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Opp flies into EVM rage

As tampering charges zoom, demand for VVPAT checks peaks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two days before the counting of votes for the Lok Sabha polls, the Opposition revived the charges of EVM tampering and moved the Election Commission (EC) to press for their demand for tallying VVPATs with the electronic voting machine figures. They also said the counting be first concluded in the centres where doubts have emerged. The EC has rejected the charges.

Leaders of as many as 22 Opposition parties, including those from Congress, TMC, SP, BSP, TDP, RJD and Left, met the EC and demanded verification of VVPAT slips of randomly-selected polling stations before the counting of the votes polled in the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections. They also demanded that if any discrepancy is found during VVPAT verification, 100 per cent counting of the paper slips of VVPATs of all polling stations of that particular Assembly segment should be done and compared with the electronic voting machine (EVM) results.

"We told the EC that the VVPAT machines should be counted first and if there is any discrepancy, then all of them in that segment should be counted. During elections, there were many EVMs which malfunctioned and in many cases, when votes for one political party were cast, it showed votes for some other party, specially



Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, TMC's Derek O'Brien, DMK's Kanimozhi, CPI's D Raja and other Opposition leaders come out after meeting the Election Commission over their concerns about EVMs, at Nirvachan Sadan, in New Delhi on Tuesday

the BJP. These things we have told the EC. We, in the last three-four years have been complaining about the EVMs in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and even in States," Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said after meeting EC officials.

Azad's party colleague Abhishek Singhvi said despite requests to the EC since months, the poll body has now said it will meet on Wednesday to discuss the issue. "Even if the EC disagrees with us, then they should consider that 75 per cent of the

electorate represented by these 22 parties is before you how does it matter if they change the rules? It will be only a change in guideline or procedure. It is a no-brainer. The EC has not decided for six weeks and now they are saying they will decide tomorrow," Singhvi said.

Earlier in the day, several videos of alleged movement of EVMs from one unauthorised storage house to another went viral on social media. Videos showed some EVMs were reportedly stored at shops, oth-

ers were seen stacked in the boot of private vehicles.

Termining it as frivolous and unfounded, the EC rejected allegations of discrepancies in the handling of EVMs and VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Trail Machines) in some districts of Uttar Pradesh and maintained that all machines are safe and secure.

"After the close of polls, all polled EVMs and VVPATs are brought under security cover to the designated strongrooms, which is sealed with double

locks, in the presence of the candidates and in the presence of Observers of the EC. The entire process of storage and sealing of the strongroom is covered under videography. Continuous CCTV coverage is done till completion of counting. Each strongroom is guarded with round-the-clock security by Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). Further, the candidates or their designated agents remain present at the strongroom for 24x7 vigil at all times," the EC said in a statement.

"On the counting day, the strongrooms are opened in the presence of the candidates/agents and Observer under videography.

Before the counting of EVMs commences, the counting agents are shown the address tags, seals and serial number of the EVMs to satisfy themselves to the genuineness and authenticity of the machines used in the actual polls," the EC said. "The visuals seen viral on media do not pertain to any EVMs used during the polls," it added.

BJP leader and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad took a swipe at the Opposition, saying EVMs were fine when its leaders like Mamata Banerjee, N Chandrababu Naidu, Amarinder Singh and Arvind Kejriwal win elections and come to power but they turn unreliable when "it appears that Modi will come back to power".

Arunachal MLA, his son dead in NSCN ambush

9 others killed as terrorists attack convoy

AGENCIES ■ ITANAGAR

Suspected NSCN terrorists on Tuesday gunned down sitting MLA and NPP Assembly poll candidate Tirong Aboh and ten others, including his son and security personnel, in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh, a top police officer said. Aboh (41), who represented the Khonsa West constituency, was seeking a re-election from the seat.

Initial reports suggested that seven people were killed in the attack, but Director General of Police SBK Singh put the death toll at 11 later in the day.

Aboh was on his way to his constituency from Assam, along with family members, three police personnel and a poll agent, when the suspected NSCN rebels opened fire at their vehicles near 12 Mile area in the district at around 11.30 am, Singh told PTI. One security officer, who sustained injuries in the incident, has been admitted to hospital in Dibrugarh, Assam, the DGP said, adding that the MLA and ten others were killed on the spot. Expressing his shock over the incident, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said the perpetrators will be hunted down.



"Action will be initiated to hunt down the perpetrators. My heartfelt condolences. May the departed souls rest in peace," he said.

Condemning the attack, NPP president and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma sought the intervention of the Prime Minister's Office and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh. "The NPP is extremely shocked and saddened by the news of the death of its MLA Shri Tirong Aboh (Arunachal Pradesh) and his family. We condemn the brutal attack and urge @rajnathsingh and @PMOIndia to take action against those responsible for such attack," Sangma tweeted. Meanwhile, the Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee

blamed the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party for the "prevailing lawlessness and chaos" in the State. "If elected representatives of the state are not safe under the present dispensations at the Centre and the state, how can common people feel secure," the party said in a statement.

Demanding a high-level judicial inquiry into the incident, it also said, "Chief Minister Pema Khandu and his BJP Government are solely responsible for lawlessness and all chaos in the State."

Aboh was elected from the Khonsa West seat in 2014 on a Peoples' Party of Arunachal (PPA) ticket.

Assembly polls were held concurrently with Lok Sabha elections in Arunachal Pradesh.

CO sacked, IAF officers face jail for copter crash



Role of ATC at Srinagar base also under lens

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior officers of IAF may face action for the helicopter crash near Srinagar on February 27 after it was shot by own ground air defence leading to the death of six IAF personnel on board and a civilian on ground. A Court of Inquiry is on to fix responsibility for deaths caused by friendly fire and the Commanding Officer of the Srinagar airbase has been sacked.

Though the IAF on Tuesday refrained from giving details of the incident or the findings of the probe, sources said the air defence fired an Israeli-made SPYDER surface-to-air missile on February 27 from the Srinagar airbase after it mistook the MI-17 helicopter to be hostile. If found guilty, the officers may be booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder under the IAF Act 1950 and be jailed.

This lapse could have taken place as the entire IAF was alert that day as in the morning an aerial battle had taken place in Rajouri sector when the Pakistani jets had tried to target Indian military installations in retaliation to IAF air strikes in Balakot day earlier.

Sources said the entire shoot-down sequence from the moment the missile was launched to the moment of impact lasted approximately

12 seconds. The Mi-17 helicopter had no means of knowing it was under attack.

While the air battle was on, air defence was in full state of alert with surface-to-air missile units ready to engage any intruding Pakistani aircraft.

It was at this time that air defence radars at Srinagar airport picked up a low-flying aircraft on their screens. The senior officer manning the post of Terminal Weapons Director (TWD) at the time was likely the Chief Operations Officer of the airbase.

This officer may have given the final order to fire after the helicopter, designated a slow flying target, could not be identified through a critical system called the Identification, Friend or Foe (IFF) transponder, sources said.

IFF systems onboard an aircraft listen for an "interrogation signal" from the ground and then respond with a unique signal which identifies it as a "friendly". The system is specifically designed to ensure that friendly-fire incidents are avoided during the heat of battle. It is unclear if the IAF helicopter's IFF was functioning at the time.

There was a likelihood of not adhering to a series of additional steps which have to be followed in the moments prior to the launch of the SPYDER surface-to-air missile. The role of the IAF's Air Traffic Control (ATC) at Srinagar airbase is being looked into.

It is unclear whether the Terminal Weapons Director enquired and was told by the ATC that no friendly aircraft were flying in the area.

POST-FANI RECONSTRUCTION WORKS State seeks aid from foreign nationals, NRIs

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha Government has urged for donations from foreign nationals and non-resident Indians as the Fani caused has caused massive damages to private houses and public infrastructure worth more than ₹13,000 crore.

"Odisha Chief Minister's Relief Fund now accepts donations from Foreign Nationals, Persons of Indian Origin, Overseas Citizens of India and NRIs," CMO Odisha said in a Twitter post.

Calling upon all to join hands to rebuild Odisha, the State Government said: "Your contribution will heal many lives and also the State." Apart from appealing to the people to visit https://cmrjodisha.gov.in/donation/online_donation.php to contribute, the State Government set up separate numbers for different countries for receiving calls in regard to

sending of donations. Separate phone numbers are set up for the donors from USA, Canada, UK, Australia, Singapore, UAE and NRIs when in India. Though the State Government requires ₹6,767 crore in relief and response for the calamity, the Government of India has released ₹1,341 crore so far, official sources said.

The State Government basing on a preliminary loss estimation has sought ₹17,000 crore from the Centre for taking forward the restoration work. Meanwhile, the State Government has so far received donations worth about ₹200 crore from different agencies, organisations, individuals, industries and others for rebuilding the State in the aftermath of the cyclone that left at least 64 people dead and above 5 lakh houses damaged.

PNS

Odisha's disaster-related loss ₹3,400 cr per year

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

On an average, ₹3,400 crore of financial loss is incurred every year due to natural calamities, which is not only colossal but also resulting in weakening the economy of Odisha to a large extent.

Latest estimate of financial losses to the State due to various natural calamities during last 25 years reveals a sad state of affairs.

Severe natural calamities consecutively faced by the State have resulted in financial loss of more than ₹85,000 crore during a period of 25 years. The magnitude of the problem can be imagined as flood, cyclone, drought and cyclonic rains have wreaked havoc in the State and every year Odisha has faced one or the other natural calamity.

During last 25 years, Odisha has experienced 17 floods, six super storms and 11 droughts. This presents a bleak financial scenario as the State is incurring huge losses.

Total financial losses incurred due to natural calamities

from 1994-95 to 2019-20 is ₹85,313 crore. During 2019-20 till 18 May, the State has incurred a loss of ₹13,167.26 crore due to extremely severe cyclonic storm Fani, which hit the State on May 3.

The State has spent more than ₹12,000 crore on relief management for the natural calamities devastated people during last 24 years and it requires ₹6,767.56 crore for relief and response due to Fani. So it entails an expenditure of ₹18,767.56 crore.

According to estimates, Odisha faced financial loss of ₹6,243.96 crore due to Super Cyclone in 1999 and it spent ₹827.64 crore for relief operations in 1999-2000.

The State is incurring huge expenditure on repair and restoration work out of its own resources from General Budget provision, which could have been utilized for other developmental purposes.

The State is also funding disaster mitigation activities from own resources as funds are not available from other sources like Central grants,

4L new matriculates in State as 70.73% clears exams

- Girls outshine boys this year too
- J'suguda tops with 85.48% pass, Koraput lowest at 50%
- Nil results in 82 schools

PNS ■ CUTTACK

More than four lakh students became new matriculates in the State when the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha declared the results of annual High School Certificate (HSC) Examination-2019 of different categories here on Tuesday.

Nearly six lakh students had appeared for the examinations in February-March in Regular, Ex-regular, Correspondence, Madhyama (Sanskrit) and Open School categories.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the

matriculates and wished them good luck for a good career.

"Congratulate all students who matriculated today. Best wishes for your future," Patnaik tweeted both in Odia and English after the results were announced by the Board here in the morning.

While the overall pass percentage this year was 70.73, the Regular students registered a pass percentage of 72.35, which is about 3.88 percentage point less than the last year's performance pegged at 76.23.

"The decline in pass percentage this year was more because of the reforms introduced to check unfair means adopted by the students while



writing their papers," said School and Mass Education Secretary Pradeepa Kumar Mohapatra.

Mohapatra said the Board would take some more stringent measures next year to crack down on the mischief mongers, who were circulating the images of the question papers on social media after the question booklets were taken out of their sealed covers. "Although, this naughtiness cannot be viewed as a question paper leak, yet, the mischief is denting the image of the Board and the students are getting panicked," Mohapatra observed.

Among the districts, Regular students of Jharsuguda district registered highest pass percentage (85.48), while only 50 percent students passed in Koraput district. More number of girls (2,05,470) became matriculates this year in the State than the boys (1,92,655) in the Regular stream. While results of 10 students have been withheld this year, 1,124 students were booked as "malpractice" for resorting to unfair means during the examinations.

While 289 schools recorded 100-per cent results, no student could pass in 82 schools.

Mobile ATM for Puri flagged off

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In aftermath of the Fani, Chief Secretary AP Padhi flagged off a mobile ATM here for Puri district on Tuesday.

Padhi said the mobile ATM would provide cash withdrawal facility in all remote rural areas in Puri district.

As of now, all the banks in the district have reopened.

Around 40 per cent of the ATMs are also functioning."

The State Cooperative Bank has sent 15 mobile ATMs and other banks like HDFC, UCO and SBI have deployed 25 mobile ATMs in the district.

Businessman held for ₹19-cr tax fraud in Rourkela

PNS ■ ROURKELA

City-based businessman Kamal Passari was arrested by the Central GST Commissionerate on Tuesday allegedly for his involvement in raising fake invoice and evading taxes worth ₹18.84 crore. The businessman was reportedly engaged in transferring the invoices without any goods and was passing on the input tax credits to other parties.

Joint Commissioner of Central GST Deba Jyoti Chakraborty said, "Passari, owner of Aar Pee Steels, was arrested under Section 132 of OCGST Act 2017 for evading tax through fake invoice. Further investigations are on as several other parties are also involved in the practice."

Boy fails exam, commits suicide

He consumed poison after knowing about his bad performance

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A student of the Basta area in Baleswar district reportedly committed suicide after knowing that he failed in the Matriculations examinations, results of which were published on Tuesday.

The deceased, identified as Sankarsan Sethi of Pundarangi village, was a student of the Gandhiji High School, Mandurukula in the Sadar area.

He consumed poison after knowing about his bad performance. Though family members rushed him to the Basta Community Health Centre, doctors declared him dead there.

Govt suggested for effective distribution of relief

Sufficient food, robust shelter need of the hour: Civil body

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Civil Society Responds to Fani (CSRFF), a group of civil society organisations and concerned citizens who have come together to strengthen and accelerate the relief and rehabilitation efforts in the aftermath of the cyclone, on Tuesday presented various recommendations to the Government for effective distribution of relief and other supports.

Addressing at a Press meet here, former Information Commissioner and CYSD

cofounder Jagadananda said relief of ₹2,000 and 50-kg rice per family is being given to only ration cardholders and a large number of affected people have been left out.

Mentioning about joint families with big numbers of members, he said such families having more than 14 people in places like Brahmania, Satapada and Puri have also suffered they were also given cash relief of ₹2,000 only. He demanded the State Government provide support on the basis of household size and household list as per the latest Government records.

CSRFF member and Vasundhara executive director Manas Ranjan Mishra lamented saying that MGNREGS job cardholders have not been



given any work in the most affected blocks of Krushnaprasad, Brahmagiri, Puri Sadar, Satyabadi, Delang and Pipili during the current month.

He demanded that people

also demanded that Government purchase fallen trees from people at right prices.

Aaina secretary and CSRFF member Sneha Mishra demanded that all people who have lost livelihood assets must be compensated adequately. She also said there should be a combine household level limit of at least ₹2 lakh and all other limits such as number of cattle, small livestock, poultry, trees and others must be waived.

Each household without shelter must be provided with three tarpaulins which are the second most important need after food along with mosquito nets in adequate numbers with a focus on infants, children and pregnant women, she further demanded.

National Youth Project State coordinator Madhu Bhai demanded that full-page advertisements be published on relief and compensation norms. Besides, hoardings and posters should be put up near GP offices and at prominent places in affected areas to create awareness among people about the relief and other supports.

The association also demanded that the RBI announce a moratorium on loan repayments by affected households, prioritisation of need of the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

The CSRFF also thanked the State Government and OSAFI, a State-level association of micro finance, for fulfilling various demands previously made.

INBRIEF

21 QUINTAL GANJA SEIZED; 4 HELD IN M'GIRI
Malkangiri: In a big achievement for the district police, around 21 quintals of ganja were seized from two vehicles on the Orkel-Chitrakonda road in the district on Tuesday. During frisking of vehicles, cops seized the contraband worth ₹2 crore from a truck and a pickup van. Police arrested four persons in the connection. The ganja was being smuggled from Andhra Pradesh to Maharashtra, sources said. Police are investigating to ascertain the involvement of others in the incident.

TRUCK MAULS TWO BEARS TO DEATH IN JAJPUR
Jajpur: A road accident killed two bears in front of the Government Polytechnic College at Ragadi on Monday night. The animals were crossing NH-10 when a speeding truck hit them. Forest Department officials reached the spot and recovered the bodies of the bears.

CREDAI DISTRIBUTES RELIEFS TO FANI-HIT PEOPLE
Bhubaneswar: The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (Credai), Bhubaneswar Branch distributed relief materials to the Cyclone Fani-affected people at different places. Credai members met the people and handed over basic essential materials to the people. The organisation would also contribute to the Chief Minister's Relief fund (CMRF). The youth wing of the Credai Bhubaneswar took the lead in organising the relief distribution works.



'Grow mangrove forests on coasts to check cyclones'

OKM writes to Government

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Krushak Mahasanga (OKM) has proposed to the State Government to grow mangrove forests of a half-km width along the coasts in order to protect living beings and properties from the wrath of cyclones.

"Thousands of people were killed in the cyclones that hit the Odisha coast on 1971 and 1999. Hundreds of people were also killed in the Cyclone Titili that hit the coast in 2018. Earlier to the Titli, Cyclones Hudhud and Phailin also caused huge devastations. Cyclones are causing huge devastations only due to loss of reserve and mangrove forests over the years due to construction of ports, urbanisation, hotels and large apart-

ments on coasts," remarked OKM president and former MLA Bibhuthendra Pratap Das in a letter sent to the Chief Secretary.

Das said while MLAs have been demanding for adoption of a policy for plantations along the coast for years, the Government is yet to respond to their proposal.

He mentioned that MLAs had submitted seven memorandums to the Government between January 1, 2001 and 2012. According to the proposal, private agencies need to be entrusted with the work of underrating coastal belt plantation work for which bank guarantees should be kept from them for five years.

They suggested that agencies would take of each plant for five years only when bank guarantees are kept from them.

"Mangrove forest bears importance as the roots of the trees bind each other grow to a big height. During cyclones,

such trees only bent down and never break, and thus protect living being on the land from the wrath of the cyclones," pointed out Das.

Citing an example of how 400 people living on a small island surrounded by mangrove forests could be saved, Das urged the Chief Secretary to adopt a special policy to undertake coastal belt plantation on a priority basis to protect lives and property of people and lives of wild animals.

Regarding the proposed Coastal Highway, Das said the highway should be constructed on a height above 18 feet so that it can break seawater from entering land-mass during high tides caused by cyclones.

Das stressed that more staffs be appointed in different posts at all levels in the Forest Department to undertake forestation on a war-footing basis.

OSRTC staffs hold Bhanjanagar Bandh

Seek release of pending salaries

PNS ■ BRAHMAMAPUR

Employees of the Odisha State Road and Transport Corporation (OSRTC) observed a 12-hour bandh at Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district on Tuesday.

Members of 18 associations held the dawn-

to-dusk bandh, demanding early release of pending salary of seven months and relocation of the Bhanjanagar OSRTC bus stand.

Though the transport employees have been agitating for the last nine days, the newly-formed action committee staged the bandh on Tuesday, disrupting normal life in the region.

Besides disruption in vehicular movement, markets, educational institutions and Government offices were closed.

JSPL provides 1L meals to Puri victims

BHUBANESWAR: Lending a helping hand to the Government's effort, the Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) through its CSR arm JSPL Foundation provided one lakh cooked meals to the Cyclone Fani victims in Puri.

The company served 10,000 meals twice a day from May 10 to 20 in which more than 1,00,000 people in interior and slum areas were benefited. In coordination with the district administration, a centralised kitchen was set up at the Puri Zilla School in which meals were cooked.

JSPL Foundation Co-



Chairperson Shalu Jindal thanked the State Government for giving the opportunity to reach the needy during the calamity. She also prayed Lord Jagannath to give strength to the cyclone impacted people to revive their lives soon.

Besides, the foundation also supported rice, dal and vegetable for 5,000 meals for people of Puri town. The company's Angul unit supplied cement and construction material for repairing of public buildings.

Fugitive UTP nabbed in Keonjhar

Fled from court premises on May 1

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

An under-trial prisoner (UTP), who had escaped from the premises of the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court here recently, was arrested by the Town police on Tuesday.

The UTP identified as Krishna Lohar is a resident of Gambhariga village of the district. Sources said police nabbed Krishna when he was hiding in a school near the village.

On May 1, Krishna had

escaped while he was being taken along with other accused to be produced in the ADJ court.

He was arrested on July 3, 2018 in connection with the rape of a minor girl. Two police officials were also suspended for negligence in duty in the case.

"Action will be taken against the UTP for fleeing from the court premises. Besides, two of his associates have been detained," said Town Police Station IIC Somnath Jena.

'GPCDA has made Mahuda Pharma College a biz centre'

RDC urged to initiate steps for takeover by Govt

PNS ■ BRAHMAMAPUR

Various organisations under the banner of the Mahuda Pharmacy College Banchao Milita Manch has submitted a memorandum to the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (Southern) demanding early freeing of the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brahmapur, Mahuda from the clutches of the "corrupt" Ganjam Phulbani Chemists' and Druggists' Association (GPCDA) and steps for takeover of the college by the State Government.

"The College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brahmapur has become a business centre and source of income of the GPCDA since it took over the charge of the institution, which was established with funds from the then Brahmapur Municipality and is now running with students' tuition fees," read the

memorandum. Abani Kumar Gaya and Maguni Nahak of the Manav Adhikar Suraksha Manch, Rajendra Kumar Panda, Siva Prasad Mishra and Shyam Sundar Khadanga of the Ganjam Zilla Bikash Manch, Krushna Charan Panigrahi of the Teacher' Association, Madhusudan Sethi of Indian Citizen's Action for Nation and the Lokashakti Abhiyan, Trinath Moharana of the Sanskarabadi and Senior Citizens' Forum and Surendra Panigrahi of Bharat Bikash Parishad have undersigned the memorandum, among others.

Alleging that GPCDA has shrewdly taken over the management of the premier college of the State established in 1979, the members alleged that the college chairman and GPCDA secretary and other management members in connivance with the Principal have

"Nothing is going right in the college. Though huge amounts of fees are being collected by way of tuition fees from the students, no infrastructural development has been done," alleged the members

already bungled crores of rupees. Even as the Government had initiated process to take over the college into its fold, some unscrupulous people in the management withdrew the proposal from the Cabinet Committee for their personal gains.

"Nothing is going right in the college. Though huge amounts of fees are being collected by way of tuition fees from the students, no infrastructural development has been done. Whopping expenditure of Rs 80 lakh shown to be incurred for visit of former President APJ

Abdul Kalam to the college remains to be a debatable subject," alleged the members.

The members demanded that all receipts and expenditure of the college since its inception in 1979 be brought under the purview of Government financial audit system and the College chairman and GPCDA secretary, Principal and other errant management members be taken to the task for their corrupt practices. The expenditure of Rs 80 lakh incurred for visit of Kalam should be probed properly. Vigilance case must be initiated against the persons who have grabbed crores of rupees from the college funds.

"We once again request you to take appropriate steps for freeing the college from the clutches of the business-minded and corrupt GPCDA and taking over the college to the Government fold," demanded the members.

