

OPINION 8
AN EVOLVING
DEMOCRACY

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PAK ISSUES ORDER TO FREEZE
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IN EUROPA LEAGUE

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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TODAY: BHUMI
13 VIVACITY



Fani kills 8 in Odisha, loses steam into Bengal

Strongest cyclone in 20 years barrelled at 175km/hr uprooting trees, damaging houses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Cyclone Fani (also known as Phani, meaning "hood of the snake" in Bengali) rolled through Odisha's Puri on Friday, bringing rain and windstorm that gusted up to 175 kmph, leaving at least 8 people dead, and blowing away thatched houses, uprooting trees, electricity poles, cutting off power supply, and swamping towns and villages in the State.

The strongest cyclone in India in 20 years made landfall around 8 am in Puri, with roaring winds flattening huts, enveloping the pilgrim town in sheets of rain, and submerging homes in residential areas.

The extremely severe cyclone Fani, a name given by Bangladesh, weakened from an "extremely severe" to "very severe", and is predicted to further weaken to a "severe cyclone" before moving to West Bengal.

In several videos doing rounds on social media showed the impact of the powerful gale and heavy rain. In videos posted by Sitangshu Kar, the Director General of the Press Information Bureau, the roof of an undergraduate hostel in the Bhubaneswar AIIMS was seen being blown off. Later the wind speed of Fani came down to around 140-165 kmph.

According to officials, large areas in Puri and other places were submerged with water as heavy rain battered the entire

coastal belt of the State. Several trees were uprooted and thatched structures destroyed at some places, including Bhubaneswar. All flights from Bhubaneswar have been cancelled since Thursday midnight, and Kolkata airport is shut from 3 pm on Friday till 8 am on Saturday. 140 trains, including 83 passenger trains, have been cancelled so far.

In Bhubaneswar, people took shelter under shades as the heavy rain lashed the city. They said their "homes were shaking". After crossing Odisha, cyclone Fani is likely to move towards West Bengal before tapering off. Cyclone Fani also triggered heavy rain in parts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh, where gusty winds with speed reaching up to 140 kmph uprooted trees and electricity poles, officials said.

The Odisha Government has evacuated over 11 lakh people, including at least 600 pregnant women, to camps on higher grounds.

"I assure the affected people that the nation and the centre are with them," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a rally in Rajasthan. He said over ₹1,000 crore had been released in advance for the states affected by Fani.

The Union Health Ministry has announced cancellation of Bhubaneswar as a centre for the AIIMS PG 2019 examination due to Fani.

"AIIMS PG exam is scheduled on May 5. Due to cyclone

Fani, AIIMS Delhi is cancelling the exam centre in Bhubaneswar. Another exam will be conducted for students affected by this cancellation as soon as normalcy returns (sic)," Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan tweeted.

KJ Ramesh, Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), predicted light to moderate rain in northeastern States — Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura due to cyclone while heavy to very heavy rain predicted over Arunachal Pradesh and Assam on May 4 and 5.

"After making landfall this morning, cyclone Fani has started weakening and it's likely to enter Bangladesh by Saturday evening," he said.

No cyclone ever had such a long duration in April. The Home Ministry said an eye of cyclonic storm "Fani" "completely moved into land" by 10 am on Friday weakening its fury, but heavy rainfall is still predicted in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and parts of the northeastern States.

The system is likely to weaken gradually and emerge into Gangetic West Bengal as a "severe cyclonic storm" by the early morning of May 4. Thereafter, it is expected to move further north-northeastwards and emerge into Bangladesh by May 4 evening as a cyclonic storm.

Continued on Page 4



Damaged structures and uprooted trees lie along a road in Puri after Cyclone Fani hit Odisha on Friday

AP

CAPSULE

AKSHAY SAYS HE HOLDS CANADIAN PASSPORT

Mumbai: Setting to rest speculation about his citizenship, actor Akshay Kumar on Friday said his aim is to make India a stronger nation even though he holds a Canadian passport.

KEJRIWAL GETS NOTICE FROM POLL AUTHORITIES

New Delhi: Poll authorities in Delhi have issued a showcause notice to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to submit certificate obtained by a panel, after receiving a complaint that a recorded audio message was allegedly sent by the party to mobile phone users.

MARKETS

SENSEX	38963.26	(-18.17)
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Cong candidate raps Shatrughan for campaign for 'Samajwadi' wife

AGENCY ■ LUCKNOW

The Congress candidate from Lucknow on Friday took strong exception to party leader Shatrughan Sinha canvassing for his wife, who is the Samajwadi Party candidate in the constituency.

Shatrughan was present during the filing of nomination papers by his wife, Poonam Sinha. He attended an election meeting on Thursday with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav.

"From the behaviour of Shatrughan Sinha, it appears that although he has joined the Congress, but has not yet resigned from the RSS," Acharya Pramod, the Congress Lucknow candidate, tweeted.

Shatrughan Sinha quit the BJP recently and is the Congress candidate from the Patna Sahib constituency in Bihar. Poonam is the SP-BSP-RLD alliance candidate from Lucknow, who is contesting against Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Pramod.

Polling will be held in Lucknow on Monday.

Hans: I'm not Muslim, will sue Kejriwal for maligning my image



BJP candidate from North-West Delhi Hans Raj Hans, with Delhi BJP MLA Vijender Gupta, addresses media in New Delhi on Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed BJP candidate from North West Delhi Hans Raj Hans converted to Islam in 2014 and therefore can't fight from a Lok Sabha seat reserved for the Scheduled Caste, Hans on Friday said he would file a defamation case against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other AAP leaders for "maligning" his image.

In a tweet on Thursday, Kejriwal had claimed that Hans would be declared ineligible to contest the election for fighting on a reserved seat.

Rejecting Kejriwal's allegation as canard, Hans asked at a Press conference, "I am used to speaking Urdu but that does not mean I am a Muslim. Does a Muslim speaking Hindi becomes a Hindu? I was born in a Valmiki family and my mother worships Valmiki."

Continued on Page 4

AAP MLA joins BJP, says party has strayed from its past ideals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Gandhi Nagar Anil Bajpayi quit the party and joined the BJP on Friday.

"I worked with the AAP for many years. I was hurt by the lack of respect and the peculiar functioning of the party. AAP has deviated from its original path," Bajpayi said.

The move comes at a time when AAP leaders, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, have accused the BJP of indulging in horse trading.

Bajpai joined the BJP in the presence of party national vice-president and Delhi BJP in-charge Shyam Jaju and Union Minister Vijay Goel at the Delhi unit office here.

Earlier Kejriwal had hit out at Vijay Goel for saying that 14 AAP lawmakers were in touch with the BJP and ready to switch loyalty. On Wednesday, Manish Sisodia had claimed seven AAP MLAs had been offered ₹10 crore each to join the BJP.

Continued on Page 4

2 cleaners die in Noida sewer tank

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Two sewer cleaners — residents of Janakpuri in West Delhi and engaged by the Noida Authority via a contractor — died in a sewer tank in Salarpur in Noida on Friday, officials said.

Though police are ascertaining the cause of the death of Hamid and Aslam late on Thursday, preliminary investigation suggests that they suffocated to death inside the sewer tank.

Police, the Fire Department, and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were called in for rescue, officials said. The bodies of the workers were retrieved after nearly four-hour rescue operation by a team of the NDRF, said an official of the disaster response force.

"We reached the spot at 3.15 am and began operations at 3.20 am. The first body was recovered at 6.25 am and the second at 7.20 am," said Jeetender Yadav, who led the nine-member NDRF team.



Burhan Wani's last 'Tiger', 2 other Hizbul terrorists shot

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces early on Friday morning dealt a body blow to top Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) commanders active in Kashmir Valley by neutralising Lateef Ahmad Dar, alias Tiger of Dogripora Pulwama, the lone surviving member of Burhan Wani group, along with two other local terrorists in a fierce firefight in South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Timing of the clinical operation is set to boost the morale of the security forces deployed in the area to ensure peaceful polling in the final phase in Shopian and Pulwama districts on May 6.

After the killing of HM's poster boy Burhan Wani in July 2016, several other top commanders were neutralised by the security forces.

Lateef Ahmad Dar, killed in Shopian, was lone surviving member of the group who was still active in the area.

Detailed report on P7

If Cong equations work, the die is 'caste' in Jaipur, Bharatpur

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ JAIPUR(RURAL)/ BHARATPUR

The Jaipur Rural Lok Sabha seat is all set to witness a very interesting contest between two Olympians sitting BJP MP Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Congress' Krishna Poonia. An equally keen contest is on the cards in the neighbouring Bharatpur, a stronghold of Jats, between two Dalits — a retired bureaucrat and a daughter-in-law of three times BJP MP Gangaram Koli. Both the seats will go to polls on Monday.

While Rathore is a Rajput and an Olympic gold medalist, Poonia is a Jat from Haryana and married in Rajasthan. She is also a sitting MLA and international gold medal-winner in discus throw and three times Olympic participant.

In 2014 Jaipur Rural Lok Sabha polls, Rathore defeated Congress veteran CP Joshi by

over three lakh votes. But in the November 2018 Assembly elections for the eight Assembly seats in this Lok Sabha constituency, four were bagged by the Congress, three by the BJP and one by an Independent.

