandhi as the UPA's PM candidate. Given her complete supremacy in the state, even pundits were skeptical about the BJP's chances. However, the saffron brigade stunned everyone by storming her citadel. Having failed to stop the BJP from making strong inroads in a big way into her bastion, she will have to rethink her strategy to defend her turf in the 2021 Assembly polls.



**N Chandrababu Naidu:** Ahead of the results, Andhra Pradesh chief minister and TDP chief Naidu was the most active in trying to forge an Opposition alliance in case the NDA did not get past the post. Besides Mamata, he had been the most critical of Modi. He must be ruing his decision to quit the NDA. Despite his political acumen, he could not decipher the public mood with Jagannathan Reddy's YSR Congress Party sweeping the polls in the state. TDP has been almost wiped out from the Lok Sabha too dealing a massive blow to his political clout. Naidu's problems could compound in the coming days if Jagan join hands with the NDA.



**Akhilesh Yadav:** Having taken over the mantle of SP from his father and veteran politician Mulayam Singh Yadav, Akhilesh's plans to play a major role at the centre - even burying the over-two-decades-old hatchet with BSP supreme Mayawati in the process - have come to a naught with the party faring badly in its stronghold Uttar Pradesh. Though the young leader never openly aired his political ambitions, he was eyeing a king-maker's role. He vigorously campaigned for the 'Mahagathbandhan' to put up a united front against the BJP. Facing a drubbing for the second consecutive time in the Lok Sabha polls, the SP will have to reinvent itself to remain relevant in fast changing political dynamics.



**Mayawati:** The BSP supremo and former chief minister of UP had made no bones about her Prime Ministerial ambitions and hence, did not even allow Congress to join the 'Mahagathbandhan' to ensure she had a larger share of seats to fight in UP. She also gave no-holds-barred speeches against Modi during the campaign but the frontal attack failed to spin magic in her favour. Her caste combinations failed to trump Modi's charisma. Along with the SP, the BSP also fared badly. The stunning reversal brushing aside caste and other related factors will make it all the more necessary for Mayawati to present a new image for her party to survive in the most politically-crucial State.

**K Chandrashekar Rao:** Having swept the Telangana state assembly polls last year, the TRS chief and chief minister was nursing ambitions to project himself at the national stage. He met several leaders including DMK chief M K Stalin and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee. However, as Rao was busy with his efforts to forge a federal front, the BJP breached his fortress to make a debut from the State in the Lok Sabha. Even the Congress managed to make inroads in the State. Though Rao played the most important role in the creation of Telangana, the voters, however, preferred to vote for Modi at the national level.



**HD Deve Gowda:** The former Prime Minister and JD(S) chief has a lot on his plate now after his party which in coalition with the Congress is running Karnataka with his son H D Kumaraswamy as the chief minister could not withstand the Modi wave. Deve Gowda was considered to be one of the king makers in case of fractured mandate due to his seniority and stature. Trailing in the electoral battle till last trends came in, Deve Gowda like other aspirants Akhilesh, Mayawati and Pawar is now on a very weak wicket to play a role at the state and national level. Coming days will see the JD(S) chief definitely taking stock where his electoral strategy failed even as the BJP's win could impact the survival of his son's government too in the State.

**Sharad Pawar:** The Maratha strongman and NCP chief, rated to be one of the most astute and shrewd politicians of the country, was a PM candidate even as he sought to play the mentor's role in bringing together the opposition camp to face the BJP. But the Modi juggernaut, with the Shiv Sena, simply brushed aside any challenge posed by the NCP along with the Congress. Pawar's clout nationally has taken a severe beating. The NCP has already blamed the Congress for not performing upto expectations.



## BJP's young guns sail through

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Congress' young turks failed to deliver, while those from the BJP rode on the Modi wave to register win in the high-voltage Lok Sabha polls.

Sitting Congress MPs — Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sushmita Dev and former Union Minister Jitin Prasada, Milind Deora, who all are in the close circle of party chief Rahul Gandhi, lost badly. They had been the most vocal inside and outside the Parliament on every issue.

On the other hand, sitting BJP MPs Anurag Thakur, Poonam Mahajan, Dushyant Singh and first timer Tejaswi Surya registered win from their respective Parliamentary constituencies.

Amongst the losers, the biggest one is Jyotiraditya Scindia, who was seeking his fifth term from his family bastion Guna Lok Sabha seat. He lost to BJP's Krishna Pal Singh. Prior to Jyotiraditya, his father Madhavrao Scindia, the erstwhile titular ruler of Gwalior, had won the seat in the 1999 elections. Madhavrao died in 2001 and since then Jyotiraditya Scindia has represented the seat. In 2014, he was among the only two leaders from MP who were able to hold on to his seat.

Another surprise loss was Mahila Congress President Sushmita Dev, who lost to BJP's young gun Rajdeep Roy from the most high-profile Silchar Lok Sabha seat of Assam. Both Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi campaigned for her. Sushmita's father late Santosh Mohan Dev, won Silchar seat five times. Both Jitin Prasada and Milind Deora who's father Jitendra Prasada and Murlid Deora, too lost.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav lost in Jodhpur to BJP's Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. In Rajasthan's Barmer, Manvendra Singh, son of Jaswant Singh, founding member of BJP lost by over 3.2 lakh votes. Manvendra



was contesting on a Congress ticket. Ajit Pawar's son Parth, and Shankarrao Chavan's son Ashok Chavan too lost in Maharashtra to BJP candidates.

On the other hand, Anurag Thakur retained Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat along with her another party colleague Poonam Mahajan in North Mumbai. While Thakur is son of former CM of Himachal Pradesh Prem



Dhumal, Punam is daughter of late BJP's strategist Pramod Mahajan.

Another big win registered was by Tejaswi Surya, BJP's youngest candidate from Bangalore South, against Congress heavyweight BK Hariprasad.

Former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje's son Dushyant Singh too



emerged victorious from the Jhalawar-Baran Lok Sabha seat who defeated his Congress rival Pramod Sharma. Sharma, a BJP rebel, had joined the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha election and contested the polls for the first time. Raje had represented the seat for five terms from 1989 to 2004 after which her son was elected from the seat.

## 9 former Cong CMs bite dust

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

What's common for Sheila Dikshit (Delhi), Bhupinder Singh Hooda (Haryana), Harish Rawat (Uttarakhand), Digvijaya Singh (Madhya Pradesh), Ashok Chavan and Sushil Kumar Shinde (both from Maharashtra), Mukul M Sangama (Meghalaya), Nabam Tuki (Arunachal Pradesh) and Veerappa Moily (Karnataka)? They are all Congress stalwarts and former Chief Ministers. And they have all bit the dust in the Lok Sabha Election 2019.

Dikshit, who is Congress Delhi Chief and the only party veteran having donned the Chief Ministers' cap thrice from Delhi (from 1998 to 2013), lost to her rival and city BJP chief Manoj Tiwari from North East Delhi seat while Moily (former Karnataka Chief Minister) was defeated by BJP's B N Bache Gowda in Chikkaballapur, a Congress stronghold. Moily, a former Union Minister, was the joint candidate of the ruling

Congress-JD(S) coalition. He was first elected from Karkala in Udupi district as an MLA in 1992. He won from there six consecutive times.

Two-time Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Nabam Tuki lost to Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju of the BJP. He has been seeking a third term from the State's West Parliamentary constituency. For his part, former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Congress candidate Ashok Chavan lost to Pratap Chikhlikar of BJP in Nanded Lok Sabha seat.

In Uttarakhand, ex-Chief Minister and Congress leader Harish Rawat faced a humiliating loss to BJP's State chief Ajay Bhatt in the Nainital-Udhamsingh Nagar constituency. The BJP swept all the seats in the Hill State.

In Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal, Congress leader Digvijaya Singh suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of BJP newcomer and controversial leader Sadhvi Pragna Singh Thakur, who won the high-profile Bhopal seat. The Malegaon blast accused had

earned a public reprimand from none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself for her controversial remarks against Mahtama Gandhi.

Yet another CM to have lost in the hustings is former Union Home Minister and Maharashtra CM Sushilkumar Shinde, who was defeated by Lingayat Swami from Solapur Lok Sabha seat.

In neighbouring Haryana, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, a sitting MLA from Rohtak, was defeated in Sonapat which was retained by sitting BJP MP Ramesh Chander Kaushik.

Another former Congress Chief Minister who found himself in the list of losers was Mukul M. Sangma. A former Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Sangma is the current Leader of Opposition in the State Legislative Assembly. The Congress candidate from Tura lost to National People's Party (NPP) candidate Agatha Sangma, a veteran politician and former Lok Sabha Speaker late PA Sangma's daughter.

## Dynasts get mixed results

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a poll pitch against parivarvad by the BJP, the political dynasts had a mixed fate during the Parliamentary polls. While some political families have managed to secure their bastions, others like Congress president Rahul Gandhi lost their prized seats.

While former UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi is projected to win in Rae Bareilly, her son Rahul lost out to BJP's Smriti Irani in his so called pocketborough Amethi. Rahul has already conceded defeat against Irani and congratulated her.

However, the Congress president is all set for a comfortable victory in Wayanad constituency of Kerala where he is leading by over 4 lakh votes.

The other mother-son duo from the Gandhi family — Maneka and Varun — who are contesting on BJP tickets from Sultanpur and Pilibhit respectively are heading towards a victory in their respective con-



A deserted view of National Congress headquarters during the day of counting for 2019 Lok Sabha elections in New Delhi on Thursday

stituencies. Union Minister Maneka Gandhi who was engaged in a sea-saw battle in Sultanpur eventually won defeating BSP's Chandra Bhadra Singh "Sonu".

In the Samajwadi Party, patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav led in Mainpuri while Akhilesh looked comfortable to win in Azamgarh.

However, Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav was trailing in Kannauj constituency and that could be bad news for the Yadav clan.

As per the available trends,

the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) — a constituent of the BSP-SP led 'mahagathbandhan' is projected for a mixed outcome. While RLD chief Ajit Singh is moving ahead in Muzaffarnagar, his son and party vice-president Jayant Chaudhary is trailing from Baghat.

In Haryana, former State Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is trailing in Sonapat. Bhupinder, a sitting MLA from Rohtak district who contested the Lok Sabha polls after a gap of 14 years, was behind sitting MP Ramesh

Chander Kaushik.

The performance of Bhupinder Hooda, who had defeated former deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal from the Rohtak LS seat earlier, is a major setback for the Congress.

However, Bhupinder's son Deepender Hooda is engaged in a sea-saw battle in Rohtak, where fortunes are fluctuating between Deepender and his nearest BJP rival Arvind Sharma as the figures are changing with each round of counting.

Down South, former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda was trailing in Tumkur against BJP's G S Basavaraj. His grandson and Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil was also trailing against independent candidate-Sumalatha Ambareesh, supported by the BJP, in the bitterly fought Mandya constituency.

However, Gowda's other grandson Prajwal Revanna, son of minister H D Revanna, is leading in Hassan against A Manju of the BJP.

## BJP crossed 50% vote share in 17 States: Shah

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

BJP chief Amit Shah's gameplan of targeting over 50 per cent vote share has succeeded in over 15 States. Comparatively, the Congress managed to do that in just Puducherry, where it recorded about 57 per cent.

As per the Election Commission's preliminary estimates, the BJP has got more than half of the total votes polled. And BJP chief Amit Shah gave these statistics, saying the party crossed the 50 per cent vote share mark in 17 States.

It bagged 69 per cent votes in Himachal Pradesh, 62 per cent in Gujarat, 60 per cent in Uttarakhand, 59 per cent in Rajasthan, 58 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 57 per cent in Haryana, 57 per cent in Arunachal

Pradesh, 51.5 per cent in Karnataka, 51 per cent in UP, 51.7 per cent in Goa, 51 per cent in Jharkhand and 50.5 per cent in Chandigarh among others.

It was Shah's strategy to have an eye over 50 per cent vote share to trump any caste politics, played by the Opposition alliances. Of the total 90 crore voters, the BJP was eyeing the 50 crore beneficiaries who benefited from the 133 schemes of the Modi Government. The BJP had fought some Assembly elections last year based on the same strategy.

As a result, the BJP has significantly improved its national vote share from 31.34 per cent in 2014 to a new record high, while there seems to be only a marginal change in case of the Congress from its 19.5 per cent score of the last elections. The

Congress was shown to have bagged 22.5 per cent votes till the reports last poured in.

The BJP had got 7.74 per cent vote share in 1984 when it got two Lok Sabha seats, after which it consistently saw an increase till 1998 (25.59 per cent) and then slipped for three consecutive national elections till 2009 (18.8 per cent), before surging again in 2014.

In contrast, the Congress could get a vote share of just about 6 per cent in UP and Bengal, and a little higher at about 7 per cent in Bihar. The score is even worse at just about 1 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim. Even in Punjab, where the Congress led the way, its vote share is about 40.10 per cent. It is 37.3 per cent in Kerala, where it was on course to win 15 of the 20 seats. The Congress,

which secured 45 per cent votes in the first parliamentary elections in 1952, saw its voting percentage remain in 40s till the 1971 elections. After a slump to 34.5 per cent in 1977, the Congress again returned to 42.7 per cent in 1980 and then to a record high of 48.1 per cent in 1984/85.

After Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, the Congress record a vote share of 49.1 per cent, it got 32.14 per cent votes in delayed polls that were held in Punjab and Assam in 1985 — resulting in an overall figure of 48.1 per cent.

The Congress vote share, however, began to dip after that with its voting percentage dropping to 39.5 per cent in 1989 and further to 20s between 1996 and 2009, and even below that mark in 2014.

## Exit polls predict finale right

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

They predicted and they stood vindicated! Nine out of nine exit polls on May 19 had predicted an outright victory for the BJP and six of them had projected the party winning more than 300 seats. The pollsters had also projected the UPA's dismal performance in the wake of the rolling BJP juggernaut. And some had forecast that the Opposition alliance will not touch the three-digit mark.

It made the ruling dispensation (BJP and its allies) gung-ho but invited criticism from the Opposition Congress and others who called it were paid for, unreliable, inaccurate and gossipy.

While the BJP looks set to cross the 300-mark on its own and the NDA hogging 350 seats, the UPA tally was pegged at 85 seats, as per the trends and results last available.

It was also, perhaps, the first time that the pollsters were unanimous in their projections.



All the exit polls gave the BJP a clear mandate and showed the UPA at a distant second.

The India Today-Axis and News 24-Chanakyia exit polls have been bang on target.

Most pollsters also correctly forecast the BJP's performance in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — where the Opposition Congress recently won the Assembly polls.

Take the case of Rajasthan. Almost all exit polls predicted a clean sweep for the BJP in the Western State, with some exit polls handing them all 25 seats

in the State. The News18-IPSONS exit poll said the BJP is set to get 22 to 23 seats in the desert State, while Today's Chanakyia exit poll predicted all 25 seats to fall in BJP's kitty. The latter hit the bull's eye.

Ditto is the case of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah's home state Gujarat, where BJP, as per the India Today-My Axis India Exit Poll, is set to make a complete sweep in the Gujarat Lok Sabha elections possibly winning all 26 seats.

Axis My India was among those who had successfully

predicted not only the winning party but also the range of their mandate.

The Congress-led alliance was projected as gaining in Punjab, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. And it did. Some pollsters gave Congress a tally as low as 38, less than the 44 it won in 2014. The Congress fared a shade better than 44 but turned true the projections that it would not cross the three-figure mark this time round too.

In the politically crucial Uttar Pradesh with 80 Lok Sabha seats, the pollsters has come up with a mixed bag of results indicating the complexities involved at the ground level. If India Today-Axis gave the BJP-led NDA a maximum of 68 seats and News 24-Today's Chanakyia said its tally could even cross the 70-seats mark, then ABP-Nielsens gave NDA as less as 22 Lok Sabha seats and the SP-BSP-RLD alliance a high of 56 seats. As things stand, the Axis and Chanakyia estimates were the closest.

## Saffron motormouths pass voters' test

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Motormouths and controversial leaders from the BJP like Anantkumar Hegde (Uttar Kannada), Nalin Kateel (Dakshin Kannada), Sadhvi Pragna Thakur (Bhopal), Sakshi Maharaj (Unnao), and Giriraj Singh (Begusarai) are set to register big wins.

Sadhvi Pragna Thakur was leading against Congress' Digvijay Singh by over 3.5 lakh votes and was projected to win the constituency by a significant margin. Pragna had hit the headlines in the run up to the polls by claiming that IPS officer Hemant Karkare was killed in the 26/11 attacks due to his karma and that he was a traitor. She had to later apologise for the remarks. She had also stoked a controversy by terming Nathuram Godse, who had killed Mahatma Gandhi, as a nationalised. She had to again tender an apology after the remarks generated a nationwide outrage.



Another BJP leader Anantkumar Hegde, known for making controversial remarks, won the Uttara (North) Kannada seat in Karnataka, defeating his nearest rival Anand Annotikar of the Janata Dal (Secular) by a massive margin of 4.79 lakh votes, according to the results declared by the EC on Thursday.

Hegde held the portfolio of junior minister in the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry during Narendra Modi's first term as PM. Hegde had also made headlines for wrong reasons when he had said the Constitution would be changed. He had to later tender an apology in the Parliament.

And amid reports of his controversial remarks on Twitter

about Nathuram Godse, Hegde claimed his account was "hacked". But later asserted there was no question of justifying Mahatma Gandhi's killing.

Before that, Hegde had called Congress chief Rahul Gandhi a "hybrid breed", wondering how can the son of a 'Muslim' father and a Christian mother be a Brahmin.

"...They have no sense about religion. See how much they lie, father is a Muslim, mother a Christian, son is Brahmin. How did it come?" You cannot get such hybrid breed in any laboratory in the world, it is available in our country's Congress laboratory only," he had said, attacking Rahul, at an event in Uttara Kannada district.

Nalin Kumar Kateel (Dakshina Kannada), who had backed Pragna Thakur on the Godse issue, also won by 2.74 lakh votes, as per the results announced on Thursday.

For his part, the vocal Sakshi Maharaj won from Unnao with a record margin of four lakh votes. He had recently stoked

controversy by stating this would be the last election in the country and there would be none in 2024.

Ahead of the nomination for the Unnao constituency, he had warned the BJP that "results would not be good" if he was not re-nominated from Unnao. The BJP had been contemplating dropping him.

In his election affidavit, Maharaj has listed 34 criminal cases promoting enmity among communities, criminal intimidation, robbery, dacoity, murder, forgery, cheating and criminal breach of trust besides rape.

Union Minister and another firebrand leader Giriraj Singh retained the Begusarai seat trouncing his nearest rival Kanhaiya Kumar of the CPI by a huge margin of over four lakh votes.

Singh, who had moved to Begusarai from Nawada, after initial reluctance, polled 6.88 lakh votes out of a total of 12.17 lakhs polled on the elections held April 29.

# NAYA BHARAT

As traditional planks, issues and even grassroots politicians get blown away, Modi 2.0 has managed to change the idea of what India wants

This is undoubtedly a Pied Piper election, where Narendra Modi has emerged not just as an emboldened Prime Minister but a thought leader who has the nation's belief system wrapped up in a new cloak of nationalism and in a corporatised world, as a superbrand that has the trust, factory-manufactured or otherwise. Rather, he has overturned existing mindsets and their expression, freed up many boxes that so far held the characteristics of India and laid down a narrative sold on the promise of India reclaiming its place in the sun. Simply because civilisationally it was so once but the will to wake up to that truth was lost in our sub-consciousness and the burden of history. He seems to have stoked a sense of purposiveness, now that new-age aspirations have also reached saturation point, and has created a post-truth matrix. It is, therefore, the emergence of *Indusisation* rather than globalisation and a new idea of India. The reality of this may be unpalatable to existing liberal thought simply because it serves an alternative constituency, which has crept up from the fringes and whitewashed the mainstream. This new cultural awareness is based on the extreme polarity of all kinds of otherness. For some, it is religion, the most virulent kind, as evidenced by the landslide acceptability of a Sadhvi Pragya Thakur. For some it is majoritarianism, which sees minorityism as an encroachment that denies more rights due to itself and, therefore, feels it is losing relevance by its own complacency. For some it is about rewriting history and crossing out the invaders, the most contemporary manifestation being Pakistan-sponsored terror. For some, it is about anti-elitism, an assault of middle India into spatial templates set and appropriated by the Western-educated intelligentsia. For others, it is about inclusivity of opportunity, goals and crucially empowerment — be it village roads and electrification, the Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, toilets and LPGs for women, space age dreams for the young and a tough-as-nails leadership that won't succumb to any global Trump-card. And the most important, it is the willingness to self-correct despite the skids, the disbursement of ₹6,000 to farmers' accounts, blunting the face of farm distress and sending a message that it would be attended to, no matter what the *nyay* crusades of others might promise. Of course, beyond the man is the BJP's organisation which has not let up on its groundwork, treating both old and new territories as the same, and not allowing to slip itself into a comfort zone. In fact, the only question that surfaces is if Modi had under-read his own ability and, therefore, pushed his muscular nationalism a bit too far during the campaign, indulging in a dark, divisive propaganda. But that, too, was probably scripted cinematically to gloss over any talk of issues or his inadequate performance and set up a threat so real that even plurality was seen as an enemy of national identity. Or was it a ruse to simplify India's complexity into an easily readable unitary structure? That alone can explain why Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, for all his gentlemanly sincerity, lost his home seat of Amethi. For Modi didn't want to be an aspirational choice of 2014, he wanted to be an absolutist destiny's child in 2019. Almost hypnotically and spiritually ordained.