Mango Fest in BBSR from June 1

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) jointly with Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) under the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department would organise an exhibition-cum-sale event titled "State Level Mango Festival-2019" here from June 1 to 5.

Swayamprabha Mohanty, Additional Chief Executive Officer and Sujoy Kar, Deputy Director (Marketing), ORMAS have prepared a blueprint of the festival.

There are eight major mango producing districts in the State -- Angul, Dhenkanal, Rayagada, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Balangir, Koraput and Gajapati.

The festival would create a ground for retail sale of mangoes at lucrative prices and profit for the farmers who used to sell mangoes at much lower rates to the intermediaries of bulk buyers and thereby lose the profit they deserve.

The festival would be held near the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) campus next to Stewart School nearby CRP Square.

CRZ norms violations inviting disasters in Odisha



MAYARANI PRAHARAJ

The UN has proclaimed May 22 as the International Day for Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme for 2019 is "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health" emphasising the diversity provided by our natural systems for human existence and wellbeing on earth, while contributing to other Sustainable Development Goals, including climate change mitigation and adaptation and ecosystems restoration.

Odisha's coastal commu-

nities are dependent on coastal ecosystem for their livelihoods. Uses of the coastline are generally considered under four categories such as resource exploitation, tourism and recreation and the conservation and protection of biodiversity.

The coastal ecosystems are now highly disturbed and very much threatened, encountering problems like pollution, siltation, erosion, flooding, storm surges, uncontrolled coastal development and other activities due to ever expanding human settlements.

During the pre and post-monsoon period, depressions generated in the Bay of Bengal leading to cyclonic storms of great severity which bring havoc to parts of Odisha's coastal stretch.

The coast was hit by the Super Cyclone on October 29, 1999 with wind speed ranging from 220/300 km/hr. Fani, India's most severe cyclone in 20 years hit Puri on May 3 with a sustained wind speed of 175-185 km/hr, causing devastation. Puri was the worst-hit, followed

by Bhubaneswar.

Because of the availability of timely information on land-fall point, velocity of wind, storm surge, etc. loss of lives has been minimised. The cyclone has generated lots of direct impacts such as high tide, intrusion of salt water, water logging etc. which affect livelihood. Higher tides as a result of sea level rise force fishing community people to migrate towards more inland areas and occupy mangrove forest.

Coastal communities therefore have to undertake adaptation measures to buffer against these events. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the linkages between ecosystems and human societies that can help to reduce vulnerability as well as enhance the resilience capacity of these communities.

Human activities encroaching CRZ norms seem to be an outstanding cause of meteorological disaster. Under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 a notification was

INT'L DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

issued in 1991, for regulation of activities in the coastal area by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

As per the notification, the coastal land up to 500m from the High Tide Line (HTL) and a stage of 100m along banks of creeks, estuaries, backwaters and rivers subject to tidal fluctuations, is called the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ). Coastal States are empowered to enact the provisions of the CRZ notification.

According to the CRZ notification, the coastal zone encompasses all that land with which the sea has direct contact and also those portions of the land on which the sea has an influence indirectly through tidal action.

As per the notification, the coastal stretches are categorized into different zones and certain activities are restricted and regulated within the particular zone. The main objective of the

notification is to conserve the rich and diverse coastal biodiversity and for the better management of the same.

As per the notification, HTL is defined as the line up to which the highest high tide (simply means the highest reach of sea during the highest high tide period) reaches.

In order to safeguard livelihood and property of local communities including the infrastructure along the coastal areas, the hazard line has been introduced taking into account tides, waves, sea level rise and shoreline changes which will be demarcated by the Survey of India.

Generally, the States follow Survey of India (SOI) topographic sheets to fix the HTL and recent satellite data is used to update it wherever there are drastic changes in the shoreline.

The Government, through the CRZ 2018 notification, has lifted the restrictions on construction along the coastal zone.

Benefiting the tourism sector, temporary tourism facilities are also now permissible in the 'No Development Zone (NDZ)'. Till now, the construction of toilets, changing rooms, drinking water facilities and temporary shacks on beaches were not allowed but now the Government has permitted the construction of tourists' facilities up to 10 meters from HTL.

The Government in the CRZ 2018 also reduced the "NDZ" to 20 meters for all islands close to main land coast and for all backwater areas in the main land, in wake of space limitations. The new CRZ will allow construction closer to the sea.

It will boost tourism in terms of more activities, more infrastructure and more opportunities and will certainly go a long way in creating employ-

ment opportunities in various aspects of tourism.

The coastal areas are assuming greater importance in recent years owing to increasing human population, urbanisation and accelerated developmental activities.

These activities have put tremendous pressure on the coastal environment. Large-scale CRZ violations have been noticed along sea coast in Odisha. Hotels and recreational facilities along the coast may cause loss of biodiversity due to land use changes.

There are Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) for different States of India. The provision related to Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) in CRZ 2018 notification now reads that the provisions of the notification shall not apply till the Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) are updated according to the provisions of CRZ 2018 notification.

An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) is carried out in

Odisha. Under this, coastal erosion, hydrodynamic processes on the coast, vulnerability to coastal hazards, biodiversity conservation and pollution problems have been addressed.

Sustainable development of coastal ecosystems may reduce the pressure on them and also help in preserving biological diversity. The coast should be left free to combat against sea level rise and high tide.

The coastal areas which have more potential for tourism development may develop infrastructure in the areas permissible by CRZ notification. Besides, there is a need to prepare proper shoreline management plan to ensure sustainable maintenance of coastal morphology, solution to coastal erosion and prevention of salt water intrusion into agricultural fields and other habitation.

(Dr Praharaj teaches at Department of Architecture, College of Engineering and Technology, Bhubaneswar)

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Karnataka Congress lawmaker slams party

Roshan Baig calls State party chief 'flop show', Gen Secy Venugopal 'buffoon'; slapped with showcause notice

PTI ■ BENGALURU

In a no-holds barred attack, Senior Karnataka Congress leader Roshan Baig on Tuesday accused the State party chief of being a "flop show" and scoffed at AICC general secretary KC Venugopal as a "buffoon", prompting the party to issue a show-cause notice for his outburst.



Baig, a senior M.L.A., also slammed former chief minister Siddaramaiah for "dividing" the Hindu society by attempting to give separate religion tag to Lingayat community and "abusing" the Vokkaliga community during his tenure in the top post.

The attack by Baig who was miffed over being denied ticket to contest Lok Sabha polls came after the exit polls predicted a rout for the Congress-JD(S) alliance in Karnataka and NDA's return to power at the Centre. Baig also appealed to the Muslims to "compromise with the situation" (about BJP-led NDA being in power) and not to remain like "cattle" and be reduced to a vote bank.

"Venugopal (in-charge of party affairs in the State) should have resigned when the Congress got 79 seats in

Baig for his outbursts. It said Baig's remarks were being considered seriously as an "anti party activity", and asked him as to why disciplinary action should not be taken against him. Seeking Baig's explanation in a week, the notice signed by KPCC general secretary VY Ghorpade said, "On failing to reply further disciplinary action will be taken against you."

The notice has taken strong exception to Baig's comments against Venugopal, Rao and Siddaramaiah. "By making statements to the media and causing discomfort to the party and expressing your displeasure publicly through the media, you have conducted yourself by going against the party's principles. Your conduct has dented party's prestige," it said.

Baig said the "drastic decisions" led to the downfall of the party in the Assembly election and now the same was reflected in the Lok Sabha exit poll results too.

"Nobody should divide the religion. A chief minister should behave like a statesman. What it means if he (Siddaramaiah) thinks he will win the election by dividing the religion? Isn't it madness?", he said.

A red-faced Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee issued a "showcause" notice to

Assembly polls (a year ago). I feel sorry for such general secretary coming to our State..." he said.

"KC Venugopal is a buffoon, I feel sorry for him, I feel sorry for my leader Sri Rahul Gandhi ji," Baig told reporters here. He added, "Buffoons like Venugopal and arrogant attitude of Siddaramaiah and the flop show president Dinesh Gundu Rao... The result is this (Lok Sabha exit polls forecast)."

A red-faced Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee issued a "showcause" notice to

Pak boat carrying heroin worth ₹600 cr seized

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After an interception and a hot pursuit that followed, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Tuesday apprehended a Pakistani fishing vessel off the Gujarat coast, took into custody its six crew members from the boat and seized 200 kg heroin worth Rs 600 crore in the international market.

Acting on a tip off that a Pakistani fishing boat was set to deliver a narcotics consignment off the Jakhau coast in Gujarat, an ICG ship intercepted Pakistani fishing boat 'Al Madina' in the wee hours of Tuesday.

The intercepted Pakistani boat indulged in "evasive manoeuvres" to avert getting apprehended. However, the ICG ship — braving rough weather conditions — chased

the Pakistani boat and succeeded in apprehending the intruding boat within the limits of Indian waters.

"During the hot pursuit, crew of the Pakistani boat threw bags containing the suspicious material in the water. However, the ICG personnel boarded the Pakistani boat, took its six-member crew into custody and managed to retrieve the narcotics consignment from water," Additional Director General K Natarajan, Coast Guard Commander (Western Seaboard), said.

Having tested a sample from the seized consignment using a drug detection kit, the authorities prima facie found it was Heroin.

The ICG personnel in all seized 195 packets weighing approximately 200 kg of Heroin which is worth Rs 600 crore in



International market "which will further verified by appropriate agencies". "The ICG personnel are interrogating the apprehended crew members of the Pakistani boat," Natarajan said. Earlier on May 19, the

ICG had received inputs from the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) about a Pakistani ship trying to enter Indian waters. Later on the night of May 20, Natarajan received intelligence input from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and other agencies that a Pakistani fishing boat was to deliver narcotics off Gujarat and that it was to be received by an Indian boat.

The ICG swiftly responded to the intelligence inputs, by diverting ships on deployment and rushing it towards the Pakistani fishing boat in the Arabian Sea off Gujarat's Jakhau coast in Kutch region, bordering Pakistan. The Coast Guard deployed Aranjay, a fast patrol vessel, two interceptor boats and an aircraft for intercepting the Pakistani boats.

Official sources said that the ICG intercepted and apprehended the Pakistani fishing boat nearly 200 nautical miles along the International Maritime Boundary Line off the Gujarat coast.



Students celebrate after WBSE Class X examination results were declared, at St. Margaret school in Kolkata, on Tuesday PTI

Woman opts for 'Chicken Dinner' with PUBG mate over hubby, kid!

IAN S ■ AHMEDABAD

Online game PUBG (PlayerUnknown Battle-ground) has taken the world by storm and has spawned myriad situations and new highs in addition.

Now take the recent case of this Ahmedabad woman, all of 19 and married with a year-old baby, who wants divorce from her husband, not because of any domestic feud or discord, but because of her immense indulgence in PUBG.

The case came to light when she called the 181 Abhayam women helpline seeking help to get divorce.

However, she did not mention this in the first place. She wanted to be lodged at a women's observation home, away from her family and her parents, so that she could play at leisure with her gaming partner.

"The girl called 181 and told us that she wanted to be at a women's observation home as it is not working out with her husband nor she wanted to go to her parents' home as they

had taken away her cell phone," says Falguni Patel, Coordinator at Abhayam.

"When we told her that she won't be allowed to use her phone or to go out from observation home since it is supposed to be for the protection of women, she dropped the idea. Then she sought help to reach her friend, who she revealed much later during the counselling session, was her PUBG gaming partner whom she came into contact while playing the game," Falguni Patel told IANS.

Her husband did not like her obsession with the game and refused to let her play, which caused tension between them and she decided to leave her husband and went to her parents.

Even they didn't like her addiction and took away her mobile phone.

Patel said the counsellors explained to her not to take such crucial decisions in a rush, just for the sake of a game as her marriage of two years, as well as the life of her child, was at stake.



Chicken Dinner

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Coffee, D/o Late Shri Punjab Singh, R/o H.No. 399, Pocket-7, Sector-A/10, Narela, Delhi, Age 16 years, Height 5', Complexion Fair, Round Face, Medium Built, Identification Mark A mole on upper lip, Wearing White colour suit, blue colour jeans pant, green & white colour chunni and hawai chappal in feet has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Narela, Delhi since 06.05.19. In this regard a case FIR No. 179/19 dated 06.05.19 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Narela, Delhi.

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

SHO
E-mail ID: cic@cbl.gov.in
Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639
PS: Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 27282350, 27285839
DP/286/ON/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-12-T-2019-20-E3 Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract and one time repairs (as and when required basis) of High Mast Tower (polygonal type) over Delhi Division.
Approximate cost of the works in	Rs. 21.59 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs. 43200.00
Date & time of submission of tender	18.06.2019 15:00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	18.06.2019, 15:15 Hrs.
Website & Notice board	www.reps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

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Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025
CIN: L51909DL1985PLC021077, Tel: +91 1161119658
Email Id: premiummerchants123@gmail.com, website: www.pmltd.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the meeting no. 02/2019-20 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 29th May, 2019 (Wednesday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 3.30 P.M. to discuss the following agenda items:
i. To take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Financial Year ended on 31st March, 2019 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.
ii. To discuss and approve the Director's Report for the Financial Year ended on 31.03.2019
iii. To consider reappointment of Statutory Auditor M/s R C Agarwal & Co. for another term of 5 years starting from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2024.
iv. To discuss any other business with the permission of chair.

By Order of the Board
For Premium Merchants Limited
Sd/-
(Balbir Singh)
Director
DIN:0027438

Place: New Delhi
Date: 21.05.2019

**BM-J DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**
321, 3RD FLOOR, SHANEEED BHAGAT SINGH PLACE, GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI-110001

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender ID: 2019_NDMC_172445_1
Name of Work: Other Charges (Sanitation Expenses).
SI: Mechanized housekeeping works at Mohan Singh Place Complex of NDMC Area.
Estimated Cost: Rs. 12,70,111/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 17.05.2019
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 27.05.2019 at 4:00 PM

Further details can be seen at www.ndmc.gov.in or <https://www.govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with NICCA is mandatory.
The tender shall be received only through e-procurement procedure and conditions of e-procurement will supersede all normal conditions of the NIT of issue and receipt of tender documents.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BM-J)

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Vishnu S/o Sh. Raj Vanshi R/o AG- 330, Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar, Delhi and village Jirohi, P.S. Rampur Karkala, Distt. Dewariya, UP has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 1327/14, u/s 279/338 IPC, P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said Vishnu could be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Vishnu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vishnu is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.07.2019.

By Order
Virender Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate
(Court Notice) Court No. 407, 4th Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: Approx 25-30 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'7", ID Mark: A tattoo mark of "Sonu.Rathee.Love" on right arm and "OM" in Hindi on right hand wrist, Clothes: Naked Condition, was found near abandoned Railway Qtrs., Nangloi Railway Station Delhi at 06:50 A.M. In this regard a FIR No. 241/19 u/s 302/201 IPC, dated 17.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25947225, 25959570
DP/2269/OD/19

C-23-24, Community Centre, Nr. Janak Cinema, Janakpuri Branch, New Delhi-58, Tel.: 011-25553254, 25553822
RTGS/IFSC : Sybn000054 E-mail : Br.9054@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

[APPENDIX-IV under the Act - Rule-8 (1)]
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Syndicate Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 20.02.2019 calling upon the Borrower/Solanki Distributor and Sandeep Solanki & Guarantor Smt. Vijay Laxmi to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.73,84,917.16 (in words Rs. Seventy Three Lac Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Seventeen and Paise Sixteen Only) with in 60 days from the date of the said notice future cost, interest and etc. thereon.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the amount, notice is hereby given to the owner of the property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers said rule on this 15 Day of May of 2019
The borrower / Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the SYNDICATE BANK, JANKAPUR BRANCH for an amount Rs. 73,84,917.16 (Rupees Seventy Three Lac Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Seventeen and Paise Sixteen Only) as on 31.01.2019 with future cost, interest and etc. thereon w.e.f. 01.02.2019
[The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of subsection (E) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.]

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

3 Storey Building has 205 Sq. Ft. at RZA 26, Kharna No. 15/11 in village Mirzapur, Delhi State Colony Known as Mahavi Enclave Part-4, New Delhi-110045 Owned by Smt. Vijay Laxmi.
Bounded By:
North : Other Property
East : Other Property
South : Road 30 Ft. Wide
West : Other Property
Authorised Officer
Syndicate Bank
Date : 16.05.2019
Place : New Delhi

Even IPS officers in Kerala watch helplessly as CPI(M) cadre subvert poll process

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Even as the Opposition leaders complained to the Election Commission of India about the "frauds" which could be committed by the BJP on the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines, a former chief of the Kerala Police has come out with startling disclosures about how the CPI(M) subvert poll process in Kerala by casting fake and bogus votes with the connivance of friendly presiding officers.

TP Senkumar, who retired as chief of Kerala Police in June 2017, says in his service story that there is blatant violation of all democratic norms by the CPI(M) cadre in the State. "Elections are manipulated

using all kinds of methods which include threats, physical assaults and impersonation with the connivance of the presiding officers," Senkumar has written in Ente Police Jeevitam (My Life in Police), his memoirs which was released on Sunday. Interestingly, 18 booths in Kerala's Kannur and Kasargod districts had re-poll on Sunday as per the directives of the EC following reports of widespread impersonation and casting of fake votes.

As a young superintendent of police in Thalassery, Senkumar had to stand helplessly outside the booth as many persons (women and men) cast fake and bogus votes with the connivance of the presiding officers. "I saw a woman entering the polling booth and casting her vote with the claim that she was the wife of Hareendranath.

Strangely, Hareendranath, was the booth agent of the Opposition candidate and protested against the woman being allowed to vote because she was not his wife. But the presiding officer as well as the agents of the CPI(M) candidate shouted him down and warned him that they would chop his hand if he utter a word. Even as Hareendranath watched with shock, the lady who claimed that she was his wife, cast the vote and went out of the polling booth, "reminisces Senkumar.

"Two young assistant superintendents of police who were on polling duty saw a woman casting votes 33 times in a booth in Kannur district. When one of the ASPs asked the presiding officer how a person was casting 33 votes in a single booth, the latter told him to mind his own work and not

Former police chief has called for the immediate introduction of biometric system as well as linking of Aadhaar Card for foolproof election process

to interfere in what was happening inside the booth. The police is not authorised to enter the booth without authorisation by the presiding officer. The presiding officer as well as the polling officer threatened the ASPs that if they complained to the authorities about casting of bogus votes, they would not be allowed to live peacefully in the State," Senkumar quotes the officers as telling him.

The former police chief has called for the immediate introduction of biometric system as well as linking of Aadhaar Card for foolproof election process. The CPI(M) cadre in the State identify those people whose names figure in the voters list but who are not present at the time of election and cast their votes through party workers.

CANCELLATION OF PASSENGER TRAINS Due to Infrastructural and Maintenance Work the following Passenger Trains will remain cancelled upto 30.05.2019:-

Train No.	Train Name	Cancelled on Days
51915	Delhi Jn. - Farukhnagar Passenger	Daily
51916	Farukhnagar - Delhi Jn. Passenger	Daily
64034	Shakurbasti - Ghaziabad EMU	Daily
64087	H. Nizamuddin - New Delhi EMU	Daily
64092	H. Nizamuddin - H. Nizamuddin EMU	Daily
64093	H. Nizamuddin - Shakurbasti EMU	Daily
64096	Shakurbasti - H. Nizamuddin EMU	Daily
64097	New Delhi - Shakurbasti EMU	Daily
64555	Anand Vihar T. - Meerut City MEMU	Daily
64556	Meerut City - Anand Vihar T. MEMU	Daily
64553	Moradabad - Anand Vihar T. MEMU	Daily
64554	Anand Vihar T. - Moradabad MEMU	Daily
64913	Delhi Jn. - Rohtak MEMU	Daily
64916	Rohtak - Delhi Jn. MEMU	Daily
64036	Shakurbasti - Ghaziabad EMU	Daily
64090	H. Nizamuddin - H. Nizamuddin EMU	Monday to Friday
64091	H. Nizamuddin - H. Nizamuddin EMU	Daily
64098	Shakurbasti - H. Nizamuddin EMU	Daily
74201	Partapgarh - Lucknow DEMU	6 Days a Week
74202	Lucknow - Partapgarh DEMU	6 Days a Week
64207	Lucknow - Kanpur Central MEMU	Daily
64212	Kanpur Central - Lucknow Jn. MEMU	Daily
64205	Lucknow - Kanpur Central MEMU	Daily
64210	Kanpur Central - Lucknow Jn. MEMU	Daily
54281	Sultanpur - Lucknow Passenger	Daily
54284	Lucknow - Sultanpur Passenger	Daily
54261	P. Deen Dayal Upadhayaya - Jaunpur	Daily
54262	Jaunpur - P. Deen Dayal Upadhayaya	Daily
54293	Partapgarh - Lucknow Passenger	Daily
54294	Lucknow - Partapgarh Passenger	Daily
54110	Faizabad - P. Deen Dayal Upadhayaya	Daily
54109	P. Deen Dayal Upadhayaya - Faizabad	Daily
54201	Lucknow - Rahimabad Passenger	Daily
64274	Lucknow Jn. - Barabanki MEMU	Daily
64275	Barabanki - Lucknow Jn. MEMU	Daily
54255	Varanasi - Lucknow Passenger	Daily
54256	Lucknow - Varanasi Passenger	Daily
64213	Lucknow Jn. - Kanpur Central MEMU	Daily
64254	Kanpur Central - Lucknow Jn. MEMU	Daily
54251	Lucknow - Saharanpur Passenger	Daily
54252	Saharanpur - Lucknow Passenger	Daily
54232	Lucknow - Faizabad Passenger	Daily
54233	Faizabad - Lucknow Passenger	Daily
54228	Rae Bareilly - Unchahar Passenger	Daily
54227	Unchahar - Rae Bareilly Passenger	Daily
54283	Sultanpur - Lucknow Passenger	Daily
54282	Lucknow - Sultanpur Passenger	Daily
54211	Rae Bareilly Jn. - Kanpur Central	Daily
54212	Kanpur Central - Rae Bareilly Jn.	Daily
54377	Prayag Ghat to Bareilly	Daily
54378	Bareilly to Prayag Ghat	Daily
64208	Kanpur Central - Lucknow MEMU	Daily
64209	Lucknow - Kanpur Central MEMU	Daily
64235	Barabanki Jn. - Kanpur Central	6 Days a Week
64236	Kanpur Central - Barabanki Jn.	6 Days a Week
64221	Lucknow - Shahjehanpur MEMU	Daily
64222	Shahjehanpur - Lucknow MEMU	Daily
54313	Chandausi - Moradabad Passenger	Daily
54314	Moradabad - Chandausi Passenger	Daily
74301	Sambahal Hatim Sarai to Moradabad	Daily
74302	Moradabad to Sambahal Hatim Sarai	Daily
74994	Ambala Cantt. - Kurukshetra DEMU	Daily
74993	Kurukshetra - Ambala Cantt. DEMU	Daily
64483	Kurukshetra - Ambala Cantt. DEMU	Daily

SHORT TERMINATION/ORIGINATING/PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS UPTO 30.05.19

Train No.	Train Name	Train to terminate at/originate from station	Train to remain partially cancelled between stations
64113	Khurja Jn. - Shakurbasti EMU (Daily)	At Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad - Shakurbasti
64017	Palwal - Shakurbasti EMU (Daily)	At Nizamuddin	Nizamuddin - Shakurbasti

Note: For any kind of Information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

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

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Serving Customers with a Smile

Videos of alleged EVM tampering viral

■ EC rejects allegations of discrepancies
■ Parties allege EVMs were being changed in strongrooms in Ghazipur, Chandauli, Domariyaganj and Jhansi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A couple of days before the counting of votes, several videos of Electronic Voting Machines' (EVMs) alleged movement from one unauthorised storage house to another besides tampering went viral on social media prompting the Election Commission (EC) to issue a statement clarifying that all machines are safe and secure.