Poonia has been working on a successful caste equation by banking on the support of Jats, and a combination of Ahirs (Yadavs), Dalit and Muslim. Faced with such challenging scenario, Rathore is relying on the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"While Modi magic can work on youths and middle class, a large section of voters here are upset with Rathore, claiming that he confined himself to inaugurating projects and remaining inaccessible. But Poonia worked at grassroots with her husband (athlete Virender Poonia) and thus has a chance this time," said Sukhbir Chauhan of village Jomwar Ramgarh.



2019 Elections Battleground LOK SABHA

Given the caste equation of Bharatpur Lok Sabha seat, Congress candidate Abhijit Kumar Jataw, a retired bureaucrat, seems to have an edge over BJP's Ranjeeta Koli. In the recent Assembly elections, the Congress and its alliance partner RLD won six of the eight Assembly seats in Bharatpur the Parliamentary constituency. While the BSP bagged the remaining two seats, the BJP failed to even open its account. Ranjeeta will also have to face the backlash from the supporters of sitting party MP Bahadur Singh Koli, who was denied the ticket.

Though the Congress has an upper hand in Bharatpur, it has to guard against BSP's

Suraj Jataw. The Congress is working hard to end the enmity between Jataws and the Jats arisen in the 1992 Kumer massacre when Jats set ablaze more than 100 houses of Jataws. Erstwhile ruler of Bharatpur and a Minister in the Ashok Gehlot Government, Vishvendra Singh, has been deputed by the party to win over Jats for the purpose.

Once represented by tall leaders of the Congress such as Natwar Singh, Rajesh Pilot, Raj Bahadur and Vishvendra Singh, the Jat Kingdom was declared a reserved constituency for SC in 2008 delimitation. The Congress won in 2009, but lost to the BJP in 2014 in the heat of Modi wave.

THE OTHER SIDE The Real Women of Substance



BY PARITOSH KIMOTHI

For a working journalist it is nearly impossible to ignore the elections even if one is not that much interested in stereotypical politics. Barring a few politicians most have little new to offer in their speeches and ideas.

To delve into something different from what was learnt in past elections, one thought of listening to some prominent lady politicians more this time. However, in general, observing the prominent lady politicians from different parties in the so called Mahagathbandhan and a few others in the other party was by and large disappointing.

Not that they were any worse than the male politicians in general, but it was all the more disappointing to hear election speeches of the politician campaigning for her brother and party.

The speeches comprised either of ill-timed smiles and giggles while the translator rendered her dialogues in the local language in South India or of the usual amateurish and even false statements that seem

far from convincing to most level-headed citizens.

Then there is the apparently fiery lady from West Bengal, whose statements in the media and rallies would have been quite comical had the intention and reality behind them been so simple to explain.

Having had enough of this, instead of observing the other stalwarts, one was reminded of some real women of substance here in Uttarakhand.

There are many women and also men with impressive characters, who have done great deeds here when the times were much more challenging than they are now. One was reminded of a queen of Garhwal who was famous for taking stern decisions, defeating the Mughal army and also developing parts of the kingdom including what is now Dehradun.

From historical records, one learns that after the death of Garhwal king Mahipati Shah in 1631, his wife Karnavati took over administration of the kingdom on behalf of the seven-year old prince who was ceremoniously anointed king. Rajmata Karnavati got roads built in various parts and facilitated irrigation to boost farming as in villages located between Dehradun and Rajpur which at that time were not as conveniently connected as they are now.

Karnpur, which is now a locality in Dehradun is also stated to have been established by her. She also reorganised

and improved the Garhwal army under its chief general Madhosingh Bhandari. Among her advisers was Dostbeig Mughal who was made a captain in the Garhwal army earlier and probably on his suggestion, she started handing out stern punishments to dissenters and criminals like cutting off the noses of those violating the State's order.

While this led to her also being referred to as Nak-Katti Rani, it is also believed that dacoity and other crimes were nearly eradicated in the kingdom.

Historians state that when Shah Jahan ruled the Mughal empire, the sixth Sikh guru Hargobind Singh after fighting three battles against the Mughals between 1628 and 1634 decided to visit Srinagar, Garhwal to rest.

At that time, Samarth Ramdas- later the guru of Chhatrapati Shivaji- who was on a pilgrimage to Badrinath, met Guru Hargobind at Srinagar in 1634.

It is said that Karnavati had assured Ramdas at that time that the Garhwal army will protect this sacred land from Mughal invaders.

Later, when the Mughals invaded this region in 1635 they took over various locations in the Doon valley and had crossed Haridwar. They were planning to move towards the capital Srinagar which was said to be about 55 miles from their location.

There are different ver-

sion- some crediting the strategy of the queen, others crediting a combination of rains, courage and tactics of the queen's generals but eventually the invaders were repelled. Karnavati handed over reins of the kingdom fully to her son after he reached 18 years of age.

The second lady one recalled is the wealthy widow of the 19th century, Jasuli Saukyani. It is said that in dejection following the death of her only son at a young age, the wealthy widow started to throw her large quantities of silver coins and other valuables into the Ramganga river. When the then commissioner of Kumaon, Henry Ramsay saw her dumping sacks of silver coins in the Ramganga, he was able to convince her to use her wealth to benefit the people in stead of throwing it away.

She then got more than 100 roadside Dharmshalas or caravansaries built along the trade/pilgrimage route to Tibet (Kailash Mansarovar) from Haldwani to the Johar valley in the high Himalayas of Pithoragarh district during British rule. It is another thing that the ruins of these Dharmshalas remain mostly ignored now, despite being part of the State's valuable heritage.

However, reading about these women turned out to be a much better use of time than listening to the politicians going overboard in the heat of election campaign.

SCPCR asks authorities to ensure registration of private hostels

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Taking cognisance of a complaint received regarding private hostels being operated in the State, the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) chairperson Usha Negi has written a letter to the chief secretary Utpal Kumar Singh, director general of police Anil K Raturi and other officials concerned to ensure registration of paying guest accommodations and private hostels. The officials have been provided copies of the new manual prepared by the commission regarding such facilities. They have been asked to ensure that the said private facilities are registered as per the manual.

The chairperson of the commission stated that crime like molestation and harassment of boys and girls have been rising, which is an alarming situation. Also, the operation of unregistered hostels is also a factor affecting the effective prevention of such incidents.

Negi said, "The commission has a 28-page manual providing an overview of the necessary factors to be considered while registering a hostel. We along have also sent the manual to various officials concerned. This manual covers all the points from food and management to security, cleanliness and various other aspects. Registration committees are being set in the districts and reports being sought from these so that the commission can also conduct inspections from time to time."

DD College hosts annual fest

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

DD College celebrated its annual festival here on Friday. The vice chancellor of Shri Dev Suman University, US Rawat and chairman of Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN) Mahavir Singh Rangad were present on the occasion.

Addressing the students during the event Rawat spoke on the importance of hard work and honesty. He said, "It is important the young students work hard and with honesty."

Also, it is very important to save the environment for which we should all work as

Addressing the students during the event Rawat spoke on the importance of hard work and honesty. He said, "It is important the young students work hard and with honesty"

one. The unseasonal weather changes which we are all

able to observe are the sign that our environment is immensely affected. In order to save mankind and live in this world in a proper manner we should save our environment as now we have time."

Expressing his views, Rangad said that the students should put their heart into studying.

The academic chairman of DD College, VK Tyagi felicitated Rawat and Rangad on the occasion. Cultural presentations were also held as part of the event which also consisted of distribution of prizes to winners of various sports and cultural events.



A view of the Naini lake on a cloudy Friday in Nainital

Pioneer photo

INBRIEF

TIMES WORLD SCHOOL CONGRATULATES ALL TOPPERS

Dehradun: The students of Class XII at Times World School who passed in first class and distinction attributed their success to their teachers and school management who instilled faith in their abilities. Among the toppers, Shivang Sharma expressed gratitude for guidance from teachers who helped him whenever he was stuck with a difficult problem. Harsh Bansal said that the school had provided him opportunities to attain the goals of his life. Sankalp Bhatia thanked the school for giving him opportunities which helped him improve.

Adhyan Dhyani also thanked the teachers for being supportive and guiding the students. Ayushi Anand thanked her teachers and friends for helping her in pursuing her goals.

UPES MARKS WORLD IP DAY

Dehradun: UPES held a workshop and panel discussion recently to mark World Intellectual Property Day. Addressing the gathering, ex deputy controller of patents and design, SK Mitra explained the importance of IP laws and development in that field over the years. He spoke on the protection, creation and commercialisation of IP rights that are still shady in a world of rapid internet and unrestricted data access.

Head and Dean, Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT Kharagpur, professor M Padmavati talked about the value added services of Intellectual Property while uncovering the lesser-known issues for patents as cited by previous precedent cases.

Head, IP Management, WIPRO Limited, Kolkata, Sudipta Ghosh spoke about the gradual emergence of IP laws in India and their impact on the economy and resources of the country.

Head of IPR and Technology Transfer Adastra IP Private Limited, Mandira Roy spoke on IP management and technology transfer policy for success in creative India.

GAIROLA TAKES OVER AS UERC OFFICIATING CHAIRMAN

Dehradun: The member (Law) of the Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (UERC), D P Gairola took over as the officiating chairman of UERC on Friday. The post of the Chairman was lying vacant after the term of its former chairman Subhash Kumar ended recently.