This nationwide chemistry has beaten arithmetic, even when it was crafted and test-piloted in the electoral laboratory called Uttar Pradesh. That's why the SP-BSP-RLD alliance has not been able to convince each other's voter bases that it would pay to invest in joint winnable candidates than bleed out. However, apart from Yadavs and Jatavs, it seems the larger arc of most backward castes and Dalits, some of whom have broken basic livelihood barriers, have migrated to a national party and are staking larger dreams on continuity than standing out with a limiting casteist tag. And Modi has made the right noises by announcing quotas for the poor than caste groups and emphasising on raising rural incomes by 2022. The second big takeaway is that of eastern India, which so far had stood out as a bloc like south India, beginning to give way to a pan-India narrative albeit with adaptations. So while Biju Janata Dal's Naveen Patnaik has been voted for the State level, the voter has told him he is good only for Odisha and doesn't qualify for a national role except being a symbiotic partner. The Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee had probably understood it a bit earlier and though she helmed the *mahagathbandhan* initially, took a step back when she realised her State was in trouble. Quick to sense that a nationalist surge could ultimately decimate even her regional relevance, she has just about held on. Of course, she has lost the battle of perception and has to rework strategies from this moment on. Assam and the Northeast, have, meanwhile shown that for all the anxieties about the Citizenship Amendment Bill, they do not want to be left out of mainstream development. Not that regional leaders have not stood tall. This election's biggest story has been scripted by YSR Congress' Jagannathan Reddy, who has overturned the charisma of Telugu Desam chief Chandrababu Naidu, silently and fervently. Much credit should also be given to DMK chief Stalin who has lived up to his father's legacy and occupied the vacuum in Tamil Nadu created by the deaths of his father and J Jayalalitha, both demi-gods of their time. Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar, however, failed, losing his turf and sugar belt to the saffron deluge. Does that have something to do with chasing prime ministerial ambitions like KC Rao of Telangana, who, too, has paid for overgrowing national ambitions?

That brings us to the Congress itself, thoroughly emaciated and beaten, where even a younger leadership, despite being Instagram pleasers, could not shake off the burden of dynastic entitlement. Even organisationally, the Gandhi scions, Rahul and Priyanka, haven't concentrated on strengthening structures and have relied on empty rhetoric. While Rahul gifted the BJP a slogan by calling the Prime Minister "*chowkidaar chor hai*", and rivals spun it on its head justifying why *chowkidaari* was needed, he failed to retain the gains he made. Who would have believed Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, where the Congress earned a hard-won fight in the Assembly elections last winter, would cave in completely? Was it arrogance, complacency or its most telling weakness — old school coterie *darbar* at the exclusion of well-meaning local leaders? Capt Amarinder Singh scripted the Punjab win despite a Balakot, simply because he acts on his own. Besides, the party played saboteur of the grand alliance, becoming a vote cutter, and could not convert a single issue-based rant into an alternative movement. Nor could it claim authorship of schemes that were implemented successfully by Modi. If the Congress wants to get back its axis, it has to nuke itself and rebuild or else be vapourised. As for Modi, he has had the advantage of being granted time beyond the incubation period of a regime change (yes five years may be theoretically too little). He has clearly the numbers and a seeming hold of the national imagination. He has already spoken of embarking on economic reforms. Question is does he want a legacy based on admiration or fear? For there is a huge sense of fear among the others akin to being second class citizens. Or will he discard the tools of political trade and really set an imaginative and progressive agenda? Will it be about order or disorder? Will it be Modi's India hereon? Or Kedarnath's? Only time will tell.



PARMANAND PANDEY

This Lok Sabha election has broken many myths not only at the national level but in Uttar Pradesh (UP), too. This is for the first time that a Government at the Centre has not only warded off the anti-incumbency factor but has, in fact, improved its position in many decades. It's an old-repeated saying that the road to Delhi's seat of power passes through UP and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) proved that its pan-India weight could fill any trough, even the one in UP.

Most political pundits had predicted not more than 30 seats for the BJP in this State, particularly after the *gathbandhan* of the Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Rashtriya Lok Dal came into existence. These parties were heavily enthused by the bypoll results of Kairana, Gorakhpur and Phoolpur, where castes like Jats, Yadavs, Dalits and Muslims played a vital role to defeat the BJP. Parties thought that this time, too, the same formula would work and the BJP would be decimated.

UP comprises more than 25 per cent Dalits, nearly 18 per cent of Muslims and 15 per cent of Yadavs and Jats. Their alliance would have been lethal to finish the BJP but this formula did not work in 2019. Belying all expectation, the BJP romped home with 60 seats. Many journalists and analysts, who analysed the outcome of the Lok Sabha election, keeping in mind the caste angle, ignored something that clearly worked in this election — the politics of emotion, one which helped Prime Minister Narendra Modi project himself as the do-gooder who was being obstructed by greedy power players. And for all the polarisation, he seems to have cut across the masses in terms of appeal and acceptability as a worthy choice in a national bet.

So while in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, there was a discernible Modi wave sweeping across the country, in 2019, there was a complete denial of this wave by most parties and political commentators as well. The SP and BSP are, without doubt, casteist parties. While SP depends heavily on the Yadavs and Muslims, BSP claims the monopoly over the Dalits votes plus some Muslim votes. It is an unspoken fact that by and large, Muslims have been against the BJP and in this election were expected to vote against the BJP. Muslims are considered to be politically very wise and vigilant and they vote in favour of the candidate who can defeat the BJP, irrespective of the party he/she belongs to. This was the reason why the *gathbandhan* was overconfident of pulverising the BJP this Lok Sabha election. It was considering itself to be invincible but all the planning proved to be day-dreaming. The reality is that in this complicated deal, vote transference didn't happen among partners across the State though it had worked at the bypoll level.

The Congress has almost no presence in UP. It has been non-existent for all practical purposes for nearly three decades. Yet for all the concentrated focus by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi to wean the upper castes away with her temple run and boat

# Farmers back in the fold

BJP's resounding victory in UP signals a triumph of developmental politics over the casteist variant. The pre-election payment to sugarcane growers worked too



rides, the bottomlines are disastrous. Except for Rai Bareilly, the grand old party has not been able to retain even Amethi from where its national president Rahul Gandhi was contesting. These two seats have been the pocketborough of the Congress and except for 1977, both have always been held by the party. The so-called Congress *Brahmastra*, too, failed.

Now let us consider how the BJP was able to shatter the dreams of the *gathbandhan*. Results show that while the SP-BSP combine could not make any significant change in the political contours of Uttar Pradesh, the BSP has been quite lucky. In fact, it has ridden piggyback on the larger appeal of a front. In the last Lok Sabha elections of 2014, the BSP had drawn a blank. On the other hand, SP could secure five seats last time, mainly held by family members, including one by Mulayam Singh Yadav. This time, it has held just nine seats. However, the BSP under Mayawati has improved its tally from zero to 12. This shows that despite getting full support of Muslims and Yadavs, the SP has not been able to get the Dalit votes transferred in its favour. It is also alleged that Mayawati did not send her message to the Dalits in favour of the SP candidates because in her heart of hearts, she does not like the Yadavs. This was enough for Dalits to not transfer their votes in favour of the SP, which is dominated by the Yadavs and who are considered to be the musclemen. In the last Assembly election, Mayawati had coined the slogan "*Chadh Gundan ki Chhati Par, Mohar Lagao Haathi Par*." She used to say that Yadavs are the cruel oppressors of the Dalits and this slogan silently resonated in this election, too.

While the *gathbandhan* parties were mainly dependent on the votes of Jat, Yadavs and Muslims, the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, was telling the people about their achievements. There is no denying the fact that the pace of development in Uttar Pradesh has been very

“ IT IS ALSO ALLEGED THAT MAYAWATI DID NOT SEND HER MESSAGE TO THE DALITS IN FAVOUR OF THE SP CANDIDATES BECAUSE IN HER HEART OF HEARTS, SHE DOES NOT LIKE THE YADAVS ”

fast. Almost all villages in the State are now connected with motorable roads, every household has electricity, every family avails gas connection under the Ujjwala Yojana. There is hardly any house even in the remote countryside, which does not have a toilet facility. So much so that those, who did not have a house to live, are living in *pucca* houses today. There is hardly any member of any family who does not have a bank account under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. Almost everyone has been ensured under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

These schemes have been implemented without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and religion. There was a constant crisis of urea but now it is available in plenty. Soil health cards have been distributed to all farmers, which have helped them. Hence, casteist factors could not cut any ice.

Another important factor that led to the BJP's win is that it was, perhaps, for the first time that the farmers got timely and proper payment for their produce, particularly sugarcane grow-

ers. This is something that was unthinkable at a time when the SP or BSP ruled the State. Further, the Yogi Government also banned illegal slaughterhouses, thus winning the support of the Hindus. To top it all, not even one communal riot has taken place in the State during the period of Modi and Yogi. There was no peace, no security during the SP/BSP era. Anti-social elements used to have a field day and the police was made pliant to the MLAs and MPs belonging to the castes of the Chief Ministers of their time.

Distribution of electricity has considerably improved in small villages. Thus, the slogan of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas', has gone down well with the people of the State. Another factor which has worked in favour of the BJP is a direct transfer of the subsidy amount in the accounts of the beneficiaries. This successfully eliminated the army of middleman and contractors, who never allowed the farmers and poor to be benefited by the numerous welfare schemes. Going forward, Balakot and surgical strikes worked heavily in favour of the BJP too, particularly in rural areas. The BJP also sold it properly to the people.

On the other hand, the Opposition, mainly the leaders of the *gathbandhan*, failed to raise any issue before the electorate as they were heavily dependent on caste factors. Mayawati got so desperate that she showed the audacity of presenting Mulayam Singh Yadav as the genuine backward and Modi as the fake backward. People realised that only the family members of Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati have reaped the fruits of power in amassing a huge amount of money. Corruption had become a byword during the tenures of Mayawati and Mulayam, which has been completely unheard of during the Modi and Yogi regime. This has been the reason why caste politics of *gathbandhan* has been buried deep and the politics of development has been preferred in Uttar Pradesh.

(The writer is Advocate on Record at the Supreme Court of India)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Failing the test

Sir — It is shocking that Gomathi Marimuthu, the athlete from Tamil Nadu, has failed the dope test twice and it is even worse that the Anti-Doping Agency did not report the fact that she tested positive a month ago. This amounts to cheating. Sports persons must realise that they let down fans and the country when they test positive for performance-enhancing drugs.  
**NR Ramachandran**  
*Chennai*

### Respect Dutee's decision

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Love has no boundaries" (May 22). Indian sprinter Dutee Chand has shown tremendous amount of courage to make the admission of being in a same-sex relationship. It is unfortunate that the revelation has led to a storm, most importantly on the part of her family members. Dutee's elder sister Saraswati Chand, herself an athlete, did not approve of this relationship and said that Chand's partner had "pressurised and blackmailed" her for her wealth and property. It's strange that in today's times even after the Supreme Court's historic decision to decriminalise Section 377, which pro-

### The onus is now on Modi

The massive win registered by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 17th Lok Sabha elections was unexpected. Before the polls, the general impression was that the country may be heading towards a hung Parliament. That the BJP has defied all predictions to win handsomely can be attributed to the gigantic factor: Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister's direct connect with the people of India has clicked big time. His tireless work, reasonable success story in the last five years, especially in rural India, his unmatched international repute, broad vision,

love for the country and its security and visible and tough measures against terror perpetrators have all worked in the BJP's favour. The Odisha election results have proved beyond doubt that people know their preferences well. Otherwise, results to the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka cannot be explained. The Modi-Amit Shah duo has had a keen eye on some regions considered anathema for the BJP, Northeast and West Bengal and worked hard to make deep inroads in these areas. Their efforts have paid off. Of course, the anti-Modi campaign by the Opposition



backfired. People did not seem to take some jibes like '*chowkidaar chor hai*' against Modi lightly.

The Opposition's unabashed, one-point and unwavering '*Modi-hatao*' mission has been shown the door. The country's people obvious-

ly want a strong, dominant and decisive leader at the Centre, who can hold his own against internal and external challenges and threats. The Opposition parties' tendency to take the voters for granted with regard to caste and religious equation has flopped badly as is evidenced in Uttar Pradesh where the *mahagathbandhan* was acting as if it had routed the BJP even before the elections. People may also have wanted to give Modi another five years to take a relook at his unfulfilled promises.

**Ganapathi Bhat**  
*Akola*

hibited same-sex relationships, many still live with an old orthodox mindset.

Dutee Chand's decision is purely personal and we should judge her as an athlete and how she performs on the track. This personal matter must not come in the way of her intense preparations for the Olympics.

**Bal Govind**  
*Noida*

### Water woes

Sir — Now that we are staring at a crisis, we are beginning to think of solutions to the water scarcity that is plaguing our cities when we should be implementing an action plan. Now we have to act in mission mode, recharging wells, setting up new ones and perhaps make rainwater harvesting a

mandatory practice. The judicious use of water must be encouraged and field awareness is crucial. The Government should consult and take the support of non-governmental organisations and domain experts.

**Smita Pandey**  
*Via email*

Send your feedback to:  
**letterstopioneer@gmail.com**

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Becoming agents of change

With more and more women taking up unconventional modules, they are making farming more productive and commercially viable



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Harshada Zanje always yearned for a house of her own. But with her husband being the lone bread-winner in a household of nine members, she knew it would be difficult to move out of the two-room mud house in which they all lived. The small paddy field in their Vadan Zanje village in Pune district of Maharashtra was their only source of income and production was not enough to yield profits. But she didn't give up on her dreams. One day, she saw a photo of a house in a nearby shop and liked it so much that she bought it. She kept the photo near her bedside, hoping against hope that one day she would have a similar house. When a chance meeting with voluntary organisations working in the area led her to plant marigolds, little did Zanje know that she was sowing the seeds of her dream. Early this year, two years after she began growing marigolds, Zanje moved into a *pucca* five-room house of her dreams.

In an area where farm incomes are dependent on the vagaries of climate, Zanje has shown that problems like water scarcity and undulating terrain can be overcome with hard work and some hand-holding and guidance. So good has been her yield that Zanje is now able to employ labour at the time the flowers need to be picked. It is no wonder that many other farmers, both women and men, have followed her example and begun growing marigolds. "They have all begun to dream like me. If I could do it, they, too, can increase their incomes and fulfil their hopes and wishes," says Harshada.

But much of this would not have been possible had she not met members of CybageAsha, the Pune-based charitable trust and philanthropic arm of Cybage. The organisation, which was working to improve infrastructure in a few villages in Velhe cluster where Zanje lives, realised that in addition to the existing work, more needed to be done to address rural distress and that economic development and income security of the farming community could be accelerated through improved sources of livelihoods. "We also realised that one shoe would not fit all. It was important to tailor these livelihoods according to their needs while ensuring that empowerment of women remained an integral part of our intervention by giving equal economic opportunities," says Ritu Nathani, head, CybageAsha.

So in 2017, CybageAsha, in collaboration with BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development, conducted a study of the geographical conditions in 11 villages in Bhor and Velhe cluster in Pune district. An assessment of the climatic and soil conditions revealed that rainfall was unevenly distributed because of the angle of slope of the hilly topography in Velhe. This in turn affected the moisture content of the soil and rate of erosion. Since Velhe's high degree of topographical slope had led to high soil erosion, growing marigolds was found to be an ideal option to counter this as it can be grown in a wide range of soils. It was also found that although marigolds were being grown here, it was not yielding enough benefits. Therefore, they decided to introduce the Kolkata variety of marigold instead of the Kapri variety traditionally grown here. Being far superior to the Kapri variety, the new variety would not only promote climate-resilient farming and help in natural resource management but boost incomes as well, revealed Pankaj Katte of BAIF.

When these benefits and the need to switch to a more productive variety were discussed in village meetings with farmers as a way to improve incomes during lean times, Zanje was among the first to volunteer to a trial plot in her field. She understood that in comparison to the Kolkata variety, the Kapri marigolds not only had lower productivity but were less attractive and, therefore, had less market value. Zanje's decision to take the risk of planting the new variety, despite initial opposition from her family, paid off when the first harvest of this trial plot showed that the size of the flower was five times bigger and its productivity was four times more. This led Zanje to plant marigolds in her entire field and her first harvest yielded 150 kg and a profit of ₹15,000.

Interestingly, 60-year-old Hirabai, the mother-in-law of Zanje's sister-in-law, who worked alongside Zanje during harvesting, has also been inspired by her success. Having learnt from Zanje that she could adopt a new technique to overcome water scarcity and the uneven topography in her village, Hirabai has taken to *wadi* or tree farming. This form of farming helps convert unproductive waste lands into productive mango and jamun-growing plots. Although CybageAsha and BAIF don't work in her village, Hirabai has planted mango trees in her barren patch after hearing about *wadi* farming from Zanje. Clearly, women like Zanje are the cornerstone of the intervention. Not only has she fulfilled her dream but is helping others to do so. "Our aim is to help farmers, especially women, transform their lives. As partners in sustainable development, together we are bringing change," says Nathani.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

I AM STARTING A WEEKLY SERIES WHERE I WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM AROUND FOUR MILLION NEPALESE FOLLOWING THESE SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES.  
 —US AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL  
 RANDY BERRY



WE THINK SUCH KIND OF ENGAGEMENT IS NOT NEEDED. IF THE EMBASSY HAS ANYTHING TO SAY, IT CAN DIRECTLY TALK TO THE GOVERNMENT.  
 —NEPAL'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
 PRADEEP KUMAR GYAWALI

# Living dangerously

In 2007, Pakistan spiralled downwards amid violence, political polarisation and economic recession. However, some normalcy was restored. Is it heading that way again?



NADEEM PARACHA

On September 30, 1965, the Communist Party of Indonesia — Parti Komunis Indonesia (PKI) — attempted a *coup d'état* through a clandestine organisation embedded within the Indonesian armed forces. The PKI was close to the Indonesian nationalist hero and first ruler President Sukarno. PKI's embedded organisation, the 13th of September Movement, believed that a large portion of the country's armed forces was anti-Communist and under the influence of the US, which was planning to topple Sukarno.

Sukarno was not a communist himself. In her book, *Maoism: A Global History*, Julia Lovell writes that he had kept the large PKI on his side to neutralise the influence of the military. Nevertheless, in the early 1960s, as tensions between the military and PKI mounted and the economy began to unravel, Sukarno made an alarming speech in August 1964. Alluding to the developing crisis, Sukarno stated that the country was "living dangerously".

The 1965 coup attempt was brutally thwarted by anti-communist military factions. The coup was crushed by Major-General Suharto. Adrian Wickers, in his 2013 book, *A History of Modern Indonesia*, writes that the military gave far-right Islamic and Catholic groups ample space and impunity to carry out some of the worst massacres of the 20th century. A 1977 Amnesty International report suggests that "about one million" Indonesians — believed to be PKI members or sympathisers — were mercilessly slaughtered and these included pregnant women and children.

The Australian novelist Christopher Koch dramatised the carnage in a 1978 novel. The title of the novel, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, was inspired by Sukarno's speech. Since the novel was turned into a film in 1982, the expression "year of living dangerously" is often used by writers and journalists to describe a tumultuous year in the life of a country and/or a particularly violent period in which a country spirals into anarchy and unprecedented bloodshed.

If one sets aside 1971's bloody civil war in former East Pakistan, then the year in which Pakistan lived dangerously (in the context of the mentioned expression) has to be 2007. It is remarkable that the country actually came out of it at all.

The year got off to a terrible start when, in January, an Al Qaeda suicide bomber killed 12 policemen in Peshawar. Then in February, military chief and president Pervez Musharraf suspended the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Iftikhar Chaudhry, accusing him of corruption.