Terming it as frivolous and unfounded, the EC on Tuesday rejected allegations of discrepancies in the handling of EVMs and VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Trail Machines) in some districts of Uttar Pradesh, saying that each strong room is guarded with round-the-clock security by Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and further, the candidates or their designated agents remain present at the strong room for 24x7 vigil at all times.



A security jawan guards at a counting centre, prepared for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, in Mumbai on Tuesday

polled EVMs and VVPATs are brought under security cover to the designated strong rooms, which is sealed with double locks, in the presence of the candidates and in the presence of Observers of the EC. The entire process of storage and sealing of the strongroom is covered under videography. Continuous CCTV coverage is done till completion of counting," the EC said in a statement.

"On the counting day, the strongrooms are opened in the presence of the candidates/agents and Observer

under videography. Before the counting of EVMs commences, the counting agents are shown the address tags, seals and serial number of the EVMs to satisfy themselves to the genuineness and authenticity of the machines used in the actual polls," the EC said. "The visuals seen viral on media do not pertain to any EVMs used during the polls," it added.

The EC's response came after political parties alleged that EVMs were being changed in strongrooms in Ghazipur, Chandauli, Domariyaganj and

Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh at the instance of BJP. As the videos went viral, workers of various parties have started protests outside the strongrooms in these areas.

A video clip of EVMs being off-loaded and put in a room inside the counting centre complex in Chandauli was doing the rounds on social media. Referring to the incident in Chandauli, the EC said in its report that some people have made frivolous allegation and EVMs were kept safely in strongrooms. "Frivolous

allegation by some people, EVMs were in proper security and protocol," the EC said.

Another video is from Ghazipur where SP-BSP alliance candidate Afzal Ansari is seen staging protest alleging that the administration was trying to change EVMs. In the video, Ansari and his supporters were seen having a heated exchange with a police officer. The officer is urging them to clear the area, but the leader and his supporters refuse to budge, claiming there was an attempt to take out a vehicle loaded with EVMs.

On allegations of EVM rigging in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, the EC said, "There was issue regarding 'Having watch on polled EVM strong room by the candidates' which was resolved by conveying the EC instructions (sic)."

In Domariyaganj too, some candidates had alleged that EVMs were not kept safely in strongrooms. The EC, however, rejected these claims too and said, "EVMs were in proper security and protocol. Agitation was unnecessary. They were convinced by DM and SP. The matter is resolved."

The poll panel said that in Jhansi too there is no issue with the storage and handling of EVMs as all machines are stored in proper security and protocol in the presence of political parties' candidates.

EC rejects by 2-1 vote Lavasa's plea to record dissent note in its orders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday rejected with a majority 2:1 vote election commissioner Ashok Lavasa's demand that dissent notes should be recorded in its orders on model code violations. The EC said the dissent notes and minority views would remain part of records as it is the case now.

Lavasa has recused himself from MCC violation cases, saying his dissent was not being made part of the orders. He had dissented in at least six of the 11 decisions that the EC took on complaints against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah for alleged poll code violations. The two were given a clean chit in all the decisions.

The 'full commission' of the panel, comprising Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and two other members -Lavasa and Sushil Chandra-deliberated on the contentious issue, after which the Commission said that dissent notes and minority views would remain part of records but would not be part of its order.

"In the meeting of the Election Commission held today regarding the issue of MCC (Model Code of Conduct), it was interalia



decided that proceedings of the commission's meetings would be drawn, including the views of all the commission members. "Thereafter, formal instructions to this effect would be issued in consonance with extant laws/rules, etc," the EC said in a statement.

The EC had maintained that since the poll code violation cases are not quasi-judicial in nature, they are not signed by the chief election commissioner (CEC) and fellow commissioners, and thus, the dissent cannot be made part of the order.

"Status quo will be maintained. Dissent will not be made public but would form part of EC records," explained an official.

In a strongly-worded letter to Arora on May 4, Lavasa is learnt to have said that he is being forced to stay away from the meetings of the full commission since minority decisions are not being recorded. In Tuesday's meeting, Lavasa is

said to have stuck to his ground, pressing for his demand to include dissenting views in the orders.

Earlier, in a press statement issued on May 18, CEC Arora said, "The three members of the EC are not expected to be template or clones of each other. There have been so many times in the past when there has been a vast diversion of views as it can and should be."

Earlier, in a letter on May 4, Lavasa wrote: "The main objective of the MCC is to ensure free and fair elections by providing a level playing field to all political parties and candidates and also to maintain a certain degree of decorum in the political discourse during electioneering."

Lavasa did not attend any MCC meeting after May 4. In the letter, he enforced the importance of the MCC, saying it "draws its strength and sanctity from the strict, prompt and non-discriminatory enforcement therein."

As per the law governing the functioning of the EC, efforts should have an unanimity, but in the case of a dissent, a majority (2:1) view prevails. The poll panel's rules express preference for a unanimous view, but also allow a majority decision.

At 67.11%, it's highest ever LS poll turnout

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The voter turnout for the just-concluded Lok Sabha poll was the highest ever, ever since the first elections in 1951, at a tentative 67.11 per cent, a jump of 1.16 per cent across 542 constituencies, barring Vellore where polls were rescheduled.

But, the Election Commission (EC) figures are still provisional and are subject to change depending on the turnout in Vellore. The poll panel is yet to announce a fresh date for elections in Vellore. The EC had cancelled the polls there on the grounds of excessive use of money power.

The overall turnout in 2014 was 65.95 per cent. Lakshadweep recorded the highest turnout at 84.96 per

cent in 2019 LS poll, north-eastern states of Tripura (83.20 per cent), Nagaland (83.09 per cent) and Manipur (82.69 per cent) were not too far behind. The overall high turnout in West Bengal at 81.91 per cent was still short of the 2014 figure of 82.22 per cent.

The highest increase in the turnout between 2014 and 2019 was in Madhya Pradesh (71.2 per cent from 61.61 per cent, a jump of 9.59 per cent), followed by Himachal Pradesh (71.52 per cent from 64.45 per cent). The biggest dip in terms of turnout was in Jammu and Kashmir, with 29.39 per cent polling which is 20.33 per cent lower than 49.72 per cent recorded in 2014.

Two Hindi heartland recorded Bihar and UP recorded less than 60 per cent turnouts - 58.08 per cent and 59.6 per

cent respectively. Goa recorded 74.94 per cent, Gujarat 64.11 per cent, Haryana 70.30 per cent, Jharkhand 66.83 per cent, Karnataka 68.63 per cent and Delhi 60.63 per cent.

In 2019, the voter turnout saw a decreasing trend from the first to the seventh phase, which took place on Sunday. According to data provided by the EC, in phase one, the turnout was 69.61 per cent. It went down marginally to 69.44 per cent in phase two and further down to 68.40 per cent in the third phase. In the fourth phase, the turnout saw a dip of nearly three per cent and stood at 65.50 per cent. In the fifth phase, the turnout was 64.16 per cent, but went up marginally to 64.40 per cent in the sixth and penultimate phase. In the seventh and the last phase, it was 65.16 per

cent, according to the EC's Voter Turnout app.

The cumulative turnout figure of the first six phases stood at 67.34 per cent, which is 1.21 per cent more than the corresponding constituencies in 2014.

The lowest being in first election held in 1951 with 45.67 per cent voter participation. Thereafter turnouts were 47.74 per cent in 1957, 55.42 per cent in 1962, 61.33 per cent in 1967, 55.29 per cent in 1971, 60.49 per cent in 1977, 56.92 per cent in 1980, 64.01 per cent in 1984-85, 61.95 per cent in 1989 (when National Front won under V P Singh), 55.88 per cent in 1991-92 (during which Congress president Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated), 57.94 per cent in 1996, 61.97 per cent in 1998, 59.99 per cent in 1999, 57.98 per cent in 2004, 58.19 per cent in 2009 and 66.44 per cent in 2014.



(L-R) Senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Manmohan Singh, former president Pranab Mukherjee, former vice-president Hamid Ansari, party's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party president Rahul Gandhi after paying tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 28th death anniversary, at his memorial 'Veer Bhumi' in New Delhi on Tuesday

CPM demands repolling in Bengal's Diamond Harbour

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI (M) has written to the Election Commission (EC) alleging "large-scale irregularities" in the May 19 polling held in the Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha constituency of West Bengal, where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee is contesting.

In his letter, CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury alleged that the scale of irregularities were such that the EC should invoke Article 324 of the Constitution. Article 324 deals with vesting of superintendence, direction and control of elections in an Election Commission.

"The EC must ensure 'free-and-fair' elections by ordering re-polling in the entire constituency," Yechury said, while listing out the alleged irregularities underlined by

the CPI(M) candidate from Diamond Harbour in the just-concluded Lok Sabha polls, Fuad Halim. BJP has also petitioned the poll panel demanding re-polling in the entire Diamond Harbour parliamentary constituency.

"It is clear that the state unit of the BJP has entered into an understanding with the TMC for the latter's support for its candidates in certain other constituencies like Mathurapur, Jadavpur etc., in return for the BJP's support to the TMC candidate for Diamond Harbour PC, who happens to be the nephew of the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

"I am besieging you to look into the large-scale, brazen irregularities which are clearly detailed in Dr Fuad Halim's letter, cancel the poll of May 19 and order a re-polling in the constituency," Yechury wrote in his letter to the EC.

SC rejects PIL for 100% matching of VVPAT slips with EVMs on May 23

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed a PIL seeking 100 per cent matching of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the counting of votes on May 23 for Lok Sabha polls.

A larger bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi has already dealt with the matter and passed an order, said a vacation bench comprising justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah and refused to entertain the plea filed by a Chennai-based organisation 'Tech 4 All'.

"The CJ has dealt with this matter. Why are you taking chance before a two-judge vacation bench. We will not list any such case for urgent hearing," it said.

"We cannot override the CJ's order... This is nonsense,"



the bench said. The apex court not only denied urgent hearing of the matter but took the PIL on "board" and dismissed it. A three-judge bench head-

ed by the CJ on May 7 had dismissed a review plea filed by 21 opposition leaders, led by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, seeking that random matching of VVPAT slips with EVMs be increased to 50 per cent.

The opposition leaders had said that the present system of 2 per cent of random matching of VVPAT slips with EVMs was inadequate and did not inspire confidence among the electorates.

Prior to this, the top court had on April 8 directed the Election Commission to increase random matching of VVPAT slips with EVMs from one to five polling booths per assembly segment in Lok Sabha polls, saying it would provide greater satisfaction not just to political parties but also to the entire electorate. PTI

ED gags media talk

Probe agency Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra issues a memorandum

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday issued an order to gag its officials from interacting with journalists and said non-adherence to the new directive would invite "punitive action".

ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra issued a one-page memorandum asking all its officers to keep away from "unwarranted interaction with the media".

"It has been observed that certain information relating to

ongoing investigations have been published in the media. These information relating to impending action may jeopardise the interests of ongoing investigations," the latest order said.

Henceforth, it said, "any officer other than the authorised officer if found interacting with the media, the same should be brought to the knowledge of the principal special director or undersigned (Director) immediately." The order stated "any deviation will amount to dereliction of duty and liable for punitive action."

It added that an earlier circular issued in this regard in November, 2018 "has not been followed in right spirit".

The headquarters of the agency handles some of the most high-profile cases of money laundering and hawala

transactions apart from supervising investigation of all its zonal offices in the country. Cases relating to fugitive liquor baron Vijay Malviya, Diamantaires Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi and those involved in the IPL scam.

The fresh order has been issued after it was found that the line of investigation to be taken by the agency was "leaked" to the press by certain officials and hence, it was required to check such instances, sources claimed.

The ED is a central probe agency that probes offences -- Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)-- to check high-value economic crimes and black money involving money laundering and forex violations.

Centre, Rajasthan spat stalls recovery of 10th century antiquity from Switzerland

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Caught in the procedural wrangling between the Centre and the Rajasthan Government, a precious antiquity- a 10th-century-old stone sculpture, Varah, which was stolen from an Indian temple two decades ago, is still stuck in Switzerland which had agreed to return it last year itself.

The treasured stone sculpture-- depicting Varah as a theriomorphic boar was stolen from the ruins of the Gargach temple in Atru town, a little-known site in Baran district, close to the Rajasthan-Madhya Pradesh border way back in 1987. Atru site alone has nine temples, including Gargach, Ganesh, Shitalamata and Nagdev Jain temple, all under the Archeological Survey of India (ASI).

An official from the Union Culture Ministry said that last

year the Swiss officials had contacted the Indian Embassy there regarding its possession with a private person who offered to donate after it became known that it was stolen and clandestinely smuggled out of the country.

"They (the Swiss Government officials) asked us to produce the documents so that procedure for formal retrieval of the antiquity can be initiated," said the official.

He explained that since the sculpture was stolen from the temple in Rajasthan, the ASI on behalf of the Ministry has been asking the State (Rajasthan) police to furnish the documents such as FIR and relevant papers to expedite its retrieval. An FIR with the district police was registered on July 31, 1987 regarding the theft of the heritage item.

"But despite several reminders to the Rajasthan

police, there has been no movement in the case. Sometimes they say that concerned officials have been transferred sometimes they make excuses that papers were being collected," rued the official.

The Gargach temple from where the idol which has images of lord Vishnu engraved all over is an ASI protected monument. In Rajasthan, 162 monuments are centrally protected under the ASI.

However, Varah is not the only antiquity that has been stolen from the country.

As per the ASI, at least 31 ancient items have been brought back from countries like America, Australia, Canada, Germany and Singapore among others between 2014 and 2017. India is a signatory to the 1970 UN Convention on Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Trafficking in cultural property.

Home Secy directs States to gear up ahead of monsoon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Tuesday directed States to step up their preparedness by advance planning and deployment of human, physical and financial resources ahead of the monsoon season.

Addressing the annual conference of Relief Commissioners and Secretaries here, the Home Secretary also reviewed the preparedness for the South-West Monsoon expected to arrive by June 6 and disbursement of central assistance.

The Centre released over Rs 17,000 crore as assistance to states affected by natural calamities like floods, cyclone and drought last year. Gauba said adding the central government has sanctioned additional battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which are being raised in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh,

Uttarakhand and Delhi-NCR.

The Home Secretary said the Centre would provide all possible assistance under the NDRF and the SDRF besides mobilisation of central forces to the states and the UTs in connection with preparedness during the South-West Monsoon. Gauba said during the recent cyclone 'Fani', loss of human lives was minimal due to accurate and early weather forecasting by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and timely mobilisation of resources besides better coordination between the Centre, state governments and other relevant agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General, IMD, K J Ramesh said India has set a new benchmark in disaster risk reduction as demonstrated during cyclone Fani. The IMD is in the process of building the most advanced early warning weather system in coordination with various stakeholders, he said.

Apex court rejects plea challenging appointment of observers in Bengal

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday refused to entertain a plea challenging the appointment of two retired bureaucrats as observers in West Bengal for the Lok Sabha polls, saying the voting is already over.

While Vivek Dubey was appointed as a central police observer for West Bengal and Jharkhand, Ajay Nayak was appointed a special observer for West Bengal. The petition had alleged that they had been appointed in contravention of the law so as to ensure "certain favours" are granted at the time of election.

A vacation bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah said: "Since the election is over, we are not inclined to entertain this petition under Article 32," the bench said.

The bench however granted liberty to petitioner Ramu Mandi, who contested the polls as an independent candidate from Barrackpore constituency of West

Bengal, to approach the Calcutta High Court.

Barrackpore was one of the seven constituencies in West Bengal where polling was held in the fifth phase of the general elections.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the counsel appearing for the Election Commission (EC) said that polling for the Lok Sabha elections was already over.

The counsel for Mandi said that although the polling was over, results of the general elections have not been declared yet.

"The election process is still going on. Results are yet to come," the lawyer said. To this, the bench said, "You go to the high court. We are permitting you to go to the high court."

The petitioner's counsel then said that judicial work in the high court there was affected due to the lawyers' strike in Kolkata. PTI

Dual hearings on Capitol Hill focus on Trump's Iran policy

AP ■ WASHINGTON

As questions mount over President Donald Trump's tough talk on Iran, top national security officials are heading to Capitol Hill to brief Congress. But skeptical Democrats have asked for a second opinion.

The competing closed-door sessions Tuesday, unusual and potentially polarising, come after weeks of escalating tensions in the Persian Gulf that have raised alarms over a possible military confrontation with Iran. Lawmakers are warning the Trump administration it cannot take the country into war without approval from Congress, and the back-to-back briefings show the wariness among Democrats, and some Republicans, over the

Pompeo says 'quite possible' Iran behind Gulf incidents

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday it was "quite possible" Iran was responsible for sabotage of Gulf oil interests as he prepared to brief lawmakers on rising tensions. Pompeo cautioned that the United States has not made "a definitive conclusion" that can be presented publicly over mysterious sabotage incidents of oil tankers off the United Arab Emirates or drone strikes on a crude pipeline in Saudi Arabia.

White House's sudden policy shifts in the Middle East.

Trump, veering between bombast and conciliation in his quest to contain Iran, threatened Monday to meet provocations by Iran with "great

force," but also said he's willing to negotiate. "We'll see what happens," Trump told reporters as he left the White House for a campaign rally. He said Iran has been "very hostile."

White House's sudden policy shifts in the Middle East.

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Indonesia's Joko Widodo wins second term as Prez

AFP ■ JAKARTA

Indonesia's Joko Widodo has been re-elected as president of the world's third-biggest democracy, the elections commission said early on Tuesday, beating rival Prabowo Subianto, a retired general who has vowed to challenge any victory for the incumbent leader.

The commission was expected to announce the official results of the April 17 poll on Wednesday in the Southeast Asian nation of 260 million.

But amid fears about unrest and street demonstrations in response to the final count, the final tally was released early with little advance notice.

Widodo and his vice-presidential running mate Ma'ruf Amin won the election by a 55.5 per cent to 44.5 per cent margin over Subianto and Sandiaga Uno, the elections commission said.



"This ruling was announced on May 21... and will be effectively immediately," the commission's chair Arief Budiman said in a live streamed announcement that was broadcast on major media. Widodo, 57, had been widely predicted to win according to unofficial results. His challenger Subianto, 67, has vowed to challenge any victory for Widodo, alleging widespread voter fraud, and warned that it could spark street protests across the world's biggest Muslim majority nation.

May tweaks Brexit deal in last-ditch bid to win support

London: The British Government on Tuesday debated tweaking its proposed European Union divorce terms in a last-ditch attempt to get Parliament's backing for Prime Minister Theresa May's deal with the bloc.

The Cabinet met to work out details of what May has called a "bold offer" to win support for her Brexit agreement. But divided Ministers looked unlikely to support the kind of sweeping alterations that could change lawmakers' minds on a divorce deal that has been rejected three times by Parliament.

Britain was due to leave the EU on March 29, but the bloc extended the deadline until October 31 amid the political impasse. Talks on securing a compromise between May's Conservatives and the opposition Labour Party broke down last week. May says she will try again in early June by asking lawmakers to vote on a withdrawal agreement bill implementing the departure terms.

The bill is likely to include promises on issues such as workers' rights and environmental protections that are priorities for the left-of-center Labour Party. AP

GLOBE TROTTER

UN WARNS OF 'LONG, BLOODY WAR' IN LIBYA
United Nations: The UN envoy for Libya warned on Tuesday the battle for Tripoli was "just the start of a long and bloody war" and called for immediate steps to cut off arms flows fuelling the fighting.

OZ GOVT: WON'T BREAK ELECTION TAX PLEDGE
Canberra: Australia's newly re-elected administration says its promise to slash income taxes might be delivered late but won't be broken as the Government hopes to stimulate consumer spending and revive a flagging economy.

NARELA BRANCH
Delhi 2114, Bawana Road, Narela, New Delhi-110040
E-mail: br9025@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
(APPENDIX-IV under the Act - Rule 9 (1))

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Syndicate Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 28.11.2017 calling upon the Borrower/owner of the property Sri. Sant. AMBA TRADERS, Prop. Vishal Katoch, Guarantor Anil Kumar & Durga Chand Katoch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 49,90,567.00 (in words Rs. Forty Nine Lakh Ninety Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Seven Only) within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrower/owner of property having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/owner of property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 16th Day of May 2019.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrower/owner of property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Syndicate Bank, NARELA, DELHI Branch for an amount of Rs. 49,90,567.00 and interest thereon, costs etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of BUILD UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 23 PURJABI COLONY, NARELA 110040 owned by DURGA CHAND KATOCH bounded
On the North by Plot No. 22
On the South by Plot No. 24
On the East by Gali
On the West by Gali and Park
Date: 16.05.2019
Place: New Delhi

Authorised Officer
Syndicate Bank

N K Textile Industries Limited
Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025
CIN: L17299DL1983PLC16320, Tel: +91 11 61119313
Email Id: n.ktextiles123@gmail.com, website: www.nktill.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the meeting on 02/20/2019 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 29th May, 2019 (Wednesday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 4.30 P.M. to discuss the following agenda items:

- To take on record the Audited Financial Results (Standalone and Consolidated) of the Company for the Financial Year ended on 31st March, 2019 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.
- To discuss and approve the Director's Report for the Financial Year ended on 31.03.2019.
- To discuss any other business with the permission of chair.

By Order of the Board,
For N K Textile Industries Limited
Sd/-
(Balbir Singh)
Director
Date: 21.05.2019
Place: New Delhi

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street New Delhi-110001
OA No. 1328/18 Date: 18.04.2019

Axis Bank Ltd. Applicant
Hyderabad Ring Road Project Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. Respondent

3. Jamvant Estates Pvt. Ltd., B-292, Chandra Kanta Complex Shop No. 2 & 3, Near Metro Pillar No. 161, New Ashok Nagar New Delhi-96.
4. Also at- B-39, Ground Floor Friends Colony New Delhi-65.
5. Sachet Traders Pvt. Ltd., B-292, Chandra Kanta Complex Shop No. 2 & 3, Near Metro Pillar No. 161, New Ashok Nagar New Delhi-96.
6. Also at- B-39, Ground Floor Friends Colony New Delhi-65.
7. Magad Mercantile Pvt. Ltd., B-292, Chandra Kanta Complex Shop No. 2 & 3, Near Metro Pillar No. 161, New Ashok Nagar New Delhi-96.
8. Also at- B-39, Ground Floor Friends Colony New Delhi-65.
9. Influx Realtors Pvt. Ltd., B-292, Chandra Kanta Complex Shop No. 2 & 3, Near Metro Pillar No. 161, New Ashok Nagar New Delhi-96.
10. Also at- B-39, Ground Floor Friends Colony New Delhi-65.
11. Chandra Kanta Complex Shop No. 2 & 3, Near Metro Pillar No. 161, New Ashok Nagar New Delhi-96.
12. Arizona Developers Pvt. Ltd., B-292, Chandra Kanta Complex Shop No. 2 & 3, Near Metro Pillar No. 161, New Ashok Nagar New Delhi-96.
13. Also at- B-39, Ground Floor Friends Colony New Delhi-65.
14. Big Ben Developers Pvt. Ltd., H. No. 684, A Sect-3F, Vaishali Ghaziabad UP-201010.
15. Adel Landmarks Ltd., B-39, Ground Floor Friends Colony New Delhi-65.