In rising heat, coolers selling more than last year

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Customers looking for cooling appliances are seen bustling about in Paltan Bazaar as temperatures continue to rise in the Doon valley. Though spells of rain in the recent past have affected the sales of such appliances, the traders expect better sales in the near future. Fans, coolers and air conditioners are in higher demand this time compared to the corresponding period in 2018, claim sellers.

The demand for cooling appliances in the month of May generally gives sellers a tentative idea of the expected sales during the summer. However, due to spells of rain in Dehradun recently, the frequency of customers has come down says the owner of an electronics shop in Paltan Bazaar.



The owner of another electronics shop, Vinay says that he sold about 400 coolers in 2018

but expects to sell a higher number this year. The rains provided some relief from the heat in the city leaving his shop selling lesser units in recent days. However, he is confident

The demand for cooling appliances in the month of May generally gives sellers a tentative idea of the expected sales during the summer. However, due to spells of rain in Dehradun recently, the frequency of customers has come down says the owner of an electronics shop in Paltan Bazaar

that as temperatures rise, more people will look to buying coolers.

Kishore Kapoor who has owned an electronic appliances shop on Chakrata Road for 15 years says that most customers buy coolers in the range between Rs 3000 to Rs 5000. According to him only 25 per cent customers buy coolers up to the range of Rs 12,000.

Shalini, a customer says that she looks for offers when buying a cooling appliance. This helps her save money as coolers are only used for three to four months in the year during summer.

It is important to see the cooling features like dust and blower control of the appliance to determine its efficiency, she says.

Trekkers' paradise opens its arms again to adventure-seekers

JASKIRAN CHOPRA ■ DEHRADUN

While the Char Dham Yatra in the mountain state of Uttarakhand will begin soon for the spiritual seekers, the fascinating trek routes of the state will be now frequented by adventure seekers from all over the country and abroad. Tourists, pilgrims and trekkers swarm Uttarakhand in this season and many a quiet and remote place in the mountains comes alive for a couple of months.

Uttarakhand has always been seen as an amazing destination by trekkers and attracts them in large numbers. Several popular treks are found in the region, promising breathtaking views at every turn a trekker takes. Garhwal has been described as "the most beautiful land in the mountains of the Asian sub-continent" by T Longstaff, renowned mountaineer and trekker. Treks are available throughout the year. Among the most popular are the Nagtibba Trek which takes one from Rishikesh to Mussoorie, Kedarnath-Vasukital Trek, Valley of Flowers Trek and Devi Darshan Trek.

Till the 1970s and 1980s, treks up to Mussoorie and to places around this famous hill station were extremely popular among adventure seekers. Even school students used to come up here from Doon through the old trek routes, the most popular being the one from Rajpur village. However, the trend faded away over the last few decades. There have been some efforts to revive this and some other routes but facilities

are still few and far between. Complete revamping of facilities on these routes can add a new dimension to adventure tourism in the state.

These routes include the ones between Sartali and Bhadraraj Temple and Dudhli and Bhadraraj Temple. Efforts are also being made to repopularise the treks from Rajpur to Mussoorie and Raipur to Suakholi.

Amenities for trekkers and "Hawaghars" need to be set up on the trek routes as also rest houses on these routes for trekkers to stay at night.

Uttarakhand has the potential to emerge as a major world class trekking destination. Trekkers from all parts of the country and abroad come in large numbers to Uttarakhand.

Many Tourist Rest Houses of the Gahwal Mandal Vikas Nigam and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam have been renovated for the convenience of trekkers and other visitors to the state.

The Pauri-Khirsu - Lansdowne trekking circuit in Garhwal and the Pithoragarh-Munsiyari circuit in Kumaon are spectacular. In and around Mussoorie itself, there are 21 kilometres of trekking routes. Mussoorie is a "Trekker's Delight". Students of schools from Dehradun and Mussoorie can be seen trekking and camping on these routes during their mid-term breaks.

Suakholi which lies between Mussoorie and Dhanaulti and is twelve kilometres from Mussoorie is a



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pristine destination, affording campers the delight of experiencing nature in its purest form. These camps have none of the trappings of a professional resort. They are raw camps with hikes and walks,

and panoramic views of the Himalayas. All aspects of environmental awareness and outdoor skills are taken care of at the camps and the students come back well-informed. Walks and treks starting from Mussoorie are the walk from Mussoorie to Landour, the walk from Mussoorie to Kempthorn and walk to Clouds End.

The walk from Mussoorie to Landour begins from Picture Palace point and passes through the mile-long Landour Bazaar known for its quaint shops, selling antiques.

The four kilometre walk takes one past the old churches of the hill station and offers magnificent views of the Doon Valley and the splendid Himalayan range. When one reaches the Saint Paul's Church near the popular "Char Dukaan" one can take the road going up to Sisters Bazaar which is also part of the can-

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HC orders collection of dues from ex-CMs

PNS ■ NAINITAL
The High Court has ordered collection of dues from ex Chief Ministers for the official bungalows and other facilities provided to them within six months. Hearing on a public interest litigation filed by the Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra (RLEK), the division bench headed by chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan quashed all the government orders regarding facilities for ex CMs and directed that the pending house rent according to current market rates should be recovered within six months. Further, the State Government

was directed to calculate the dues for electricity, water, gunner, telephone, petrol and other expenses of the ex-CMs and recover the same within four months. Regarding the late ND Tiwari, the division bench stated that if the government wishes, it can collect the dues from his property. The court observed that the ex CMs got all facilities approved for themselves before the end of their term in office. The State government had submitted in the court that the dues of the five ex- CMs amounted to Rs 2.85 crore. This sum consisted of Rs 40.95

lakh due from Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Rs 46.95 lakh due from BC Khanduri, Rs 37.50 lakh due from Vijay Bahuguna, Rs 47.57 lakh due from Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Rs 1.13 crore due from the late ND Tiwari. It will be recalled that RLEK had filed a PIL in the high court contending that the provision of official bungalows and various other facilities being provided to former chief ministers was against the rules and illegal. The petitioner had sought that the rent due for the official bungalows occupied by the ex CMs should be recovered from them.

Mobile eateries operating illegally in Doon

MONISHA BAHUGUNA ■ DEHRADUN
The mobile eateries (food vans) operating in the city lack proper legal authorisation and are operating illegally in the city. It has been learnt that the three departments involved in this--the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) and the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) lack a proper mechanism for granting No Objection Certificate (NOC) to these mobile eateries and also to check these regularly. It is also pertinent to mention that these mobile eateries have to mandatorily take NOCs from the departments concerned. The vans operating in the city take registration under the category

of retailers from the FSSAI which makes it difficult for the officials to spot the vehicles in documentation. Also as per the norms of the FSSAI, the seller should have medical checkups every six months and the certificate should always remain with the seller. None of such vehicles running in the city is registered with the RTO while the MCD too doesn't have a record. When asked about it, Dehradun assistant regional transport officer Arvind Pandey said, "We do have a provision for these mobile eateries which clearly states that all these vehicles are supposed to get registered in the RTO. The fitness of the vehicle, modification is checked by us and then the NOC is granted. Anyone caught even changing the vehicle colour without our permission has to pay a fine. These mobile eateries running in the city are all illegal as none are registered by us. A drive to impose fine and seize these vehicles will be started by us soon." The operators of such eateries were also given training to achieve the standards set by the FSSAI

When asked about it, Dehradun Assistant Regional Transport Officer Arvind Pandey said, "We do have a provision for these mobile eateries which clearly states that all these vehicles are supposed to get registered in the RTO. The fitness of the vehicle, modification is checked by us and then the NOC is granted. Anyone caught even changing the vehicle colour without our permission has to pay a fine. These mobile eateries running in the city are all illegal as none are registered by us. A drive to impose fine and seize these vehicles will be started by us soon." The operators of such eateries were also given training to achieve the standards set by the FSSAI

mobile eateries. We have a limited role to play in this. If a vehicle is moving in the city we cannot stop it. However, if the vehicle is stationary and then selling its products that comes under encroachment category. We recently have imposed fines on such stationary vehicles." As per a source, the FSSAI in Dehradun conducted a survey in the year 2013 when

the mobile eateries were listed and were also given particular numbers. The operators of such eateries were also given training to achieve the standards set by the FSSAI. However, after that, no such training was given to these owners. The department has six Food Safety Officers (FSO) who are assigned for the city. The shortage of the staff and resources further prevents these FSOs from conducting proper checks in their areas. When asked about it, the designated officer, food safety, GC Kandwal said, "It is true that we lack resources as well as staff. We have only six FSOs assigned to different areas. We have sent a letter to the government regarding the issue."

Umbrella Act for universities ready

Proposed Act would be overriding on all the existing Acts under which the universities of the State are being governed

PNS ■ DEHRADUN
After much deliberation, the final draft of the much talked about 'Umbrella Act' for all the universities of Uttarakhand is ready and is likely to be placed before the State cabinet anytime after the end of the model code of conduct enforced in the state in view of the parliamentary elections. The state administration has also taken legal opinion on the act which would govern all private and state run universities as well as the medical colleges of Uttarakhand. At present different universities of the state are governed with their own acts. The proposed act would be overriding on all the existing acts under which the universities of the state are being governed.