The lawyers' community rejected the suspension and began a movement. It was soon joined by both big and small Opposition parties, whose rallies were often attacked by riot police. As the movement transformed into a populist anti-Musharraf drive and spread from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, its leaders decided to take it to Sindh's capital city, Karachi. Karachi's then largest party, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), was a staunch ally of the Musharraf regime.

The MQM wasn't happy when the suspended judge and his supporters arrived in Karachi



on May 12, 2007. As the judge was waiting at the city's airport, riots and open gun battles between MQM activists and those belonging to the anti-Musharraf alliance such as the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) and Awami National Party (ANP), erupted on the roads and streets of the city. Government buildings, media outlets, cars and buses were fired upon and torched. Snipers took positions on overhead bridges and mowed down opponents with bullets.

The city came to a standstill as armed men roamed the streets amid dead bodies, abandoned cars and burning motorbikes and buses. According to a May 13, 2007 report by CNN, 33 people were killed and dozens were wounded. The MQM and the Musharraf regime accused the Opposition parties for the violence, whereas the former and most local and foreign news outlets put the blame on the latter and Musharraf.

Then in June, unprecedented monsoon rains in Karachi killed over 200 people. The very next month on July 3, militant clerics and their 'students' fired at security forces posted outside Islamabad's Red Mosque. The mosque and its seminary had been taken over by radical clerics and their supporters, who for months had been harassing the people of the locality on the pretext of "vanquishing anti-Islamic activities." As tensions between the clerics and the state rose, security forces moved in after it was confirmed that the clerics and their "students" were heavily armed. The major siege took place on July 10 and 11 when Pakistan military commandos entered the building and eliminated the militants.

On July 13, newspapers reported that 102 people had been killed. These included 91 civilians (most of whom were militants holed up in

ON NOVEMBER 3, MUSHARRAF DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY. THE SAME MONTH, SECTARIAN VIOLENCE IN KURRAM AGENCY KILLED 80 PEOPLE AND ISLAMIC MILITANTS BEGAN TO TAKE OVER BUILDINGS IN SWAT. ON NOVEMBER 22, PAKISTAN WAS SUSPENDED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FOR REFUSING TO LIFT THE EMERGENCY. ON NOVEMBER 26, PML-N CHIEF NAWAZ SHARIF RETURNED FROM EXILE

the mosque), 10 soldiers and one ranger. As the political and economic situation continued to deteriorate, while terrorist attacks by Al Qaeda-affiliated outfits increased in number, the exiled chairperson of the PPP Benazir Bhutto, returned to Pakistan in October. A large rally in Karachi that was escorting her from the Jinnah International Airport was attacked by suicide bombers and 124 people were killed in the carnage. Al Qaeda-affiliated groups were suspected of carrying out the attack.

On November 3, Musharraf declared a state of emergency. The same month, sectarian violence in Kurram Agency killed 80 people and Islamic militants began to take over buildings in Swat. On November 22, Pakistan was suspended from the Commonwealth for refusing to lift the emergency. On November 26, PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif returned from exile.

On December, 13 Islamist militant groups formed the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which would go on to kill thousands of Pakistanis in the following years. On December 27, suicide bombers assassinated Benazir Bhutto. Dozens perished with her and dozens more were killed in the riots which spread across Pakistan for three days. Enraged mobs ran amok, setting fire to buildings and automobiles, especially in Punjab and Sindh.

Things almost completely fell apart in 2007. However, the country managed to limp back to some "normalcy" but the economy continued to plummet and terrorist attacks became endemic. Things in this respect began to somewhat improve from 2015 onwards. But an economic downturn, the recent spike in terror attacks and intense political polarisation, are once again threatening the country. Are we once again moving towards a year of living dangerously?

(Courtesy: The Dawn)

# Guard against an apocalypse

Human influences on climate change have heralded a new epoch — anthropocene — that is a clear threat to the Himalayas. There's a strong need to establish synergies between climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development goals



SANDEEP KUMAR DUBEY

The human influence on the planet and its environment, leading to global warming, are no more hidden. However, there can also be several natural factors that cause climate change and variations in global temperatures. In fact, increased volcanic eruptions and periods of few sunspots may lead to a drop-off in the temperature as it happened over the Northern Hemisphere for about a thousand years, known as Little Ice Age, which lasted roughly till the mid-18th Century. Climate variations are, therefore, generally induced by a mix of natural and human factors. Precisely because of this, climate scientists find it difficult to define the phrase "2°C above pre-industrial levels" as referred

to in the sub-clause 1 (a) of Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, 2015, and fix a numerical baseline for the average global temperature.

The challenge is to separate and quantify human influences on climate change from that of nature. This will help convince and stimulate decision-makers throughout the world for taking up the much-needed climate change mitigation actions as stated in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, 2015, "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels...to significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change."

The geological era dominated by human influences on climate is considered as anthropocene. A recent special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) titled, 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' attempts to trace the temporal extent of anthropocene. The report says that anthropocene has geological merit to be regarded as a formal epoch in the geological time scale and that it begins from the mid-20th century and continues. Scientists, artists and documentary makers are all trying to capture and

map the trajectory of Anthropocene and associated global greenhouse gas emission pathways.

In the face of huge human influence on the earth system, pursuing the efforts to limit the temperature increase above 1.5°C is an ambitious task. Unchecked, the temperature rise above 1.5°C may have significant, long-lasting and irreversible impacts on human and natural systems. Among the many impacts and the cascading risks that changing climate and increase in global temperature will lead to, one is on the Himalayas (to be specific, Hindu Kush-Himalaya region) and the natural resources thereof.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) described the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region the "Third Pole" as it "stores more snow and ice than anywhere else in the world outside the polar regions." The HKH ecosystem is already showing signs of human influences. Changes in cryosphere are an important indicator of climate change. In February 2019, the ICIMOD came out with a landmark study titled, 'The Hindu Kush Himalaya

Assessment', delineating the impacts of climate change and increasing global temperature on HKH and its resources. According to the report, glaciers have been shrinking since the mid-18th century, the exception being from 1920 to 1940. The ICIMOD warned of dire consequences if the global climate response fails to contain the rising temperature and said that "current emissions would lead to five degrees in warming and a loss of two-thirds of the region's glaciers by 2100."

Though commonly described as 'Water Tower of Asia', water crisis is looming large over countries in the HKH region. The unfolding water crisis is likely to get worse in the coming years, aided by human drivers such as climate change. The per capita water availability has drastically gone down, thus compromising on the developmental needs, especially of the poverty-stricken population.

Rapid rate of urbanisation (often unplanned), ever-growing population and fast-paced industrialisation in the HKH region stress upon the already depleting natural resources, including water. In the face of competitive sectoral

demands for water, administering equitable distribution of water resources for different sectors and needs can be even more challenging for the existing water governance structures in the region.

Hydro-politics played out as a subset of regional geopolitics often ferments competition among countries which undercuts the prospects of cooperation. In the geopolitical tug of war, it is no denying that countries may be inclined to use water as a geo-strategic weapon. Establishment of effective transboundary water governance structures and constant dialogues to achieve trade-offs between upstream and downstream water uses may preclude such a scenario. It is important for nations to understand that cooperation on water issues leads to a win-win situation. Efforts must be on to promote regional dialogue and multi-stakeholders partnership on water issues for effective water resources management and conflict mitigation in the region.

About two billion people living in the basins of the 10 major rivers, which originate from HKH, benefit directly or indirectly from its resources, espe-

cially water. To ensure water security for the region, understanding localised variations will be the key. For example, in the hilly areas of the region, the main source of water is the springs. Thus, in this case, relevant geographical units for effective water resources management will be the springsheds and not the river basins. Augmenting water resources, rejuvenating water bodies and strengthening water governance institutions will be vital for the development of the region, human security and achieving sustainable development goals, especially Goal 6.

It is also important to develop institutional capacities at multi-level governance structures for adaptive and effective governance, build cross-scalar interfaces among the various knowledge-based systems and strengthen the resilience of the communities. As the IPCC special report on 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' suggests, there is a strong need to establish synergies between climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development goals.

(The writer is a freelance commentator)



**NOWHERE LEFT TO FAIL**  
 May lacked the courage and vision to articulate compelling answers to the many questions, still less to persuade the public and Parliament to trust her judgment. That profound and protracted failure is in large part the reason why the whole Brexit process has broken down, why British voters will participate in European parliamentary elections on Thursday, and why that poll is certain to administer a brutal verdict on the prime minister and her party.  
 (The Guardian Editorial)



WINNERS & LOSERS

<p>RAHUL GANDHI</p>	<p>SMRITI IRANI</p>	<p>AKHILESH YADAV</p>	<p>ANURAG THAKUR</p>	<p>DHARMENDRA YADAV</p>	<p>GIRIRAJ SINGH</p>	<p>GURJIT SINGH AUJLA</p>	<p>JAYANT SINHA</p>	<p>KANIMOZHI</p>	<p>KARTI</p>	<p>HEMA MALINI</p>	<p>MULAYAM YADAV</p>	<p>PRAGYA THAKUR</p>
<p>ATISHI</p>	<p>DIGVIJYA SINGH</p>	<p>DIMPLE YADAV</p>	<p>HARDEEP SINGH PURI</p>	<p>HD DEVE GOWDA</p>	<p>KANHAIYA KUMAR</p>	<p>KRITI AZAD</p>	<p>MEHBOOBA MUFTI</p>	<p>MILIND DEORA</p>	<p>MISA BHARTI</p>	<p>URMILA MATONDKAR</p>	<p>POONAM SINHA</p>	
<p>SAMBIT PATRA</p>	<p>SANJAY NIRUPAM</p>	<p>RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD</p>	<p>ASADUDDIN OWAISI</p>	<p>JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA</p>	<p>SHATRUGHAN SINHA</p>	<p>SUNNY DEOL</p>	<p>SHIVPAL YADAV</p>	<p>SHEILA DIKSHIT</p>	<p>SUNIL JAKHAR</p>			

Most Union Ministers ride Modi wave

Smriti Irani emerges giant killer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Except Union Minister Manoj Sinha, Hardeep Singh Puri and KJ Alphons, a record number of Union Ministers won their seat due to Modi-Amit Shah wave in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani emerged as a giant-killer against Congress president Rahul Gandhi who conceded defeat from Amethi in one of the most keenly watched contests in the country.

The official announcement on most of the seats was awaited as matching of electronic voting machine (EVM) counts with voter verifiable audit trail (VVPAT) slips was in progress.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi retained Varanasi by over 4.79 lakh votes. He increased his victory margin as compared

to 2014 by over one lakh votes, trouncing Samajwadi Party's Shalini Yadav.

Giriraj Singh, who was up against Kanhaiya Kumar, former JNU president and CPI(M) candidate, in Begusarai, was leading by 4.22 lakh votes. Radha Mohan Singh fielded from Purvi Champaran was ahead of his rival Aakash Singh by a margin of nearly two lakh votes. In Arrah, RK Singh led against his nearest rival of CPI(M) by a margin of over one lakh votes.

Ravi Shankar Prasad was leading against Congress' Shatrughan Sinha on Patna Sahib seat by nearly 2.83 lakh votes.

Firebrand leader and Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey too sailed through against RJD's Jagadanand Singh, leading by around 1.5 lakh votes.

Cabinet Minister KJ Alphons was facing a humiliating defeat in Kerala. He trailed at the third place behind Congress' Hibi Aeden and CPI(M) candidate P Rajeev on Ernakulam seat.

His colleague and Union

**The big winners included Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari. The official announcement on most of the seats was awaited as matching of electronic voting machine (EVM) counts with voter verifiable audit trail (VVPAT) slips was in progress**

Housing and Urban Affairs minister Hardeep Puri lost in Amritsar by a margin of over 99,00 votes. Another big loss of the BJP was Union minister of state for Railways Manoj Sinha who was down by around 1.15 lakh votes against BSP's Afzal Ansari on Ghaziipur seat.

The big winners included Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari. Singh led against Samajwadi Party candidate and Shatrughna Sinha's wife Poonam Sinha in Lucknow by over 3.45 lakh votes.

Gadkari won from Nagpur by a margin of around 1.97 lakh votes. He was up against Congress' Nana Patole. On Chandrapur (Maharashtra) seat Union minister of state for Home Affairs Hansraj Gangaram Ahir had a tough contest on the platter and he was trailing behind Balubhau by over 50,000 votes.

In UP's Baghpat, Satyapal Singh was also engaged in a keen fight with RLD candidate Jayant Chaudhary. Singh was trailing behind with 1068 votes.

Sanjiv Balyan was engaged in an intense contest in Muzaffarpur seat in UP. He was leading over his rival and RLD chief Ajit Singh by thin margin of 3,782 votes.

Maneka Gandhi, who switched to Sultanpur (UP) seat, was leading by a slender margin of 13,859 votes against BSP's Chandra Bhadra Singh.

BJP's biggest winners included VK Singh who led over his rival from SP Suresh Bansal by a margin over five lakh votes in Ghaziabad constituency.

Rajyavardhan Rathor was leading against Olympian Krishna Poonia of Congress by 3.89 lakh votes on Jaipur (Rural) seat. Arjun Ram Meghwal was

sailing on Bikaner seat by 2.5 lakh votes. Anant Kumar Hegde (Uttara Kannada) was leading by nearly five lakh votes against JD(S) candidate Anand Asnotikar.

Union minister Mahesh Sharma was leading on Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) seat by over two lakh votes, against BSP's Satyapal. In Bareilly, Santosh Gangwar sailed through with around 1.5 lakh votes.

Other ministers of Modi government including Juel Oram (Sundargarh), Sadanand Gowda (North Bengaluru), Shripad Yesso Naik (North Goa), Ram Kripal Yadav, Jitendra Singh (Udhampur), Rao Inderjeet Singh (Gurgaon), Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena), Babul Supriyo (Asansol), Ajay Tamta (Almora) among others, were on the victory march.



BJP workers light firecrackers as they celebrate the party's victory in Srinagar on Thursday

# BJP-SENA REPEATS 2014 SHOW

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a virtual repeat of its spectacular performance in the 2014 polls, the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance on Thursday swept the Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra, by either winning or establishing unassailable leads in 41 out of the total 48 seats in the State, decimating once again the Opposition Congress and limiting the tally of NCP to five.

On a day when senior Congress leaders Sushilkumar Shinde and Ashok Chavan bit electoral dust, the saffron alliance both humiliated the Congress further by reducing its embarrassing 2014 tally of two seats to one seat.

In a surprise outcome, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) legislator and former TV journalist Imtiaz Jaleel was poised to bag Aurangabad by defeating four-time MP Chandrakant Khaire of the Shiv Sena.

The ruling saffron alliance's superlative performance has come as a big boost to the BJP-Shiv Sena combine ahead of the State Assembly polls to be held in October this year. With its stunning performance achieved after bucking the severe anti-incumbency faced by the Devendra Fadnis gov-

ernment, the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance has dimmed the hopes of the Congress-NCP alliance returning to power in the State.

The BJP-Sena alliance performed well in all the regions in the state. While the saffron alliance won all the six seats (BJP-3 and Sena-3) in Mumbai, walked away with nine seats in western Maharashtra, six seats in north Maharashtra, six seats in Konkan region, eight seats in Marathwada and eight seats from Vidarbha region.

Though it increased the 2014 tally by one seat, the NCP had nothing to gloat about its electoral performance. For, NCP chief Sharad Pawar's daughter and two-time MP Supriya Sule managed to retain the home seat of Baramati, while his grand nephew and former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar suffered an embarrassing defeat at the hands of Shiv Sena's sitting MP Shrirang Appa Chandu Barne by a margin of 2,15,913 votes.

Incidentally, both the BJP and Shiv Sena retained their 2014's winning tally of 23 and 18 seats respectively. The only difference this time around was that the BJP contested 25 seats in the 2019 polls in against 26 seats it had contested in



2014 election, while the Shiv Sena contested 23 seats as against 22 seats it had contested in the previous polls.

Both the BJP and the Shiv Sena have been contesting the Lok Sabha polls as an alliance since 1989. In both the 2014 and 2019 polls, the BJP romped home with its best-ever winning tally of 23 seats as against 18 it had won in 1996, while the Sena improved its previous

tally of 15 seats, by winning as many as 18 seats. However, with its winning tally having been reduced to mere one seat, the Congress' stock has hit its nadir in Maharashtra which was long-considered its bastion.

The only seat that the Congress won was Chandrapur, where its candidate Balubhau alias Suresh Narayan Dhanorkar trounced

Union Minister of State Hansraj Ahir by a margin of 50,288 votes.

The Congress' embarrassing electoral debacle can be gauged from the defeats of its two former chief ministers Ashok Chavan in Nanded and Sushilkumar Shinde fell by way side. While Chavan was trounced by Prataprao Patil Chikhlikar of the BJP, Shinde suffered a defeat hands of Jai Sideshwar Shivchary Mahaswami.

The annexing of Chavans' home turf of Nanded is of extreme political significance considering that barring four terms, Nanded was under the control of the Congress since 1952. While late S B Chavan represented the constituency twice (1980 and 1984), Ashok Chavan himself was elected to Lok Sabha once in a bye-election in 1987, following the resignation of his father. Late S B Chavan's son-in-law and Ashokrao's brother-in-law Bhaskarrao Khatgaonkar has represented the constituency thrice (1998, 1999 and 2009).

Chavan, who was incidentally one of the two Congress candidates (out of its 26 candidates) had been elected to Lok Sabha in 2014 polls from Maharashtra in the face of a fierce Modi wave.

The other highlights of the polls were the victories of BJP's Union Minister Nitin Gadkari (Nagpur), state president Raosaheb Danve-Patil (Jalna), late senior party leader Gopinath Munde's daughter and sitting MP Pritam Munde (Beed), late party leader Pramod Mahajan's daughter Poonam Mahajan (Mumbai north-central).

Bollywood actress Urmila Matondkar, who contested the polls as a Congress candidate from Mumbai north constituency, suffered a massive defeat at the hands of BJP's sitting MP Gopal Shetty.

In the initial stages of counting in the morning, Matondkar had created a stir by lodging a complaint with the Election Commission of India alleging 'changed' EVM, here on Thursday.

"On the form of EVM 17C from Magathane, the signatures and the machine numbers are different. A complaint has been filed with the EC," Matondkar had tweeted.

However, later in the evening, Matondkar conceded the defeat through a tweet: "Congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodiji and his team on a stupendous victory... one that can only be applauded with a mighty vigour".

# Opp blames Rahul for poll debacle

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Crises within the Opposition camp emerged within hours of the BJP-led NDA looking set for a stupendous win, with the CPI and the NCP blaming Congress and its president Rahul Gandhi for the poor performance in the elections.

Soon after the trends were out, CPI national secretary Atul Anjan came out in media criticising Rahul for the wrong decisions which led to the current pathetic stage. He even blamed Rahul for opening up doors for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's grand victory.

NCP MP Majeed Memon also vented his anger against Congress in TV channels' debates, blaming the "not upto mark performance of the grand old party."

"The BJP fought these elections on the basis of social and religious divisive policies and the agenda was set by them on this basis. But more significant is the fact that the unity of the Opposition has been damaged by the Congress. The policies and decisions of Rahul Gandhi has weakened opposition unity, led to divisions and opened the doors for Modi's victory," said Anjan.

The party's other National

Secretary, D Raja told PTI that although now was not the time to blame any individual party or leader for the dismal performance of the Opposition, it is also true that it was because of the unity among the allies that in states like Tamil Nadu, the BJP wave did not have any effect. "Every political party should introspect and analyse how this situation happened. We have to rework strategies, reorganise party and reconnect with the people."

"With BJP capturing power, they will now aggressively pursue Hindutva agenda and cultural nationalism. The secular democratic parties have failed to form a credible alliance and that has been our failure," Raja said.

CPI general secretary Sudhakar Reddy also blamed Congress for its reluctance to ally with Left parties in West Bengal. "Sabarimala undercurrent" helped the UDF electorally in Kerala, where Rahul Gandhi contesting from Wayanad also consolidated the minority votes behind the Congress, he added.

Memon, for his part, said: "We have some setbacks and we find that unfortunately the Congress didn't perform up to the mark."

# Modi 3<sup>rd</sup> PM to retain full majority

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Spearheading the NDA to a thumping victory, Narendra Modi is the third Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi to retain power for a second term with full majority in the Lok Sabha.

As counting is on across the country on Thursday, trends indicate the Modi-led BJP will garner more than 302 seats on its own thereby easily going past the halfway mark of 272 seats in the 17th Lok Sabha elections. In 2014, the BJP had won 282 seats out of the total 543 in Lok Sabha.

Jawaharlal Nehru won around three-fourth of the Lok Sabha seats in the first elections in the country during 1951-52. Subsequently, he was able to win 1957 elections as well as 1962 elections with full majority. Since the elections were taking place for the first time in independent India in 1951, the polling had to be spread over a period of five months from October 1951 to February 1952.