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 32,25,99,801/- (Rupees Thirty Two Crore Twenty Five Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred One Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 04.07.2019 at 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

BY Order of the Tribunal
Section Officer DRT-II, Delhi

ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1976PLC008036
Regd. Office: 93, Pocket 2 Jasola New Delhi 110025
Website: www.rotogindia.co.in
Email: info@rotogindia.co.in, Phone: 011-47366600

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, 28th May, 2019 at 03:00 P.M. at the Registered office of the company, inter-alia to consider, approve and take on record the Standalone Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Fourth Quarter and year ended 31st March, 2019.

In this Connection, kindly note that Pursuant to the Code of Internal Procedures and Conduct for Prohibition of insider trading in dealing with the Securities of the Company and applicable SEBI Regulations, the Company has informed all the designated employees and Directors that window for dealing in securities of the company will be closed from 21st May, 2019 till 48 hours after the said results is made public.

The information is also available on website of the BSE Limited www.bseindia.com where the shares of the company are listed and is also available on the website of the company viz, www.rotogindia.co.in

By Order of the Board
For Rotographics (India) Limited
Date: 21.05.2019 Naresh Kumar Bansal
Place: New Delhi (Director)

Saudi media accuses Yemen rebels of missile fire at Mecca

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Riyadh: Saudi-owned media accused Yemeni rebels Tuesday of targeting Islam's holiest city Mecca after Riyadh and its allies said they had intercepted two missiles over the kingdom.

The exiled Yemeni government, which is based in Saudi Arabia, echoed the claim but the Houthi rebels denied any such attack.

Coalition spokesman Colonel Turki al-Maliki said two missiles were shot down between Jeddah and Taiz districts of Mecca province on Monday but did not elaborate on the suspected target or who fired them.

McGahn to defy subpoena for testimony, face contempt vote

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

House Democrats are facing H yet another attempt by President Donald Trump to stonewall their investigations, this time with former White House counsel Donald McGahn defying a subpoena for his testimony on orders from the White House.

A lawyer for McGahn said he would follow the president's directive and skip Tuesday's House Judiciary hearing, leaving the Democrats without yet another witness — and a growing debate within the party about how to respond.

Serbian lawmakers OK's unconditional life sentences

AFP ■ BELGRADE (SERBIA)

Serbian lawmakers amended Tuesday the penal code to introduce a life sentence without parole, despite concerns voiced by the Council of Europe. Until now, the maximum sentence in Serbia, which seeks to join the European Union, was 40 years in prison.

According to the new law, those sentenced to life imprisonment will be able to ask a tribunal to review their sentence once they have spent 27 years behind bars. But those convicted of rape followed by murder, or serious crimes against children or pregnant women, will not have that option.

Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited
(Procurement Cell)
Tel No. 022-24100478
E-mail: procurementcell@vaccinehaffkine.com
Acharya Donde Marg, Parel, Mumbai 400 012 (INDIA)

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 20/05/2019.

Managing Director, (Procurement Cell), Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Mumbai invites tenders in two envelope systems from eligible bidders for following items for various Health Institutions in Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Description	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	Period of Sale and Preparation of bid & bid submission	Bid Opening
1	E-1463	Surgical Drug (Miscellaneous)	Pre Bid Minutes Uploaded	From 23.05.2019 10.00 am to 13.06.2019 up to 14:00 hrs.	15.06.2019 at 14:01 hrs.

For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.
Website: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Contact No. 1800-233-7315, 91-7878107985, +91-7878107986, +91-7878007972 and +91-7878007973
Email - eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in

Sd/-
(Dr. R.M. Kumbhar)
General Manager-1,
Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd.,
(Procurement Cell), Mumbai,

DGIPR/2019-2020/196

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Diksha Sharma D/o Tarkeshwar Sharma R/o H.No. R-129, Top Floor, Chankya Place, Phase-II, Binda Pur, Delhi Age: 15 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 4'8", Face: Round, wearing checkdar shirt, grey colour skirt and black colour shoes in feet (School Uniform), has been missing/kidnaped since 02.05.2019 from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 206/19 dated 02.05.2019 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO: P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi, Ph.: 011-25268394, 25280980
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> DP/2243/OD/19
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Roshni D/o Shankar Parshad R/o H. No. 3/7 A, Veena Enclave Nangloi, Delhi Aged - 12 Years has been reported missing/kidnaped since 03.05.2019 vide FIR No. 220/19 u/s 363 IPC Dated 04.05.2019 registered at Police Station Nangloi, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5', Face: Round, Clothing: White coloured suit salwar and black coloured cloth shoes in feet (School Dress).
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnaped girl, may inform SHO, Nangloi, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
SHO, Nangloi, Delhi.
Tel. No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Nangloi, Delhi.
FAX No.: 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-25949470, 25947225
DP/2240/OD/19 Mob.: 7065036127

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Manoj Bhardwaj S/o Unknown R/o WZ-1573, 2nd Floor, Main Market, Near Punjabi Dhaba, Rani Bagh, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CR. No. 15885/16 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Manoj Bhardwaj can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Manoj Bhardwaj has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Manoj Bhardwaj of CR. No. 15885/16 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 30.05.2019.

By Order
Ms. Pooja Aggarwal
Metropolitan Magistrate (Rohini Court)
Room No. 112, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/8938/NW/19
(-Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Jainab @ Meenu, D/o: Manjoo Ahmad, R/o H. No. B-52/65, Gali No. 9, Old Mustafabad, Delhi has been missing from her house since 14.04.2019 from the area of PS Dayal Pur, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 19-A, dated 20.04.2019 has been registered at P.S. Dayal Pur. The description of the missing girl is as under:

Name: Jainab @ Meenu, Age: , Height: 5'3", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Cream color Suit, Navy-Blue Salwar, Black Burkha and Black Jutti in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Dayal Pur, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Dayal Pur, Delhi
Ph: 011-22800215, 8750870735
DP/7074/NE/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Manisha D/o Sher Singh, R/o H.No. 13, Gali No. 5, Swaran Park, Nangloi, Delhi, Age: 19 yrs., Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Wearing: Blue Colour Suit-Salwar and Red Colour Jutti in Feet, has been missing / kidnaped since 01.05.2019 from the area of PS. Nangloi. In this regard a case DD No. 43-A dated 02.05.2019 has been lodged at PS. Nangloi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnaped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

if anyone have any information about this missing / kidnaped girl please inform undersigned
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
DP/2250/OD/19 SHO
PS. Nangloi, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470

MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy, Namely: Dewakar, S/o: Raj Kumar, R/o: D-12/32, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi, has been missing/kidnaped since 24.12.2018 from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. In this regard, a report Vides DD No. 36-A, Dated 26.12.2018, has been lodged at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the boy could not be traced. The description of the missing/kidnaped boy is as under:

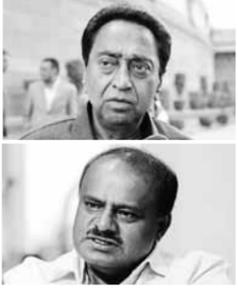
Namely: Dewakar, S/o: Raj Kumar, R/o: D-12/32, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5'2" Feet, Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue Jeans and Check Colour Shirt and White Colour Sport Shoes in feet. If anyone has any information about the missing/ kidnaped boy, then please inform P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.

email: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O
Fax: No.011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/2686/RD/19. Ph.: 011-27821047, 27822207

PAPER WITH PASSION

Choking the Opposition

Emboldened by the euphoria over exit polls, the BJP is trying to destabilise MP, Karnataka Governments



ASHOK K MEHTA

Certain things just don't change in Indian politics no matter how historic a verdict is or how tectonically an election shifts. And that is the transactional nature of power players, the smaller ones trading their stock with the big brother and getting happy returns on investment. And the more we pontificate on ideology and extol the power of the ballot, the hollow they ring as the recipient of the people's trust, in the end, will always go to the highest bidder, the voters' fate be damned. And as is tradition, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which exit

polls have shown as comfortably cruising into its second term, is engaging in horse-trading to extend its territorial expanse in Opposition States where it is expected to wrest a healthy pick of Lok Sabha seats. And even though the voter may choose different parties for his local and national needs, fact is, despite a possible victory, the BJP is keen to push its unitary zeal in contravention of the federal spirit. So it is keen on using the Lok Sabha surge to make desperate State-level inroads lest it doesn't find a favourable circumstance later. In short, strike the iron while it is still hot to simplify a national narrative across the dizzyingly complex layers of our polity. For a "party with a difference," it is hell-bent on reinforcing the coercive politics of the past and falling back on comparative referencing to justify its acts — if they did it, why can't we? So the BJP leadership is looking to topple Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh governments first where the Congress is hanging by a thread. Expectedly, resort politics and cash doles are expected to dominate post-poll talks.

Ever since the Congress and Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) alliance assumed power in Karnataka despite inherent contradictions, the BJP has been relentlessly trying to destabilise it. Though the two allies jointly fought the Lok Sabha together, the Congress in 21 and the JD-S in seven, an adverse verdict may lead to an organic collapse. In the 225-member Assembly, the BJP has 104 seats, Congress 77, JD-S 37, others two. With a halfway mark at 113, an ambitious BJP can have a happy hunting ground among players who want to be relevant to a national party that has won convincingly. If the Congress loses two bypolls being held simultaneously, then the JD-S might get antsy and even look to the BJP for a lifeboat.

In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP has already moved ahead with its state unit asking Governor Anandiben Patel to convene a special House session to discuss key issues and test the Congress majority, which it feels has dipped since last December. Of course, the Congress is precariously perched here, with 114 out of 230 seats, two short of the majority mark of 116. The wafer-thin anxiety was the reason that the Congress went on the backfoot in effecting a generational change in State-level leadership. It brought in old warhorse Kamal Nath as the Chief Minister, who quickly got on board two MLAs of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and one of the Samajwadi Party (SP). The BJP is just a breath away at 109 seats. Though BSP chief Mayawati has been quiet to maintain some semblance of integrity, the fact is she is upset. First, the Congress poached on her Guna candidate. Second, her MLAs are yet to get berths. Third, while she had already threatened to pull out of the MP government over arrests of her supporters during Bharat Bandh, she has criticised the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan recently over the gang-rape of a Dalit woman. While both Gehlot and Kamal Nath have resorted to old manipulations to keep her in abeyance, that agreement might not hold if the Congress' tally fares badly in these two States. And though nobody might state it explicitly, observers are wondering whether the CBI's clean chit to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and father Mulayam is linked to withdrawing support to the Congress in Madhya Pradesh. It is a sad comment on our democracy that this wheeling-dealing is taking place despite a presumed single-party dominance and a decisive verdict. But with Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself declaring that some MLAs of Bengal Trinamool Congress would migrate to his side post-elections, everything seems justifiable. It seems the BJP doesn't believe such efforts are unethical in its larger pursuit. Elections, then, will soon become a tokenism.

Love has no boundaries

Dutee Chand has declared that she is in a same-sex relationship; she should be applauded for her bravery



Same-sex relationships in India have only recently become legal after the Supreme Court read down the infamous Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code last year. That was a long time coming and it finally allowed those with alternative sexual choices, rather non-heterosexual ones, to come out in the open without fear of harassment by the authorities. However, many people who have such sexual orientation still do not step out of the closet because of fear of ridicule, a loss of prestige and in many cases a genuine fear for their physical safety. For public personalities it is even tougher; coming out might mean abuse from co-workers (teammates in the case of athletes), fans, sponsors and being boxed in an image trap. And while we would like to believe that attitudes have moved on, the fact is that they have not. Not even in the developed world where same-sex marriage is a right enshrined by law. Therefore, ace sprinter Dutee Chand's decision to declare her sexuality and say that she has been in a long-term gay relationship should be welcomed. This will give hope and courage to others who are scared and not as privileged. Dutee herself risked ostracisation, coming as she does from the conservative interiors. While her family has threatened to disown her, fans and sponsors must stand by her and become her new family. That she chose to make the revelation during training for the World Athletics championship proves that sexuality is her private right and freedom and has nothing to do with her unwavering focus on sports. She was as committed to chasing excellence in a discipline that shaped her identity.

We have always believed what consenting adults do is their business and old social mores have to change in the modern world. India always seems like a country which has one foot stuck in the past and one in the future, but we cannot let our social values continue to be determined by laws from Victorian times. Therefore, not only should people like Dutee be allowed to love anyone they want to, going forward, India should look at modifying its marriage laws to allow for gay unions as well, just like Taiwan did recently. India can surprise people at times. It has, for example, accepted a one-time adult pornstar as a genuine Bollywood star today. So why can't we now move forward on this front as well? Sexuality has to be normalised in discourse. Social progress cannot be determined by those who claim to stick to "Indian cultural values" because these have mutated and Dutee is a shining example.

Engage with Taliban

While the US has made several U-turns in brokering peace in Afghanistan, India's biggest policy failure has been the inability to make its only military base in Tajikistan operational



The Afghanistan peace process has undergone nuanced changes and several U-turns under the Trump dispensation. These are worth reflecting upon.

It is no longer Afghan-owned, led and driven, but steered by an American Afghan Pashtun, Zalmay Khalilzad, who was appointed as Special Envoy in September 2018. Before that, it was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Alice Wells, who ran the show and held at least three structured meetings with the Taliban at Doha and Islamabad, starting February 2018. She had ruled that the US could hold direct talks with the Taliban only after it had first engaged with the Kabul Government. That priority was overturned by the Khalilzad-led peace process, which has completed six rounds, the fifth being the longest, lasting for all of 15 days. The central issues of the framework accord: a) time-frame for withdrawal of US forces; b) no use of Afghan soil for terrorist attacks on the US and its allies; c) dialogue with elected Government in Kabul; and d) ceasefire. The Taliban wants foreign forces to withdraw in six months and not in one-and-a-half years as the US wants; dialogue with the Kabul Government; and ceasefire only after the withdrawal of foreign forces. According to the Taliban, only two issues — the first two — constitute the framework accord.

In his latest State of the Union Address, US President Donald Trump said, "great nations do not fight endless wars." Last December, he did a U-turn on Afghanistan. Having been reluctantly persuaded by his Generals to stay the course, in a policy speech in August 2017, he lashed out at Pakistan, saying all it has given the US are lies and deceit after receiving \$31 billion and praised India for its constructive role in Afghanistan. The then Defence Secretary, James Mattis, issued a "last chance" ultimatum to Pakistan to act against the Taliban sanctuaries which did not work despite intensified drone strikes in Pakistan. Soon, Trump did multiple U-turns: Embraced Pakistan, criticised India for doing five minutes of work like building libraries in Afghanistan and replacing Wells with Khalilzad as an interlocutor to work out an exit deal with the Taliban.

Pakistan is now a key facilitator and de facto guarantor for the Taliban's attendance at the peace talks. In 2016, former US President Barack Obama ordered a drone strike against Taliban leader Emir Mullah Akhtar Mansour for playing truant on peace talks. Till 18 months ago, Islamabad used to say it has no control, only some influence on the Taliban, despite all its leaders residing in Karachi and Quetta. It says it has applied unprecedented pressure on the Taliban to open talks with Kabul. Now, Kabul has asked Washington to reveal the nature of the relationship between Pakistan and the Taliban. Mohammad Umer Daudzai, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani's special envoy and head of the High Peace Council, was in New Delhi last week for consultations. He said: "The Taliban team, which is led by Mullah Baradar, is facilitated by Pakistan." Rawalpindi will be the main benefactor from any peace deal and after the US' withdrawal, the vacuum will be filled up by "Iron Brothers" China and Pakistan. The absence of threat from Afghanistan would secure the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), currently under terrorist attacks from the Pakistani Taliban in Afghanistan and the Balochistan Liberation Army. Daudzai told his Indian interlocutors that he did not think the Khalilzad peace process could be completed before the presidential elections in September 2019. He should not be surprised if the US postpones elections a third time and appoints an interim Government as suggested by Pakistan with the Taliban on board.

Surprisingly, nowhere in the discourse is there any mention of US retention of its

strategic assets in Afghanistan for which President Obama and former President Karzai signed the bilateral security agreement (BSA) in 2014, which provides US troops access to military bases like Bagram and Kandahar until 2024 and beyond. The agreement also states that the key American ally will not abandon Afghanistan militarily and financially for years after 2014, the then deadline for most foreign forces to withdraw. The treaty agreement was initiated by NSA Rangan Dadafar Spanta and US Ambassador Ryan Crocker. Why is the BSA under wraps? And why has the Taliban not raised the issue of foreign bases unless that is part of an unlikely secret agreement between the two?

If the mercurial Trump were to suddenly order troops' pullout, it could prove catastrophic. James Dobbins, a former US Envoy to Afghanistan, fears it could lead to a civil war — back to 1996. Gen Kenneth McKenzie of CentCom has said Afghan national security forces will dissolve without US support. In 2014, a report published by Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) had made the assessment that

ANSF would be capable of resisting the Taliban independently after December 2014 when International Security Assistance Force combat role ended but would require US air support and assistance in casualty evacuation. When Konduz became the first provincial capital to fall to the Taliban in 2014, all hell broke loose in Pentagon, sparking fear of a strategic collapse.

China, Russia and the US this month issued a joint statement saying that "an inclusive Afghan-led peace process will ensure an orderly and responsible withdrawal." That is not the direction the Khalilzad peace process is headed towards.

India has refused to engage with the Taliban because it will not negotiate with Kabul. New Delhi may be a key strategic US partner but in Afghanistan, Pakistan holds the cards. India's hesitation to start a back channel with the Taliban is unwise at a time when the organisation is known to be praising its development works and economic assistance in Afghanistan. Gen Bipin Rawat has said he favours engagement with the Taliban. India has not succeeded in creating strategic pressure points like activating

its only foreign airbase in Ayni in Tajikistan even as Chinese troops are patrolling Wakhan corridor on Tajikistan's south-east border, 30 km from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to prevent Uighurs from returning to Xinjiang.

India secured operational clearance from Russia to use Ayni in 2002. It has not deployed combat aircraft but utilises it for airlifting relief and construction material to Ayni and on to Farkhor from where it is trucked to Afghanistan. It has invested \$100 million for renovating Ayni and extending the runway to 3,200 m and built three hangars for MiG 29 bombers. Around 100 Indian Air Force personnel are deployed there for maintenance of the airfield. Still, India cannot use Ayni as an operational air base because of the Russia-China-Pakistan axis. It is one of New Delhi's foreign policy failures, which would otherwise have acted as a strategic fulcrum between Afghanistan and PoK. Modi 2.0 should work on Ayni.

(The writer is a retired Major General of the Indian Army and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the revamped Integrated Defence Staff)

SOUNDBITE

I am concerned about reports of alleged tampering of voters' verdict. Safety and security of EVMs is the responsibility of the Election Commission.

Former President
—Pranab Mukherjee



You have to be excited about your work. The day you carry the burden of 'veteran', 'legend', 'thespian' (it wouldn't work).

Actor
—Anupam Kher



Even though the boundary between the two nations (India and China) has not been demarcated, there are several border trade points between them.

Chinese Envoy
—Luo Zhaohui



Your (partymen) attention is required. Be strong and remain alert near the counting centre and the strong rooms. I am hopeful that your hard work will pay.

Congress leader
—Priyanka Gandhi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Devalued predictions

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Vote for leadership" (May 21). Whether it's about television rating points (TRP) or the love for Prime Minister Narendra Modi is another matter for debate, but it was shocking that the news channels started declaring the exit poll results within seconds of the last votes polled (6.30pm). The six main pollsters showed that for the second time, Modi's National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will rule, winning anywhere between 287 and 336 seats.

What's even funnier is that the final tally each survey predicted was varied but were uniformly well above the 272 seats needed to form a Government. As if to provide some relief to the Opposition, two surveys showed the NDA falling short — by between five and 30 seats. Surprisingly, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu mocked the predictions, saying "exit polls do not mean exact polls. We have to understand this. Since 1999, most of the exit polls have gone wrong". I agree with the Vice President and want to mention here that exit polls after the 2004 Lok Sabha

Exit poll confusion

Exit polls have accorded the Modi Government moments to rejoice at least until the electronic voting machines reveal the final count on May 23. Almost all pollsters were unanimous about a saffron surge, with some projecting 300 plus seats for the NDA. One or two among them dared to stick their neck out at the risk of being dumped in the isolation ward. Yet, the exit poll predictions present a minefield of confusion to the curious observer. Pollsters reached the magical number of more or less 300 through various combinations and permutations, where the NDA tally in Uttar Pradesh ranged between 22 and 68, West Bengal four and 22 and Maharashtra 34 and 40.

As can be seen, pollsters converged on the same target through untempered different ways. Die-hard sceptics have shown the fault-lines vividly. Exit polls have bestowed a cover of credibility to the numbers that are to emerge from the electronic voting machines. In the dawn after, the share market indices rose sharply and the



bull run is likely to continue in the intervening period, which helps the hawkish investors book profits after a bear run. And exit poll results dampened the spirit of the Opposition even to the extent of suspending planned meetings. However, May 23 can spring some pity surprises, even obstruct the anticipated upsurge of saffron.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

polls had given 68 more seats to the NDA than it got. But after the results, we had the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) ruling India for the next 10 years. It has also been observed that when forecasters made mistakes in a few States but got the bigger picture right, the error in one State was cancelled out by the error in another; if the NDA or the UPA did not rise to the expectations in

one State, it excelled in another. Hence, there is nothing wrong with Naidu devaluing exit polls.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridkot

Much-needed break

Sir — It's good that this impatient nation gets a few days to ponder over the ethos, evolution and the

economy of the period that we are passing through now. Nationalism cannot be reduced to gross majoritarianism. Likewise, politics does have its genesis in confrontation but the reverse would be the very antithesis of socio-political evolution. The "us versus them" needs to yield to the notion of "we and the problem."

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

May 23 drama

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Vote for leadership" (May 21). In a way, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah closed the lid by saying that all exit polls cannot be wrong. The 2014 exit polls were quite close to the actual result. If we go by the same analogy, Modi is back, albeit with a lesser majority, thus forcing him to change and mellow down for greater acceptance. However, if the actual result throws up a variation of 25 to 30 per cent, the whole thing will become topsy-turvy. Then, it will be like opening a Pandora's box or releasing a can of worms. Opposition parties will be quick to make their calculations and either the mahagathabandhan or the federal front will succeed. But there are many ifs and buts. Predicting an election in the world's largest democracy is really difficult as several factors like caste, religion, region, money power and voting percentage matter.