When contacted by The Pioneer, the Secretary (in-charge), Higher and technical education, Ashok Kumar said that last touches are being given to the draft of the proposed act. He said that the new act would help in removing the inconsistencies which at present prevail in the governance of different universities. Kumar added that the objective of the act is to ensure better education and better teachers. The 'Umbrella Act' for all the universities of the state is the brain child of the minister of state for higher education Dhan Singh Rawat. The need for the act was felt as complaints against autocratic functioning of the private universities became rampant. In many cases especially in private medical colleges, the fees were

The 'Umbrella Act' for all the universities of the State is the brain child of the Minister of State for Higher Education Dhan Singh Rawat

raised astronomically. The act while granting maximum autonomy to the private universities would at the same time give some control on their functioning to the government. The proposed act would cover all 22 private universities and the all government universities of the state and would replace the existing 'Uttar Pradesh University Act 1073, which is followed by Uttarakhand ever since its creation in the year 2000.



A JCB demolishes an encroachment on the roadside as part of the MCD drive against roadside encroachments in Dehradun on Friday. Pioneer photo

MRI machine of GDMC hosp working below capacity

PNS ■ DEHRADUN
After the malfunctioning of the CT scan machine, the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) is also not functioning properly. It is learnt that the machine is not working on full capacity from last few days due to which most of the patients visiting the facility are not getting their MRIs done. The malfunctioning of the important machine has made things difficult for the patients already suffering due to absence of CT scan facility. When inquired, the in-charge of the MRI machine, Mahendra Bhandari claimed that the machine has not developed any snag. He however added that due to continuous power fluctuations due to disturbed weather conditions, the operator has to change the power phase regularly which is taking considerable time. "We are



able to do only 7-8 MRIs in a day as compared to 20 to 25 on a normal day," he said. As the MRI machine is not operating on its full potential the patients of forced to visit the private hospitals or diagnostic centres. The fee of an MRI in the hospital is Rs 3500 only but on the other hand the private centres charge about Rs 7000 to 10000 for an MRI scan. The associated hospital of the GDMC is only facility in Dehradun and nearby districts where facility of MRI is available in a government

centre. Meanwhile, the patients are continuing to facing problem as the lone CT scan machine of department of radiology of GDMC hospital which developed malfunctioning in last week of February has not been replaced or repaired yet. As an amount of Rs 40 Lakh was expected to be spent on repair of this important radio diagnostic machine, the hospital administration has decided to replace the old error prone machine with a modern CT scan machine. The new machine however has not arrived yet. More than 40 CT scans are done by this machine daily and in absence of this facility the patients are forced to visit expensive private hospitals and diagnostic centres to get the CT done. In absence of CT scan facility in the hospital the doctors in some cases were advising MRI scans for the patients resulting in extra load on the machine.

Police to adapt Operation Mukti as per situation

PNS ■ DEHRADUN
On the third day of Operation Mukti, field units continued to collect information about child beggars, regarding their parentage and detailed family history. However, some people are raising questions on the campaign plans. According to them, the campaign has ground level flaws as things which should be done by the police in the first phase have been kept for the last phase. Observers state that child beggars being questioned by the police will most probably leave on the next day. When asked about this issue, Director General, Law and Order, Ashok Kumar said, "If this an issue we will combine two phases in one. As per the requirement we will keep on adding measures as the campaign progresses. The campaign is on trial basis, if the results in two months are positive, we will continue this in other districts too."

According to sources, some child beggars usually shift from one place to another within months. They live like nomadic people, travelling from one place to another. However, they are street smart because of the survival tactics they have to follow from early childhood. Due to this, if the police collect information by questioning them, they are likely to move away soon after. It is important to mention here that unlike earlier drives that were conducted by Uttarakhand Police; this drive has three phases starting from observation period which will be for initial 15 days to the third phase of enforcement and rehabilitation period. According to DG, Law and Order, the idea is to remove children from begging and motivate them towards education, to enroll them in schools so that they can have a normal childhood too.

Health dept to deploy 84 docs for Char Dham Yatra Tiger kills tiger in Corbett

PNS ■ DEHRADUN
The state health department is gearing itself for upcoming Char Dham Yatra which is commencing on May 7. The department would deploy 84 doctors for providing health care facility to the pilgrims arriving for the Char Dham Yatra. These doctors would be deployed on a rotational basis. The specialist doctors would be deployed for a duration of 15 days while the medical officers would be posted for 30 days on the Yatra points. The director general (DG) of medical, health and family welfare department of Uttarakhand, Dr Ravindra Thapliyal said that the

department has also decided to deploy 30 specialist doctors for the Yatra. The office of Director General of Health services has directed all Chief Medical Officers (CMO), and Chief Medical Superintendents (CMS) of hospitals to ensure that these doctors are relieved from the places of their postings to the mentioned points on Char Dham Yatra routes. Dr Thapliyal said that the Chief Medical Officers (CMO) of the districts concerned have been asked to make all arrangements of all medical facilities like oxygen cylinders and medicines for the pilgrims. The Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has decided to station a cardiac ambulance

at Yamunotri. The CMOs have been asked to make arrangements for Oxygen cylinders on the bridge paths. The DG health added that the CMOs have been financial powers to purchase medicines and other equipments for the Yatra. The DG has tersely ordered the CMOs and CMSS to initiate disciplinary action against the doctors who do not join their Yatra duties. He has also directed the senior officers to prepare the travel plans for the doctors deployed on Yatra duty. Apart from the deployment of doctors the health department has also directed the 108 emergency ambulance service to make necessary preparations for the Yatra.

Tiger kills tiger in Corbett
Haldwani: An eight year old tiger was killed in a fight with another tiger in the Bijrani range of Corbett national park. The Corbett warden Shivraj informed that a patrol team received information about a tiger's carcass being spotted in the Fultala area. The Corbett director Rahul and others reached the site. The warden informed that all the body parts of the dead tiger were found intact. The tiger found dead was a robust and strong male but the fight with another tiger was so severe that its jaw was broken and there were severe injuries on his body. Considering this, the Corbett administration has deployed a team to monitor the activity of the other tiger involved in the fight. Patrol on elephant-back has also been increased. PNS

Former employees make fake calls to disrupt ambulance service

PNS ■ DEHRADUN
In an apparent attempt to disrupt the operation of the vital 108 ambulance service in the state some people, who allegedly are former workers of the ambulance service, are making fake emergency calls to summon the ambulances needlessly. The district programme officer of Community Action and Motivation Programme (CAMP) of Pithoragarh, Parmanand Pant has submitted a complaint to the District Superintendent of Police. In the complaint he has alleged that some of the former employees

of GVK -EMRI, the company which was operating the ambulance service prior to CAMP are engaged in making fake calls to the ambulance service with an objective of disrupting the vital service. Giving details, the complainant said that after making fake calls and making the ambulances run unnecessarily for more than 70 kms, these elements are either switching off their phones or making them not reachable. In the complaint, the names and phone numbers of the former 108 ambulance service employees are also mentioned. When contacted, the General Manager

Ambulance service claims that after making fake calls and making the ambulances run unnecessarily, miscreants are either switching off their phones or making them not reachable
(marketing) of the CAMP, Pradeep Rai also confirmed such mischievous incidents. He said that two such cases both in Pithoragarh district has come to his notice. "We have asked our district programme officers to take action on such cases," he said. On the effect of the strike of the former employees of the service on operation of ambulances, Rai said that 100 ambulances out of fleet of 139 are operational. He claimed that the company has so far recruited 600 employees. Meanwhile, the agitation and Dharna of the field workers of the 108 ambulance service continued on fourth day on Friday. The vice president of state unit of the Congress party

Surya Kant Dhasmana who attended the Dharna on the day warned the government that the interests of the youths would not be allowed to be affected. He said that the Trivendra Singh Rawat government has become so stubborn that it is unmoved by the agony of hundreds of workers who were removed from their jobs after working dedicatedly for 11 long years in an organisation. The general secretary of the association of field workers, Vipin Jamlaki said that 717 workers of the ambulance workers were thrown out from the job for no fault of theirs. He

said that the agitation of the association would continue till their demands are accepted. The contract of GVK-EMRI Company to operate 108 emergency ambulance service ended on April 30 after the new company, CAMP took over the operation of ambulance service. The new company CAMP is offering less salary to the experienced worker which is the bone of contention between it and the association of workers. The workers are demanding that they should be absorbed into the new company on existing salaries.



Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey. (UK07 TA 9185) on the same grounds. This vehicle is reportedly being used by an official in the secretariat.

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Probe on to ascertain truth in married woman's complaint

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A married woman had recently filed a written complain in Dehradun Cantt police station accusing a man of sending objectionable photographs and other material to her in-laws because of which she has been abandoned by her husband. The police have filed a case under section 376 Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 67 IT Act and arrested the accused. The accused, Zeeshan was arrested from Almora and sent to district jail Suddhowla by the court on Friday.

Station House Officer of Cantt Police Station, inspector Nadeem Athar said, "The lady filed the complaint on the night of April 29, stating that she was in a relationship with the accused between 2015 and 2017. In 2017, she got married in Dehradun and even after the marriage the accused was in touch with her.