While the Congress dominance was insurmountable in 1951, various other political strands such as Bhartiya Jana Sangh, Kisaan Mazdoor Praja Party, Scheduled Caste Federation and Socialist Party had started to take shape by then. The Congress was able to win 364 out of 489 seats during 1951-52 elections. The party polled around 45 per cent of the total votes then.

In 1957, when Nehru was up for re-election, India was going through a difficult phase as the Prime Minister was battling the right wing inside and outside his party after passage of the Hindu Marriage Act in 1955.

The country was facing many language disputes. Consequently, after establishment of States Reorganisation Committee in 1953, many states were formed on the basis of language. The country was also feeling the heat due to food insecurity.

However, among all

this, Nehru was able to win a spectacular victory of 371 seats in 1957 elections. The Congress's vote share even increased from 45 per cent in 1951-52 to 47.78 per cent in 1957. In 1962 elections, Nehru won again bagging 361 seats out of total 494 seats in Lok Sabha.

After 20 years of Independence, the Congress's hegemony in the country's politics finally started breaking down in 1967 when it lost six state assembly elections. Out of this six, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal was lost by the Congress for the very first time.

However, in 1967 elections, Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi was able to get 283 seats out of total 520 seats. This was Indira's first electoral victory in general elections. In 1969, Indira expelled the old guard of the party, which were called as Congress (O). This section of Congress was led by Morarji Desai.

It was during this time that Indira coined the slogan "Garibi hatao", which found a wide emotive appeal among the Indian voters. As a result, she was able to increase her tally to 352 in 1971 elections for her second term.

In between 2010 and 2014, with UPA Government facing multiple allegations of massive corruption scandals, the BJP decided to appoint the then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi as their Prime Minister candidate for 2014 general elections.

With a promise of development (vikas) across India, Narendra Modi won his first ever general elections with full majority in 2014 with 282 seats.

In Karnataka, three political leaders changed affiliations from Congress to BJP, with two of them leading in vote counts. While Umesh Yadav and Y

# 23 turncoats to retain power! ACCORDING TO EC'S DATA, 13 TURNCOATS ARE LEADING THEIR CONSTITUENCIES WHILE REST OF THEM ARE SET TO LOSE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 23 turncoat politicians of 76, who had switched over from one party to other ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, are in a position to win their seats as per the trends so far.

According to the Election Commission's data, 13 turncoats are leading their constituencies while the rest of them are set to lose.

Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha, who joined Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha election, lost to rival Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad from Patna Sahib constituency in Bihar.

In nearby Madhepura, former JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav, who joined RJD before the polls, was lagging by over 1.30 lakh votes from Dinesh Chandra Yadav of JD(U).

Tariq Anwar, who switched from Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to Congress, is also trailing by over 40,000 votes from Katihar.

Cricketer-turned-politician Kirti Azad is trailing from Dhanbad by nearly 1.6 lakh votes. He had joined Congress from BJP.

Son of former Union Minister Jaswant Singh, Manvendra, who is contesting on a Congress ticket from Barmer is also trailing by about 3.12 lakh votes.

Meanwhile, Bhojpuri actor Ravi Kishan Shukla, who had contested on Congress ticket in the last general elections but joined the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, is leading by over 2.80 lakh from Gorakhpur constituency.

In Karnataka, three political leaders changed affiliations from Congress to BJP, with two of them leading in vote counts. While Umesh Yadav and Y

# Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha, who joined Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha election, lost to rival Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad from Patna Sahib constituency in Bihar

Devendrappa are leading from Gulbarga and Bellary, respectively, BJP candidate from Hassan A Manju is behind by 1.42 lakh votes from Prajwal Revanna, grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda.

Sujay Vikhe Patil, son of senior Congress leader Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, had switched to BJP from Congress. He is ahead by over 2.30 lakh votes in Ahmednagar constituency of Maharashtra.

Suresh Dhanorkar, who joined Congress leaving Shiv Sena, is ahead of sitting BJP MP Hansraj Gangaram Ahir in the Chandrapur seat from the state. In Nanded, Pratap Chikhlikar, a turncoat from Shiv Sena to BJP, is leading against state Congress chief Ashok Chavan by about 37,000 votes.

Baijayant Panda who was expelled from the BJD and is contesting from Kendrapara on BJP ticket is lagging behind by 40,000 votes.

Former Union Minister Panabaka Lakshmi who changed sides from Congress

to TDP is trailing by 1.5 lakh votes in Tirupati constituency of Lok Sabha seats.

Among other major turncoats, AAP candidate Dharamvirra Gandhi from Patiala, Congress candidates Naseemuddin Siddiqui from Bijpore, Savitri Bai Phule from Bahraich and Babu Katara from Dahod, are also trailing.

In West Bengal's Alipurduar seat in north Bengal, Dasarthi Kirkey the sitting TMC MP from Alipurduar, who was once a sitting RSP MLA, is staring at his defeat. Manas Bhunia, Apurba Sarkar, Kanialal Agarwal, all former Congress MLAs, who contested from Midnapore, Baharampur and Raiganj respectively on TMC tickets are trailing. Paresh Adhikary and Mafuja Khatun, former MLAs of Forward Bloc and CPI(M) who contested on TMC and BJP tickets respectively, are trailing in Coochbehar and Jangipur Lok Sabha seats.

Accepting the Lok Sabha poll outcome gracefully, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday chose not to blame the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for the party's poor performance in Maharashtra. Talking to mediapersons after the poll outcome that saw his party win five seats in the State, Pawar said, "Yes. There were doubts about EVMs. There were some suspicions in the minds of people about EVMs. But, I don't want to blame the machines now, since the results are out. Once the verdict is out, we have to accept it gracefully... I am accepting it gracefully."

"We will definitely examine the reasons for our defeat in the polls. We will increase our contact with people in the run-up to State Assembly polls due in October. Verdict is out now... State is reeling under severe drought, we will have to reach assistance to drought-affected people. Whatever drought relief programme we have undertaken will continue," Pawar said.

Pawar's daughter and two-time MP Supriya Sule retained the Baramati seat, while his grand nephew Parth Pawar suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Shiv Sena's irang Appa Chandu Barne by a margin of 2,15,913 votes. Alluding to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to a cave near Uttarakhanda's Kedarnath temple for meditation during the last phase of the Lok Sabha polls, Pawar said: "In the last phase of polling, we saw a 'chamatkar' (miracle) of (prime minister Narendra Modi) sitting in a cave. This was something we had never seen before in this country. We did not expect such things. We will have to see how much it benefited (the BJP). We don't want to jump to the conclusion," he said.



# Social media erupts with memes!

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media was flooded with opinions, debates, jokes, memes especially aimed to the Opposition and the Congress. One of the most noticed developments was Prime Minister Narendra Modi removing Chowkidar from his twitter handle. He had prefixed it to counter Congress president Rahul Gandhi's attack against him saying 'Chowkidar Chor Hai'.

Ever since the vote count commenced, netizens began their day with a video clip showing television journalist Arnab Goswami mistakenly referring to Sunny Deol as Sunny Leone.

The clip was shared in such a huge number that it convinced actor Sunny Leone to post, "Leading by How many votes?????" on Twitter with mul-

tiple emojis. Soon, the memes on Congress President Rahul Gandhi and other politicians began making the rounds. BJP candidate Smriti Irani's win over Rahul Gandhi in Amethi further stirred the meme broth.

One trending meme showed Rahul Gandhi's face photoshopped on Deepika Padukone's body in the film, showed a picture of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and Army Chief Qamar

Javed Bajwa along with the dialogue: "Hum dukhi the, par humse bhi zyada 2 log aur dukhi the."

An old picture of the Gandhi family — showing Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi sitting near a lotus-bud clad pond — resurfaced again with the caption: "Kamal khilne ke intezar mein".

One picture showed Rahul Gandhi addressing a media campaign captioned, "Aree haarna jeetna chhoro, manoranjan mei toh koi kami nahi hui na?"

One viral meme on Smriti Irani's victory in Amethi read: "If 'Ghar mein ghus ke marna' has a facet!"

Don't miss this hilarious one for the Opposition: "Bade dukh ke saath soochi karna pad raha hai ki ess desh ne ek saath 22 pradhan mantri kho diye hai".



**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. 1, JAMMU**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
**e-NIT No. CD-I/18 of 2019-20 Dated 20-05-2019**

Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1, Jammu on behalf of Governor of J&K State, invite tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. upto 1630 Hrs on 07-06-2019 for the following work.

**S.No. 1 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1870 & 1883) (Part-II) on roads from :-  
1/ Sai Khurd to Sardari Camp (Bidipura Bana) Length = 2.00 Kms.  
2/ Kotli Charkian to Bye-pass road Bishnah via Dhinday Khurd (Including links) (Length = 2.00 Kms)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 148.89  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 297780  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 02 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 2 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1875 & 1876) (Part-II) on roads from :-  
1/ Gondia to Shamshan Ghat at village Agwan (Length = 1.75 Kms).  
2/ Baspur to Samka (Length = 1.80 Kms)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 132.36  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 264720  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 02 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 3 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1872 & 1873) (Part-II) on roads from :-  
1/ Kalapuz Sartrayan to Chowala Fattu Chak (Length = 1.15 Kms).  
2/ Mana to Shamshan Ghat (Length = 2.10 Kms).

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 130.07  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 260140  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 02 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 4 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1874, 1877 & 1879) (Part-II) on roads from :-  
1/ Tali Morh to Darsapur Ganda (Length = 1.50 Kms).  
2/ Nari Khaper (Length = 1.10 Km)  
3/ Krishna Nagar to Gazian (Murallian) upto Shamshan Ghat (Length = 1.00 Km)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 121.28  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 242560  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 02 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 5 Name of Work :-** Construction of road from Tanda to Chowala Fattu Chak by way of Providing and laying WBM Grade-II (Shingling), WMM, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC (Length = 3.00 Kms) Under Languishing Scheme (LUP 1884) (Part-II)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 113.48  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 226960  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 01 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 6 Name of Work :-** Construction of link road from Devighar to Jabowal by way of Providing and laying 150mm thick WBM Grade-II (Shingling), WMM, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC (Length = 2.20 Kms) Under Languishing Scheme (LUP 1888) (Part-II)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 96.65  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 1000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 193300  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 01 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 7 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1882 & 1886) (Part-II) on roads from :-  
1/ Biaspur Parlah to Talad road (Length = 1.40 Kms).  
2/ Pindi Sarochan to Garore Nallah (Length = 0.96 Km)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 87.50  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 1000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 175000  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 01 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

1/ Date of Publishing from 21-05-2019  
2/ The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in> from 1000 Hrs on 21-05-2019 to 07-06-2019 (1630 Hrs).

No. DIP/J-665-P/19  
Dated:- 22.05.2019

Sd/ (Er. S. A Wani)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu

# US corporate sector hails re-election of PM Modi

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US corporate sector on Thursday congratulated Narendra Modi on his "commanding victory", saying the Prime Minister has the potential to transform India and forge opportunity for all Indians.

Prime Minister Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appears set to post an emphatic victory in the Lok Sabha election, bringing Modi back into office for a second term. "Congratulations to" Modi and the BJP "for a commanding victory," said Nisha Desai Biswal, president of US India Business Council (USIBC). The Prime Minister "has the potential to transform India and forge opportunity for all Indians," she said, adding that the USIBC looks forward to work with the BJP government. Commending Modi on his electoral success, Biswal said the first five years of Modi's government saw good progress on reforms.

The establishment of a national Goods and Services



Tax, passage of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and a variety of legal and regulatory reforms catapulted India's Ease of Doing Business ranking from 142 to 77, she said.

"These reforms laid the foundation for India's strong record of economic growth. Still, much remains to be done to unlock the expansive growth potential of the Indian market. With a strong mandate from the Indian people, Prime Minister Modi will have an opportunity to usher in an era of global economic and strategic leadership for India," Biswal said.

A strong US-India commercial partnership will support these goals, helping India

to grow into a \$5 trillion economy in the next five years.

"USIBC believes that trade and investment between the two countries is a critical element of India's future growth, and looks forward to working with Prime Minister Modi and his team to unlock new growth opportunities across the US-India corridor," Biswal said.

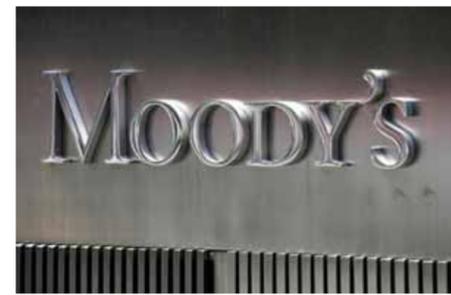
Biswal was the last diplomat to hold the position of Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia in the Obama administration. She left the position on January 20. The important diplomatic post has been vacant in the 28 months of the Trump administration.

Moody's on Thursday said its credit view on India will depend on policies of the new government and expressed hope that the country would continue with its fiscal consolidation plan.

"Any credit implications of the outcome of India's general election will be determined by the policies adopted by the government in the next few years. These policies are yet to be formulated," Moody's Investors Service VP Sovereign Risk Group William Foster said.

Moody's expects the broad push towards fiscal consolidation to remain, although with greater policy emphasis on supporting low incomes, Foster added.

# Credit view on India hinges on policies of new Govt: Moody's



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As per the trend, BJP-led NDA will form the government at the Centre for the second successive term with absolute majority.

In 2017, the US-based rating agency upped India's rating to 'Baa2' from 'Baa3', changing outlook to 'stable' from 'positive', and said reforms would help stabilise rising levels of debt.

Deviating from the fiscal consolidation path as per the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, the government in February's interim budget pegged the fiscal deficit for 2019-20 at 3.4 per cent of GDP, as against the original target of 3.1 per cent.

In 2018-19, the fiscal deficit was 3.4 per cent of GDP.

# Former Nissan chairman Ghosn appears in Tokyo court

AP ■ TOKYO

Nissan's former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, appeared in a Japanese courtroom on Thursday for a hearing ahead of his trial on accusations of financial misconduct.

It was the first of a series of hearings to iron out logistics for Ghosn's actual trial. The trial date has not been set, and experts say it could be months away.

Ghosn, who led the Japanese automaker for two decades, was arrested in November and charged with underreporting his income and breach of trust. He was released on bail in March, rearrested in April on fresh accusations and then released again on bail on April 25.

Ghosn insists he is innocent and says he was targeted in a "conspiracy" by others at Nissan Motor Co.

Nissan, which is allied with Renault SA of France, has seen profits nose-dive amid the fallout from Ghosn's arrest.

Ghosn has hired a strong legal team as he fights to clear his name. One of his top lawyers, Junichiro Hironaka, was seen walking into the courtroom Thursday with Ghosn.

One of the conditions of Ghosn's release on bail is that he is forbidden to contact his wife.

## Business Corner



The chairman of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Prof CB Sharma announced the fourth-semester exam result 2019 of Diploma in Elementary Education (DE.I.Ed) at an event — Training of 12.11 lakh In-service Untrained Elementary School Teachers. Students can now check the same on the institute's website — www.dled.nios.ac.in. NIOS D.El.Ed fourth-semester exam was conducted on March 15 and 16. The exam was conducted for three subject modules namely Learning in Art, Health, Physical and Work Education at Elementary Level (508), Learning Social Science at Upper Primary Level (509) and Learning Science at Upper Primary Level (510)



TP Singh, General Manager, Northern Railway, accompanied by SC Jain, Divisional Railway Manager, Delhi, & Principal Head of Departments of Northern Railway today inspected Diesel Locomotive Shed, Tughlakabad, a premier Locomotive Maintenance Center over Indian Railways and in its 50th year of Operations



Indian merchant service and UPI payments app, BharatPe announced the winners of its 2019 World Cup contest. 11 merchants from Bangalore, mostly independent business owners will be travelling to the UK for India vs Bangladesh match on July 2, 2019. The match will be played at Edgbaston Cricket Ground, at Birmingham, England

# Panasonic joins firms stepping away from Huawei after US ban

AFP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Panasonic on Thursday said it would stop supplying some components to Huawei, joining a growing list of firms distancing themselves from the Chinese telecoms giant after a US ban over security concerns.

Japan's Toshiba also announced it was temporarily halting shipments to Huawei to check whether US-made parts were involved, in order to comply with Washington's new restrictions.

The moves came a day after major Japanese and British mobile carriers said they would delay releasing new Huawei handsets, upping the pressure on the world's second-largest smartphone manufacturer.

"We've stopped all business transactions with Huawei and its 68 group companies... That are subject to the US government ban," Panasonic spokesman Joe Flynn told AFP.

Panasonic's business with Huawei includes the supply of "electronic parts," he said, declining to provide further details.

Washington's restrictions affect products made fully or partially in the United States, where Panasonic manufactures some of the components it supplies to Huawei, the Japanese firm said.

There was no immediate comment from Huawei on the move, and a Panasonic official declined to comment on what business the Japanese firm would continue to do with the Chinese company.

# China seeks support of Asia in trade fight with US

AP ■ BEIJING

China is seeking support from Russia and from its Central Asian neighbours in its escalating tariff fight with the U.S., while also stepping up protests against moves to penalize its technology sector.

Speaking Wednesday at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Kyrgyzstan, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said representatives of the eight-nation grouping had expressed "broad support" for China's position.

In comments reported Thursday, Wang reiterated China's stance that it would never accept unequal trading arrangements.

Beijing will match "extreme pressure" from the U.S. With its own measures, he said in remarks posted on the ministry's website.

The trade frictions have "aroused great concern from the international community," Wang said.

# US-China trade tension can jeopardise global growth in 2019: IMF warns

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The escalation of trade tension between the US and China has the potential to disrupt the global supply chains and jeopardise the projected recovery in growth in 2019, the IMF warned Thursday, over 10 days after President Donald Trump imposed 25 per cent tariff on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese imports.

The world's two largest economies are locked in a trade war since Trump imposed heavy tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items from China in March last year, a move that sparked fears of a global trade war. In response, China imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on billions of dollars worth of American imports.

The trade war escalated after Trump on May 10 increased the import duty on Chinese products worth USD 200 billion from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in a blog authored by Eugenio Cerutti, Gita Gopinath and

Adil Mohommed said that consumers in the US and China are unequivocally the losers from the trade tension.

Cerutti is currently the Assistant to the Director at the Research Department of the IMF. Mohommed is an Economist in the Research Department of the IMF and Indian-origin Gopinath is the Chief IMF Economist.

At the global level, the additional impact of the recently announced and envisaged new US-China tariffs, expected to extend to all trade between the two countries, will subtract about one-third of a percentage point of global GDP in the short term, with half stemming from business and market confidence effects, the IMF said.

Failure to resolve trade differences and further escalation in other areas, such as the auto industry which would cover several countries, could further dent business and financial market sentiment, negatively impact emerging market bond spreads and currencies, and slow investment and trade, it said.

"In addition, higher trade barriers would disrupt global supply chains and slow the spread of new technologies, ultimately lowering global productivity and welfare. More import restrictions would also make tradable consumer goods less affordable, harming low-income households disproportionately," the IMF said.

Noting that the US-China trade tensions have negatively affected consumers as well as many producers in both the countries, the IMF said the tariffs have reduced trade between the US and China, but the bilateral trade deficit remains broadly unchanged.

"While the impact on global growth is relatively modest at this time, the latest escalation could significantly dent business and financial market sentiment, disrupt global supply chains, and jeopardise the projected recovery in global growth in 2019," it said.