D Nagarajuna
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Excelling in stock market moves

Having a good knowledge about continuation chart patterns allows investors to speculate positively about trends



HIMA KOTA

For a novice, stock price alterations are haphazard movements up and down without any rhyme or reason. However, a trained eye can see patterns in these random moves. Chart patterns are geometric shapes found in price data that can help a trader understand price action as well as make predictions about where the price is likely to go. Patterns can show both continuation as well as reversal trends. Continuation patterns, when they occur, indicate that a price trend is likely to continue and are a pause in the price action of varying durations as they generally occur mid-trend. A pattern is considered complete when it has formed and then 'breaks out', potentially continuing with the former trend. Continuation patterns can be seen both in bullish and bearish markets.

Continuation patterns like all price patterns are made of the following four pieces: **Old trend:** The trend that the stock price is in as it starts to form the price pattern. **Consolidation zone:** A constrained area defined by set support and resistance levels. **Breakout point:** The point at which the stock price breaks out of the consolidation zone. **New trend:** A resumption of the old trend that the stock price enters as it comes out of the consolidation zone.

Continuation patterns form in a few different shapes but for most part, they look quite similar. The only real difference one will see is in the shape of the consolidation zone. The consolidation zones of some continuation patterns have support and resistance levels that converge as the pattern forms while others have support and resistance levels that remain parallel. Every other aspect of the price pattern is identical. Common continuation patterns include triangles, flags, pennants and rectangles.

Flags and pennants are formed during a small period of consolidation or pause, after a defined uptrend or downtrend. After a sharp move, market takes a breather and moves sideways. A flag looks like a parallelogram, a bullish flag normally sloping downwards and bearish flag sloping upwards. These patterns are usually accompanied with heavy volume and mark a midpoint of a trend. A pennant is also formed during the period of consolidation (sideways movement) — the support and resistance lines converge each other (like a symmetrical triangle). Break of the flag and pennant indicate the continuation of the trend. Flags and pennants are short-term patterns that can last from one to 12 weeks. Ideally, these patterns will form between one and four weeks.

Triangles are of three types: Symmetrical, ascending and descending. Ascending triangle in a bullish trend indicates further bullishness and is considered continuation pattern. In an ascending triangle, the support line is sloping upward and resistance line remains a horizontal line. Descending triangle in a bearish trend can also be considered as a continuation pattern, indicating bearish trend to continue after a small pause. In this kind of triangle resistance, the line is sloping downwards while the support line remains as a horizontal line. A rectangle is a continuation pattern that forms as a trading range during a pause in the trend. The pattern is easily identifiable by two comparable highs and two lows. The highs and lows can be connected to form two parallel lines that make up the top and bottom of a rectangle. Rectangles are sometimes referred to as trading ranges, consolidation zones or congestion areas. Rectangles can extend for a few weeks or many months. If the pattern is less than three weeks, it is usually considered a flag and also a continuation pattern. Ideally, rectangles will develop over a three-month period. Generally, longer the pattern, more significant will be the breakout. A three-month pattern may be expected to fulfill its breakout projection. However, a six-month pattern might be expected to exceed its breakout target.

After a look at the types of continuation price patterns, let us understand what causes them. In an up trend, the momentum moves down due to periodic profit booking. A good lot of traders think that it is enough or that they have reached their target. So they want to sell their position. The supply increases reducing the momentum of price rise or the price might even drop. Buy smart money finds it an opportunity to add more to their position. So the price slows to drop or it may even rise. Similarly, in a down trend, a lot of traders, who are short, want to book some profit. Those, who think that the stock is available for a bargain, start buying. But smart money finds it easy to sell when there is increased demand. When supply becomes more than the demand, the price falls further. And the trend continues. This tug of war between buyers and sellers moves the prices up and down, causing continuation chart patterns in stock charts before they continue in the direction of the original trend. Having good knowledge about continuation chart patterns allows investors to speculate positively about the further course of the trend. It allows them to add more to their existing position and helps investors to hold on for a longer period without worrying about temporary setbacks in stock prices.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

BUFFOONS LIKE VENUGOPAL AND ARROGANT ATTITUDE OF SIDDARAMAIAH...THE RESULT IS THIS (LOK SABHA EXIT POLLS FORECAST). —SENIOR KARNATAKA CONGRESS LEADER

ROSHAN BAIG



YOU CANNOT HIDE TRUTH AND TRUE INCIDENTS. PROBABLY BAIG WAS KEEPING IT TO HIMSELF. HE WAS FORCED TO SPEAK OUT LOOKING AT THE SITUATION. —UNION MINISTER

DV SADANANDA GOWDA

A revolution in rural job creation

China's 'Taobao' model is worth emulating by Indian policy-makers to revitalise the e-commerce industry and harness multiplying effects of digital technology in rural areas



BINDU DALMIA

Soon, the din of a bitterly fought, fractious election, where the discourse veered around some of the most irrelevant issues, will recede and the focus of the new Government will revert to policy interventions and formulating the forthcoming Budget. Economic policies of an elected Government have the single largest bearing upon the destiny of its polity. An increase in per-capita disposable income is one of the most vital indicators of successful governance and one that invariably favours the incumbent. Undoubtedly, the predominant electoral issue, which was relegated to the background, hinged on declining rural and urban income, decreased savings and slowing consumption. Conversely, closer to voting, poll dynamics showed that by March 2019, "net future expectations about the economy clocked a positive 48.6 per cent" as people were more optimistic about the larger economic course of the country in the likely event of Modi's second coming.

With the median age of India's population being 30 years, this aspirational demograph has gone past the *roti-kapda-makaan* basics of the last century to mobiles, internet and entrepreneurship. As forward planning yields results only after gestation periods of a three to five year lag, policy-makers will have to find ways to leapfrog job creation once the new regime is in place by June. India's consumption story has been losing momentum in major sectors like FMCG, cars and two-wheelers and services activity — slipping to multi-quarter lows as income stagnates — which is reflected in declining rural demand. The next Government will be confronted with the challenging task of lifting investment sentiments by remonetising the economy as consumption fuels jobs and income from job-earnings fuels consumption in turn.

Policy-makers have a key role to play in fostering an enabling environment that supports innovation for both agri-entrepreneurship and micro-entrepreneurship. Consider this: The combined market cap of the three largest IT companies of the US — Apple, Microsoft and Amazon — equals India's GDP and importantly, just the Chinese e-commerce major Alibaba's m-cap equals 20 per cent of our GDP. These growth models necessitate that policy-makers fire on all cylinders with newer paradigms to kick-start innovation and growth in the IT enabled sectors as also focus on the nascent digital platforms as job-creators.

The focus of this article is specifically on rural e-commerce as a propeller for job-creation. This will need public-private-partnerships with the likes of Amazon, Walmart, Reliance Retail and other e-commerce platforms on a national scale. The nascent e-tail market in India is projected to grow at 30 per cent annually, targeting \$73 billion by 2022. Herein lies the biggest untapped job-creation potential, a prerequisite for which is deepening electronic payments through smartphones in order to reduce cash payments and encourage digital mode of transactions for online commerce.

China embarked on creating rural jobs a decade ago by implementing the 'Taobao' model for expanding employment avenues, alleviating poverty and vitalising the rural economy by harnessing multiplying effects of digital technology in rural areas. Consequently, e-commerce grew rapidly in China as trade volumes increased from less than 1,000 billion yuan (\$120.8 billion) in 2004 to near-



ly 30,000 billion yuan (\$4.44 trillion) in 2017.

The prototype has thrown surprising results for India to emulate: Though e-commerce is always more developed in urban areas, surprisingly online retail sales in rural areas grew faster than the national average. From 2014 to 2017, online retail sales in rural China increased from RMB 180 billion to 1.24 trillion, a compound annual growth rate of 91 per cent, compared to 35 per cent nationally. So, replicating this model in India, we can just imagine how this surge can alter the rural job-scape, which is in need of policy interventions. The experience in Taobao villages has sparked strong interest among policy-makers to tap the potential of e-commerce as a tool for poverty alleviation, financial empowerment for stay-at-home employment and rural vitalisation. The breakthrough was seen most in the ratio increase of women-to-men entrepreneurs in e-commerce being at near parity, compared to a ratio of 1:3 in traditional businesses.

The Alibaba Group initiative of the Rural Taobao Programme, in collaboration with the Government, supported rural clusters with real-time access to a wide range of goods and services, replacing the expensive brick and mortar shop-floor business model. This helped farmers earn more for their produce as they could directly sell their produce to urban consumers in online platforms. The programme required job-stepping multiple initiatives to streamline cross-country linkages in infrastructure by laying the ground work for service networks in counties and villages; providing training in e-commerce and promoting entrepreneurship; and developing rural financial services through the Ant Financial subsidiary of Alibaba.

The Rural Taobao Programme has now expanded from 212 villages in 12 counties in 2014 to more than 30,000 villages in 1,000 counties in 2018, spreading from the coast to inland. It focussed on improving rural e-commerce supply chains, promoting connectivity between agriculture and commerce and enhancing e-commerce training. The scheme grew rapidly and by 2018, had supported 1,016 demonstration counties, covering 737 poverty-stricken counties (89 per cent of the total), including 137 counties with extreme poverty (41 per cent of the total). The experience in China offers

a compelling model to pursue as a 'Global Best Practice' prototype for India. The report demonstrated how digital technology has the potential to harness inclusive growth, unlike previous revolutions, especially when policies and public-private sector work in synergy. Experience in other developed countries has made for a compelling case to adapt and integrate digitally enabled ecosystems as an engine for transformational growth in providing jobs and enhancing livelihoods to the rural population at their doorstep, without the need to migrate to bigger cities.

Achieving inclusive growth is a vital pillar to achieve Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. To achieve this, digitisation has been proven to have had a multiplier impact on inclusive growth in China as its e-commerce market has become the largest in the world within a span of just 10 years, moving millions out of poverty. To further this model, it needs collective collaboration with best research minds globally to work together and evolve paradigms that will optimise the power of digitisation in order to bridge income and opportunity inequalities.

The data coming out of the Chinese model offers great insights into how India can integrate open e-commerce platforms with mobile payments and digitally based financial services "in order to support SMEs access larger potential markets than the gravity model for trade in the physical world." Why this model is best adaptable in India is because the platform-centered ecosystem has low entry barriers for capital requirements and also because education and digital skill requirements are minimal, which is a perfect fit to India's rural demography, where people with low literacy levels can be gainfully employed.

China, too, was earlier a high-cash economy until the mobile payment revolution happened. Before the advent of digitisation, in the pre-digital commerce era, only proximity to a well-developed commercial area afforded residents access to an array of physical marketplaces and consumer products. Now through Alibaba's Taobao and Tmall e-platforms, the average shopping distance on these platforms is close to 1,000 kilometres, compared with a few kilometres in traditional retail markets.

And in less developed regions, people are buying a wider variety of consumer goods online, offsetting the disadvantages of their local markets. This has enabled 10 million SMEs and start-ups in remotest of villages to start businesses from home and work on flexi-timings, shrinking urban-rural income disparities.

As China leads the world in mobile payments and online money transfers with 1.25 billion internet users, digital footprints, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and algorithms are helping in risk-assessment in real time. "So now, Chinese startups have access to credit without collateral via the innovative '310' credit model: 3 minutes to apply for a loan, 1 second to get it approved, with 0 manual interference," signifying speed, precision and efficiency.

Digital platforms have evolved into an institutional form where they act as the nodal institutions to create an enabling environment for SMEs with support in marketing, product management, online operations, customer service, cash management, logistics, business advisory and data analysis, covering essentially every aspect of running a business. The Tao Factory platform on Alibaba connects 40,000 factories from more than 30 industries with Taobao sellers to form an integrated supply chain market. This calls for well-tested pilot-modules if the Chinese experience has to be successfully Indianised. Once disadvantaged groups can participate in the modern digital economy, positive results could follow in a sustainable way.

I personally anticipate unprecedented rapid structural and growth oriented reforms to gather pace under Modi 2.0 because "Team Modi" will be on performance overdrive in his follow-on term. Modi has the pulse of the nation right, knowing too well that emerging India strives to enter the middle-income category, with a per capita income of \$2,000, wherein the aspirational classes seek empowerment through an honourable livelihood instead of welfareist handouts by the State.

(Multiple references have been made from the Digital Technology and Inclusive Growth Report of the Louhan Report 2019. The writer is an author, columnist and chairperson for the National Committee for Financial Inclusion at Niti Aayog)

United colours of Opposition a pipedream?

Undaunted by exit polls, Opposition unity efforts have gained momentum this past week. Almost all players have at some point in time dreamt of the prime ministerial job but the road to it is strewn with many hurdles and their contradictions



FOREIGN EYE



THERE ARE NO WINNERS

The tangled global webs of interdependence between hardware and software, China and the West, show how vulnerable both sides are to the other and how impossible it is for either to achieve technological autarchy. But this struggle is not really about technology. It is about dominance: Who is to be the master. Whether it is China or the US, both sides will suffer and third parties will perhaps suffer most. (The Guardian Editorial)



KALYANI SHANKAR

Most exit polls have predicted a clear majority for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) but this hasn't stopped the Opposition from going ahead with its plans of forming a non-BJP coalition to stake claim to power. Opposition leaders, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, have pooh-poohed the exit poll predictions, claiming they were all wrong. Congress leaders in private have rubbished them pointing out that the pollsters had gone wrong in 2004. It is this hope that is keeping the unity move going forward.

Opposition parties are preparing for a 1996 (United Front) or 2004 (UPA) post-poll scenario, expecting a hung Parliament. The Opposition

unity efforts gained momentum this past week and is continuing to gather strength even after the exit polls.

Can the anti-BJP front become a reality? Most major Opposition parties are coming together as they don't want to be caught napping if the BJP fails to get a majority. UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of 21 Opposition parties on May 23, the day when the results will be announced. Sonia Gandhi, who took a back seat ever since she handed over the baton to her son Rahul Gandhi last March, has come to the forefront again because the Congress feels that senior Opposition leaders like former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee, Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD) chief Sharad Yadav and others will have no hesitation to work under her. During the campaign, Sonia Gandhi had herself reminded people about the 2004 surprise victory of the UPA in spite of the "India shining campaign" of the BJP.

The main anchor for the unity move is Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Fearing a total



rout in his State, Naidu has been busy looking for a national role. He has been visiting Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Sharad Yadav, Sharad Pawar, Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati and others, holding intensive talks with them about staking claim with the President in case the BJP did not get the majority. Insiders say that they want to try the Karnataka model where the Congress prevented the BJP from forming the Government by supporting a junior party Janata Dal (Secular) though the BJP had emerged the single largest party. It is this 'keep

BJP out' move which is binding the Opposition. But for all these, the results have to show a hung Parliament with the BJP getting less than 200 seats. Only then can the Opposition get a chance.

Let us once assume that there is a possibility of a situation as created in 1996 or 2004. In 1996, the Congress supported the United Front Government. The constituents chose Deve Gowda as Prime Minister though he was the fourth choice after VP Singh, Jyoti Basu and GK Moohan. Even at that time, it was not easy for the rag-tag coalition to decide as there were

many aspirants. In 2004, the UPA won the race.

Naidu wants to cobble together a coalition of regional parties and take help of the Congress to form a Government at the Centre. Though the Congress may be the single largest Opposition party, Naidu expects it to play second fiddle and reserve the Prime Minister's post for a regional leader. There are too many aspirants for the post among the regional satraps. The Congress is the only party other than the BJP that is likely to cross the 100 mark and it would surely demand the top post for Rahul Gandhi. Pre-poll allies like Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam chief MK Stalin, Deve Gowda and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav have supported Rahul Gandhi's claim. Mamata Banerjee, too, is a front-runner for the post. Mayawati has not hidden her ambitions of becoming the Prime Minister since many years. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao believes that with his 16 seats, he can become the kingmaker. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, too, is demanding the price of a special status for his State.

Sharad Pawar is the seniormost leader, who has good relations with all players and had been nursing prime ministerial ambition for decades. How do you reconcile these interests for a single position, which is not vacant yet?

It is not going to be easy for the non-BJP parties to stake claim. They have to cross many hurdles, including choosing their prime ministerial face, a Common Minimum Programme and dealing with inherent contradictions in such a coalition among other things. Past record shows that there have been five non-Congress, non-BJP Governments so far and none of them lasted a full term. Four of them had the support of the Congress while the BJP supported the fifth one.

After May 23, if the NDA forms the Government, the Opposition should play a constructive role as a collective entity if they don't achieve their dream. They must remember that by staying divided, they helped Prime Minister Modi get a second term. Had they been united before the elections, they might have defeated the BJP.

(The writer is a senior political commentator and syndicated columnist)

India projected to grow at 7.1% in FY '20: UN

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India's economy is projected to grow at 7.1 per cent in fiscal year 2020 on the back of strong domestic consumption and investment but the GDP growth is a downward revision from the 7.4 per cent estimated in January this year, according to a report by the United Nations.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019 Mid-year Update, released here Tuesday, said that the Indian economy, which generates two-thirds of the regional output in South Asia, expanded by 7.2 per cent in 2018.

"Strong domestic consumption and investment will continue to support growth, which is projected at 7.0 per cent in 2019 and 7.1 per cent in 2020," the report said.

The estimates for India, however, reflect a downward revision from the projections made in the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019 report released in January this year. That report had estimated that India would grow at 7.6 per cent in fiscal year 2019 and 7.4 per cent in 2020. It must be noted that despite the downward revisions, India remains the fastest growing major economy in the world, ahead of China.

The WESP mid-year update noted that growth projections for 2019 have been

revised downward in all major developed economies. The growth outlook for many developing economies has also weakened, it said, adding that despite downward revisions, growth in India remains "strong" amid robust domestic demand.

"The global growth outlook has weakened amid unresolved trade tensions and elevated international policy uncertainty. Across both developed and developing countries, growth projections for 2019 have been downgraded. Alongside a slow-down in international trade, business sentiments have deteriorated, casting a cloud on investment prospects," the report said.

World gross product growth is now expected to moderate from 3.0 per cent in 2018 to 2.7 per cent in 2019 and 2.9 per cent in 2020, reflecting a downward revision from WESP 2019 forecast released in January. In tandem with slowing industrial production, international trade activity has visibly weakened, reflecting in part unresolved trade disputes between the United States of America and China.

In the US, the growth momentum is projected to moderate as headwinds from trade policy are compounded by the waning effects of fiscal stimulus. Growth in China is projected to moderate gradually from 6.6 per cent in 2018

to 6.3 per cent in 2019 and 6.2 per cent in 2020.

In China, recent monetary and fiscal stimulus measures are expected to bolster domestic demand, partially offsetting the adverse impact of trade tariffs on overall growth. Nevertheless, these measures could also exacerbate domestic financial imbalances, raising the risk of a disorderly deleveraging process in the future.

South Asia remains on a strong growth path, even as forecasts have been revised downward. Following an expansion of 5.7 per cent in 2018, GDP growth is estimated at 5.0 per cent in 2019 and 5.8 per cent in 2020. However, across the region, output continues to be constrained by infrastructure bottlenecks.

The report added that India's exports remain more robust, as around half of exports are destined for faster-growing Asian markets, while geopolitical risks continue to confront Afghanistan and Iran.

The slowdown in global economic activity has triggered a shift towards easier monetary policy stances across many developed and developing economies, it said, adding that this shift is taking place in an environment of subdued global inflation, amid weakening demand and a moderate outlook for global commodity prices.

Hyundai launches new SUV 'Venue'

Prices between ₹6.5 lakh and ₹11.1 lakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL), India's second-largest carmaker today jumped into the compact Sports Utility Vehicle segment with the 'Venue', their latest global product. India is the launch market for this new product from the Korean

brand and SS Kim, HMIL's new managing director believes that it will be a huge hit particularly since the carmaker claims it is India's first 'fully connected' SUV. Higher specification levels of the Venue will have over thirty connected features including 10 features specifically for India. These will be powered by Hyundai's 'Blue Link' technology that will allow drivers to connect to streaming entertainment and live maps and the car will feature a virtual mobile SIM card to access the streaming information. The service will be complimentary for the first three years and HMIL has also trained 615 'Blue Link Wizards' all across India to help new Hyundai customers learn the connected features of the vehicle.

The Venue, which will

take on the Maruti-Suzuki Brezza, Mahindra XUV300, Ford EcoSport and Tata Nexon will come with three engine options, two petrol and one diesel. This includes a all-new one-litre turbocharged petrol engine which also features a seven-speed dual-clutch gearbox with an automatic option. A 1.2-litre petrol with a five-speed manual transmission and 1.4 litre diesel with a six-speed manual transmission will also be available. There will be four

members of the media. HMIL has already seen over 50,000 enquiries and over 15,000 confirmed bookings for the Venue orders for which began earlier this month, two-thirds of the demand has been for petrol variants and there is also strong demand for the automatic according to HMIL officials. And Hyundai confirmed that they will continue to produce and sell diesel vehicles after the introduction of Bharat Stage 6 emission



norms, this after rival Maruti-Suzuki indicated they would withdraw from selling diesels, the Venue is not BS6 compliant for the moment. The company also indicated that they would be adding some 50,000 new units to their production capacity in Chennai but have no plans to add another production line just yet and Kim refused to confirm if Hyundai would produce vehicles at the upcoming Kia facility in Andhra Pradesh.

Business Corner



NLC India Limited celebrated its 63rd Raising Day as Gratitude Day on May 20, 2019 with enthusiasm by recollecting the historical occasion on May 20, 1957, the day NLC's mining operations were commenced and to show our gratitude and recognise the services of the former employees, who had toiled very hard for the growth of this organisation. B Surender Mohan, former CMD, NLCIL was the chief guest and kick started the celebrations by hoisting the NLCIL flag in the presence of Rakesh Kumar, CMD, NLCIL, R Vikraman, NNM, Rao, Prabhakar Chowki, Shaji John, Functional Directors and T Venkatasubramanian, CVO at the Lignite Hall, Block-11, Neyveli



At about 2100 h on 19 May 19, intelligence was received about a suspicious vessel likely to be engaged in drug trafficking in area off Indo Pak IMBL off the Gujarat Coast. Similar inputs were also received from Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on May 20. Indian Coast Guard immediately swung into action and ICG Ship Arinjay on patrol off Indo-Pak IMBL was alerted about the suspect vessel. Two additional Interceptor Boats C-437 and C-408 were also tasked from Jakhau and Okha to augment the search for the suspect vessel. ICG Dornier aircraft was also launched from Portbandar on 20 and 21 May 19 for aerial recon in the area



NTPC team came second at the 20th anniversary Iqation quiz International Finals conducted by Event Management group at Mumbai on May 17, 2019. The NTPC team was represented by Anshuman Srivastava, DGM (Corp. Planning) and KM Prashanth, AGM (Corp. Communications). The team qualified for the finals after coming second in the Delhi Regional round. More than 50 teams Pan Asia consisting of leading corporates participated in this quiz. The quiz was held at two levels, the regional level at five locations namely Kolkata, Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi and Bangkok followed by National finals

China rebuffs US President's 'rip-off' charge

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday dismissed as unscientific and unprofessional US President Donald Trump's charge that Beijing has ripped off America with unfair business practices for decades.

The US and China are locked in a bruising 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.

Trump once again accused China of ripping off United States at a rally in Montoursville, Pennsylvania on Monday, attacking his potential re-election challenger Joe Biden for minimising the economic threat

posed by Beijing.