The victim said that the accused had sent

some objectionable photographs and voice notes to her in-laws because of which they asked her to leave. She is currently living with some relative."

According to the SHO, "The accused sent those messages to the victim. According to our investigation, during their relationship they tried to marry in Dharcula but the day they were registering for marriage, brother-in-law of the victim objected, because of which they could not marry.

The accused during interrogation said that they got married but he has no documents as proof. According to the accused even after the marriage of the victim they kept sharing messages and the one day he sent those messages to the victim, her in-laws saw the same by chance, resulting in the present situation. Now, we are investigating to ascertain who is telling the truth."

Senior scribe trolled for remark on Rabri's tweet

Patna: A senior journalist associated with a national Hindi news channel was heavily trolled, after a snide remark on a tweet by former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi in which she had taken a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent interview to Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar. "Modi was in Muzaffarpur yesterday where people expressed curiosity about the way he ate litchis the fruit the town is famous for. They had already known how he savoured mangoes and wondered whether he enjoyed litchis by biting the fruit or sucking on it or while standing near a wash basin," Rabri Devi had tweeted in Hindi on Wednesday.

The RJD national vice-president's comment came a day after Modi's rally in the north Bihar town. "The PM did not reply since the question had not been posed by a hero or a heroine. Moreover, since the question was not pre-planned and choreographed, he could not come with a reply," she added, in an obvious dig at the nearly hour-long "non-political" interview of Modi by Kumar. The journalist in question quickly came out with a riposte on the micro-blogging site, saying, "So, Rabri Devi, too, tweets. Somebody should challenge her to just pronounce the word twitter thrice non-stop."

PTI

Nothing wrong with Cong demand for proof of air strikes: Capt

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Friday that there was "nothing wrong" in seeking proof of the Balakot air strikes as demanded by the Congress from the central government.

"If the strikes were as successful as the Modi government claimed them to be, it was actually a matter of immense pride for our country and for all of us. So let us see how our forces destroyed Pakistan buildings and shattered their inflated ego," the chief minister told a TV channel. He was asked to comment on BJP's allegation that the Congress was being anti-nationalist by asking proof of the operation, according to a party release here.

"This is not the first time proof had been asked. Even in the 1965 war, an Army major brought chopped ears of those killed on the other side of the border to put all doubts of a certain Indian operation at rest," the chief minister said.

Photographs were released of the Kargil operation too, Singh said, adding that demanding proof from the government was not unpatriotic by any standard.

"I am very proud that our aging MIG 21 plane brought down a Pak F-16 and would be delighted to know about the success of our Air Force in

Balakot," he said.

Singh has been continuously accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of taking credit for the actions of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and seek votes in the names of martyred soldiers. "Have they (BJP) forgotten who won India its wars against Pakistan in 1965 and 1971? I am a military historian also and if Modi does not want to give the proofs of the strikes to the press or the Congress, he can send them to me," the Congress leader said.

In any case, Singh said, it was the BJP that started the number game by going overboard to "usurp" the accomplishment of the air force by claiming "hundreds" of casualties in Balakot.

The Congress only countered with its demand for proof, he said, adding that the BJP should not hesitate in grabbing the opportunity to show the world, and all doubt-mongers, great success of the Indian forces. Singh also denied BJP's allegations of 'tukda tukda gang' against the Congress, saying it was the saffron party and its leaders who were making 'tukdas' (pieces) of the nation with their "divisive politics" and "nefarious agenda" to create bad blood among the people on account of caste, religion, etc.

PTI

EC clean chit to PM in 2 more speeches

New Delhi: The Election Commission concluded on Friday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not violate the model code or its advisory on armed forces in his speech in Varanasi.

It also found nothing wrong in his comments made in Nanded, Maharashtra where he reportedly dubbed the Congress as a 'sinking Titanic'.

With this, the EC has decided on five complaints against Modi and gave him a clean chit in all matters.

"In a matter related to a complaint concerning alleged violations of advisories of the Commission and Model Code of Conduct, in a speech delivered by Narendra Modi at Nanded, Maharashtra on April 6, a detailed report of the Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra was obtained. The matter has been examined in detail ... (the) Commission is of the considered view that in this matter no such violation of the extant advisories/provisions is attracted," the EC said.

In his Nanded speech, Modi had reportedly said that the Congress today is like Titanic ship which is sinking. All those who are in the ship like the Nationalist Congress Party are either sinking or jumping off to escape, he had reportedly said.

Targeting Rahul Gandhi, he had said that the Congress chief has traced a seat using microscope from which he can

Referring to Modi's Varanasi speech on April 25, where he had gone to file his nomination for Lok Sabha elections, the EC said a detailed report of the Chief Electoral Officer, Uttar Pradesh was obtained

take on the BJP.

Modi was apparently referring to the Wayanad seat in Kerala from where Rahul is contesting, besides Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.

He had reportedly said that in Wayanad, the country's majority is in minority.

Referring to Modi's Varanasi speech on April 25, where he had gone to file his nomination for Lok Sabha elections, the EC said a detailed report of the Chief Electoral Officer, Uttar Pradesh was obtained.

"The matter has been examined in detail in accordance with the extant advisories, provisions of the Model Code of Conduct and after examination of complete transcript, Commission is of the considered view that in this matter no such violation of the extant advisories/provisions is attracted," it said.

The Congress had also referred to an interview given by the PM to Aaj Tak and said it found nothing wrong.

Addressing a rally in Varanasi, Modi had stressed on national security, saying a new India gives a befitting reply to terrorism.

At the meeting after a massive show of strength in his Lok Sabha constituency, Modi said his government had dealt effectively against terrorism.

In an apparent reference to the Balakot air strike after Pakistan-based militants killed 40 paramilitary men in Pulwama, he said the world now backed India in its fight against terror.

Modi also referred to the recent bomb blasts in Sri Lanka, saying innocent people observing Easter lost their lives.

The Election Commission had on Thursday given a clean chit to Modi, saying he did not violate the model code of conduct during his election speech in Rajasthan's border town of Barmer where he invoked the armed forces and said that India's nuclear button was not kept to be used for Diwali.

Earlier, the EC had had found nothing wrong in the prime minister's speech at Wardha on April 1 where he attacked Congress chief Rahul Gandhi for contesting from minority-dominated Wayanad seat. It has also cleared the PM for his appeal to first-time voters by invoking the Balakot air strikes and the Pulwama martyrs in Latur on April 9.

PTI

EC clean chit to Shah over Nagpur, Nadia speeches

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Friday found no violation of model code or its instructions on armed forces in two speeches delivered by BJP president Amit Shah in West Bengal and Maharashtra.

The Commission concluded that it is of the considered view that in this matter, no such violation of MCC or ECI's instructions is made out.

Addressing a rally in Krishnanagar in West Bengal, Shah reportedly said when IAF jets pounded terror camps in Balakot, the act was mourned in Pakistan and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's office

the extant advisories, provisions of the Model Code of Conduct and after examination of complete transcript of speech sent by the DEO Nadia, the Commission is of the considered view that in this matter, no such violation of MCC or ECI's instructions is made out," it said.

Addressing another rally in Nagpur on April 9, the BJP president reportedly said when the whole country was rejoicing over the air strike on a terror camp in Balakot, there was mourning only in Pakistan and Rahul Gandhi-led Congress party.

Shah also took a jibe at Gandhi's public rallies in Wayanad. The Gandhi scion is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Wayanad in Kerala along with his traditional bastion of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.

Shah said Gandhi's rallies in Wayanad appeared as they were being organised in Pakistan. He also said the Modi government's biggest success was that it had made India secure which was not the case when the Congress-led UPA was in power.

PTI

Addressing a rally in Krishnanagar in West Bengal, Shah reportedly said when IAF jets pounded terror camps in Balakot, the act was mourned in Pakistan and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's office

BJP, Cong heavyweights to hit campaign trail in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With polling for Lok Sabha elections just 10 days away in Haryana, top leaders across the political spectrum including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief Amit Shah, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi will hit the campaign trail in the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah will be addressing eight election rallies in Haryana, where polling for all 10 Lok Sabha seats will be held on May 12.

The two top leaders of BJP will be addressing election rallies in areas where opposition Congress has fielded its stalwarts in Haryana.

Prime Minister Modi will address three rallies on May 8 and May 10. On May 8, Modi will be addressing public gatherings in Fatehabad and Kurukshetra while on the last day of campaigning for the sixth phase on May 10, he will be addressing a poll rally in Rohtak district.

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda's son Deepender Singh Hooda is seeking re-election for the fourth term from Rohtak and the Prime Minister has chosen the last day of campaigning of sixth phase to address a rally there, which is considered as stronghold of the Hooda family. BJP has fielded a Brahmin candidate, Arvind Sharma against Deepender Hooda in Rohtak. Haryana Agriculture Minister Om Parkash Dhankar and Cooperation Minister Manish Grover have been

appointed organiser and co-organiser for the success of Modi's rally on May 10 in Rohtak, known as political capital of Haryana.

Fatehabad falls in the Sirsa parliamentary constituency from where the BJP has fielded bureaucrat-turned-politician Sunita Duggal to take on Haryana Congress president Ashok Tanwar. In the outgoing Lok Sabha, Sirsa is represented by INLD's Charanjit Singh Rori, who is seeking re-election.