The research, using price data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on imports from China, found that tariff revenue collected has been borne almost entirely by the US importers.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDER)**  
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1. Tender No.	197-S/224/Hiring-Mini Truck/PNP/19/MC-IV
2. Name of Work	Hiring of Mini Truck (Carrying Capacity-4.5 T) at C&W depot, Panipat for two years.
3. Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 16,60,893.41/- (Including GST)
4. Earnest money in favour of Sr. DFM/NR, New Delhi	Rs. 33,200/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
5. Date & time of submission of tender bid	Up to 21.06.2019 at 12:00 hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 197-S/224/Hiring-Mini Truck/PNP/19/MC-IV  
Date: 22.05.2019 1561/19  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)**  
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1. Tender No.	197-S/176/CAMC-Wheel Lathes/TKD/19/M-IV
2. Name of work	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Two Years of Surface Wheel Lathes (Make-HY7) of Wagon Care Centres, Tughlakabad.
3. Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 31,17,324.72/- (Including GST)
4. Earnest money in favour of Sr. DFM/NR, New Delhi	Rs. 62,300/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
5. Date & time of submission of tender bid	Up to 20.06.2019 at 12:00 hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 197-S/176/CAMC-Wheel Lathes/TKD/19/M-IV Date: 22.05.2019 1560/2019  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vishal S/o Imran Khan R/o H. No. E-6/395/4, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under F.I.R. No. 955/16 U/s 408/120B IPC at PS Mehrauli, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Vishal can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Vishal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vishal of F.I.R. No. 955/16 U/s 408/120B IPC at PS Mehrauli, New Delhi is required to appear in this court to answer the said complaint on or before 27.06.2019.  
By Order  
Sh. Vaibhav Mehta  
Metropolitan Magistrate, South Distt  
Room No. 210, Saket Court, New Delhi

**SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE**  
General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Tarun Sharma S/o Lt. Om Parkash Sharma R/o H. No. 1232, Kucha Pati Ram, Sita Ram Bazar, Delhi Aged - 40 Years has been reported missing since 18.05.2019 vide DD No. 32-A Dated 19.05.2019 registered at Police Station Hauz Qazi, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-  
**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'11", **Face:** Round, **Build:** Medium, **Clothing:** White and grey coloured checked coloured shirt, black coloured pant & black shoes in feet.  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Hauz Qazi, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Sd/-  
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Hauz Qazi, Delhi.  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel. : 011-23210414, 23212482  
DP/6295/CD/19 Mob.: 8750870425

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Name:** Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown **Age :** 30 years, **Height :** 5'2", **Complexion :** Shallow, **Wearing:** Blue Sando Baniyan & Black colour Lower has been found at opposite Central Bank of India, Hamilton Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 16.05.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 12 A dated 16.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.  
Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:-  
**SHO :**  
**P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi North Distt., Delhi**  
DP/29/N/19 Tel. No. 011-23968730, 23967889

**Appeal for Identification**  
General public is hereby informed that one male **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 60 Years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Sex:** Male, **Wearing:** Grey Colour Shirt-Black Pant was found dead on 15.04.2019. **Place of Recovery:** Found Dead body in front of Toilet near 901 Red Light, Y-Block, Kanjhawala Road, Mangol Puri, Delhi. In this regard **FIR/DD No. 17-A**, has been lodged at **P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi** on 15.04.2019. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.  
**SHO**  
**PS. Mangolpuri, Delhi**  
DP/2281/OD/19 Ph.: 011-27921168, 27922186

**Appeal for Identification**  
General public is hereby informed that one male **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 35 Years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Sex:** Male, **Wearing:** Grey Striped Trouser & Green Baniyan & Chappal in his feet was found dead on 18.05.2019. **Place of Recovery:** Found Dead at Ridge Jungle Near High Voltage Tower behind night Shelter, Kabir Basti, Subzi Mandi, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 120/19**, has been lodged at **P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi** on 18.05.2019. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.  
**SHO**  
**PS. Subzi Mandi, Delhi**  
DP/26/N/19 Ph.: 011-23823161

# US aviation regulator says Boeing hasn't submitted 737 MAX fix

AFP ■ FORT WORTH

The US aviation regulator has still not received Boeing's proposed fix for its 737 MAX aircraft, which have been grounded globally following two deadly crashes, the agency's chief has said.

Boeing has said it will patch the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) stall prevention system, which has been blamed for the two crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed a total of 346 people and caused the best-selling planes to be taken out of service.

Boeing said last week that it had finished making changes requested by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), but the agency's interim chief Dan Elwell told reporters on Wednesday that the agency hadn't yet seen the fixes.

"We are still waiting for Boeing to formally submit the software for approval," he said on the sidelines of a summit of global aviation regulators in Fort Worth, Texas. Elwell said the FAA sent Boeing additional questions about its proposed fixes for the MAX planes, which caused the delay.

The summit set to begin Thursday will see the FAA attempt to re-establish trust with aviation regulators from 33 countries including China, Canada, the European Union, Ethiopia and Indonesia. The regulator called the summit to walk through the steps taken to address concerns with the MAX aircraft after it was criticized for dragging its feet on ordering the jets grounded.

Canadian and American regulators have differed on the proper training for the 737 MAX 8, with Canada insisting pilots train in a flight simulator and the US saying a training course on a computer or iPad is enough.

"We haven't determined the final training yet," Elwell said.

Canadian and American regulators have differed on the proper training for the 737 MAX 8, with Canada insisting pilots train in a flight simulator and the US saying a training course on a computer or iPad is enough.

"We haven't determined the final training yet," Elwell said.

# Sebi fines 5 entities ₹39 lakh for manipulative trade in BSE stock options segment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday levied a total fine of over ₹39 lakh on five entities for indulging in fraudulent trades in the illiquid stock options segment of BSE.

Among the five entities, Straight Line Food Products and Winsler Commercial were fined ₹5 lakh each, Shri Radha

Raman Alloys and Vindus Holdings were levied a penalty of ₹9 lakh each while ₹11.20 lakh was imposed on Subhlabh Fiscal Services, totalling ₹39.20 lakh.

After observing large scale reversal of trades in stock options segment of the bourse, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) conducted an investigation between April 2014 and September 2015.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDER)**  
For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/C&W, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1. Tender No.	197-S/CAMC-EOT Cranes Tracks DLI Div./19/M&P-1
2. Name of work	"Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Maintenance & Alignment of Gantry Track of EOT Cranes of all Coaching Depot in DLI Division" for one year.
3. Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 13,39,724.80/- (Including GST)
4. Earnest Money in favour of Sr. DFM/NR, New Delhi	Rs. 26,800/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
5. Date & time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	Up to 14.00 hrs. on 22.06.2019 and opening of tender after 14.00 hrs. on same date
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 197-S/CAMC-EOT Cranes Tracks DLI Div./19/M&P-1 Dated : 22.05.2019 1571/19  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**WORLD CONGRATULATES MODI**

# IMRAN EXTENDS HEARTFELT WISHES

## Expresses desire to work with him for peace in South Asia

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday congratulated his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on his electoral triumph and expressed desire to work with him for peace and prosperity in the region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday led his Bharatiya Janata Party towards a super-sized victory for a second term in office.

"I congratulate Prime Minister Modi on the electoral victory of BJP and allies. Look forward to working with him for peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia," Khan tweeted in both English and Urdu.

The results of India's general elections are very significant for Pakistan as the formation of the next government in New Delhi will determine

the course of Indo-Pakistan ties, which were pushed to a new low after the Pulwama terror attack.

In April, Khan said he believed there may be a better chance of peace talks with India and settle the Kashmir issue if Modi's party BJP wins the general elections.

Meanwhile, Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal said that Pakistan was committed to resolve all issues with India through dialogue irrespective of the outcome of the elections.

"Pakistan has consistently maintained that the only way to resolve all outstanding issues, including the Jammu & Kashmir dispute is through implementation of the UNSC resolutions. Dialogue is hence essential. We remain committed to the same, irrespective of whoever forms the new Government in India,"

Faisal said at his weekly media briefing here.

He was responding to a question about the outcome of Indian elections and Pakistan's expectations from the new government in New Delhi.

Faisal also said that India should "stop misleading the international community" and accept the ground realities and aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

Just a day before the announcement of results, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj on Wednesday exchanged pleasantries on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and conveyed to her Pakistan's desire to resolve all issues through dialogue.

## B'desh's Hasina calls Modi to congratulate him on his victory

Dhaka: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday telephoned her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to congratulate him on his victory in the general elections during which the two leaders pledged to raise the India-Bangladesh relationship to unprecedented new heights.

Prime Minister Modi led his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) towards an emphatic victory for a second term in office.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister telephoned Modi to congratulate him on the clear mandate given by the people of India to the NDA Government, an official statement said.

During the telephonic conversation, which lasted over five minutes, Hasina said "this emphatic verdict is a reflection of the trust and confidence reposed on you by the people of India."

She said that the people of South Asia would be happy over this win and expected to pave ways for the people of the region to work together.

"The two leaders pledged to continue to raise the India-Bangladesh relationship to unprecedented new heights. They recognised the importance of rapidly completing on-going plans for deepening the partnership in security, trade, transportation, energy and people-to-people contact," the statement said. **PTI**

## China's Xi Jinping extends 'heartfelt congratulations' to Modi on victory

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping Thursday extended his "heartfelt congratulations" to Narendra Modi for winning the general elections, in a rare gesture of greeting a foreign leader well before the official announcement of the results.

In a letter delivered by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi to the Ministry of External Affairs amidst the counting of votes, Xi said: "on the occasion of the National Democratic Alliance winning the 17th Lok Sabha elections of India under your leadership, I would like to extend my heart-felt congratulations.

"As important neighbours to each other, China and India

are the two largest developing countries and emerging economies in the world.

In recent years, China-India relations have shown strong momentum of development under the joint efforts of both sides". Significantly, Xi in his letter to Modi highlighted the "good" coordination and cooperation between the two countries on multi-polarisation, economic globalisation and multilateralism.

China, which is battling a bruising trade war with the US, has emerged as a bitter critic of President Donald Trump's policies putting America first, undermining the process of globalisation which had benefitted the developing countries. **PTI**

**GLOBE TROTTER**

### GERMAN DIPLOMAT IN TEHRAN FOR TALKS

Berlin: A senior German diplomat is in Tehran to press Iran to continue to respect the landmark nuclear deal, despite the unilateral withdrawal of the US and increasing pressure from Washington.

### UK POSTPONES BREXIT VOTE: OFFICIAL

London: The British Government on Thursday postponed a crucial Brexit vote scheduled for the week starting June 3, following an outcry from hardline Brexiters over concessions made by Prime Minister Theresa May.

### US PLANS TO SEND 10K TROOPS TO WEST ASIA

Washington: US officials say the Pentagon is still planning to send the White House to send up to 10,000 more American troops to the West Asia to beef up defences against potential Iranian threats. Defense leaders told Congressional officials on Tuesday that the US doesn't want to go to war with Iran and wants to de-escalate the crisis. **PTI**

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019			
(Amount in Rs.)			
PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE	31.03.2019	31.03.2018
Income			
Interest earned	13	35,438,217	16,378,653
Other Income	14	5,228,581	2,787,281
<b>NPA Excess Provision Written Back</b>		<b>42,911,318</b>	
<b>Total (A)</b>		<b>83,578,116</b>	<b>19,175,334</b>
EXPENDITURE			
Interest Expended	15	15,660,270	15,511,594
Other Operating Expenses	16	11,900,695	10,755,843
Provision	17		30,018,437
<b>Total (B)</b>		<b>27,560,965</b>	<b>56,285,874</b>
Net Profit before Tax (A-B)		56,017,151	(37,110,540)
Less: Provision for Tax		6,888,432	
Profit after Tax		49,128,719	(37,110,540)

PROFIT & LOSS APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019			
(Amount in Rs.)			
PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE	Current Year 31.03.2019	Previous Year 31.03.2018
Net Profit for appropriation		49,122,719.00	(37,110,540.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>49,122,719.00</b>	<b>(37,110,540.00)</b>
Less:			
Technology Development Reserve		0.00	0.00
Statutory Reserves		3,003,045.00	0.00
Proposed Dividend		0.00	0.00
Cooperative Education Fund		50,000.00	0.00
Other Reserves (Free)		0.00	0.00
Building Fund		0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,053,045.00</b>	
Net Balance in P&L Appropriation A/c		46,069,674.00	0.00
Previous Year Less Set Off		33,33% SLM	0.00
		8,559,134.00	0.00
<b>Net Profit transferred to Balance Sheet</b>		<b>8,559,134.00</b>	<b>(37,110,540.00)</b>

### National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.

C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019			
(Amount in INR)			
CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES	SCHEDULE	CURRENT YEAR 31.03.2019	PREVIOUS YEAR 31.03.2018
Capital	1	13,261,300	13,524,100
Reserve Fund & Other Reserves	2	29,242,207	78,514,012
Deposits & Other Accounts	3	279,334,837	273,807,138
Other Liabilities & Provisions	4	7,808,451	1,691,002
Profit & Loss Account	5	8,959,134	37,110,540
<b>Total</b>		<b>338,705,989</b>	<b>331,425,710</b>

### National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.

C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096

PROPERTY & ASSETS			
(Amount in INR)			
CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES	SCHEDULE	CURRENT YEAR 31.03.2019	PREVIOUS YEAR 31.03.2018
Cash in Hand	6	3,009,894	1,291,796
Balance with Other Banks	7	23,663,398	27,879,257
Fixed Deposits with Other Banks	8	22,513,461	5,012,589
Investments	9	218,350,160	189,835,881
Loans & Advances	10	52,334,061	108,889,569
Interest Receivable	11	4,399,022	12,338,949
Fixed Assets	12	12,388,619	6,521,440
Other Assets			
<b>Total</b>		<b>338,705,989</b>	<b>331,425,710</b>

### National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.

C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096

Contingent Liabilities			
(Amount in INR)			
PROPERTY & ASSETS	SCHEDULE	CURRENT YEAR 31.03.2019	PREVIOUS YEAR 31.03.2018
Acceptance, endorsements and other obligation		0	125,000
Unclaimed Account held with RBI - DEAF Account		2,606,290	2,035,249
		2,606,290	2,160,249

**Grover, Lalla & Mehta**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
Firm Reg. No. 0929308

### National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.

C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096

Accounting Policies			
1. General	The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.		
2. Fixed Assets & Depreciation	Fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The rate of depreciation is as follows as provided by the Board's Resolution.		
Computer Hardware	33.33% SLM		
Electrical Appliances	33.33% SLM		
Furniture & Fixtures	5.00% SLM		
Software	33.33% SLM		
3. Revenue Recognition	All the income & expenses are recognized on accrual basis.		
4. Investments	Investments are stated at cost		
Notes to Accounts	1. In the opinion of the Board of Directors the value of advances after making adequate provisions and other assets is not less than the value at which they are stated in the Balance Sheet.		
	2. Previous year's figures have been regrouped and rearranged wherever deemed necessary.		
	3. Overdue interest Reserve has not been capitalized.		
	4. Impairment of Monetary Penalty of Rs. 2.00 Lacs (Rs. 4741 (1) (C) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BACS) read with Sec. 4(4) of the Act vide RBI Letter dated 18.10.2018 for violation of RBI instructions as to Unsecured Personal Loans & KYC deficiencies as on 31.03.2017. The same was deposited with RBI on 18.10.2018.		
	5. Appropriations of Profits are subject to approval of AGM.		
	6. Additional information to be furnished as under:		
	a) Capital to Risk Asset Ratio: 60.18%		
	ii) Movement of CRAR:		
	31.03.2019	31.03.2018	
	60.18%	34.20%	
	iii) Investments		
	i) Govt. Securities		
	Book Value Rs. 1938.50 Lacs		
	Face Value Rs. 1961.20 Lacs		
	Book Value Rs. 255.00 Lacs		
	Face Value Rs. 255.00 Lacs		
	ii) Advances against Real Estate, Construction		
		Outstanding Rs. 124.89 Lacs	
	(Housing Loan only)		
	iii) Advances against shares & Debentures		
	iv) Advances to Directors, their relatives, companies/firms in which they are interested:		
	a) Fund Based		
	b) Non Fund Based (Guarantees, LCs etc.)		
	These are as per RBI's guidelines. No new advances have been granted and all the loans accounts are regular.		
	v) Cost of Deposits		
	5.18 %		
	vi) Profitability		
	a) Interest Income as percentage of working funds		
	10.49%		
	b) Net Interest Income as percentage of working funds		
	1.55%		
	c) Operating Profit as percentage of working funds		
	16.57%		
	d) Return on Assets		
	2.82%		
	e) Business (Deposit) - Advanced per employee		
	Rs. 237.34 Lacs		
	f) Profit per employee		
	Rs. 8.40 Lacs		
	g) Provision made towards NPAs (Additional during the year provision)		
	Rs. 19.39 Lacs		
	h) Provision towards Depreciation in Investment		
	Provision for 2017-18		
	NIL		
	Provision as on March 31, 2019		
	NIL		
	Net Provision provided during the year		
	NIL		
	ii) Movement of Provisions		
	Balance as on	Balance as on	Balance as on
	31.03.2019	31.03.2018	31.03.2017
	Rs. 19.04Lacs	Rs. 448.75Lacs	Rs. 29.02Lacs
	a) Towards NPAs		
	b) Towards Depreciation on investments		
	c) Towards Contingent Liabilities		
	NIL		
	d) Towards Standard Asset		
	Rs. 5.00Lacs	Rs. 5.00 Lacs	Rs. 5.00 Lacs
	Rs. 2.45Lacs	Rs. 2.45 Lacs	Rs. 3.45 Lacs
	* Govt./Specified Securities under AFS Category as arising Profits.		
	vii) Movement of NPA		
	Balance as on	Balance as on	Balance as on
	31.03.2019	31.03.2018	31.03.2017
	Rs. 19.39 Lacs	Rs. 528.93 Lacs	Rs. 78.83 Lacs
	Gross NPA		
	NIL		
	% of Total Advances		
	3.68%		
	Gross Non performing Assets Ratio (%)		
	0.57		
	Net Non performing Assets Ratio (%)		
	2.38		

### National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.

C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096

MEMORANDUM OF CHANGES (SUMMARY)			
	No.	Increase	Decrease
a. In respect of Income Yes/No	NIL	NIL	NIL
b. In respect of Expenditure Yes/No	NIL	NIL	NIL
c. In respect of Assets Yes/No	NIL	NIL	NIL
d. In respect of Liabilities Yes/No	NIL	NIL	NIL
e. In respect of Gross NPAs Yes/No	NIL	NIL	NIL
f. In respect of Provisions on NPAs Yes/No	NIL	NIL	NIL
g. In respect of Classification of Advances Yes/No	NIL	NIL	NIL
h. In respect of Risk Weighted Assets Yes/No	NIL	NIL	NIL
i. Other Items (if any) Yes/No	NIL	NIL	NIL

### National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.

C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096

Accounting Policies			
1. General	The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.		
2. Fixed Assets & Depreciation	Fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The rate of depreciation is as follows as provided by the Board's Resolution.		
Computer Hardware	33.33% SLM		
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Software	33.33% SLM		
3. Revenue Recognition	All the income & expenses are recognized on accrual basis.		
4. Investments	Investments are stated at cost		
Notes to Accounts	1. In the opinion of the Board of Directors the value of advances after making adequate provisions and other assets is not less than the value at which they are stated in the Balance Sheet.		
	2. Previous year's figures have been regrouped and rearranged wherever deemed necessary.		
	3. Overdue interest Reserve has not been capitalized.		
	4. Impairment of Monetary Penalty of Rs. 2.00 Lacs (Rs. 4741 (1) (C) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BACS) read with Sec. 4(4) of the Act vide RBI Letter dated 18.10.2018 for violation of RBI instructions as to Unsecured Personal Loans & KYC deficiencies as on 31.03.2017. The same was deposited with RBI on 18.10.2018.		
	5. Appropriations of Profits are subject to approval of AGM.		
	6. Additional information to be furnished as under:		
	a) Capital to Risk Asset Ratio: 60.18%		
	ii) Movement of CRAR:		
	31.03.2019	31.03.2018	
	60.18%	34.20%	
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	i) Govt. Securities		
	Book Value Rs. 1938.50 Lacs		
	Face Value Rs. 1961.20 Lacs		
	Book Value Rs. 255.00 Lacs		
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	ii) Advances against Real Estate, Construction		
		Outstanding Rs. 124.89 Lacs	
	(Housing Loan only)		
	iii) Advances against shares & Debentures		
	iv) Advances to Directors, their relatives, companies/firms in which they are interested:		
	a) Fund Based		
	b) Non Fund Based (Guarantees, LCs etc.)		
	These are as per RBI's guidelines. No new advances have been granted and all the loans accounts are regular.		
	v) Cost of Deposits		
	5.18 %		
	vi) Profitability		
	a) Interest Income as percentage of working funds		
	10.49%		
	b) Net Interest Income as percentage of working funds		
	1.55%		
	c) Operating Profit as percentage of working funds		
	16.57%		
	d) Return on Assets		
	2.82%		
	e) Business (Deposit) - Advanced per employee		
	Rs. 237.34 Lacs		
	f) Profit per employee		
	Rs. 8.40 Lacs		
	g) Provision made towards NPAs (Additional during the year provision)		
	Rs. 19.39 Lacs		
	h) Provision towards Depreciation in Investment		
	Provision for 2017-18		
	NIL		
	Provision as on March 31, 2019		
	NIL		
	Net Provision provided during the year		
	NIL		
	ii) Movement of Provisions		
	Balance as on	Balance as on	Balance as on
	31.03.2019	31.03.2018	31.03.2017
	Rs. 19.04Lacs	Rs. 448.75Lacs	Rs. 29.02Lacs
	a) Towards NPAs		
	b) Towards Depreciation on investments		
	NIL		
	c) Towards Contingent Liabilities		
	NIL		
	d) Towards Standard Asset		
	Rs. 5.00Lacs	Rs. 5.00 Lacs	Rs. 5.00 Lacs
	Rs. 2.45Lacs	Rs. 2.45 Lacs	Rs. 3.45 Lacs
	* Govt./Specified Securities under AFS Category as arising Profits.		
	vii) Movement of NPA		
	Balance as on	Balance as on	Balance as on
	31.03.2019	31.03.2018	31.03.2017
	Rs. 19.39 Lacs	Rs. 5	

# Eng can reach 500 in WC: Kohli

Virat also says World Cup will see run fest but pressure will make even 260-270 hard to chase

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

England could be the first team to score 500 runs in ODIs, India captain Virat Kohli said in jest as captains could not agree on the scoring trends in what is expected to be a high-scoring World Cup.