"They want Biden so that China can continue to make \$500 billion dollars a year and more ripping off the United States," he said.

"Past leaders let China freely plunder the US economy and take the crown jewels of American industry," Trump said.

Reacting to Trump's charge, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang

told media here that any trade deal should be balanced and mutually beneficial.

"It is necessary to distinguish between reciprocity and which side gains advantage. In trade relations, they are not the same thing. It is unrealistic to ask for absolute equal openness and not to mention that economic globalisation is a process that countries complement each other's advantages," he said.

Jet Airways shares soar 15% on Hinduja stake buy buzz

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of grounded Jet Airways surged nearly 15 per cent on Tuesday after diversified Hinduja Group said it is evaluating the opportunity to invest in the airline.

The airline's scrip jumped 14.73 per cent to close at ₹150.75 on the BSE.

On the NSE, the stock ended at ₹148.40, gaining 12.94 per cent, over the previous close. After opening at ₹135 a unit, its shares touched an intra-day high of ₹154.80.

Its shares have ended in the green for the second session in a row on the bourses. On the BSE, its intra-day high was marked at 153.85. "Hinduja Group is evaluating the Jet Airways opportunity," the group said in a statement on Tuesday. The grounded carrier shuttered its operations on April 17 and the lenders, led by SBI, are still scouting for investors to revive the airline, which has a debt burden of more than ₹8,000 crore.

BHEL commissions 2 more units of Kaleshwaram irrigation project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned two more pumping units (Units 3&4) of 116 MW each, of the 7x116 MW Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS) Package-6 in Telangana. BHEL had earlier commissioned Units 1&2 of the same project in April, 2019. Significantly, the pump for each unit is designed to lift 89.16 cumecs (cubic metres per second) of water by 105.5 metres.

Being developed by the Irrigation & CAD (I&CAD) department of the Government of Telangana, the greenfield lift irrigation project (formerly known as Pranhita Chevella) is located in Peddapalli district of Telangana. In the project, water shall be lifted from Sripada Yellampalli reservoir to Medaram reservoir and will be used for irrigation and water supply in nearby areas, thereby contributing to the overall development of the area and the state of Telangana.

BAJAJ FINSERV TO PROVIDE EMI ON ELECTRICITY BILL

PNS ■ PUNE

Bajaj Finserv through its Blending arm Bajaj Finance Ltd. has introduced its campaign #BijiOnEMI wherein customers buying air-conditioners on EMI can avail an Insta Credit loan in their Bajaj Finserv Wallet which they can use to pay their electricity bills on EMI. The campaign is aimed to help their customers finance the high electricity bills that may arise due to extensive usage of air conditioners during summer.

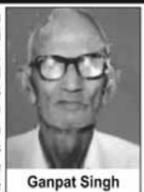
MUTHOOT FINANCE LAUNCHES PERSONAL LOAN

PNS ■ DELHI

Muthoot Finance Ltd has launched personal loan scheme in Delhi & NCR regions. Under the scheme, Muthoot Finance will disburse loans from ₹1 Lakh-10 lakh at an interest rate ranging from 13.5% to 23% per annum to salaried class only. The working population typically in the age group of 24-58 years and engaged in private, State and central Government services can avail personal loan for tenure of 1-5 years as a solution to their financial needs.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a man namely Ganpat Singh, S/o Late Shadi Ram, R/o Gali No.10, Sanjay Colony, Narela, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 06.05.2019 from the area of P.S Narela, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 38-A dated 07.05.2019, has been lodged at P.S Narela, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped man is as under:
Name: Ganpat Singh, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 85 years, **Height:** 5'11", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** White colour Shirt, Grey colour Pant and Brown colour Shoes in Feet.
If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped man, kindly inform SHO/ Narela, Delhi.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
SHO, P.S. Narela, Delhi
DP/287/ON/19 Ph. No.: 011-27282350, 27285839



Ganpat Singh

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Santosh @ Kajal D/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar R/o A-316, Pepal Wala Mohalla, Badli, Delhi, Aged - 13 Years 6 months has been reported missing/kidnapped since 06.06.2018 vide FIR No. 471/18 dated 06.06.2018 lodged at Police Station Samaipur Badli, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 4'9", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Blue coloured Shorts, yellow coloured shirt and hawai slipper in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Samaipur Badli, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Samaipur Badli, Delhi.
DP/2738/RD/19 Tel.: 011-27854757, 27854799



Santosh @ Kajal

MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl, Namely: Khushboo, D/o: Dayashankar, R/o: Jhuggi No. 663, B Block, Khadda Badli, Suraj Park, Delhi, has been missing/kidnaped since 28.12.2018 from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. In this regard, a Case Vides FIR No. 980/18, U/s. 363 IPC, Dated 29.12.2018, has been lodged at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the girl could not be traced. The description of the missing/kidnaped girl is as under:
Name: Khushboo, **D/o:** Dayashankar, **R/o:** Jhuggi No. 663, B Block, Khadda Badli, Suraj Park, Delhi, **Age:** 16 years, **Height:** 4'6" Feet, **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Pink Colour Sweater, Green Colour Pajama and Red Colour Plastic Chappal. If anyone has any information about the missing /kidnaped girl, then please inform P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.
email: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O
Fax: No.011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi
DP/2740/RD/19 Ph.: 011-27854757, 27854799



Khushboo

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Santosh @ Kajal D/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar R/o A-316, Pepal Wala Mohalla, Badli, Delhi, Aged - 13 Years 6 months has been reported missing/kidnapped since 06.06.2018 vide FIR No. 471/18 dated 06.06.2018 lodged at Police Station Samaipur Badli, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 4'9", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Blue coloured Shorts, yellow coloured shirt and hawai slipper in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Samaipur Badli, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Samaipur Badli, Delhi.
DP/2738/RD/19 Tel.: 011-27854757, 27854799



Santosh @ Kajal

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely Priyanka D/o Radhey Shyam R/o K-111, Vijay Vihar, Ph-II, Delhi has been missing since 09.09.2018 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar. In this regard a case DD No. 03-A dated 10.09.2018 has been registered at PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing girl is as under:
Age: 21 year 9 months, **Height:** 5'1", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Orange & Black Suit and Red Pajama with Chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO
Fax No. 011-24368639 PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi
DP/2200/RD/18 Ph.: 011- 27061294, 8750870329



Priyanka

MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy, Namely: Neeraj, S/o Ramanand, R/o N-115 Surya Enclave DDA Janta Flat Sec-4, Rohini, Delhi has been missing/kidnaped from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi since 23.01.2019. In this regard, a case vide DD No. 62-A, dated 23.01.2019, has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the boy could not be traced. The description of the missing/kidnaped boy is as under:
Name: Neeraj, **S/o:** Ramanand, **R/o:** N-115 Surya Enclave DDA Janta Flat Sec-4, Rohini, Delhi, **Age:** 25 years, **Height:** 5'5" Feet, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Black Sweater, Brown Pajama, Chappal in feet. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnaped boy, then please inform P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.
email: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O
Fax: No.011-24368639
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
DP/2722/RD/19 Ph.No. 011-27052772, 27052773



Neeraj

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Gudia D/o Asharfi Prasad R/o H.No. 8/10 Kasturba Nagar, Shahdara Delhi has been missing/kidnaped from the area of P.S Vivek Vihar, Delhi since 16.04.2019. In this regard, a case FIR No.163/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 27.04.2019 has been registered at P.S. Vivek Vihar Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnaped girl is as under:
Age: 17 Years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'1", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Pink colour Suit Salwar. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Sd/- S.H.O
Fax No. 011-24368639 P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi
DP/1028/SHD/19 Ph. 011-22146040



GUDIA

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Jaspreet Kaur, D/o Gulab Singh, R/o H. No. 650, Gali No. 9, Sardar Colony, Sector-16, Delhi, has been missing since Dated 08.05.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 179/19, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 08.05.2019 has been registered at Police Station - KNK Marg, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Age: 16 years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'0", **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Wearing blue & black colour Kurti, black colour Legging, pink colour Dupatta and almond colour Belly in feet.
Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform undersigned.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. KNK Marg, Delhi
DP/2862/RD/19 Ph.: 011-27571171, 27571162



Jaspreet Kaur

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Pankaj S/o Sh. Baig Nath R/o N-44/175, Sanjay Colony, Samaypur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a FIR No. 718/16 u/s 33/38 DE Act, Delhi, PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Pankaj could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pankaj has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person Pankaj of FIR No. 718/16 u/s 33/38 DE Act, Delhi, PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi are required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on or before 28.06.2019.
By order
Ms. Neha Gupta Singh,
Metropolitan Magistrate North Distt.
Room No. 319, 3rd Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi
DP/288/ON/19

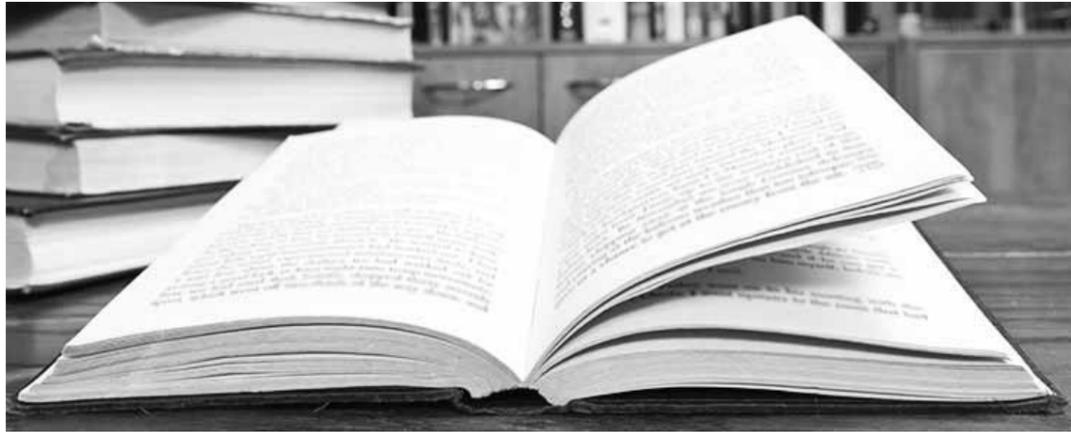
SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General public is here by informed that this female namely Riya Kumari D/o S. Ramakant R/o H.No. F-69, Near Ambedkar Park, Village Gazipur, Delhi Age : 21 years, Height : 5', Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Build : Medium, wearing Suit & Salwar, has been missing since 11.04.2019 from the area of PS Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 23-A dated 19.04.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about this missing female may kindly inform to the following:-
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO : P.S. Patparganj
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Industrial Area, Delhi
Fax: 24368639, Tel. No. : 011-22146491
DP/6797/ED/19



Riya Kumari

Interdisciplinary approach towards education can help embed necessary soft skills in students and make them job ready. PROFESSOR RANJAN BOSE tells you how



INTER-ACT WITH YOUR SKILLS

Today, we face a wide range of challenges, such as controlling pollution, understanding global warming, disaster mitigation, traffic-safety, low-cost healthcare, energy and food scarcity, to name a few. All these challenges cross the boundaries of any one discipline. Experts from different domains must work together to provide practical solutions to these problems. In a nutshell, all these problems are interdisciplinary.

Education in India is presently going through interesting times and also facing some hard questions regarding its relevance in the current scenario. It has emerged that, of the 15 million graduates entering the market each year, about 75 per cent lack the basic soft-skills and technical know-how to execute even the core tasks of their job profiles. A McKinsey report indicates that only 25 per cent of Indian engineers are actually employable and the numbers can further fall down to less than 20 percent if the condition doesn't improve on time. What should be done to address the problem? Can interdisciplinary education address part of the problem by equipping our students with skills to understand and solve real-world problems? Can an interdisciplinary research mindset nudge our students towards creative problem solving? The words 'multidisciplinary', 'interdisciplinary' and 'trans-disciplinary' are used a lot. In a multidisciplinary approach, each discipline contributes a piece of the jigsaw and it is

actually an addition of parts. Interdisciplinary approach, on the other hand, integrates domain knowledge of different fields, different ways of working and different methods of problem solving. So, it has a multiplicative effect. Trans-disciplinary work permeates through several disciplines in a manner such that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

THINKING DIFFERENTLY

The foundation of interdisciplinary education is based on the core idea of the constructive paradigm. It suggests that students can create their own understanding and knowledge of the world by integrating new experiences with alternate ideas through theoretical exploration and practical exposure. However, interdisciplinary education is much more than that. It enables us to learn how to think in a way that is different from the way we are used to thinking in our own field. It empowers us to break silos.

Towards this goal of thinking differently, our educational institutes should provide an enabling platform where students can develop their interdisciplinary skills along with their regular study programmes. For this to happen, the educators first need to get out of their silos. Class projects should be floated with students and supervisors from different disciplines. Experts from different walks of life should regularly interact with students to broaden their thought processes and the ability to

THE FOUNDATION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION IS BASED ON THE CORE IDEA OF CONSTRUCTIVE PARADIGM. IT SUGGESTS THAT STUDENTS CAN CREATE THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD

assimilate new ideas. The whole college campus should be transformed into a tinkering-lab of ideas from various domains. This enabling environment should also teach our students to work in teams in a coherent fashion and respect alternate view-points.

DEGREES

From the perspective of education, there can be many different degrees of inter-disciplinarity. We can have inter-disciplinarity associated with class-activities and projects, for example, a class-project that requires students to build a mobile-phone based app to monitor and control soil-moisture remotely. Students from different disciplines/departments can work on such projects. At the next level of granularity, the courses can be interdisciplinary, for example, a course on Algorithms in Computational Biology. And finally, we can have entire programmes that are interdisciplinary, for example, B.Tech in Computer Science and Social Sciences.

From the perspective of research, there can also be many different degrees of inter-disciplinarity. An expert in computer science may collaborate with an expert in social sciences to solve a problem related to social-media analytics. Collaborations can happen between two areas of specialisation, for example, an expert in liquid crystals can work with a material scientist within the domain of applied physics to develop new types of sensors. Different domains can fuse together to generate new research areas, for example computational biology (which is itself interdisciplinary) has merged with gastronomy to produce the interesting area of computational gastronomy. As we go ahead with the notion of interdisciplinary education and research, we should be conscious about these different degrees of inter-disciplinarity and use them appropriately.

OTHER BENEFITS

Building connections amongst disparate concepts are crucial learning elements provided in the framework of

interdisciplinary education. Here are some other benefits of interdisciplinary education:

■ Students are more likely to pursue interdisciplinary topics that are interesting to them, especially if they are rooted in real-world problems. Consequently, the learning has more meaning, coupled with a real purpose, and is likely to stay with the student for a lifetime.

■ Students learn to consolidate knowledge after synthesising ideas from different perspectives. This further develops critical thinking, unstructured problem solving and research abilities of the students and pushes them to think beyond boundaries. They appreciate the notion of similarity and differences by considering contrasting viewpoints from various subject areas.

■ Even in the slowdown phase of a particular industry, future engineers with a degree in interdisciplinary studies will have an edge to nimbly switch to another sector.

■ An interdisciplinary education can nudge students towards taking up entrepreneurial ventures.

■ It will teach our students to remain relevant in this ever-morphing world, where the expectations from engineers will undoubtedly change completely in the next decade or so.

Interdisciplinary education strengthens the cognitive abilities of students. The students learn to cross mental borders, respect other people's points of view and communicate their own ideas to people from other domains. They further develop the capacity to question assumptions, think in creative and innovative ways, and solve unstructured problems. Development of these important soft-skills are a direct consequence of interdisciplinary education.

It is the joint responsibility of the educational system and the student-body to become aware of our rapidly changing world and to take appropriate action from the perspective of interdisciplinary education.

The writer is Director, IIT-Delhi

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Education is not just about going to school and getting a degree. It's about widening your knowledge and absorbing the truth about life — Shakuntala Devi

PG DIPLOMA

Apeejay Institute of Mass Communication (AIMC) invites applications for its various post-graduate diploma programmes.

The programmes include Digital Media & Online Journalism, Corporate Communication & Event Management, Advertising & Marketing Communication, Television and Radio Journalism/Production, Business & Financial Journalism.

Duration: One year
Eligibility: Graduation from any recognised university. Those waiting for the final year result can also apply.

How to apply: Log on to www.apeejay.edu/aimc.

MEDICAL LAB TECH

Cradle Institute of Paramedical Sciences invites applications for full time certificate course in Medical Lab Technology.

The programme aims to provide efficient and balanced training in laboratory medicine. This course offers challenging career in a hospital, minor emergency centers, private laboratory, blood donor centers, doctor's office or clinics.

Eligibility: Minimum qualification for securing admission to certificate programme is Class XII passed from any recognised Board.

Duration: One year
How to apply: Log on to www.manavrachna.edu.in.

Last date to apply: June 12, 2019.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

Delhi Paramedical and management Institute (DPMI) invites applications for its full time programme in Diploma in Front Office Operations (DFO), Food & Beverage (DFB), and House Keeping (DHK).

This course provides syllabus that combines theory and practice of Hotel Industry.

Duration: One year
Eligibility: Candidates who have recently passed Class XII from any recognised board can enrol in this course.



How to apply: The application forms may be obtained from admission office of Delhi Paramedical and Management Institute, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.
Last date to apply: May 28, 2019.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

International Institute of Health Management Research Delhi invites applications for admission to its PGDMM programme.

Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in any discipline with a minimum of 50 per cent marks in the aggregate. Should have taken any one of the management aptitude test like CAT/MAT/XAT/ATMA/GMAT/CMAT. Candidates appearing at the final year examination of the bachelor's degree or waiting for the results of their final year degree examinations in 2019 may also apply.
Last date to apply: June 30, 2019.

UG-PG PROGRAMMES

The Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD) in collaboration with Kingston School of Art, London invites applications for admission to its undergraduate programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business Management, Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design and for postgraduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion Business Management.

Eligibility: For UG programmes is Class XII in any stream. For PG programmes graduation is mandatory from any recognised university or institute.
Last date to apply: May 31, 2019.

Last minute prep tips

R L TRIKHA, FIITJEE expert, shares do's and don'ts for JEE Advanced exam scheduled to be held on May 27

After the successful completion of the second session of JEE Main 2019 conducted by NTA in the month of April, many aspirants are eyeing to clear the JEE Advanced 2019 scheduled to be conducted on May 27, 2019. With NTA's decision to conduct the Main exam twice a year has provided many students with a second opportunity to enhance their performance. The best of the two scores will be considered to mark the rankings for getting shortlisted for the JEE Advanced. Around 2,24,000 students will be declared eligible to appear in JEE Advanced examination.

Students eagerly awaiting good score and ranking in the JEE Main exam are simultaneously getting ready to face the final JEE Advanced test. Organised by IIT Roorkee, both the papers — Paper I and Paper II will be conducted in computer-based mode and it is mandatory to appear in both. There are no changes in the pattern of the exam, the time duration allotted to each paper remains three hours with objective type questions from Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics with equal weightage. As in past, various types of questions are possible to be asked such as single/multi correct out of four given choices, Numerical



Type with single digit/Decimal Type Answers, passage based questions having four choices with one or more correct, Matrix-Match/Matrix-List Type. It is thus advised to practise as many online mock tests/past papers as possible. In the era of cut-throat competition to get through the IIT's, preparation strategies play a major role in the road to success. The following tips will help students prepare well for the JEE Advanced 2019:

■ **Keep your Focus right:** As just a week is left for the exam, you have to keep your focus intact. Stick to your plan and strategy because a new strategy may give worse results.

■ **Concept wise study:** Go for concepts wise studies. This will

help in fast learning. ■ **Don't start a fresh topic:** Don't start a fresh topic. Try to strong the topics and sections which are already been studied by you.

■ **Create a bunch of flash cards:** For all the important formulas and topics, try to make flash card as it will help in memorizing it quickly and easily.

■ **Study mock tests:** Attempting the mock test will help to know your preparation level. Not only this, the students will get familiar with the computer-based test. Mock test is the replica of the actual exam; it will also help them to learn time management.

■ **Stay positive:** Take right amount of pressure. Don't let nega-

tive vibes affect your preparation level.

■ **Do's:**
■ Arrive early at the examination centre

■ Keep your admit card with you

■ Listen to the instructions given in the examination hall carefully

■ Do check for your name, photograph and your roll number in front of the computer system assigned to you.

■ Read all the questions carefully

■ Clear your doubts if any

■ Do remember to collect your admit card once the exam is over.

■ **Don'ts:**

■ Do not indulge in any unfair practice in the exam hall

■ Do not hurry while answering the questions

■ Do not disturb other candidates

■ Don't answer in a hurry. On the other hand, don't waste time also

■ Don't spare more than the required amount of time on an answer

■ Don't answer questions simply as you could lose marks if you answer negatively marked questions.

The writer is Director, FIITJEE

Technical education takes centrestage

Armoured with world class infrastructure and reinforced with eminent faculty, the Jaypee Universities have created a niche for themselves in revolutionising the field of technical education.

Located in Himachal Pradesh (Jaypee University of Information Technology, JUIT), Madhya Pradesh (Jaypee University of Engineering and Technology, JUET) and Uttar Pradesh (Jaypee University, Anoopshahr, JUA), the universities offer undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programs in major branches of engineering, creating technocrats who are excelling in different spheres of life.

Talking about increased the Universities' reach to a larger number of students, VC of Jaypee University Prof SC Saxena said: "In addition to increased professional counseling of outgoing class XII students in schools, in the first phase of five years starting June 2019, special incentives for wards of Defence/Paramilitary forces are being offered. There will be a reservation of 10 per cent seats for admission in all B.Tech programmes offered in JUIT, JUET and JUA and special academic fee concession will also be offered." He further added that education is the most important tool for transformation and empowerment as identified by the founder of Jaiprakash Sewa Sansthan (JSS), Jaiprakash Gaur, who always emphasised that imparting quality education is the best service to the society. The special discount offer is dedicated to further the above cause.

The VC attributes the high ranking of the Jaypee Institutions to the Universities' key infrastructure and resources including well qualified and experienced faculty, fully equipped labs, well stocked library, separate hostels for boys and girls, good quality food, fully networked campus, facilities for games and associated utilities for student's comfort and providing excellent environment for teaching learning process. "Balanced faculty focus between cutting edge results and class room teaching has paved the way for imparting high quality education. Our faculty is encouraged to undertake research and have their papers published in highly indexed and cited international journals. It is important to note that to offer quality education, all



Professor SC Saxena
Vice-chancellor, Jaypee University

Academic fee discount for wards of Defence/ Paramilitary forces

- JUIT-Waknaghat: 30 per cent in tuition fee
- JUET-Guna & JU-Anoopshahr: 30 per cent in tuition and development fee
- Additional 5 per cent concession to wards of war widows and PWD (Persons With Disability)

located at the Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JIIT) Noida, centrally handles campus placement of the graduating students of all the campuses. "Some of the prominent companies visiting Jaypee Universities are Adobe, Microsoft, Amazon Web Service, SAP Labs, Deloitte, Morgan Stanley, Ola Cab, Gemalto, FICO, XL Caltin, Samsung R&D, ST Microelectronics, Grofers, The Smart Cube, Ericsson, Cognizant, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies, among many others." He claimed that the placement percentage of eligible students touches up to 100 per cent. "In 2018, the maximum package received by students was ₹39.12 lakh and the average and the highest packages have seen an upward trend in the last three years," he said.