From Kurukshetra parliamentary seat, Congress has fielded former Minister Nirmal Singh against BJP's Nayab Saini, who is a Minister in the Manohar Lal Khattar cabinet.

Haryana BJP chief Subhash Barala on Friday said that the party national president Amit Shah will also be addressing three poll rallies on May 5 in Sonapat, Panipat and Yamunanagar.

Two-time former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is contesting from the Sonapat Lok Sabha seat against BJP's outgoing MP Ramesh Kaushik, who is seeking re-election for the second term. In Sonapat, JJP-AAP has fielded Digvijay Chautala, a fourth generation member of Chautala clan. Panipat is part of Karnal parliamentary constituency from where BJP's candidate Sanjay Bhatia is pitted against Congress sitting MLA and former Speaker Kuldeep Sharma while Yamunanagar forms part of the Ambala Lok Sabha seat, from where senior Congress leader and former MP Kumari Selja is pitted against BJP's outgoing MP Rattan Lal Kataria.

On May 10, Shah will again visit Haryana and address rallies in Hisar and Dadri.

Jannayak Janta Party's leader Dushyant Chautala is seeking re-election from Hisar constituency, where the BJP has fielded Union Minister Birender Singh's bureaucrat-turned-politician son Brijendra Singh while the Congress has fielded senior leader Kuldeep Bishnoi's son Bhavya.

Dadri falls under Bhiwani-Mahendergarh Lok Sabha constituency, where Congress former MP Shruti Choudhary, the granddaughter of former Chief Minister late Bansil Lal, is pitted against BJP's outgoing MP Dharamvir, who is seeking mandate for the second term.

Barala added that the party has stepped up preparations for successfully holding these rallies in the state.

Apart from PM Modi and Amit Shah, BJP's star campaigners including Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Road and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, BJP vice president Uma Bharti, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, HRD Minister Smriti Irani, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also address election rallies in Haryana next week. Notably, the saffron party, which was riding high on the Narendra Modi wave in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections had won seven seats out of 10 seats in Haryana.

RAHUL AND PRIYANKA TO CAMPAIGN ON MAY 4 & 7

In a bid to boost party's Lok

Sabha poll campaign in Haryana, Congress president Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will tour the state over the next few days for election campaigning.

The Congress chief will address an election rally in Gurugram on May 4 in support of party's candidate Capt Ajay Yadav, who is facing a tough electoral battle against BJP's nominee and Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh.

Another rally of Rahul is scheduled on May 6 in Mahendergarh, which falls under Bhiwani-Mahendergarh Lok Sabha constituency.

The party's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi will visit Ambala, Hisar and Rohtak on May 7 for campaigning.

Priyanka will hold public meetings in Ambala and Hisar to seek votes for party candidates Kumari Selja and Bhavya Bishnoi respectively on May 7. Later in the evening, she will hold a roadshow in Rohtak in support of party candidate, three-time MP Deepender Singh Hooda.

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Friday said that the rallies by top party leaders would boost Congress' poll campaign in Haryana. Hooda said that the Congress is confident of winning all 10 seats in Haryana.

The former Chief Minister, who is contesting from Sonapat Lok Sabha seat said he has been touring various parts of the state and people are eagerly waiting to vote out the non-performing NDA Government at the Centre.

No Govt can take tribal land: Raghubar Das

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Minister Raghubar Das today reassured people of the State that no Government will take their land and advised them not to get misguided by 'corrupt politicians'. The CM, while addressing people at an election rally in favour of former CM Arjun Munda in Khunti said on Friday that those talking about land, jungle and water are the real exploiters of tribal people.

"In 2014, Congress and its allies had said that if BJP comes to power it will snatch land of tribal people. They are again playing the same tune, but the government has not taken any one's land in last four and half years. No one can take your 'Khuntkari' land; not even government. But, the corrupt people are spreading rumours that your land will be looted. Those who have looted the land are levelling allegations on BJP and trying to keep people away from development," he said.

Hitting hard on Opposition parties, the CM said, "Those talking about tribal interest, water, jungle and land should introspect and find out how they snatched land of poor tribals of the State. JMM and Soren family has violated CNT/SPT Acts and bought land at 26 places worth Rs 500 crore. It's merely an irony that those talking about tribals' interest are real oppressors of tribal people. These people gathered on the same stage in Simdega yesterday."

The CM said that Congress party ruled for decades in the region, still Khunti, Torpa and Simdega are lagging behind on development front. "They could not develop the country, but reached from Jeep scam to 2G scam while giving the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'. Why there is no change in the life of poor people? Someone must tell this to the thieves' alliance," he said.

Das said that the bugle of freedom struggle was blown from the land of Jharkhand by Birsu Munda, Sido Kanhu, Phulo Jhano and other martyrs. But, Nehru family never took their names.

EVM to have Sunny Deol not Ajay Singh Deol

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In a big sigh of relief for the 'worried' saffron brigade, the election panel has agreed to have actor-turned-politician Sunny Deol's screen name on the EVMs (electronic voting machines) instead of his real name — Ajay Singh Dharmendra Deol.

After finalising the list of contesting candidates for May 19 elections, the Election Commission has written approved BJP's request to have "Sunny Deol" on the EVMs. The party had argued that the people know him by his screen name, and most of the people are not aware of his real name Ajay Singh Dharmendra Deol — the name by which he has filed his nomination papers.

Taking his first electoral plunge, the junior 'Punjab da puttar' filed his nomination papers on April 29 to contest as the SAD-BJP combine candidate from Gurdaspur Lok Sabha seat by the name of 'Ajay Singh Dharmendra Deol', as he has

been registered as the voter by the same name.

For the same, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had urged the poll panel to mention its candidate's name as "Sunny Deol" instead of his real name.

Playing a minor role in Punjab politics with just one member in the Lok Sabha, and three in Vidhan Sabha, the BJP is eyeing to grab a bigger and better share by riding high on the Bollywood action hero Sunny Deol's star power in the May 19 Lok Sabha elections in the state.

A senior BJP leader had contended that the people knew him as Sunny Deol. "They don't know who is Ajay Singh. When people would come to vote for Sunny, they may get confused by not finding his name there. That is why we have requested the election commission to write Sunny Deol instead of his real name," the leader added.

Moreover, Sunny's real name has not been mentioned in the publicity material, and only his screen name, "Sunny Deol", is being publicised.

Stop airing Sunny's movies till poll: Cong

Chandigarh: Punjab Congress on Friday demanded from the poll panel to bar the airing of actor-turned-politician Sunny Deol's movies on the national and regional television channels till the elections. The state Pradesh Congress committee secretary Amit Singh Mantoo had written a letter to the Election Commission of India urging it to direct national and regional channels to stop airing of Sunny Deol's movies till the elections end.

PNS

AAP MLA joins BJP, says party has strayed from its past ideals

From Page 1

"Modi ji, will you topple every Government run by an Opposition party by buying lawmakers? Is this your definition of democracy? And from where do you bring so much money to buy MLAs? You have tried to buy our MLAs many times. Buying AAP leaders is not easy," the Delhi Chief Minister said in a tweet.

Vijay Goel had refuted Sidosia's allegation of the BJP offering Rs. 10 crore to lawmakers to switch and said AAP lawmakers wanted to quit their party out of "frustration and humiliation", so the BJP "did not need to buy them". "The lawmakers want to leave AAP because the party has strayed from its objectives," Goel claimed.

"Goel, baat kahan phasi hai? Aap kitna de rabe ho? Woh kitna mang rae hain. (Where are your talks (with the AAP lawmakers) stuck? How much are you paying? How much are they demanding?)" Kejriwal had tweeted.

Reacting to the development,

senior AAP leader Gopal Rai said his party has for sometime been accusing the BJP of trying to "buy" its MLAs. "As far as Bajpai is concerned, no person would say that they have taken money and going to another party, they would be finding faults within the party. Bajpai had himself come from the alliance talks that were going on?" he asked. AAP's Chandni Chowk MLA, Alka Lamba who has been sidelined within the party following differences with Kejriwal and other leaders, claimed that Bajpai was insulted repeatedly and he quit the party out of self-respect. "Bajpai's decision to join the AAP would negatively impact the AAP more than him. The party insulted him on multiple occasions. His age and physical disability was not even taken into consideration by the party. The AAP MLA has taken this step not for money but for self-respect. The AAP should definitely think over it," she said.

Hans: I'm not Muslim, will sue Kejriwal for...

From Page 1

Hans said, "My mother would have killed me had I converted to Islam."

Accusing the AAP chief of spreading fake news, Hans said, "I am deeply hurt. I have a passport in the name of Hans Raj Hans. I will file a defamation case against Kejriwal and other AAP leaders."

At a Press conference on Thursday, Kejriwal's Cabinet colleague Rajendra Pal Gautam cited news reports claiming that Hans had converted to Islam and that the BJP candidate did not disclose this information in his nomination papers.

Hans said by accusing him of converting to Islam, Kejriwal and other AAP leaders had also hurt the sentiments of the Valmiki community. "I pity his (Kejriwal's) intelligence. He seems to be scared that the Valmiki community will not vote for him," he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta said Kejriwal and his party were "losing credibility" by levelling baseless allegations on their opponents and then seeking apologies.