With 481 for six against Australia last year, England already hold the record of highest ODI total. In their build to the World Cup, they outplayed Pakistan 4-0 in a high-scoring series.

At the captains' media interaction ahead of the mega event, Kohli was asked if the 500-run mark could be breached in this edition.

"I was just going to say it really depends on these guys. They seem to be obsessed with getting to 500 before anyone else," said Kohli while pointing to his English counterpart Eoin Morgan, who sat next to him.

Kohli conceded that the tournament will see a run-fest but pressure of playing in a World Cup will make even 260-270 hard to chase.

"It is going to be a high scoring tournament but back home too I said 260-270 will also be as tough to get in a World Cup as chasing 370-380. I don't see many high scoring games in the later stages of the tournament, initially some teams might get on a roll but later on you will see 250 defended as well. That is the kind of pressure World Cup brings."

The Indian captain expects the teams to be more cautious as the tournament progresses.

"Not all the teams are going to be in a great position (in the later half). The ones who have to make sure that they get the result are going to be under pressure to chase even a small total. The fact that you are going to be close to a knock out berth will get you under pressure in the latter stages and all teams recognise that."

"Then you will not see many teams going gung ho from ball one. Generally both teams would like to start in a balanced way and look to capitalise on the moments. So I see pressure being a massive factor in the World Cup."

The same question was posed to



Australian captain Aaron Finch, who was also part of the 2015 World Cup winning squad.

"If you see the last couple of years, trajectory of scores has been going up and up in England. We have been at the receiving end of the high-end one. I don't want to put a number one it. Hard to tell (what could be the highest-score in the tournament)."

"On small grounds with good pitches, if the top order gets going, the teams are so explosive these days and if they keep going till the end it (the total) could be anything."

Finch picked India and England as the teams to watch out though he said

it would be a highly competitive tournament with all teams playing each other at least once.

Kohli also agreed with Finch that England are going into the World Cup as the "strongest" side.

The marquee clash of the mega event will be on June 16 when India take on arch-rivals Pakistan at Old Trafford.

A question on that mouth-watering contest was always coming and when it came, Kohli and Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed were asked how they will approach the high-pressure game. And their reply was a stock one.

"Look India Pakistan is always a very very anticipated match but we keep saying again and again. If you ask the players it is very different from how the fans look at the game. Yes you feel the anticipation and excitement of the fans when you enter the stadium but as soon as you step on the field, it is very professional."

"For us it is just another game you need to win as a team. Yes it brings pressure because the atmosphere in the stadium is very different and as I said you only experience that till the time you start competing in the game. As soon as you get into it, it is a game of cricket for all of us," said the

India captain as Sarfaraz nodded in agreement.

"My answer is the same. I don't need to add," said the Pakistan skipper.

While many expect a bagful of runs in the World Cup, bowlers are bound to come into play at some point, said New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson.

"We have spoken about the batting but equally important is the bowling. I have no doubt that there will be venues who will be more suited to the bowlers. We will have to find a way to play well in all conditions," said Williamson.



## Spin will decide Aussies fate: Ponting

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former skipper Ricky Ponting believes defending champion Australia's ability to bowl and play spin will define their success in the upcoming World Cup.

"The thing that will define Australia's success in the World Cup is, one, how well they bowl spin and, two, how well they play it," Ponting was quoted as saying by the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"That's been their Achilles' heel the last 12 or 18 months. With [Adam] Zampa bowling well now, Nathan Lyon's obviously in the squad and Glenn Maxwell's done a good job with the ball whenever he's played."

Ponting said there were concerns about the middle-order's ability to play spin a year ago but the return of David Warner and Steve Smith has strengthened the team.

"And I think some of our middle order are probably slightly better players of spin now than they were 12 or 18 months ago," said the 44-year-old, who won Australia's 1999 World Cup as a player, before guiding the team to successive titles in the next two editions as a captain.

"With Warner there now and Steve Smith coming back

in, the middle order looks a lot better against spin bowling than it probably was."

Warner and Smith had served a 12-month ban and returned to competitive cricket at the Indian Premier League with Warner amassing 692 runs in 12 matches and Smith scoring 319 runs in 12 matches and leading Rajasthan Royals to three wins in five matches.

"They're both playing really well. Steve Smith still thinks he's not probably 100 per cent fit just yet — but he's not far away. And Warner's been the dominant batsman in the IPL," Ponting said.

There are concerns that Smith and Warner will be targeted by the crowd during the World Cup with English cricketer Moeen Ali urging the spectators to treat them with respect.

"Those two coming in, obviously they're class players — they'll have their fair share of issues to deal with from the crowds and stuff when they get over there," he said.

"But they're big boys. They've been there and seen it all before. I'm sure they'll be fine."

Australia will begin their campaign against Afghanistan on June 1 at Bristol.



## Amla hungrier than ever before

PTI ■ DUBAI

Time away from the game has made him "hungrier than ever before" says South Africa batsman Hashim Amla, gearing up for his third World Cup.

With more than 18,000 international runs under his belt, Amla was once a batting mainstay for Proteas but lost his place in the team due to a dip in form.

He missed the ODI series against Sri Lanka earlier this year, with Aiden Markram taking his place as an opener alongside vice-captain Quinton de Kock in the series.

Amla was also missing in action at the IPL and he says the long break helped him to sharpen his game.

"Things happen that you don't anticipate and I did not anticipate how things have gone recently. But I am a firm believer that when something happens, there is some good in it. I have had time away and now I am really looking back to wearing the green and gold again," Amla was quoted as saying by the ICC.

"I am hungrier than ever before, there is no doubt about that. I have been blessed to have this shirt for a while but the time off has made me want to come back stronger."

"This is my third (World Cup) so I know what it is all about. I have a strong record in England and I have always enjoyed coming here."

The 36-year-old has already featured in two World Cups for South Africa but New Zealand ended their run in both the editions — quarter-finals in 2011 and semi-finals four years ago.

South Africa will open their campaign against World No 1 England, a side tipped to win the World Cup, and Amla believes the underdog status will suit South Africa.

"It is the best first game we could have asked for. We have played England recently and had some success against them, I have done well against them too," he said.

"This year, you don't see the same big names and that is why the focus is not on us but that has some good in it. There has not been much chat about us winning in comparison to the past but I don't think that played a part in how we performed."

"At the end of the day, we always gave our best and played to win. The fact there has not been a lot of chat at this World Cup means there is less expectation but in the team we think we can do well."

# There's plenty to learn from Aus, says Root

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

England batsman Joe Root said that there is plenty to learn from Australia, whom they play in an official warm-up match on Saturday, 25 May, and their history in World Cups.

Australia have historically raised their game at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, displaying sustained excellence and ruthless professionalism. Those are the very traits that have given them four title wins in the last five editions of the tournament.

"Australia have always had strong squads," Root told Sky Sports. "They've gone into every

World Cup right up there in terms of the rankings and depth within their squad for a number of those World Cups and they've won pressure moments. So there's plenty to learn from them as a side."

Root was also excited by the challenge of taking on a rejuvenated Australian team at the World Cup. Australia have won their last eight ODIs on the trot, and that was even before the returns of Steve Smith and David Warner. With the two now back, it has only further shored up the side's strength and confidence.

"We've got two of the best players [Warner and Smith] back



playing for Australia now. It's bubbling up very nicely to be a very exciting series, and I'm sure that World Cup game won't disappoint either," Root said. "We want to beat Australia's strongest side and those two are definitely in that. It's a very exciting period for us, and we've got such a great opportunity to do something very special."

Reflecting on England's own transformation into a world-class ODI team, Root put it down to a lot of hard work and hoped they could enjoy the fruits of that labour at the World Cup. Since the 2015 World Cup, England have won 58 out of their 88 matches, making them the winningest team in the interim four-year period.

"I'd like to think that the way that we've improved over this four-year cycle, we are probably ahead of where we thought we would be at this stage," Root said. "We've worked really hard to deserve the tag of the No.1-ranked team going into the tournament; I think we should enjoy that. We should get a lot of confidence from that and really embrace that and enjoy what we've been doing and take it forward into the games."

"The best thing about it is that we are confident, but we are realistic that nothing is ever given to you in this game, and that you are going to have to continue to work very hard. To win a tournament, you have to be consistent as well."



## Afridi wants no excuse from 'balanced' Pak

IAN S ■ LAHORE

Bowling has always been Pakistan's strength and the return of Wahab Riaz and Mohammad Amir has given the unit the much-needed balance feels former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi.

"We did quite a few experiments with the side. We rested the seniors in the series against Australia, giving chance to youngsters," Afridi said in a video posted by the Pakistan Cricket Board on its *twitter* account.

"Our bowling struggled before the World Cup I think because they lacked experience there. Now Wahab Riaz, (leg-spinner) Shadab Khan and Mohammad Amir are back and it's a well-balanced team. We should not have any excuse now."

Afridi said that the best part about this Pakistan team was that the batting — which has

always been an area of concern — has looked good this time round.

"I think this team has the right combination. The best thing is (that) batting used to be a constant worry for us but our batsmen are now in good form," he explained.

But Afridi warned that in a tournament like the World Cup, it will be very important to start well and gain momentum early into the event.

"It's very important to win the first couple of matches to build a momentum ... Our youngsters are capable of beating any team in the world."

"I see Pakistan as one of the teams in the semi-finals and, God willing, I'm confident they'll play the final too. Pressure is inevitable in international cricket. It tests a player and his mental strength. But World Cup is also a great opportunity to become a hero with the whole world looking at you."

## Marsh happy to be play as floater

NEW DELHI: Australia batsman Shaun Marsh said that he is not worried about his role, or the competition for spots, at the upcoming men's World Cup.

Marsh, who scored an unbeaten half-century in Australia's comfortable win over West Indies in an unofficial fixture on Wednesday said that he was happy with the acclimatisation the knock afforded him.

Marsh was one of Australia's biggest positives in their 5-0 defeat against England in June last year. The 35-year-old had scored 288 runs at an average of 57.60, which included two spectacular hundreds.

"It certainly does give you confidence if you've scored runs here in the past," Marsh told reporters. "It was nice to spend some time out in the middle and get my feet moving. I enjoy batting out here. Obviously, it's a different challenge. The wickets are slower [compared] to what they are back home, and it swings around a bit."

Marsh didn't sound worried about making the XI and also brushed aside concerns when asked if he thinks he will be competing with Usman Khawaja for a spot in the team. "I'm not really sure. I'd like to think I'm nice and flexible," he said. "I've batted from one to six throughout my career. I'm just going to try and enjoy the practice games and spend more time out in the middle. And see what happens." PNS



## Bumrah among Lee's top 3 WC quicks

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australian pacer Brett Lee has picked India's Jasprit Bumrah as one of his top three fast bowlers for the upcoming World Cup.

"What a wonderful bowler," said Lee of Bumrah, who has taken 85 wickets in 49 ODIs.

"He's got a good record, wonderful yorker, good pace," added the Australian.

Besides Bumrah, Lee picked compatriots Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins as the other two fast bowlers who will do well at the quadrennial tournament.

"You'd have to stick with Mitchell Starc," Lee told *cricket.Com.Au*.

Starc, a left-arm, had suffered a chest injury last February and is nearing peak



fitness. "He's still got that quality. When that pace is up he's hard to go past," Lee said of Starc, who was the 2015 Player of the Tournament for his 22 wickets at 10 runs apiece.

Heaping praise on Cummins, Lee said, "Pat Cummins: pace, accuracy, variations. He can do it all." In six matches this year, Cummins has taken 17 wickets at just 14.29.

## Khawaja survives 'scary' blow

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Australia suffered an injury scare ahead of the World Cup after opener Usman Khawaja suffered a nasty blow on the helmet while batting against West Indies in a warm-up match.

Khawaja was struck by a bouncer from Andre Russell in the second over while Australia was chasing 230, forcing the opener to retire hurt.

He looked in discomfort and walked off the field accompanied by Australian team doctor Richard Saw, sending a scare through the Australian World Cup camp.

However, scans on his jaw later cleared him of any serious injury as Australia



breathed a sigh of relief.

"It was very scary," said Shaun Marsh, who hit an unbeaten half-century in the victory.

"It copped him on the side of the cheekbone ... The main thing is he is OK and can bounce back pretty quickly."

"(Khawaja was) a bit shaken, as you are when you get hit on the head. But he is a tough cookie, Uzzy, and he'll be ready to go." Khawaja didn't take part in the match again even as Australia went on to register a seven-wicket victory over West Indies in the first of their three warm-up games.

Khawaja is expected to be available for selection for Australia's next warm-up match against England on Saturday.

# vivacity

SRK BEGINS SHOOT FOR TED TALKS 2

-P 14



# RESPECT YOUR ELDERS

Elders are very important for an equitable growth of society. Any social setup is considered more cultured if its people treat their senior citizens with respect and care, says Team Viva

**E**lders are like the trees of wisdom. Therefore it is very important to preserve their wisdom and pass on to the next generation so that the continuity remains intact. It is always fruitful to allow the culture to pass on from one generation to other in its purest form so that our society remains enriched in values.

Aging is a part of life and no one can escape this transition. A child grows into an adult and with every passing day age takes a toll on each one of us. It takes many years to earn the kind of experience an elderly person has accumulated over his life span. Therefore we can say that our elders are similar to a guide who can steer us through the tough journey of life, successfully.

It is always in the interest of the younger lot to offer respect to their elders. Just like a soldier fighting a war commands respect from his fellow countrymen for all the ups and down he has overcome, you must respect your elders as they also have seen life closely and are always willing to share their experiences and guide us through. Experiences from their life can act as a torchbearer for us in the long run.

Elders are very important for an equitable growth of society. Any social setup is considered more cultured if its people treat their senior citizens with respect and care. A society devoid of blessings from its senior people surely runs down the drain in absence of any guidance. All energy and no experience could act a source of conflict in the society leading to a complete chaos and anarchy.

Elders are very important in the busy world of today where most of the married couples are working. It results in no time for their kids which end up swayed in

wrong direction in absence of right teachings. It is therefore imperative to have elders in your family so that our future generation grows up with required moral value and knowledge of culture.

It is very important that our young generation knows what aging is like and should be aware that aging is the harsh reality of life. Only lucky people reach that part of life. We should be caring towards them and must know that one day we would be old too. Hopefully, when we get old the others show same kindness and concern towards us.

It takes nothing to thank our elders every now and then and add sense of dignity into their, perhaps eventless, lives. A small thanking gesture could add huge energy into their weakening bones. A blessing from them could lead us to new highs.

We know that they love us, but don't we? One of the simplest reason to respect the elders is that we love them. They care for us when we are sick, cook for us, care for us, talk to us teach us and love us more than life itself. We love them, we follow them and their words. They show us their love by the acts of kindness and care, we show it by respect. The touching of feet in morning or daily evening walks are not just a rule, they are what shows our love. Respect is part of love, love doesn't exist without respect and respect is one of many signs of love. To let the elders know you care just respect their words and actions. This will cement your relation and trust will multiply in no time. Life becomes easier for us when we have our elders on our side during our struggles.

Helping a needy elder is always satisfying and feeds one with a sense of gratitude. There is no better feeling than carrying their basket full of groceries

**IT TAKES NOTHING TO THANK OUR ELDERS EVERY NOW AND THEN AND ADD SENSE OF DIGNITY INTO THEIR, PERHAPS EVENTLESS, LIVES. A SMALL THANKING GESTURE COULD ADD HUGE ENERGY INTO THEIR WEAKENING BONES. A BLESSING FROM THEM COULD LEAD US TO NEW HIGHS**



from the market to their place. This endeavor of yours could win you respect in their eyes and ultimately in those of the society.

One of the most important point that stresses upon the need of keeping elders happy and being in their good books is that they could help the administration of our country in drafting and framing new policies. As they are well versed with the ground realities of the country, their experience is valuable in coming up with new rules of co-existence with energizing thoughts from the youngsters.

Life hands you trouble and solves it for you as well and we have the puzzles

and a key that solves all puzzle. Respect the help for it is what makes life livable

Like a high-five after a splendid race, the player deserve it. It doesn't mean they will stop running or never run again, the high-five justifies the achievement and is a mark of respect. The tipping of hat in presence of successful man is not to pacify the man but to show our respect. Our elders have run a nice long race, they have won and as form of kinship we respect them. Life would be tasteless without appreciation and respect is the up-est form of appreciation. We shouldn't respect them just because we should, we should respect them

because we want to. A new member of team follows a legacy and later becomes the flag bearer. This cycle works only if its based on respect.

Life is long and short at the same time, long enough that we enjoy the walk and short enough that running is the only option. We need to mix it up and the proportions are the crux of it. The experienced chef is better than amateur, even if they just hold their hand while they learn. Respect is how we establish this balance and success comes from balance and stability. If you want to improve your chances of success start respecting those who deserve it.

Trend Blazer

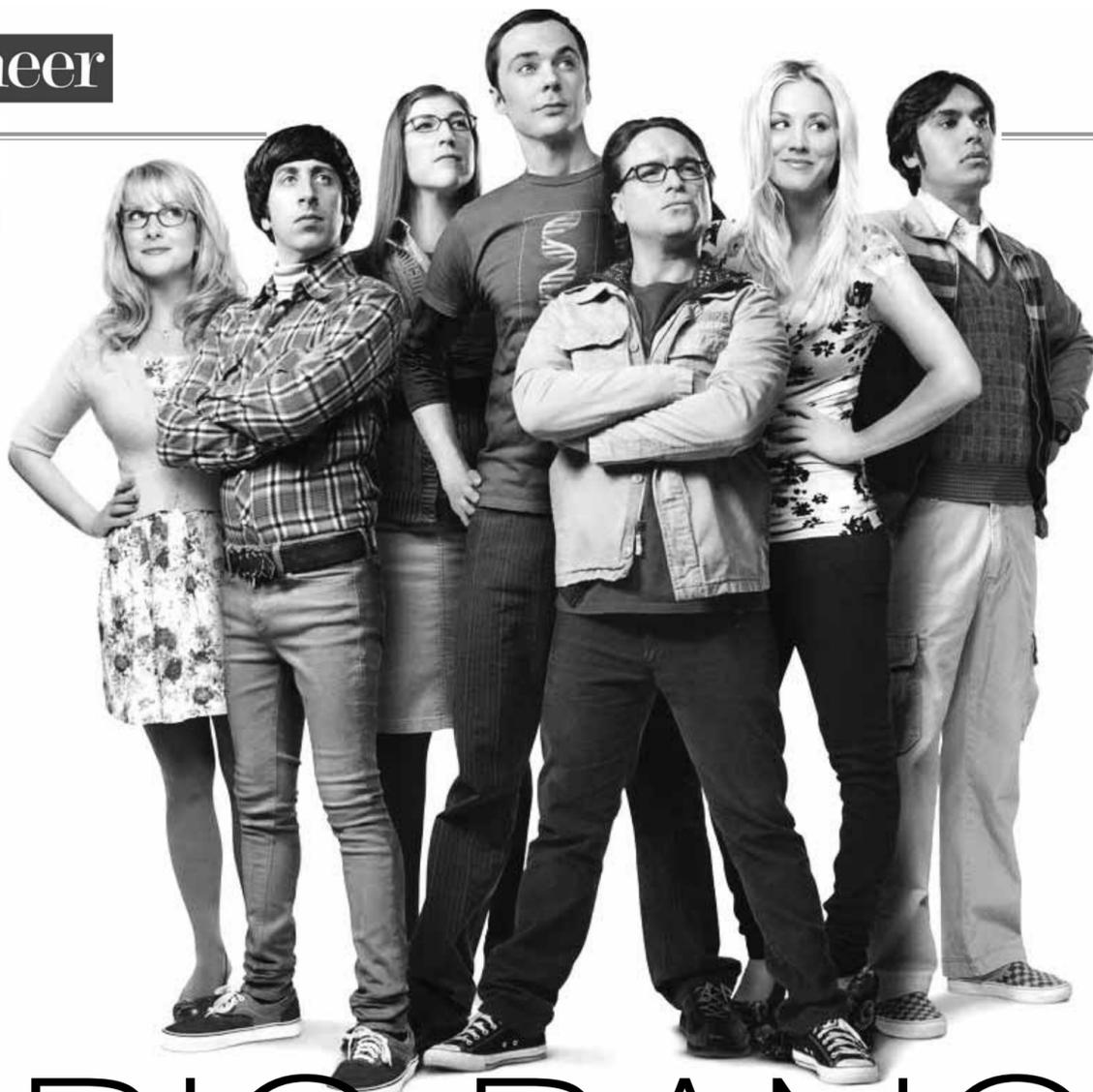
SRK begins shoot for TED Talks 2

Actor SHAH RUKH KHAN has started shooting for the second season of TED Talks.