ICSI signs MoU for Int'l commerce olympiad

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) signed an MoU with Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) at the ICSI Head Office, New Delhi for holding the International Commerce Olympiad (ICO) for the students of Class XI and Class XII, in schools across India, Dubai, Nepal, Singapore and Qatar.

The ICO, which was earlier known as the CS Olympiad (CSO), was first conducted by ICSI on September 15, 2016 & October 4, 2016, in the academic year 2016-2017 in association with the SOF. Thousands of schools since then have been actively par-



ticipating in this single level examination that aims at promoting reasoning skills and creating awareness about the CS course and profession among the student community across the globe.

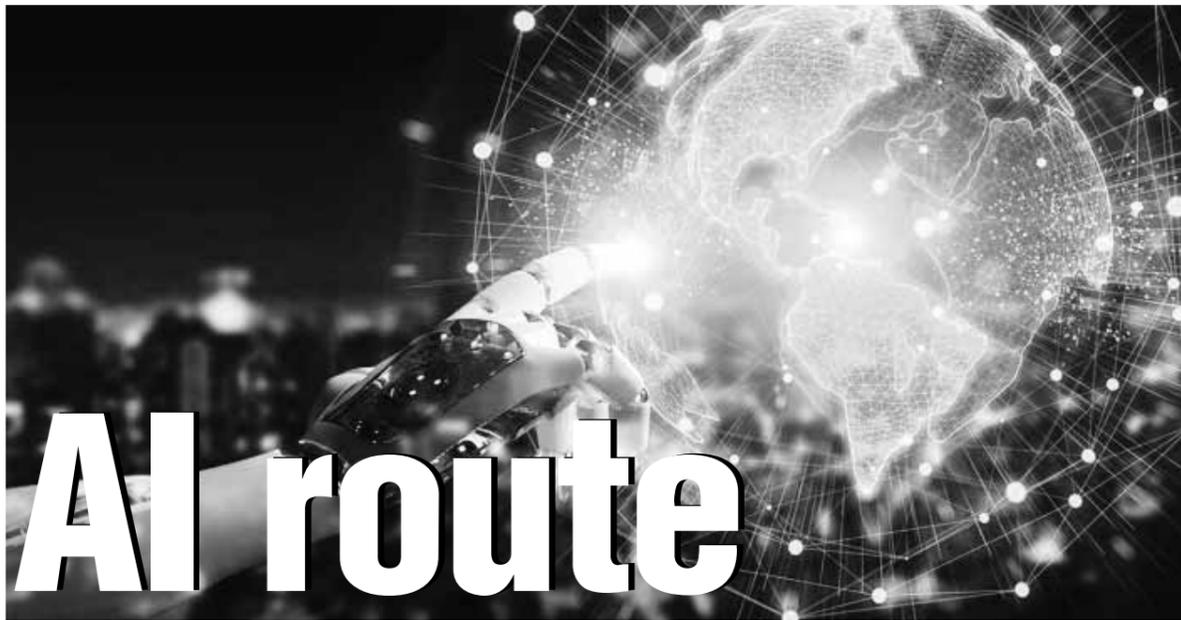
President ICSI, CS Ranjeet Pandey and Officiating Secretary ICSI, CS Ashok Kumar Dixit signed the MoU on behalf of ICSI, whereas SOF Founder Director, Mahabir Singh and Rajan Marwah were signatories from the SOF.

ICSI Central Council Members CS Nagendra D Rao and CS B Narasimhan were also present during the MoU signing ceremony.

Victorious end of C'ship

The seven-day District Basketball Championship held at DPS Rajnagar Extension ended on a victorious note. Girls from SG Public School brought accolades for the school by winning the girls championship whereas in the boys competition New Era School won.

A team of 14 best players was selected for the State Level Basketball Championship. Asha Sharma, the Mayor of Ghaziabad also graced the event to encourage and uplift the determination of the participants. The Mayor was also felicitated as an emblem of gratitude by the Principal of DPS Rajnagar Extension, Pallavi Upadhyay on behalf of the populace of the school and the District Basketball Association.



AI route

Developments taking place in artificial intelligence are spreading across the globe on an unprecedented and unforeseen scale, says SACHIN DEV DUGGAL

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has touched every industry including education where it is changing the way students, teachers and administrators are moving forward.

The developments taking place in the technology called artificial intelligence are spreading across the globe on an unprecedented and unforeseen scale. As per the AI Market in the US Education Sector report, the AI market in the US education sector is expected to grow at a CAGR of 47% from 2018 until 2022. Of the numerous ways artificial intelligence will change the education sector, we've outlined 10 ways below.

Enhanced teacher-AI collaboration: Physical, human teachers see certain limitations like there is no scalable way for students to participate with teachers. This leads to gaps between the lessons teachers submit to their administrators and the principles students understand. With better use of AI (as well as VR and other technologies), participation can become more scalable to allow engagement between classes of all sizes and teachers who

have more time to focus on making their subjects as fun and interesting as they are engaging for their pupils.

Individualised learning: Since learning styles differ from child to child, personalised learning can assist those children who face challenges learning (children with ADHD, autism or dyslexia). While it's not manually possible for a teacher to cater to every child's ability in a class of 30 students, AI can. It can help kids experiment to find which is the best way they can learn new skills.

Making education accessible to all: AI-enabled tools make classrooms available to all despite language, location or physical impairment. This helps such students in pursuing education who might not be able to undertake education otherwise for variety of reasons. How? Think about a student who can take classes virtually because they've been in the hospital for eight weeks.

Automating admin job: A teacher spends hours weekly — even daily — in assigning and assessing homework and tests. With the help of AI, this task could be done faster and easier for

AI CAN IMPROVE THE SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATOR THOUGH THERE SHOULD BE CONSIDERATION INTO THE EXECUTION OF THESE SYSTEMS

teachers, who often take their students assignments home to grade them. This allows more time to teachers to invest in each student or other activities that engage the classroom.

Automated grading: Grading can be a difficult, and sometimes burdening, process for teachers. Instead, AI-based computer programs can replicate a teacher's behaviour to assign grades to students' tests. This standardizes assessing every

child's knowledge and keeps the teacher available to do other more pressing work. Thereafter, feedback on performance and the plan.

Virtual teachers: Although it's happening slowly, some universities are introducing virtual teachers and faculty who are useful in helping students who may not be available in classrooms all the time.

Chat campus: International universities are using AI to design systems that could help students on the campus in various ways. The AI-enabled program or a chatbot called chat campus would be answering questions about the campus. For example, where will the next class take place or what are the details on the next assignment? These free up time from both teachers as well as administrators to do more pressing tasks.

Adaptive learning: This is assumed to be one of the most crucial areas where AI could be beneficial. Schools could be enabled to keep track of the progress of each student and make alterations in the course and update the teacher about the

challenges that every student faces.

Better institutional management: With a growing number of schools across the globe, there is an increasing interest in school management platforms for educational administrators. AI helps create such platforms which can assist institutions with recruitment, student information and fee collection.

Safety and security: With the help of AI, spotting patterns in a student's behaviour or conduct to gauge violence in the school is made easy. Students who are consistently violent towards others can be handled with more humanity, but can also be better tracked to ensure their pattern of violence is stopped.

AI can overall improve the system for students, teachers and administrators. Though certainly, there should be consideration into the execution of these systems of AI, their development and utilisation can add value to institutions of education worldwide.

The writer is Founder-CEO, Engineerai

'Hospitality degree takes you high'

The hospitality industry is booming and offering plenty of lucrative options to those who have just graduated, says DR KULNEET SURI

While most graduates are concerned that almost all industries are drying up when it comes to jobs, there's one sector that is still booming and will continue to do so in the years to come. As our country's economy improves, people are starting to invest more in tourism which in turn is boosting the hospitality industry. There are more hotels than ever, flights are over-booked and the current technology is helping the cause. The demand for professionals is at an all-time high and you can easily secure your dream job right after you pass out.

Here is a list of the jobs you can bag as a fresher right after completing your hospitality degree.

Event Manager: This is probably the most widely available post now. You can be a part of small startups, grab a job in a top firm or start your own independent venture. Be it a corporate event like launching a product or announcing an idea, or any personal event like marriages or birthday parties, the demand for event managers are shooting up. A hospitality degree from the right institute will give you the best possible start and you can earn without limits in the right job.

You will be responsible for planning and managing an entire event. With frequent promotions, the role will increasingly become managerial and you will have to handle a team. This profile is not restricted to any particular sector as almost all industries have the requirement for an event planner now.

Flight attendant or cabin crew: The aviation industry is the most common choice right after you complete your air hostess training. Not that you can't land any other job in the hospitality sector with your degree but being a cabin crew is probably one of the most satisfying. Your pay scale is much higher as compared to any other profiles, it involves extensive travelling and no desks, and your hospitality skills are the only ones you will ever need to rise up the corporate hierarchy.

The salary of an airhostess is higher than a cabin crew. The main responsibility of both is to attend to the need of passengers during the flight and guide them through emergencies if the need arises. You can work with both domestic and international airlines and the only thing that changes are the type of passengers you



Dr Kulneet Suri
Senior Director at IMS, Noida

have to deal with.

Travel Assistant or Manager: While travel assistant will be the most available post on offer, but you can also land managerial posts if you can show a top institute like Doyens Fly. The latter will come with a better package, more responsibilities and less frequent travelling.

Your task will involve direct interaction with the customers. You will have to prepare itineraries, take care of travel and staying bookings, notify customers about the date and time and so on. There will be times when people will contact you just to inquire about travel arrangements about the place they want to visit. So, part of your job profile will also include gaining knowledge about various places.

Hotel Frontend Staff: You can either apply for a hotel clerk or something like a bellhop. You can also secure trainee or assistant positions if your degree is from an accredited institute. Salaries start at a decent amount of mid-six-figures and shoot up to almost 3 times when you become a manager.

Responsibilities will include attending to the hotel's guests, taking care of the reservations, informing customers about the hotel's facilities and much more. You may sit at the reception, take care of the restaurant section or any other special facility the hotel may have. One degree is the ticket for any job profile and the hotel industry is the perfect one for fast growth.

Imagine you have to write down as many uses for a brick as possible. In general, people would just start listing all their ideas. However, what if you started from a broader perspective, such as thinking about the properties of a brick. It is heavy, so you could use it as a paperweight, to hold down a garbage bag while raking, as an exercise weight, to grill juicer chicken, etc. It is also thick, so you could use it to prop up a planter or as a doorstop. It is red, it is hard, it's rectangular and others.

Brain is highly responsive to visuals and graphics; it processes images faster than words. Nevertheless, what if I tell you that you could use a technique

to advance your creativity, memory and problem-solving abilities. It will be great if you could expand your range of tools to get a competitive edge and leverage full potential of your brain. Would you still be limiting yourself to conventional ways? A powerful graphic process provides the absolute tools to unlock the dynamic potential of the brain.

To put it simply, this technique extracts ideas from your head to visually represent or outline information. It translates what is in your mind into a highly organised visual picture.

That is mind mapping: Once you start, the possibilities seem almost endless. By starting out with the basic questions—who,

MINDIT

what, why and then following each thread.

Mind map unleashes the power of the human brain it helps to keep your thoughts focused and organised. The concept that whether you are more of right brain person or a left-brain person has become quite popular in the recent times. If you put more use to your right brain, you think more logically and if you put more use to your left-brain, you think more creatively.

While scientifically speaking, a person always uses his whole brain, what mind mapping does is that it creates

synchronization between both sides of your brain without any conscious effort. This helps the mind in building richer connections, which proves to be more effective in easily retaining longer and complex information in the end.

Mind mapping provides practical solutions and save so much time by focusing on the important aspects of your problem. With mind maps, you branch out all the aspects of your problem and are able to investigate each branch thoroughly. To find the 'solution' to your problem becomes your

central idea. It also helps you to discover new relationships among unrelated ideas and lets you hold every little information, in order to help solve problems and make better decisions.

'Too much of anything is good for nothing.' The statement holds true for the conventional methods of learning. However, with the help of mind mapping, you learn to focus on what is relevant and or valuable, and void out the rest, which makes complete learning process easier and less overwhelming.

Remembering even complex information is easy if you use the right approach. The shortcuts used in mind mapping help you

make connections that you can easily remember and think with clarity. One of the major advantages of mind mapping is that it favors information retention and usage. It is more than visually processing/representing information, it is about finding ways to understand, store and use new information in an efficient, instant and productive manner.

Another advantage of it is that it is an integrated approach to information processing. It forces you to connect new to existing information, draw complex conclusions, see the bigger picture in order to transform it into knowledge.

The writer is Sunanda Rao, Founder-director of Concept



Lakshya Bharti Institute of International Hotel Management, Delhi, has introduced a unique scholarship scheme Atithya Shree for students taking admissions in the institute. The scholarship scheme is divided into three categories under which a student can get concession in annual fee between 10 per cent and 30 per cent.

Those students got 60 to 70 per cent mark in Class XII, will get 10 per cent concession in annual fees. Those students who qualify Class XII with marks between 71 to 80 per cent, will get 20 per cent concession in annual fees. Similarly, those who have scored more than 80 per cent in their intermediate, get 30 per cent concession in annual fees.

The important thing is under this scholarship is a special concession for the girl students of every category will get a 10 per cent concession in fee. Those students who have qualified Class XII in this year are eligible for this scholarship.

To fill this scholarship form and any other queries related to scholarship please visit www.lbihim.com.

Application deadline: Last date to fill the application form is 13 July 2019.

The University of

Sheffield, UK is pleased to offer the India Postgraduate Taught Scholarship 2019 to Indian students joining the university to study a taught masters programme in September 2019. This scholarship 2019 is worth 10% of their tuition fee.

No additional scholarship application is required, if you meet the eligibility and award criteria below the scholarship will be applied as a tuition fee discount. Students must accept their offer from the University of Sheffield before 16:00 (UK time) on June 14, 2019 to receive this award.

Eligibility: To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be a national of or permanently domiciled in India. Students' taught master's programme must be scheduled to commence at the university in September 2019. Subject to meeting the eligibility and award criteria the scholarship 2019 will be awarded automatically. Students must be self-funded and classified as overseas for tuition fee purposes.

If you are studying a two-year Masters programme the scholarship will be available in the second year of your studies subject to successful completion of year 1.

The scholarship is not applicable to any years in industry or study abroad years that are compulsory or optional elements of your course.

For more information: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/enquiry/money/pgt-international>.

STUDY CENTRES

The telecom industry has become one of the fast growing sectors globally since it plays a major role in our daily life. Therefore, there is a demand for trained professionals and the importance of Telecommunication Engineering is growing. Telecommunications is concerned with all types of information and transmission networks. Students interested in micro-electronic devices, signal processing, data networking, coding and transmission can do well in this sector. One needs 10+2 with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. Entrance to the IIT's is through the JEE and for others it is AIEEE. A few more colleges to study are:

- **Columbia Institute of Engineering and Technology, Raipur.** Course: BE Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering
- **Christian College of Engineering and Technology, Bhiilai.** Course: BE Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering
- **JD College of Engineering and Management, Nagpur.** Course: BE Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering
- **Jabalpur Engineering College, Jabalpur.** Course: BE Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering



MARKETING AT FIRST ENERGY

Location: Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹5000 per month
Link: internshala.com/I/724606
Application deadline: May 28, 2019

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT UXINDIA

Location: Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/I/724607
Application deadline: May 29, 2019

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT CLEAR TAX

Location: Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/I/724608
Application deadline: May 28, 2019

MARKET RESEARCH AT NAANDI FOUNDATION

Location: Delhi, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/I/724609
Application deadline: May 28, 2019

TELECALLING AT JETIC HEALTHCARE (PEPODEAL)

Location: Delhi, Kolkata, Pune, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/I/724610
Application deadline: May 30, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT REFLEXION

Location: Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹2,500 per week
Link: internshala.com/I/724611
Application deadline: May 28, 2019

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT SHREE VALLABH JEWELLERS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/I/724612
Application deadline: May 30, 2019

IN BRIEF

TEZPUR UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU

Queen's University Belfast in UK and Ireland as well as a member of the prestigious Russell Group of UK research intensive universities, has signed a MoU with Tezpur University in Assam.

Through the MoU, the universities will explore mutually beneficial opportunities over the next five-year years.

HIMALAYAN SUMMIT AT IIT ROORKEE

The Design Innovation Center (DIC), IIT Roorkee organised a Himalayan Summit on the Design Innovation Challenges in the Himalayan region. Various NGOs, scientists, academicians working in the Himalayan region shared their

work. They highlighted various challenges being faced by them. This summit provided opportunities to different DICs to select their problems and identify potential field collaborators.

The center under the 'National Initiative for Design Innovation

work. They highlighted various challenges being faced by them. This summit provided opportunities to different DICs to select their problems and identify potential field collaborators.

The center under the 'National Initiative for Design Innovation

NEW OFFICE FOR IIT-M

The new premises of Center for Computational Brain Research (CCBR), Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M), was inaugurated at Bhubaneswar and Jyothi Mehta School of Biosciences on campus. This dedicated workspace will house researchers and staff of the CCBR.

Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-founder of Infosys and a distinguished alumnus of IIT-M, inaugurated the new premises in the presence of Professor K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor, Professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT-M, Professor Partha Mitra, visiting faculty member, IIT-M and Professor Mahabala distinguished chair, CCBR, IIT-M along with researchers and faculty of IIT-M.

CONVOCATION AT SNU

The Shiv Nadar University (SNU) celebrated its fifth convocation ceremony at its Greater Noida campus. The university chancellor, Shiv Nadar conferred honorary doctorates on four distinguished individuals — Dr Ashok Seth, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, world-renowned cardiologist and the chairman of Fortis Escorts Heart Institute; Lord Charles Powell, an eminent British diplomat, politician and businessman; Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, distinguished Indian space scientist and former head of ISRO; and Mike Lawrie, Global Technology Leader & President, CEO and Chairman, DXC Technology, in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

WORKSHOP ON LUXURY INDUSTRY

The Luxury Connect Business School, Gurugram organised a workshop on — Opportunities in Luxury Industry — for academicians across Delhi-NCR at its boutique campus.

The aim of the workshop to update them about what luxury is and what future does it beholds in India. Abhay Gupta, Founder-CEO of Luxury Connect Business School addressed the gathering about the benefits and challenges faced in the luxury industry and how we can collaborate to curb the same.

"Over the last few years, with the economy doing well and more disposable income, there has been a change in the consumption pattern of the Indians. The spurt in affluence, and the emergence of a new breed of young population has led to a rapid growth of the luxury sector. One of the challenges that India faces in the luxury industry is dearth of skilled and talented persons who understands the understand the luxury product and services, marketing, financial and operational aspects."

HANDLING PRESSURE MOST IMP AT WC: KOHLI

Expecting tough competition Indian skipper stresses on the need to maintain intensity from first ball



Indian skipper Virat Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri speaks during press conference ahead of India's departure for the ICC World Cup starting in England from May 30

PTI ■ MUMBAI

High quality rivals competing in a Round Robin format has made the upcoming World Cup the "most challenging" for India skipper Virat Kohli, who says maintaining intensity from the first ball will be key to his side's fortunes in the showpiece event, starting May 30.

Kohli, who has competed in two World Cups before, said they do not have much breathing space because they have four tough games upfront and in a way it should help them.

For the first time since the 1992 edition, all teams will play each other once to decide the semifinals. After opening their campaign South Africa on June 5, India will take on Australia (June 9), New Zealand (June 13) and Pakistan (June 16).

"Personally, it will probably be the most challenging World Cup I have been part of because of the format and also the strength of all the teams. If you look at Afghanistan from 2015 to now, they are a completely different side," said Kohli at the pre-departure press conference in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Kuldeep and Chahal are pillars of our attack: Virat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Not overtly worried about Kuldeep Yadav's lack of form during the IPL, skipper Virat Kohli on Tuesday said the Chinaman bowler and Yuzvendra Chahal are "pillars" of India's bowling attack, going into the World Cup.

Kuldeep was dropped from the Kolkata Knight Riders team during last month's Indian Premier League (IPL) because of poor form but Kohli felt it was a good reality check for the 24-year-old.

"In hindsight, if you look at it, someone like Kuldeep who has had so much success, it is important to see a period where things don't go your way. We are glad

Kuldeep was dropped from the Kolkata Knight Riders team during last month's Indian Premier League (IPL) because of poor form but Kohli felt it was a good reality check for the 24-year-old.

that it happened in the IPL rather than during the World Cup," Kohli said, firmly backing the spinner.

"So he had time to reflect and correct things and come into World Cup even stronger. We know the kind of skill set he possesses alongside (Yuzvendra) Chahal. They are two pillars of our bowling line-up," Kohli said at the

World Cup pre-departure press conference here.

Apart from the two wrist spinners, the pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Bhuvneshwar Kumar makes it probably India's best ever attack going into a World Cup.

Kohli also did not seem worried about all-rounder Kedar Jadhav, who too missed the latter half of IPL after hurting his shoulder.

"Kedar also, we understand the kind of pitches they got playing at home. We are not worried about him. He was looking in good space. Yes he did not get runs but Twenty20 is such a format in which you don't get runs and it can go on like that for a few games."

"Any team can upset anyone. That is one thing we have in mind. Focus will be on to play the best cricket that we can. You have to play to the best of your potential in every game because it is not a group stage situation."

"Playing everyone once is great for all the teams in my view. It is going to be a different challenge and every team will have to adapt quickly to," added Kohli.

Talking about his side's first four games, Kohli said, "That sets the tone nicely for us. Everyone will have to be at their best and maintain intensity from the first match onwards. You don't have any room for complacency and that is why it is the World Cup and the most important tournament."

"We expect that kind of pressure from the first second we step on the field. We are not going to let ourselves think that 'first week onwards we will get into it'. You have to arrive on the day match ready with hundred percent match intensity and start building from there. This is the challenge."

"The recent series between Pakistan and England saw 300-plus scores being the norm but Kohli said things could change in the quadrennial tournament."

"As I said the pitches are going to be very good. It is summer and the conditions are going to be nice. We expect high scoring games but a bilateral series can't be compared to a World Cup, it is very different."

"So we might also see 260-270 kind of games and teams defending it because of the pressure factor. We expect all kinds of scenarios in the World Cup."

More than the conditions, his team will have to come out on top in high-pressure situations, said the skipper.

"It is always good to go to any place in advance. It does (help) getting rid of the nerves you might have as a side going into the World Cup. White ball cricket in England, playing an ICC event, the conditions are not that difficult compared to Tests. Handling the most pressure is the most important thing in World Cup and not necessarily the conditions."

Kohli said his highly-rated bowling line-up is ready for the challenge.



Mahi's role massive in India's campaign: Shastri

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni will have a massive role in India's bid to regain the World Cup, coach Ravi Shastri said on Tuesday, harping on the veteran's ability to influence the game's little moments.

"Massive as it has always been," Shastri told reporters when asked what he thinks would be Dhoni's role in the ICC's upcoming showpiece.

"He is right there, his communication has been fantastic. As a keeper, he has shown over the years that no one is better than him in this format, not just in taking catches, inflicting those run-outs or stumping, these are little moments in the game which can change it on the head and there was no one better than him," he said.