BJP had denied a poll ticket to Udit Raj, the sitting MP from North West Delhi, and fielded Hans from the seat. Raj joined the Congress subsequently.

Hans is pitted against Rajesh Liloitha of the Congress and Gagan Singh of the AAP in North West Delhi. Polling for all the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi will be held on May 12 and the results will be announced on May 23.

Earlier on Friday morning, Fani had crossed the Odisha coast close to Puri with sustained wind speed of 175- to 185 km/hr gusting to 205 km/hr between 8 am and 10 am and weakened into a very severe cyclone.

The IMD said it would continue to move North-North-East over land and weaken further into a severe cyclonic storm over a period of nine hours.

The severe cyclone would then emerge into the plains of Bengal with wind speeds reaching up to 100 kilometres/hour (km/hr) gusting to 115 km/hr by Saturday morning.

Further movement towards the North-North-East would take Fani as a cyclone into Bangladesh by Saturday evening with wind speeds of up to 70 km/hr gusting to 80 km/hr. Apart from Odisha coast, Fani is expected to affect West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Fani kills 8 in Odisha, loses steam into...

From Page 1

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NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Moradabad for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-tender (Two Packet) for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work with its location: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 kV AC single phase OHE for doubling work of Roza-Sitapur City Section from Jahanikhera (excl) to Maholi (included) including modification of two SSPs at Maikalganj and Maholi of Roza-Sitapur City Section in Moradabad Division.

2. Completion period of the work: 9 (Nine) Months. 3. Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 12,59,93,256.94. 4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online): Rs. 7,80,000/- 5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender: Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on date 22.05.2019 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 22.05.2019 6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document: The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 08.05.2019 to 22.05.2019. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office. Tender Notice No.17-Elect/CT/RR/MB/125 Dated: 02.05.2019

Serving Customers With A Smile 1315/19

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

LOST & FOUND

In some of my documents my Name wrongly written as Mangan Lal Uniyal where as the correct name is Magan Lal Uniyal in future I would be called by Magan Lal Uniyal S/O Late Ram Prasad Uniyal R/o Village-Silla, P.O. Sarona, Dist. Dehradun.

House fuels pollute outdoor air: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

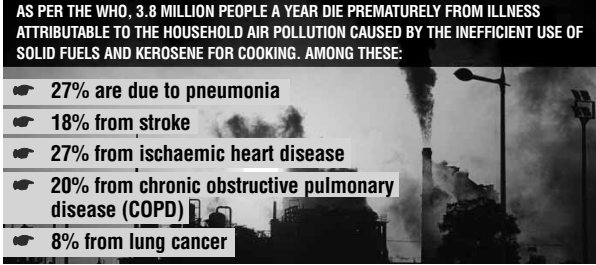
If India cuts down consumption of dirty household fuels such as wood, dung, coal and kerosene that produce high levels of household air pollution with a range of health-damaging pollutants, it can save as many as 2,70,000 lives every year, according to a joint study conducted by researchers from University of California, Berkeley and the India Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi.

There are 3,000 chemicals that have been identified in wood smoke, and if taken at a macro level, it is very similar to tobacco smoke, they warned.

"Household fuels are the single biggest source of outdoor air pollution in India," said Kirk R Smith, professor of global environmental health at UC Berkeley and director of the Collaborative Clean Air Policy Centre. "We looked at what would happen if they only cleaned up households, and we came to this counterintuitive result that the whole country would reach national air pollution standards if they did that."

Smith is co-author of a paper describing the analysis that appeared this week in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Till early 2016, nearly half of the Indian population was reliant on biomass for household fuel. In addition to generating greenhouse gases like carbon



dioxide and methane, these dirty fuels kick out chemicals and other fine particulate matter that can stick in the lungs and trigger a whole host of diseases, including pneumonia, heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. In 2015, India's average annual air pollution level was 55 micrograms per cubic meter (ug m-3) of fine particulate matter.

Complete mitigation of biomass as fuel — which could be achieved through widespread electrification and distribution of clean-burning propane to rural areas — would cut India's average annual air pollution to 38 ug m-3, just below the country's National Ambient Air Quality Standard of 40 ug m-3. While this is still far above the World Health Organisation (WHO) standard of 10 ug m-3, it could still have dramatic impacts on the health of the country's residents, Smith said.

"You can't have a clean environment when about half the houses in India are burning dirty fuels every day," Smith said. "India has got to do other things

to fix air pollution — they've got to stop garbage burning, they've got to control the power plants, they've got to control vehicles and so forth. But they need to recognise the fact that households are very important contributors to outdoor air pollution, too."

In 2016, India instituted a national programme to distribute clean burning stoves and propane to 80 million impoverished households, or about 500 million people. The rationale behind this programme was to prevent illness due to cooking and heating smoke trapped within the home.

However, Smith hopes the study's findings will bolster support for reducing outdoor air pollution, as well. Similar programmes have been successful in China, where air pollution is now on the decline in 80 cities. "We've realised that pollution may start in the kitchen, but it doesn't stay there — it goes outside, it goes next door, it goes down the street and it becomes part of the general outdoor air pollution," Smith said.

FROM SUPREME COURT

Hearing on matching of VVPAT slips with EVMs next week

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear next week a review plea filed by 21 Opposition leaders seeking further increase in random matching of VVPAT slips with EVMs in the ongoing general elections.

The apex court had on April 8 directed the Election Commission to increase random matching of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in five polling booths per Assembly segment from one booth.

The top court, however, had not agreed to the demand of 21 Opposition leaders for counting of at least 50 per cent of VVPAT slips with EVMs in every Assembly segment.

Opposition leaders led by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had sought the review of the apex court's order, saying the "increase from 1 to 5 is not a reasonable number and does not lead to satisfaction desired by this court".

The plea was mentioned for urgent hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for petitioners, told the bench that the review plea be listed for hearing next week.

The bench accepted Singhvi's submission and said the matter will be heard next week.

The plea said: "The petitioners submit that the aforesaid increase to a mere 2 per cent is not sufficient and will not make any substantial difference to the situation that existed prior to the passing of the impugned order." **PTI**

Justice AK Sikri appointed to look into Haryana Judicial Service recruitment issue

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday appointed former apex court judge Justice AK Sikri to look into the evaluation process of the main exam for the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) in Haryana, in which only nine people were shortlisted out of more than 1,100 candidates. The exam was conducted to fill 107 vacancies.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said more than 1,100 candidates appeared for the main exam and only nine have qualified.

The Bench said Justice (ret'd) Sikri will look into whether the evaluation was acceptable or not and will submit the report to the apex court.

The Bench, also comprising Justice Deepak Gupta, directed the Punjab and Haryana High Court to submit answer sheets to Justice Sikri.

The top court's order came on a plea filed by 92 aspirants to the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) in Haryana, seeking quashing of the result of its Main (Written) Examination which was declared on April 11. The apex court had on April 29 directed the Punjab and Haryana High Court Registry not to appoint any civil judge in Haryana without its nod.

The petition challenged the selection process and evaluation method adopted in the examination on the grounds of being "unreasonable, arbitrary and mala fide". It alleged that if the examination's selection process was not stayed, it would cause irreparable damage to the petitioners and other un-successful candidates. The petitioners have alleged that var-



ious RTI applications were filed immediately after the result of the main examination seeking disclosure of marks, copies of answer scripts, model answers and marking criteria, but to no avail and the interview tests were scheduled on the basis of the already declared results.

The petitioners have also alleged that there was a "serious problem" with the evaluation method being conducted for selecting judicial officers in Haryana.

A total 14,301 students took the preliminary examination held on December 22, 2018 for total 107 vacancies.

"1,282 students, out of 14,301, who were declared successful in preliminary examination, took the main examination held on March 15 and 17, 2019," it said.

The plea further said that it was "surprising" and "invited disbelief" that at least 20-30 candidates, who had appeared for the main exam but were not selected for the interview are those who have already cleared judicial examinations of other states or are sitting judges in their respective States. **PTI**

Payment service will be launched only after complying with RBI norms: WhatsApp

New Delhi:

Instant messaging app WhatsApp on Friday told the Supreme Court that it is conducting a trial run of its payment service and will comply with RBI norms on data localisation before launching the full service.

The trial run is likely to be completed by July end this year, it said.

A bench of Justices R F Nariman and Vineet Saran was hearing a plea filed by an NGO, Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change (CASC), which has claimed that WhatsApp has not fully complied with RBI's circular which prescribed data localisation norms.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Arvind Datar, appearing for the messenger app owned by US-based Facebook, told the bench that they are only having a trial run which is likely to be completed by July and it will not launch payments services without fully complying with RBI norms.

"We cannot launch the product without complying with the norms," Sibal said.

Advocate Virag Gupta, appearing for the NGO, said that WhatsApp was allowed to run the trial of its payments services with one million users. **PTI**

Irani winning from Amethi: Goyal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Amethi goes to poll on Monday, BJP on Friday claimed that its candidate Smriti Irani has an upper hand in the seat and Congress president Rahul Gandhi was "losing steam" in his home constituency.

Addressing a Press conference here, BJP leader and Union Minister Piyush Goyal maintained that the US Gallup polls survey report has given credit to Modi-Government for making people "secure" and "safe" during its tenure.