As for the new season of the Star Plus show, Shah Rukh shot its first episode earlier this week.

Some of the names likely to feature in the second season are acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal, whose life inspires Deepika Padukone's next *Chhapaak*, and actress Tanushree Dutta, who opened the floodgates of India's #MeToo movement, said a source.

TED Talks 2 may go on air in the second half of 2019. *The Hundred-Foot Journey* producer Juliet Blake, head of TV for TED Talks, is in India to curate the themes.



Dimple joins Tenet

The actress has been cast in CHRIS NOLAN's next alongside ROBERT PATTINSON and MICHAEL CAINE

Veteran actress Dimple Kapadia has been cast in Christopher Nolan's action epic *Tenet*, which will also feature Robert Pattinson and Michael Caine, and will be shot across seven countries, including India.

While Dimple, 61, is yet to comment on it, celebrities from Bollywood have cheered her on.

Actor Anil Kapoor called her casting "phenomenal," while filmmaker Anurag Kashyap tweeted, "So cool... Dimple Kapadia in a Chris Nolan Film. Wow!"

Film producer Guneet Monga sent in congratulations.

Dimple, who made her screen debut with 1973's Bollywood film *Bobby*, is a National Award winner. She has proved her mettle in Indian cinema with an eclectic mix of parallel and commercial films like *Rudaali*, *Krantiveer*, *Dil Chahta Hai* and *Finding Fanny* among others.

Mumbai-based talent manager Purvi Lavingia Vats, who was instrumental in getting Ali Fazal a role in *Fast and Furious 7*, says she pitched Dimple for the role to Nolan's casting team in Los Angeles.

"Dimple is a great and a wonderful person. She is the only Indian actor to be a part of this project as of now. They will be shooting the film in different countries, and India is one of them," Vats said.

"It took me a few months of convincing. But Dimple was up for it. It is something different for her, and it was an interesting process to make it all a reality," added Vats, who is focussed about getting more international exposure for Indian talent.

*Tenet* was so far being described as a "massive, innovative, action blockbuster," but plot specifics are under wraps.

Pattinson, John David Washington and Lea Seydoux are previously announced cast members. Apart from Dimple, the new joinees in the film, to be distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures in theatres worldwide on July 17, 2020, include Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Kenneth Branagh, Clemence Poesy and Caine.

Pattinson said, "I've been a little wary of doing big films for years and years, but there's just something about Chris Nolan's stuff. He seems like the only director now who can do what is essentially a very personal, independent movie that has huge scale. I read the script and it's unreal."

Nolan's last film was *Dunkirk*.

—IANS

BIG BANG AT THE MUSEUM

The costumes worn by the cast in the popular TV show will be displayed

Costumes worn by the seven main cast members of the 12-season TV show *The Big Bang Theory*, which closed in a big finale, would be donated to a museum here.

As per the creator Warner Bros, the costume donation to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History here includes those worn by characters Sheldon Cooper (Jim Parsons), Leonard Hofstadter (Johnny Galecki), Penny (Kaley Cuoco), Howard Wolowitz (Simon Helberg), Raj Koothrappali (Kunal Nayyar), Amy Farrah Fowler (Mayim Bialik) and Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz (Melissa Rauch).

The items will join thousands of artefacts in the museum's popular entertainment collections and help tell the story of ground-breaking work in American television.

The donations are full costumes worn by the seven primary characters from the series costume designer Mary Quigley.

Among the costume pieces are Sheldon's iconic "Flash" t-shirt, Leonard's "recycle" t-shirt and hooded cargo jacket, Penny's pink tank top and Ugg boots.

Also included are Howard's plaid shirt and red turtleneck, Raj's sweater vest and jacket, Bernadette's yellow cardigan and floral dress and Amy's brown wool sweater and green, knee-length skirt.

However, the museum said there are no current plans for its display.

The series about scientists drew to a close after 12 seasons, with an emotional finale that revealed some big news, tied up loose ends and even featured a celebrity cameo.

In the first of two back-to-back episodes, scientists Sheldon Cooper (Jim Parsons) and his wife Amy (Mayim Bialik) got the news that they are receiving the Nobel Prize in physics for their theory of super asymmetry.

At the Nobel ceremony in Sweden, Amy encourages little girls "who dream about science to go for it." In a cameo appearance, Sarah Michelle Gellar sits next to Raj (Kunal Nayyar) in the audience, but assures him it's "not a date".

Cooper gives a heartfelt acceptance speech that, to fans who have been tuning in since the show's beginning, shows how much the character has grown out of his egotistical and selfish personality over the

course of 12 seasons.

"I was under a misapprehension that my accomplishments were mine alone. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have been encouraged, sustained, inspired and tolerated, not only by my wife, but by the greatest group of friends anyone ever had," he said.

*The Big Bang Theory* was launched in 2007. The show has received 52 Emmy Award nominations and 10 wins, seven Golden Globe nominations, and the spinoff prequel *Young Sheldon*.

Actor Jim Parsons has opened up about his decision to leave *The Big Bang Theory*, saying he could not bring himself to do another season of the hit show.

The Golden Globe winner has featured as the beloved Sheldon Cooper on the hit comedy series for 12 seasons. Late last year he revealed he was stepping away from the show.

"It was the first time in my life of doing this show that it occurred to me that I might want to not do another contract after (season) 12 was up," a website quoted Parsons as saying.

"I don't know if it's because I'm an Aries or just because maybe I'm in touch with myself. Whatever it is,

once I had that thought, I was like, 'Well, that's your answer,'" he added.

Parsons will, however, remain in the *The Big Bang Theory* orbit as he continues to narrate and executive-produce its prequel *Young Sheldon*.

"There was no factor; there was no situation that I was like, 'Well, I've had enough of that.' No. There was nothing like that. It was just...when you know, you know. And you're susceptible and thrown around by the whims of your own existence and getting to a certain age and your life changes and suddenly you just think different," Parsons said.

He added, "It has been fascinating to think about who I was 12 years ago. And sometimes when I have trouble learning a line or saying a line of Sheldon's right now, it's hard to know why specifically. But it's like, you're not the same person you were. There is a possibility that this actually became more difficult for you in a way. And I don't know what that means but it's like you just change."

The show revolved around the lives of four socially awkward friends, Leonard, Sheldon, Howard and Raj.

The show is aired in India on Zee Cafe and can be streamed on HOOQ in India.

—Agencies

'I saw his (Tiger Shroff) hard work, his discipline and passion and I knew he is going to blow people's minds away. He will always have this super soft corner in my heart. He was my first co-star. Tigy, I feel so happy seeing you fly higher and higher (literally too). And now time for Heropanti 2.'

—Kriti Sanon

Actress JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ says she is a sensitive person, and negative comments on social media do affect her.

She said, "We have really supportive, good fans and I love my people on Instagram. But it could be one comment, one person saying something negative, and I'll be like, 'Why would you say that?'"

The actor said that it does affect her. "I am a sensitive person, so yes it does. And I actually want to get to that point where I'd be like, you know what, 'who are you to say that.' you know? But yes, it does."



'Work culture after #MeToo changed'

Actress MICHELLE WILLIAMS has noticed a difference in the workplace culture after the #MeToo movement.

She said, "I feel like the dynamic on sets has changed. They don't hug you anymore. You don't get a morning grope, you get a morning handshake."

"I feel like more space has opened up in the room, in the actual creative process. The space has opened up for me to be able to be heard," she added.

Williams has four career Oscar nominations for her work in *Manchester by the Sea*, *My Week With Marilyn*, *Blue Valentine* and *Brokeback Mountain*.



Remembering Niki Lauda

The Austrian racer is best known for displaying his doggedness on and off the race track



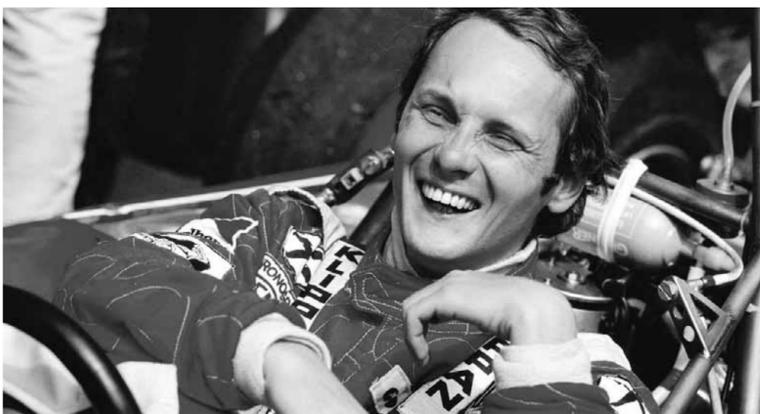
KUSHAN MITRA



Austrian Formula 1 racing legend Andreas Niklaus Lauda passed away earlier this week. He was more than a legend. His comeback from his fiery accident at the old Nurburgring is one of the most remarkable stories in sports, to race just six weeks after almost losing your life is a great subject for a movie and it was made into one. *Rush* documented the 1976 Formula 1 World Championship. Lauda was not a flamboyant playboy in the mould of many of the British racers of that era, but he was good. So good that he made another comeback in the 1980s when he drove a McLaren to his third World title after winning two with Ferrari. We can always wonder how many world championships Lauda would have won had he not had his devastating accident or retired from the sport for the first time, but his impact on the world of motorsport is possibly much greater than his three titles and his later role as the Chairman of Mercedes-AMG F1 Racing, the dominant team of the contemporary Formula 1 era.

Lauda's accident, something he barely survived back in 1976,

WHEN NIKI WAS RACING AT HIS PRIME, AT LEAST THREE TO FOUR FORMULA 1 DRIVERS DIED EVERY YEAR AND THEY TOOK THAT TO BE A FACT OF LIFE. OF COURSE, THE MOVE TOWARDS SAFETY HAD BEGUN IN THE 1960s



ultimately claimed him. Its after-effects played a role in his death as the flames and even the fire extinguisher fumes seared the inside of his lungs, causing permanent damage. Ironically, it happened despite the fact that the Austrian had led other drivers in protesting the unsafe conditions of the race. Jules Bianchi's death

a couple of years ago was an aberration. When Niki Lauda was racing at his prime, at least three-four Formula 1 drivers died every year and drivers, fan and even administrators took that to be a fact of life. Of course, the move towards safety had begun in the 1960s with drivers like Jackie Stewart, but Lauda supercharged

that movement. And while it was finally the dramatic events of the San Marino Grand Prix in 1994 when Ayrton Senna died that finally pushed the safety agenda for race cars and even road cars to the central agenda, the near-death of Niki Lauda is what really pushed the safety agenda out of the fringes.

However, more than just being a great driver, Lauda's doggedness came out more dramatically to the rest of the world when he personally went to the crash site of Lauda Air 004 in Thailand.

Niki Lauda came from a wealthy Austrian family and once he retired from the sport finally, he got into his other love, aviation. He began Lauda Air as an airline catering to tourists but it suffered a horrible accident when 196 people died at that aforementioned crash. Lauda himself went to the site in order to give answers to those who died. And like the Boeing 737 MAX today, it emerged that there was a technical fault that caused the crash. It was Lauda's remarkable determination and engineering skill that got Boeing to admit that they made a mistake which caused the thrust reversers to open mid-flight causing the crash.

Lauda's determination and skills will be missed from the Formula 1 circuit and as the grid collects at the annual signature race in Monaco this year, I hope the race car series sends him off in style to race in the heavens!

# MASTERING THE PERFECT BLEND

BAAR BAAR's amalgamation of north Indian food with a modern twist has some hits as well misses, says CHAHAK MITTAL

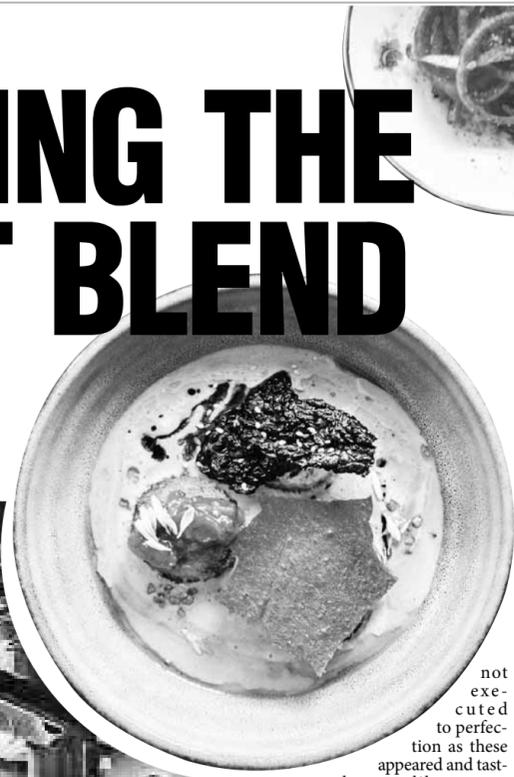
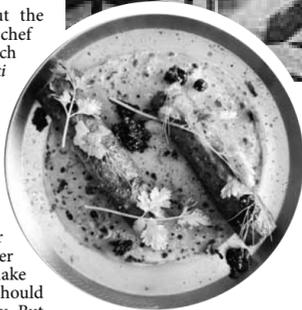
The posh lanes of Khan Market are somewhat akin to a food lover's paradise. And it is here that I headed to Baar Baar, a dine-in restaurant, as a writer and food lover could indulge in her love for fusion dishes as the place offers Indian food with a modern twist. And was I in for a surprise and a change of view towards the way an authentic Indian dish could taste.

The ambience, replete with colours like magenta and teal, peppered with brass and wooden decor, sets the tone for experimentation. It makes you reconsider how Indian dishes could be prepared with a new outlook.

The first, I bit into the *papad*-like sweet potato, yam and banana *kadak naan* and *chaat* corn *roti*, served with sweet corn mousse and tomato sea buckthorn *chutney*. The taste was such that it would remind one of hummus and pita bread but at the same time, forget it as this has a distinct flavour. The chopped cashews, sprinkled on the top, added flavour to the 'perfectly bland' yet the most tasteful mousse.

My confidence about the curations by New York chef Sujan Sarkar went up a notch further with the potato *tikki* which was served next. It was nothing like the ones found at the street side *chaat thela* (vendor). The crispiest *tikki*, in the centre was surrounded by battered and deep-fried *kale* and spinach tempura and had a sweet and sour yoghurt mousse poured over its top. The taste could make one wish that every *thela* should prepare the *tikki* that way. But uniqueness was presumably the drill, here. The next ensemble made it very apparent.

Served with an *ulta tawa parantha* at its bottom, the cylindrical duck *seekh kebab* was topped with mixed berry chutney and housemade pickles. The *kebab* didn't have the overtly non-vegetarian taste yet was perfectly meaty. A special alert for vegetarians. This one might just



not executed to perfection as these appeared and tasted more like potato wedges. The dried cheese didn't make too much of an impact.

With two disappointments in a row, I looked up to the next dish, which was *Malai broccoli* and pumpkin, crispy lentil cake and parmesan mousse mixed in a salad bowl. A vegetable lover like me would absolutely drool even at the very names of its ingredients, but the dish failed to meet my gastronomic expectations.

Next up was the chicken *malai tikka*, topped with cheese fondue and walnut crumbs. Ideally, a perfect example of fusion.

As I neared a saturation, the last dish in line was the yoghurt apricot *kofta* served in *dum* gravy and with sea buckthorn *papad*-like breads and pickled apple. The *kofta*, soft as cotton, could be an appropriate replacement for *paneer* (cottage cheese) or usual *koftas* — finally, a perfect fusion.

The speed of the service was not uniform. But I was lucky to get my desserts a bit late as after all the food that I had, it took time for me to make some space. But desserts were worth the wait. The first one was the *Thandai cassata*, served with bits of nutty-fruit pistachios and black pepper meringue. The crispy waffles on top melted in my mouth like cream. The cassata had my heart.

The second dessert was the Cashew cake, served with milk ice cream and apricot gel. Even as the ice cream was a perfect replacement to the vanilla, the cake could have balanced its sweetness, which was a tad bit too much.

make you want to reconsider your food orientation.

While I was still gorging on the duck *kebabs*, sous chef Hitesh Lohat was keen on serving the best under his domain. The beet-root and peanut chops were served with garlic, apricot and chili *chutney*, greens and pickles. It reminded me of a crazy ball-sized coconut, brown, hard and

# It's all about love

The authentic food, the French bistro ambience and the endearing service at PAUL make for a perfect meal, says SHAMBHAVI SURI

Cooking in the 21st century is often equated with new methods like molecular gastronomy. However, at PAUL, they believe that there is nothing better than spending time with family and friends over a delicious meal. Located in the busy Ambience Mall, Gurugram, this restaurant will make you fall in love with the French cuisine. "We received a set of rules and guideline from PAUL International for everything. From the décor to the machines, which we are supposed to use and the recipes," say chef Vipin (head pastry chef) and chef Lokesh (executive chef).

Before I talk about the food, I wanted to elaborate on something that the place exuded which made the visit more memorable. Here, they believe that "there is no sincerer love than that of food," and they show it. There is love in the food they bring to the table and it is evident in the way they treat their guests and probably that's the reason why you don't want to leave.

The ambience really seems to take you to one of the cafés along the walkway in France. Sitting inside, you can smell the breads baking, the coffee brewing and the aroma of decadent food. The décor is simple yet elegant and the smell of bakery in the air is comforting.

While I was just about sinking in the experience, the first of the courses was brought to the table. This were the smoked salmon bites, traditionally referred as a tartine in French or simply put, sliced and toasted baguettes, topped with ingredients. This *tartine* was bite size, toasted baguettes, topped with a refreshing dill sour cream, smoked salmon and sprinkled with capers and mustard grains. The crunchiness from the fresh baguette added a bite to the dish while the creaminess of the sour cream and silkiness of the salmon, melted in the mouth. The capers and the mustard grains further, enhanced and elevated the bites by adding a little pungency and saltiness. This dish was sophisticated and a perfect appetite builder.

I was still savouring the flavour of the salmon bites when a whiff of onions, freshly baked bread and cheese wafted through the air. The next thing I knew, a French onion soup was placed before me. Campaigne bread served as a bowl for the soup, where as soon as the lid was removed, I could smell the caramelised onions and the baked cheese. The soup was essentially, a thick brown broth in which onions were slow cooked. A sip revealed that it contained the richness of onions, cheese and butter. This is what heaven is made of. The onions made the broth sweeter, however, it was balanced with the saltiness that was provided by the cheese and butter. The soup was rich, wholesome and left a heavy coat on the palate. Rest assured, the dish is bound to take you to your happy place.

In order to freshen things up, their



First, one on the table was the seafood fettuccini. The fish and whole prawns were lightly tossed in tomato sauce that gave the dish a vibrant orange colour. Taking a bite, the first flavour that coated the palate was the tanginess of the sauce which gradually made way for thyme and buttery-ness. The seafood adds an earthy and salty flavour to the pasta, balancing out the dish altogether. The second seafood dish was PAUL's signature, the grilled tiger prawns. The slightly charred prawns presented on a bed of nutty romesco sauce (made with sweet red pepper), served with buttered veggies, is bound to sweep you off your feet. A little sweet-heat from the romesco sauce with the tiger prawns, cooked to perfection, sings in harmony on your palate.

Last but definitely not the least of the mains, was the roasted baby chicken. This dish is to die for. Sous-*vide* chicken, cooked off in the pan, served with some veggies and a salad topped with a pepper jus. The sous-*vide* cooking process helps the chicken retain all its juices while cooking. While cutting the chicken on the plate, I realised that there was crispy skin which crackles as the knife slices through it. Taking a bite, the skin was crunchy while the chicken underneath it was tender and released all its juices as you bite in. The pepper added a layer over the chicken and binds the dish together. To cut through the richness of the dish, the salad on the side helped.