Dhoni, who will be playing in his fourth World Cup, amassed 416 runs at an average of 83.2 in the last IPL and led Chennai Super Kings to the final, and Shastri said he was impressed with his footwork during the league.

"It is great to see the way he was moving in the IPL especially when he was batting, the footwork, the power with which he was hitting the shots, he will be a big player in this World Cup," Shastri said at the team's pre-departure press conference.

Shastri said it would be the most challenging World Cup considering the quality of the opposition teams and the change in format.

"It will be very challenging. If you look at 2015 and 2019 now, the gap has become closer between the teams. You see what Afghanistan, Bangladesh were in 2015 and what they are now, so it is a strong competition. West Indies, on paper, is as strong as any other team," he said.

The pitches in England have become flatter over the years with the recent ODI series, involving the hosts and Pakistan, witnessing scores over 350 runs almost regularly.

"The former skipper said India will have to be flexible since overcast conditions can change things at the Old Blighty."

"I think our mantra will be to be flexible according to the conditions because this is one country in the world where the pitches may be flat but if there is overcast condition then you have to be up for it," he said.

"In no other country, overcast conditions matter so much but in England they do, London might not make that difference but if you go up north and it does get overcast then you will see things happen, so we have to be ready for that and prepare to be flexible."

Talking about the bowling attack, the coach said: "This is an experienced unit. They have been together for the last 4-5 years, they have bowled as a unit together, they accomplished what they set out to do in Tests and the endeavour will be the same here as well, to complement each other and keep the pressure right through the 50 overs."

Willey makes way for Archer in Eng squad

AFP ■ LONDON

Jofra Archer's late bid for a World Cup place was rewarded when the Sussex fast bowler was named in hosts England's 15-man squad for the tournament announced on Tuesday.

Barbados-born Archer only became qualified for England in March and has played just three one-day internationals.

He edged out left-arm quick David Willey, a veteran of 46 ODIs, after both pacemen featured during England's 4-0 series win at home to Pakistan which concluded Sunday.

There was no place also in a squad, again captained by Eoin Morgan, for back-up spinner and batsman Joe Denly, with slow left-arm Liam Dawson recalled as cover for Adil Rashid, who is nursing a shoulder problem.

Both Denly and Willey were named in England's provisional squad, as was opener Alex Hales.

James Vince came in after England decided against selecting Hales following the Nottinghamshire batsman's ban for recreational



al drug use.

Even though Willey offered a different angle of attack as the only left-arm quick in contention, Archer's ability to bowl at 90 mph — and his variety of slower balls — has seen him get the nod.

England squad: Eoin Morgan (capt), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler (wkt), Tom Curran, Liam Dawson, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, James Vince, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

'Dhoni will be India's trump card'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"Brain" of his cricket team, Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be India's trump card at the World Cup because of his vast experience, reckons former Pakistan skipper Zaheer Abbas.

India grabbed the Twenty20 World Cup under Dhoni's leadership in 2007 apart from winning the ODI World Cup in 2011. The team also won the Asia Cup twice (2010 and 2016) under Dhoni and the Champions Trophy in 2013.

His lightning skills behind the stumps are still intact but his image of world's best finisher took a hit, recently.

However, Abbas said at a big event like World Cup, Dhoni's experience will count a lot.

"India has a genius called Mahendra Singh Dhoni in the team. He is the brain of cricket



in the team. He understands the game so well and has experience of leading India in two WC wins. His experience will be vital for captain and coach and he can be their trump card," Abbas said.

"Also, it is the first WC under Virat Kohli's captaincy and he would be eager to prove his mettle as a captain," he felt.

Abbas also said the pitches in England will suit strong Indian batting line-up where 400 or 450 runs in an innings could be a possibility.

"We have seen that in the recently-concluded Pakistan-England series, that over 300 runs were scored and chased. Now in World Cup, 450 runs could be a possibility as there is no grass on the wickets and bowlers will get little help from the conditions," said the stylish batsman who was called Asian Bradman during his playing

days. "In such scenario, India will benefit as they have one of the strongest batting line ups. English wickets are now batsmen's paradise," he said.

When asked about Pakistan team which has seen some last moment changes in the final squad, Abbas said that this is the "best possible combination."

"They should now forget the loss against England and focus on World Cup. They must improve their fielding," said the veteran.

Pakistan could not win a single WC match against India so far. Can the team break this jinx this time?

"Record is with India but Pakistan can beat any team on their day. It will depend on who handles the pressure well. It will be the match of the tournament for sure, no matter who wins."

Zampa confident of posing dual spin threat with Lyon

PTI ■ LONDON

Adam Zampa believes his attacking leg-spin and Nathan Lyon's precise off-spin can play a huge role as Australia look to defend their title at the ICC World Cup.

Zampa and Lyon shared 12 wickets between them in the five-match ODI series win over Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.

"I think it was a few months ago where we actually spoke to each other and said, 'I reckon we can play a huge role coming up in the World Cup together so let's do everything we can to make sure we're both there,'" Zampa told reporters.

"We play two different roles. (Lyon) is so accurate, a beautiful off-spinner, bowls to his field really well and bowls really tight. That means I can attack from the other end."

Zampa, who has played in English conditions following a spell at Essex last summer, said communication is the key to their success.

"We've communicated really well over the last few months. We speak a lot in the nets, we speak a lot in the field, just about whatever - anything



— spin bowling, field settings or how the ball's going to come out. Just anything," he said.

"I think it's going to play a huge role for us sometime throughout the World Cup. I don't know if it will be every game but I definitely see us playing a huge role together."

Zampa reckons taking wickets in the middle over will be key and said skipper Aaron Finch has backed them to go for wickets.

Archer targets Kohli scalp

AFP ■ LONDON

Jofra Archer marked his call-up to England's World Cup squad on Tuesday by setting his sights on taking the prized wicket of India captain Virat Kohli.

The 24-year-old, whose father is English, has already faced many of the world's leading cricketers while playing for the Rajasthan Royals in the IPL.

And the Sussex quick had no problems in naming some of the best batsmen in the game as his World Cup targets.

"I'd quite like to get Virat Kohli out because I wasn't able to in the IPL," Archer told Sky Sports. "Chris Gayle as well," added Archer, mentioning the big-hitting West Indies batsman.

And for all his lack of England experience, Archer believes the time he has spent in the IPL has been good preparation for the pressure of a World Cup.

"I think I probably have a



bigger advantage over some of the other guys in our team," he said.

"We play (these guys) twice a (season) in the IPL, so you know their weaknesses, you know their strengths, you know if they can't run between the wickets... it gets you an extra bit of inside information."

He added: "To be honest, I think international cricket is probably the same intensity as the IPL. I think the only thing that changes is the amount of overs."

Test experience helped Riaz in WC selection

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz on Tuesday attributed his inclusion in the World Cup squad, despite not being a part of the ODI squad in the last couple of years, to his experience of playing Test cricket in England.

Wahab, 33, said it is a dream come true to get a chance to play his third successive World Cup.

"It is a responsibility now because I have been recalled because of my experience. I have not played too many ODIs in England but playing in Test matches there has helped me a lot and I know the conditions and pitches well now," Wahab told the reporters in Lahore.

Wahab and another experienced left-arm pacer



Muhammad Amir won unexpected call to the national team for the World Cup after Pakistan's poor performance in the one-day series against England recently.

"I am confident that I can live up to the expectations and do the job given to me. I have

become a mentally and physically stronger bowler now after playing a lot of domestic cricket and I hope that my team can benefit from my experience in the mega-event," he said.

While Amir was with the team in England, though he did not play, Wahab was not even named in the provisional squad of 23 players for the tournament.

Wahab said he was looking forward to the World Cup as the pitches were expected to be dry in England and that would help him reverse swing the ball.

He felt Pakistan were white-washed in the recent ODI series against England because of poor fielding.

"Fielders need to support their bowlers especially on pitches where conditions favour the batsmen."

PUNCH PERFECT

Mary makes winning start in 51 kg to set up semifinal clash against Nikhat in Indian Open

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Six-time world champion Mary Kom made a successful return to 51kg category by overwhelming her opponent Mala Rai of Nepal to reach the semifinals and be assured of a medal as Indians continued to dominate the India Open boxing tournament here on Tuesday.

Walking into the ring to the loud cheers of a packed crowd at the Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor Stadium here, the London Olympic Bronze medallist wasted little time in her 5-0 win.

Such was the aura of the 'Magnificent' Mary that even her opponent showed no regret in the loss as she was seen sporting a broad smile hugging the Indian boxing idol in excitement.

"It's also a learning experience for me. The Nepal opponent was experienced and quite strong. It's glad to be back in India. We all are trying our best to make the country proud," Mary Kom, who made her competitive debut at home in 51kg, said.

The celebrated Manipuri boxer had opted out of the Asian Championships last month in order to prepare for the World Championships.

Mary will be up against fellow Indian and Asian Championships Bronze medallist Nikhat Zareen in a blockbuster semi-final as the duo confirmed two medals for India.

Strandja Cup Gold medallist Nikhat was equally impressive with a flurry of punches against compatriot Anamika in her 5-0 victory.

Up against her 'idol', Nikhat will be looking to avenge her South Asian Games defeat to Mary Kom in the semifinals.

"I was nervous nervous last time but this time I'm well prepared and hope to give my best," Nikhat said.

Strandja Cup Silver medallist Manju Rani kept attacking her opponent, Cleo Claveras Tesara of Philippines right from the start to earn a win by RSC (Referee Stop Contest) in Round 1 to move to the 48kg semi-finals.

Monika was equally dominant in her quarter-final bout against Thailand's Aporn Intongsee which she won 5-0.

Kalavani was declared winner by RSC in Round 2 over Bhutan's Tandin Lhamo while Nitu did not enjoy the same fortunes and was blanked 0-5 by former world champion Josie Gabuco of Philippines.

Earlier, Haryana youngster Pawan Narwal outsmarted Youth Olympics Gold medallist Brian Arregui Agustin in the 69kg category as all the five boxers in the men's section advanced to the quarterfinals.

The Argentine dominated the first round but



the 21-year-old Indian slowly made a comeback with his clever footwork to win 4-1 in a split decision.

"It was a close fight. He was dangerous with his left hook and landed powerful punches. Pawan outworked him with his clever footwork which was the key," India's chief performance director Santiago Nieva said.

"He (Narwal) really applied the pressure and the Argentine could not sustain in the end. He scored very well from the outside. It was a fair decision," Nieva said of the bout, adding that the Haryana lad needs some more international exposure.

Narwal will next face Clair Marven of Mauritius in the semifinals.

Having lost out four years of competitions at junior level due to suspension of boxing fed-

eration, Narwal from Rindhana in Sonapat joined the camp only last year and caught everyone by surprise.

In 2018, Narwal had settled for a Bronze at the Asian Games Invitational Test Tournament in Jakarta in February. He then went on to change the colour of the medal to silver at the Belgrade International Boxing tournament in August.

"We could not compete at the Junior Nationals for four years due to the suspension and made a direct entry to seniors last year," Narwal said.

Talking about the camp in Patiala, he said: "I've got some good partners in the camp and Santiago Sir is working really hard for me. There has been a huge improvement in me."

In the bottom half of the draw in the 69kg,

experienced Dinesh Dagar, who won a Silver medal at the last edition of this tournament, was far from convincing but overcame Filipino Marjon Angcon Pinar 3-2 in a split decision.

"He can be better than he did today," Nieva said of Dagar who had defeated 2012 Olympic Bronze medallist Evaldas Petrauskas of Lithuania en route to winning Silver at the GeeBee Tournament in Finland in March.

Youth World Championship Bronze medallist Ankit Khatana (60kg) began the day for the Indian's in the men's section with a win over Ryan Boy Empoc Moreno of Philippines.

Ankit will take on Prakash Limbu Ijam of Nepal in the quarterfinals.

Ashish (64kg) and Manjit Panghal (75kg) also made the quarterfinals in their respective sections.



Indian shuttlers suffer 2-3 loss

PTI ■ NANNING

Sameer Verma suffered a shocking straight-game loss in men's Singles on Tuesday as India were stunned 2-3 by a young Malaysia in a group 1D match to jeopardise their hopes of reaching the knock-out stage of the Sudirman Cup mixed team championship here.

Mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa produced a brilliant performance to outdo Malaysia's Goh Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie 16-21, 21-17, 24-22 in an hour and 10-minute opening match to give India a 1-0 lead.

But India's decision to field world No 13 Sameer instead of Kidambi Srikanth in men's singles backfired as the former couldn't get going against Lee Zii Jia, losing 13-21, 15-21 in 48 minutes to allow Malaysia level the scores 1-1.

Olympic and world championship Silver medallist P V Sindhu then steamrolled Goh Jin Wei 21-12, 21-8 in 35 minutes to bring India back on track but doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeth Reddy lost narrowly 20-22, 19-21 to Aaron Chia and Teo Ee Yi.

With India and Malaysia level at 2-2, Ashwini once again took the court — two hours after her mixed doubles match — along with N Sikki Reddy but the women's doubles pair couldn't get across the world No 13 pair of Chow Mei Kuan and Lee Meng Yean, losing 11-21, 19-21.

Eighth seeded India's hopes will now rest on their next match when they take on the mighty China on Wednesday.

China boasts of All England champion Chen Yufei and world No 2 Shi Yuqi besides three formidable doubles pairs — all figuring the world's top 10 and it will take a miraculous effort from India to overcome the 10-time champions.

India had reached the quarterfinals in the 2011 and 2017 editions of the Sudirman Cup.



Giroud gears up to face Arsenal

AFP ■ LONDON

Olivier Giroud is relishing the prospect of beating his old Arsenal team-mates when he lines up for Chelsea in the Europa League final in Baku on May 29.

The 32-year-old French World Cup winner's move across London 18 months ago has failed to deliver the regular first team football he hoped after falling behind compatriot Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in the pecking order at Arsenal.

However, he has played a huge part in the Blues run to the Europa League final and is the joint top scorer in this season's competition with 10 goals.

"I always like playing against my old teams," Giroud, won three FA Cups in five-and-a-half years at Arsenal, told the Daily Mail.

"It's going to be tough, and it could be painful if it's not going the right way, but you have to put the feelings and memories aside."

"I enjoyed the years I spent there. It has been a big part of my career, my first club in England and it will always be special, but now I feel my blood is blue. The same as the national team, blue suits me well."

Giroud on Tuesday signed a one-year contract extension with the Blues, believes there is a more cut-throat culture at his new club compared to the Gunners and part of the reason why Chelsea have outstripped Arsenal for silverware over the

past decade.

"Maybe you would get more time at Arsenal. They would be more patient," he added.

"At Chelsea you have to be ready quickly because in terms of trophies it has been the best club in England for the last 10 years."

"You don't have time at Chelsea and when you are young it is quite difficult to find your place. I don't want to kill the dreams of these young Chelsea players."

"They are very talented, but it makes sense because Chelsea invest more in every transfer window and they buy more top players in the world who are more experienced."

Giroud has scored 17 goals in 62 appearances for Chelsea since joining in January 2018, but has largely been used as an understudy to Gonzalo Higuain since Alvaro Morata's loan move to Atletico Madrid.

Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia added: "We are very pleased that Olivier will be a Chelsea player for another season. "Since joining us 18 months ago, he has at times had to be patient and wait for opportunities, but has still been able to make a positive contribution to the team."

"Whether it is his unselfish link-up play or his 10 Europa League goals this season, he has been a crucial member of the squad and we hope he will be able to pick up a second Chelsea winner's medal in Baku later this month to accompany last season's FA Cup win."

Mkhitaryan to miss Europa League final

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal's Armenian midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan will miss the Europa League final against Chelsea in Baku amid fears over his safety.

Mkhitaryan's well-being was a concern for Arsenal due to the tense political dispute between Armenia and final hosts Azerbaijan.

The Premier League club have decided against Mkhitaryan travelling with the rest of Unai Emery's squad for next Wednesday's game.

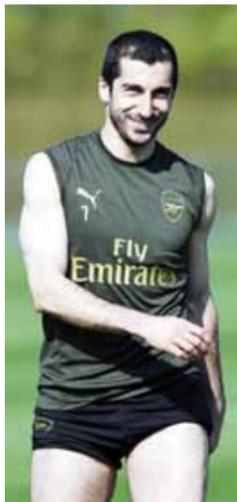
"We are very disappointed to announce that Henrikh Mkhitaryan will not be travelling with the squad for our UEFA Europa League final against Chelsea," an Arsenal statement announced on Tuesday.

"We have thoroughly explored all the options for Micki to be part of the squad but after discussing this with Micki and his family we have collectively agreed he will not be in our travelling party."

Azerbaijan's ambassador to the UK, Tahir Taghizadeh, had insisted Mkhitaryan would be free from any threat of violence, but it was reported the star didn't believe he would be safe on the pitch.

"Having considered all the current options, we had to take the tough decision for me not to travel with the squad to the UEL Final against Chelsea," Mkhitaryan tweeted.

"It's the kind of game that doesn't come along very often for us players and I must admit, it hurts me a



lot to miss it. I will be cheering my teammates on! Let's bring it home."

UEFA, European football's governing body, insisted they had done all they could to ensure Mkhitaryan's safety in Baku.

Mkhitaryan had featured in 11 games during the Europa League campaign and his absence will be a big blow as Arsenal look for the victory they need to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Pain-free Murray optimistic about return

AFP ■ LONDON

Andy Murray is confident he can return to competitive tennis and has hinted at a doubles spot at Wimbledon, inspired by American doubles great Bob Bryan's return from hip surgery.

The two-time Wimbledon champion, 32, in January announced plans to retire after this year's Wimbledon due to injury, expressing doubt as to whether he would even make it to the All England Club.

The Scot has all but ruled out an appearance in the singles draw, nearly four months after surgery on a



career-threatening hip problem, but he could return by playing in the men's doubles.

The former world number one told Tuesday Times there was "very little chance" he would play singles during the grass-court season.

"Potentially doubles, but I'm not trying to get ready for singles just now," he said.

"The thing I said before was that, if I wasn't feeling good, there was more chance that I would play and then stop after Wimbledon."

"Whereas if it's feeling good, it makes a bit more sense to give it time to make sure that it's as good as possible before I try to play singles on it."

HI names women's team for U-21 tourney

NEW DELHI: Hockey India on Tuesday named an 18-member Indian junior women's team for the Cantor Fitzgerald U-21 International 4-Nations tournament in Dublin, followed by matches in Baranovich, Belarus.

The Indian team will first travel to Ireland where they will play a match each against the Irish national team and Canada junior women's team on May 28 and 29 respectively. That will be followed by the Cantor Fitzgerald U-21 tournament featuring

India, Ireland, Canada and Scotland which is scheduled to be held from May 31 to June 4.

The team will then play yet another match against the Irish national team on June 6 following which, the Indian junior team will travel to Belarus to play five matches with the host nation's senior, junior and development teams starting June 9.

The Indian team will be captained by Suman Devi Thoudam and her deputy will be Gagandeep Kaur.

Bichu Devi Kharibam and Khushboo have been selected as the Goalkeepers who will guard the goal-posts, while Defenders Ishika Chaudhary, Priyanka, Mahima Choudhary, Simran Singh will join Suman Devi Thoudam and Gagandeep Kaur in the backbone.

Midfielders Preeti, Mariana Kujur, Chetna, Ajmita Kujur and Baljeet Kaur will command the mid-field for India, while the forward-line will feature Mumtaz Khan, Beauty Dzungdung, Sharmila Devi, Reet and Lalrindiki.

Speaking about the team selection, coach Baljeet Singh said, "We have a good few weeks of matches coming up in Ireland and Belarus against some of the stronger teams in the world."

"We have selected our team keeping in mind the challenges we are going to face there, and I am sure both the tours will help our players in gaining further experience of playing quality teams at a high intensity. I am looking forward to seeing our team excel in foreign conditions."

XAVI'S LAST MATCH ENDS IN DEFEAT

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Xavi Hernandez's dazzling career came to a low-key end when his Qatari side Al Sadd were beaten 2-0 by Iranian giants Persepolis in their last group match of the AFC Champions League on Monday.

The 39-year-old midfield genius, who helped Spain win the World Cup in 2010 and won four UEFA Champions League titles and eight La Liga titles with Barcelona, was cheered by fans at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran where already-eliminated Persepolis produced an improved display to register only their second win in

six matches. Just 11,000 spectators were present in the 100,000-capacity stadium, mostly wearing the red of Persepolis, who won the Iranian league title days before this match.

Several home fans brandished banners reading "Adios Xavi" to show their appreciation of the player who with Andres Iniesta formed the backbone of one of Barcelona's greatest ever sides.

Xavi was also honoured by the Persepolis management who presented him with a jersey featuring the number six he has worn in his career.

But Al Sadd's second defeat in a row, following

their 4-1 thrashing by domestic rivals Al Duhail in last week's Amir Cup final in Doha, meant Xavi's illustrious career ended in a low-key fashion.

Xavi, who became the first player in history to play 150 UEFA Champions League matches, has indicated that he will stay in Qatar to begin a coaching career, probably remaining in a highly-paid role with Al Sadd, rather than return to Spain.

"The idea is to start as a coach in Qatar, where there is less pressure, to test myself and get some experience," Xavi told Spain's Efe agency in Tehran just hours before facing Persepolis.

LOST/FOUND

By virtue of an affidavit sworn in before Notary Public, Dharmasala, Jajpur, I, Jaladhar Mohanty, S/O - Bhagaban Mohanty of Village - Chahata, P.O./P.S. - Dharmasala, District - Jajpur hereby declared that the original registration deed No. 26/2011 and Patta of village Nuagaon Khata No 187/89, Plot No. 391, Area Ac 0.23 has been lost somewhere and not traceable. If somebody found these documents please send the same on the above address.

Sd/-
Jaladhar Mohanty

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of "Odisha Kalyan Party". The office of the party is located at Plot No.-44 (1st Floor), Satyanagar, Po-Satyanagar, PS- Kharabela Nagar, Bhubaneswar, District-Khordha, Odisha-751007. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

Names/addresses of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:-
President: Shri Alok Jena, S/O- Late Kasinath Jena, Plot No.-44, Satyanagar, Po-Satyanagar, PS- Kharabela Nagar, Bhubaneswar, District-Khordha, Odisha-751007.

Vice-President: Sri Susanta Behuria, S/O-Late Ghanashyam Behuria, Village-Odei, PO- Dasarathpur, PS-Mangalpur, District-Jajpur, Odisha-755006.

Secretary General: Smt. Kalpana Jena, W/o-Sri Alok Jena, Plot No.-44, Satyanagar, Po-Satyanagar, PS- Kharabela Nagar, Bhubaneswar, District-Khordha, Odisha-751007.

General Secretary: Sri Abani Kumar Patra, S/O-Late Murali Dhar Patra, Plot No.-15, Sector-A, Zone-B, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, PO-Rasulgarh, PS-Mancheswar, District-Khordha, Odisha-751010.

Treasurer: Smt. Snigdha Mishra, W/o- Sri Siba Prasad Mishra, At-HIG-C/62, Housing Board Colony, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, District-Khordha, Odisha-751003.

If anyone has any objection to the registration of "Odisha Kalyan Party", they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.