To end the evening on a sweet note, desserts were served — Tiramisu and a Strawberry cheesecake. The tiramisu was as authentic as it could get. However, to take the traditional creation one step further, Kallhua was added to the batter. The flavour of the coffee was stronger and more rustic, pertaining to the premium Lavazza espresso shots used in the making. Tiramisu is definitely a choice for the ones who don't have much of a sweet tooth and love coffee. For the ones who like their desserts sweet, the strawberry cheesecake is your choice. The strawberry cracker base topped with vanilla cheesecake and finished with strawberry crush, was beautiful, airy and light. Just the perfect way to end the evening!

Making the French experience even better, the *croque-monsieur* made its way to the table. It is the French version of a ham and cheese sandwich. There was extra cheese with fresh ham, served along-side crispy, golden-brown hash browns. One would realise why it's a French classic as it makes you fall in love with food, all over again.

The seafood mains were up next.

## gorge us

Opera Salon presents French Rendezvous, where you can pair a cup of aromatic tea with soft and buttery freshly baked Almond croissants, Chicken and mushroom Vol-au-vent, Raisin brioche, Roast tomato basil and goat cheese Tarte, Croque Monsieur and more. **Price:** (for two) ₹800 plus taxes **Date:** Till June **Time:** 8 am to 12 am **Venue:** M-37, M block market, GK-2.



Farzi Cafe presents an expressive lunch affair for non-vegetarians, offering special curations with delicacies like Prawn and ginger *rasam* with *Applam crisp* or a *Farzi caesar* salad with Chicken *tikka*, and many more. **Time:** 12 pm to 11.45 pm **Price:** (for two) ₹1,500 plus taxes **Date:** Till May **Venue:** Farzi Cafe (outlets in Cyber Hub and Connaught Place)



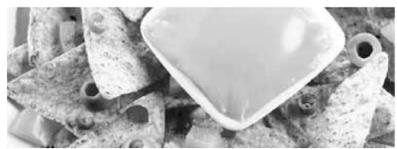
Inferno presents a gastronomical fare of flavours, offering delicacies like Smoked *chole kulche*, Assorted dimsum platter, Old Monked mushroom, Bomb pizza, Choco chips Pranked puppy dessert and more. **Time:** 12 pm to 12 am **Price:** (meal for two) ₹1,600 plus taxes **Date:** Till June 15 **Venue:** Plot 6 and 7, Sector 29 Gurugram.



The Marketplace, Kirti Nagar, presents Mexican food festival featuring delicacies like Nachos with trio salsa pineapple, mango and tomato. There is Mushroom olive pate, Corn on the cob, Chicken enchilada sliders, Mexican rice meal bowls and many more. **Time:** 12 pm to 12 am **Price:** Starting from ₹649 plus taxes **Date:** Till June



Gorge on the sweetness of Gripe mangoes through Khoya's mango *mithai* as it brings the true essence of Indian summer for its patrons with the launch of two new exclusive *mithais* inspired by the Mango season — the Alphonso coconut *ladoo* and Mango *barfi*. The *mithai* could also be gifted in boxes of three, 10, 16 or 36. **Venue:** The Chanakya, The Oberoi.



**CORNITOS TEA TIME CRUNCHY**  
**WHAT YOU NEED**  
● Cornitos barbeque flavour Nachos crisps: 1 bag  
● Sliced green olives: 1/4 cup  
● Sliced jalapeno peppers: 1/4 cup  
● Chopped green onion: 1  
● Seeded green and red chilli: 1  
● Diced yellow bell pepper: 1  
● Jalapeno cheese dip: 1 jar

**METHOD**  
● Arrange Nachos crisps on a platter.  
● Top it with all chopped ingredients.  
● Serve it with jalapeno cheese dip.

Courtesy: Cornitos.

## THE CHEESE AND BROCCOLI FRITTERS



**WHAT YOU NEED**  
● Almond flour: 3/4 cup  
● Flaxseed meal: 7 tbsp  
● Fresh broccoli: 4 ounces  
● Mozzarella cheese: 4 ounces  
● Large eggs: 2  
● Baking powder: 2 tbsp  
● Salt and pepper to taste  
**For the sauce:**  
● Mayonnaise: 1/4 cup  
● Fresh chopped dill: 1/4 cup  
● Lemon juice: 1/2 tsp  
● Salt and pepper to taste

**METHOD**  
● Add broccoli to a food processor and pulse until it breaks down into small pieces and is well-processed.  
● Mix together the cheese, almond flour, 1/4 cup flaxseed meal and baking powder with

the broccoli. If you want to add any extra seasonings (salt and pepper), do it at this point.

● Add two eggs and mix well until everything is incorporated.

● Roll the batter into balls and then coat with three tablespoons flax seed meal.  
● Continue doing this with all the batter and set the balls aside on paper towels.  
● Heat your deep fryer to 375 degrees F. Use this deep fat fryer. Once ready, lay broccoli and cheese fritters inside the basket, without overcrowding it.  
● Fry the fritters until they turn golden brown. This will take about three to five minutes. Once done, lay on paper towels to drain excess grease and season to your tastes.  
● Feel free to make a zesty dip and lemon mayonnaise for a dip.

Courtesy: Chef Kamaljeet at Masala Grill.

## RECIPES



### GRILLED SCALLOPS WITH TOMATO CHUTNEY AND ROASTED PEPPERS

**WHAT YOU NEED**  
● Scallops, shelled and roe removed: 12  
● Black peppercorns, cracked: 1 tsp  
● Fennel seeds: 1/4 tsp  
● Star anise: 1/4  
● Olive oil: 2 tbsp  
● Micro cress: 1 handful  
● Olive oil: 1 tbsp  
● Nigella seeds: 1/2 tsp  
● Canned plum tomatoes, chopped: 200 gm  
● Tomato paste: 1 tsp  
● Chilli powder: 1/4 tsp  
● Caster sugar: 1/2 tsp  
● White wine vinegar: 1 tbsp  
● Green pepper: 1/2  
● Red pepper: 1/2  
● Yellow pepper: 1/2  
● *Kasoori methi*: 1/4 tsp  
● Olive oil: 1/2 tsp  
● Salt

**METHOD**  
**Crust:**  
● For the tomato *chutney*, heat the olive oil in a pan, then add the nigella seeds and sauté for 20 seconds.  
● Add the chopped plum tomatoes, tomato paste, chilli powder, some salt, the sugar and white vinegar. Slow-cook for 15 minutes or until almost dry. Remove from the heat,

check the seasoning and cool.  
● For the peppers, roast the skin over an open flame or under a grill until it begins to bubble. Wrap the peppers in cling-film and chill immediately.  
● When cold, peel off the skin and scrape off any remaining bits with a knife. Cut the flesh into 5 mm x 5 mm dice. Add crushed *Kasoori methi* and olive oil and set aside.  
● Wash and drain the scallops, then pat dry with kitchen paper. Crush the peppercorns, fennel seeds and star anise in a pestle and mortar, then transfer to a bowl, add some salt and 1/2 tablespoon of olive oil  
● Marinate the scallops in the spiced oil mixture and grill on a hot non-stick pan until gently browned on both sides. This should take a minute for each side.  
● To plate, serve three scallops to a portion on top of a droplet of tomato chutney. Top with the roasted mixed peppers and a sprinkling of micro cress.

Courtesy: Chef Alfred Prasad, Sumeru Gourmet Range.

# MARY RULES

Six-time World Champion Kom defeats Nikhat in 51 kg semis to enter Indian Open summit clash

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Six-time world champion Mary Kom overcame some stiff resistance to beat promising Nikhat Zareen in a split decision to enter the women's 51kg category final, while the men pugilists dominated the ring by making it an all-Indian Gold-medal clash in seven categories in the India Open here on Thursday.

In the most-anticipated bout of the day, 22-year-old former world junior champion Nikhat of Telangana was at her aggressive best against her 'idol' Mary Kom who was happy to play the waiting game before taking the upper hand in the third round to win 4-1.

The 36-year-old Mary Kom, who was making her competitive debut at home in 51kg, took some blows initially but was quick to make amends as Nikhat was not able to connect her punches as the bout progressed.

Using her vast experience, Mary Kom regained her composure and dealt a few telling blows on the Strandja Memorial Gold winner Nikhat and that seemed to have clinched the issue in favour of the London Olympics Bronze medalist Manipuri in the third round.

Mary Kom will face Vanlal Duati of Mizoram in the Gold-medal bout on Friday.

In the men's section, 17 Indians stormed into the final in 10 weight categories.

Continuing his dream run, former world youth champion Sachin Siwach registered an upset win over reigning Commonwealth Games champion Gaurav Solanki in a unanimous decision to set up a 51kg gold medal clash against Asian Games Gold medalist Amit Panghal.

A day after he eliminated World Championship Bronze medalist Rogan Ladon in a well-calculated bout, the 20-year-old from Haryana had his task cut out against his sparring partner but he again emerged victorious.

Panghal, who had clinched a Gold in his new weight category in the Asian Championship, defeated national champion P L Prasad in the second 52kg semifinal. Panghal had won the Asian Games Gold in Jakarta last year in 49kg.

"Amit has improved a lot of late



**The 36-year-old Mary Kom, who was making her competitive debut at home in 51kg, took some blows initially but was quick to make amends as Nikhat was not able to connect her punches as the bout progressed**

but this is my big chance to show my prowess at a major competition. I hope to give my best and return winner," Siwach, who won a Bronze at the GeeBee Boxing tournament in Finland in March, said.

Shiva Thapa also remained on course to clinching a Gold at the same venue where he was crowned national champion three years ago as he fended off a strong challenge from his Polish opponent D Krystian Szczepanski to emerge 5-0 winner.

Szczepanski was at his aggressive best and kept hurling punches but Shiva cleverly kept frustrating his opponent by going out of his range.

"It made him tired at the end of every round. I was playing my style, did not give my 100 per cent. I was just trying to be tactical with him and let his punches go in the air and miss it so that he loses his control and confidence," Shiva said.

He will face Manish Kaushik in the 60kg final on Friday.

There was also a setback in store for India in the men's 75kg category, when Manjeet Panghal twisted his knee in the first round to be knocked out by his Filipino opponent Umir Felix Delos Santos.

Santosh will face Ashish Kumar in the final.

Former Asian champion Chatchai Decha Butdee of Thailand also created an upset in the men's 56kg by ousting former World Championship Bronze medalist Gaurav Bidhuri in a unanimous decision. The Thai will take on Kavinder Singh Bisht in the final.

The 64kg category will also see a non-Indian in the final with Rohit Tokas taking on Colin Louis Richarno of Mauritius.

## Kom tells Nikhat to prove herself in ring

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Alivid Mary Kom on Thursday asked her vanquished opponent Nikhat Zareen to prove herself in the ring instead of making irritating comments.

Mary was reacting to former world junior champion Nikhat's comments in the media that she was excited to take on her 'idol' and she would "put up a strong fight by using her brain" in the India Open 51kg semifinals which the celebrated Manipuri boxer won on Thursday.

"Every bout is a new experience for me. Even I don't know who this girl is. I've been fighting since many years now. I clearly

want to say I don't want all this. It has come out in the newspapers that she's challenging me," Mary Kom said after beating Nikhat to enter the 51kg final.

Mary Kom beat 22-year-old Nikhat 4-1 in a split decision.

"First you prove inside the ring and then speak out (against me). She has won just one medal at the international level and such is her ego and attitude! They feel proud and satisfied. This is a very bad habit," the 36-year-old Mary Kom said.

"How many years I've competed for the country? And how many times I've proved? It's better to say in a mild way. They are so lucky fighting with me. They

will get more experience," the London Olympics Bronze medalist continued.

Mary Kom, however, said Nikhat's comments made her more determined.

"I was so surprised to read her comments in the newspaper. It's so irritating. How can they say all this. Yes, everyone has the right to say and anyone can challenge. But I'm also a human being. It causes a lot of disturbance. Never mind, it made me more determined to do well."

Told that Nikhat considered her as her idol, Mary Kom said: "Why they challenge me then? Idol means you have to show respect, talk with respect."



## Favourites tag won't win India or Eng the WC: Shakib

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Hosts England and Team India have been touted as favourites to go the distance in the 2019 edition of the World Cup. But Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is keen to remind all that cricket is a game that is played on the field and not on paper.

Shakib said that while there is no doubt that Eoin Morgan and Virat Kohli's men are ruling world cricket at the moment in the 50-over format, the favourites tag alone doesn't win any team the coveted title in the 50-over World Cup.

"India and England are obviously favourites, but that doesn't get you the crown. You need to do the hard yards to win a tournament like the World Cup. Australia have been doing well recently and West Indies have peaked at the right time. To be honest, all the teams look like they are ready for a fight. Depends who on that day does well," he pointed.

Personally, Shakib got the perfect boost going into the showpiece event as he overtook Afghanistan star Rashid Khan as the No 1 all-rounder in ODIs. But for the star Bangladesh player, he wants the

trophy that ultimately decides who the boss is.

"This time I think we have a genuine chance of winning the tournament, but keeping the format of the tournament in mind, we must look to play well consistently. If we can do that, we can definitely look at qualifying for the knockouts and take it forward from there. I am confident that we will do well this time.

"Personally, obviously I wish that Bangladesh win the trophy this time. But a lot of factors need to click together for that dream to be realised. While I didn't play much in the IPL, I had been working hard on my game and was looking to prepare for the World Cup. Gave it my all in the practice sessions and tried to maximise the output in every training session," he explained.

While Bangladesh have in the last few years made a name for themselves in the big league by putting in far more consistent performances than before, but Shakib is still a bit worried with the team's bowling attack. The all-rounder though feels that the experience in the side will come to the rescue in crunch games.

"I think we have a very

good side, I am a little worried about the bowling, both new ball and the death. But I am very much optimistic that we can go the whole length. We have experience, have guys who have played 3 or 4 World Cups. It is a good thing as we know what we need to do. Need to get the momentum early on. I am confident. Anyone can beat anyone on their day. Consistency is an important factor to go all the way," he revealed.

With the advent of the various T20 leagues, Bangladesh players are now getting an opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the best players in the world. In fact, they also have their own T20 league and Shakib feels this has helped in getting quality players to play for the country as talent can be identified better now thanks to so many platforms.

"I feel playing in the T20 leagues around the world has really helped our boys in recent times as you gain in experience. Apart from building your own game, you also get to see other stars closely and try and learn from them as well. It has helped us become more competitive as a unit," he smiled.

## Ronaldo included in Portugal squad

Cristiano will lead Euro champions in UEFA Nations League semi final against Switzerland



LISBON: Captain Cristiano Ronaldo was included in Portugal's squad for next month's Nations League semi-final against Switzerland, head coach Fernando Santos announced on Thursday.

Ronaldo, 34, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner missed the group stages preferring to try and adapt to life in Juventus since moving from Real Madrid.

The Euro 2016 champions welcome the Swiss on June 5 in Porto and the Netherlands play England in Guimaraes a day later before a third place play-off and a final on June 9.

He lifted the Serie A title with his Italian club this season but failed to clinch a third straight Champions League after losing to Ajax in the quarter-finals.

Head coach Fernando Santos has chosen not to call up veterans Adrien Silva, Nani and Ricardo Quaresma and Sevilla forward Andre Silva misses out with a knee injury.

Highly-tipped Benfica uncapped youngster Joao Felix is also included alongside three other club teammates who won the Portuguese league champions this season.

Portugal squad to face Switzerland on June 5 in the Nations League semis. AFP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jofra Archer, the England paceman, has come in for high praise from India captain Virat Kohli, who said he would be the "X factor" for England at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.

Kohli was speaking during the Captain's Day in London, alongside the skipper of the other 10 teams, when it was put to him that Archer, after being confirmed in England's final 15-man squad, had said he was eyeing the Indian captain's wicket. "I'd quite like to get Virat Kohli out because I wasn't able to in the IPL," he told Sky Sports.

Kohli wasn't aware of that, but the Indian captain made it a point to laud the all-rounder, who was fast-tracked into the England squad for the tournament, having not played an ODI prior to the naming of their preliminary squad.

"Did he say that? I had no idea - that's news to me. It's news to Morgs as well," Kohli said with a smile. "We don't really focus on these things. We don't really focus on whether an individual wants to get you out or whether you're spoken of more or things like that.

"Our focus is on contributing to the team. I take a lot of pride in performing for the team, and making impact performances in every game. If Jofra said that, it's a big compliment. Because he himself is a world-class bowler."

Kohli went on to describe his observations of Archer during their clashes in the Indian Premier League. "The way he's come about in the IPL the last couple of years I've seen

## FIFA drop plans for 48-team 2022 WC

AFP ■ LAUSANNE

FIFA shelved a proposed expansion of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar to 48 teams, dealing a blow to the world football body's president Gianni Infantino.

The 2022 tournament in the Gulf state will now be played with 32 nations taking part.

FIFA said it had abandoned the expansion plans "following a thorough and comprehensive consultation process" which led to the conclusion that "under the current circumstances such a proposal could not be made now".

"(The tournament) will therefore remain as originally planned with 32 teams and no proposal will be submitted at the next FIFA Congress on 5 June," FIFA said in a statement.

The expansion was a pet project of Infantino, who pushed the idea despite the likely need for Qatar's neighbours to put aside a two-year blockade and help to host an expanded tournament.

"The involvement of these countries in the organisation of the tournament jointly with Qatar implies the lifting of this blockade, in particular the lifting of restrictions on the movement of people and goods," said a feasibility study submitted to March's FIFA Congress in Miami.

The study also claimed that a Qatar World Cup with 48 teams would generate "between \$300-\$400



million (265-354 million euros) of additional income".

Specifically FIFA was counting on an additional \$120 million in TV rights, \$150 million in marketing rights and \$90 million from ticket sales.

The news comes after Europe's top football clubs said in March they would boycott an expanded 24-team Club World Cup — also backed by Infantino — which is planned to take place in June and July 2021, replacing the Confederations Cup tournament.

An announcement of the final decision had not been expected until next month's FIFA Congress to be held in Paris ahead of the women's World Cup that takes place in France between June 7 and July 7.

## WC exile Hales will still cheer on England

AFP ■ LONDON

Alex Hales insists he will still support England at the upcoming World Cup despite his shock exile from international cricket.

The Nottinghamshire batsman was on course to feature for World Cup hosts England until a report in the Guardian newspaper last month revealed he was serving a 21-day ban following a second positive test for recreational drug use.

The England and Wales Cricket Board responded to the report by announcing that Hales, a member of the provisional World Cup squad, had been withdrawn from international duty.

Hales, 30, is now turning his attention instead to a stint with the Barbados Tritons in the seventh season of the Caribbean Premier League.

The hard-hitting batsman, speaking after being selected as the first pick in the draft for the Twenty20 franchise competition staged in London on Wednesday, said he still wanted England to win the World Cup in his absence.

"I'm still a fan and wish all the boys all the best. What we have done

over the last few years has been unbelievable," Hales said in an interview broadcast by Sky Sports.

"I will be (keeping an eye on the World Cup). The guys deserve to win it and I'll be sat there watching and cheering."

As for his feelings about his World Cup exile, confirmed when Hales was left out of England's 15-man tournament squad announced Tuesday, he simply added: "I'm not here to talk about that."

The CPL draft saw Hales selected ahead of West Indies captain Jason Holder and star batsman Chris Gayle, with the competition starting on September 4.

"I just want to get back playing what I love most and that's cricket," Hales, now a white-ball specialist, added.

"This is such a good opportunity to go and play at a ground where I have such fond memories of — the Kensington Oval — and play in a big tournament in some different conditions.

"I've got a few things to do with the English Cricket Board (ECB), there's obviously a process to go through and then I start training I guess."

## Archer is England's 'X factor': Kohli



**"I think he's probably going to be their X factor, because he holds a skillset that's very different from anyone else. He can generate a lot of pace, which can be intimidating. You don't really expect that because of his run-up"**

him, there's good reason why he was fast-tracked into playing for England in a tournament like the World Cup," said Kohli.

"I think he's probably going to be their X factor, because he holds a skillset that's very different from anyone else. He can generate a lot of pace, which can be intimidating. You don't really expect that because of his run-up."

"And the way he's built, he's a great athlete. He's going to be a delight to watch in the World Cup. I personally would be watching his bowling as well - whatever I've seen of him, he's been very, very impressive."

Eoin Morgan, the England captain, who was sat right next to Kohli, concurred and added that it was a huge opportunity for Archer. "Nothing's surprised me about him. He's come in and performed exactly how he has been around the world," said Morgan. "He's impressive in all three parts of a 50-over game, he gives you an option in different areas, and obviously has that extra bit of pace."

"It is a huge opportunity. The guy is very young, very ambitious, very confident, wants to play international cricket for England. That's extremely exciting. He's at the very start of his international career, and it so happens that it's at the start of the World Cup and Ashes year, and he could potentially have lots of time playing. It's extremely exciting.