Hitting out at the Congress,

Goyal claimed that the way party was going it may touch a lower figure than what it got in last Lok Sabha poll. He, however, did not elaborate on his analysis.

The BJP leader insisted that BJP's nominee Irani was winning from Amethi and pointed to Rahul's move to contest from a second Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala. Goyal said Congress leader did good by not selecting a seat in Karnataka as he claimed that the Congress was on a losing track in the southern state governed by Congress-JD(S) coalition.

Goyal said Rahul had won Amethi by the margin of three lakh vote in 2009 which declined to one lakh in 2014. He said Irani would have trounced Rahul in 2014 itself but for "our delay in announcing her name". "This time round our sister will win", he said.

Amethi votes in the fourth-phase of polling on Monday. Rahul's sister and Congress General Secretary-in-charge of Eastern Uttar Pradesh has been campaigning in Amethi as Irani alleged that Rahul was a "missing MP". Rahul has held Amethi for three consecutive times.

MUZAFFARPUR SHELTER HOME CASE

11 girls allegedly murdered by Brajesh, others: CBI

New Delhi: In a sensational revelation by CBI in the Supreme Court on Friday, 11 girls were allegedly murdered by key accused Brajesh Thakur and his accomplices and "bundle of bones" recovered from a burial ground in the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual abuse case.

In its affidavit filed in the top court, CBI stated that from the statement of victims recorded during the probe, names of 11 girls have emerged, who were said to be allegedly murdered by Thakur and his



The agency said that on the pointing out of one of the

accused, a particular spot in a burial ground was excavated from where a bundle of bones was recovered.

Several girls were allegedly raped and sexually abused at an NGO-run shelter home at Muzaffarpur in Bihar and the issue had come to light following a report by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

The probe into the case was transferred to CBI and the agency has chargesheeted 21 people, including Thakur. "During investigation,

from the statement of victims recorded by IOs (investigating officers) and NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences) team, names of 11 girls emerged who were said to be allegedly murdered by the accused Brajesh Thakur and his accomplices," the CBI said.

"Based on the facts revealed by one accused, namely Guddu Patel during his interrogation, a particular spot in burial ground as identified by accused Guddu Patel was

excavated and a bundle of bones were recovered from the spot," CBI said in the affidavit filed on an application which had alleged that it had not conducted a proper probe in the case.

The matter came up for hearing on Friday before a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta.

The bench said that it would issue a formal notice to the CBI on the application and the agency would file its response within four weeks. **PTI**

GLOBAL TERRORIST

France welcomes Azhar listing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hailing the listing of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist" by the United Nations Sanctions Committee two days back, France on Friday said for the first time, a consensus has emerged in the world and all the members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) stood firmly on the issue. Moreover, France took the lead in getting him declared as a "global terrorist" in the European Union (EU) and it may also get through.

Making this assertion here, French ambassador to India, Alexandre Zeigler, said France played a vital role in getting Azhar designated as a global terrorist though the process was long. Highlighting his country's support in this effort, the envoy said France backed India in 2001 when there was an attack on Parliament of India and earlier on the Jammu



& Kashmir Assembly. All efforts to impose sanctions against JeM had earlier failed. Then France took the lead and moved the UN body in 2017 for getting Azhar listed as a global terrorist but the attempt did not succeed. However, after the Pulwama attack, France took the initiative and last year, put Azhar on its ban list. France, the UK and the US had moved a fresh proposal to declare Azhar as global terrorist in the UN in the wake of the February 14 Pulwama terror attack.

Stressing on the point about consensus, the ambassador said it was for the first time that the UNSC condemned the Pulwama attack in

a statement soon after the incident on February 14. Forty Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed in a suicide attack in Pulwama and the JeM had claimed responsibility for the act.

Zeigler said France can appreciate and gauge the significance of this the UN decision on Tuesday last and said listing Azhar as a global terrorist has "concrete consequences". These entailed freezing of all his assets and restriction on getting finances and international travel.

On efforts to fight terrorism, he said India has been invited to attend the G-7 meeting in France later this year and one of the topics will be cyber space terrorism. "The fight against terrorism is one of the pillars of our strategic partnership with India. Our two leaders had recalled this during the State visit of President Macron and I can tell you that

we are moving very closely and very fast with India," he said. Macron had visited New Delhi in March last year.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said providing more hard credible evidence to UN Sanctions Committee finally led to the listing of Azhar which China also backing it. Evidence by several countries was given after China on March 13 put on hold the listing, they said adding the proposal to designate Azhar has to stand stringent legal scrutiny.

Moreover, the evidence given to the UN clearly highlighted link between Azhar and the JeM and terrorist activities, sources said adding not mentioning Pulwama and Kashmir in the final proposal was more technical but the larger objective of listing the JeM succeeded. They also said the UNSC condemnation of Pulwama incident helped in the final process of getting the JeM listed.

CBI books ESIC doctors for taking ₹1 cr bribe from medicine supplier

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked two doctors of ESIC for allegedly taking a bribe of ₹1 crore from a medicine supplier with the assurance of getting him listed as an agent of a noted pharmaceutical manufacturer under Central rate contract.

Vikas Gupta and Kajal Goldar, both medical officers of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), now posted at its hospitals in Tirunelveli and Kolhapur respectively, have been booked by the CBI for alleged criminal conspiracy, cheating and under the relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The action has been initiated on a complaint from the ESIC which conducted a vigilance probe against the two on a complaint from a Delhi-based medicine supplier.

During 2016-17 Gupta,

then working as medical officer, and Goldar as Director (medical), Delhi, had allegedly induced the supplier to pay ₹1 crore as bribe for awarding a contract in Central Rate Contract (CRC) of ESIC for supply of medicine and dressings by engaging him an agent of a reputed manufacturer during the process of ensuing tender for CRC, according to the FIR.

Basant Goel, the supplier, allegedly paid ₹1 crore to Gupta — ₹38 lakh in his account, ₹10 lakh in his wife's account and another ₹52 lakh in cash on various dates to be delivered to Goldar.

On receiving complaint from Goel, the ESIC conducted a vigilance inquiry which confirmed payment of ₹48 lakh to Vikas Gupta and his wife Geeta Gera, the complaint from ESIC said.

"It has also been established that Kajal Goldar and

Vikas Gupta had official dealings with Goel Medicos and Basant Goel, an empanelled chemist for supply of day to day medicines and drugs and dressings to various hospitals and dispensaries of Delhi and NCR. The said chemist was allocated and was supplying medicines to VK Nagar dispensary of which Vikas Gupta was the IMO. Therefore, Basant Goel has business interest and dealings as well as acquaintance with both the officers," said the complaint, which now part of the FIR.

Goel also furnished video evidence of the negotiations with the two doctors who received the bribe from him.

The ESIC also alleged suspicious high-value transactions in Gupta's accounts and property dealings by him during 2013 and onwards for which no satisfactory explanation could be provided by him.

INSHORT

EC RELAXES POLL CODE IN 4 ANDHRA DISTRICTS

New Delhi: Responding to the written request of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the Election Commission (EC) has lifted code of conduct in four districts Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam. This will enable the State Government to take up relief operations without going to EC for permissions.

PM'S IMAGE REMARK: JAITLEY MOCKS RaGa

New Delhi: Taking a dig at Rahul Gandhi, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Friday wondered how the Congress president could damage the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is riding on the peak of his popularity. The dynasts have self-illusory opinion about themselves and tend to become megalomaniacs, he said adding "Rahul Gandhi is no exception". Jaitley was referring to Rahul's statement quoted by a media organisation that "I have dismantled Modi's image... I will damage his image".

SC TO HEAR PLEA OF AIADMK MLA ON MAY 6

New Delhi: The Supreme Court agreed to hear on May 6, a plea of an AIADMK MLA VT Kalaiselvan who has been served a notice by Tamil Nadu Assembly speaker for indulging in "anti-party activities" under the Anti-defection law.

CONG ATTACKS MODI OVER BANKING SYSTEM FAILURE



New Delhi: The Congress on Friday said the banking system was in tatters as the number of wilful defaulters had doubled during the last five years of the Narendra Modi Government. Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted, "5,090 creditors have increased to 11,000 creditors." **PTI**

Boost to Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan', the HRD Ministry's programme which is spearheading to evolve solutions for accelerating sustainable growth in rural India.

Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT-Kanpur has brought together 15 leading higher education institutions from UP who have now agreed to work with CSC for the development of villages under the scheme. IIT Kanpur has already adopted five villages — Hridayapur, Baikantapur, Ishwariganj, Pratappur Hari and Saxapurva — situated on the outskirts of Kanpur for its overall development.

"As many as 15 affiliated educa-



tional institutions under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan will adopt gram panchayats and equip them with all citizen-centric services through CSCs. These institutions will train village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) who run CSCs as part of the village development plan. The VLEs will also be skilled about the use of solar energy, cleanliness, and use of modern technologies through inter-

ventions of IIT Kanpur," said Dr. Reeta Singh from IIT Kanpur who is heading Unnat Bharat Abhiyan project.

"All the participating institutions have been informed about various services being delivered through CSC to citizens and further potential which CSCs offer in empowering communities and overall village development. We hope that this relationship of IIT-Kanpur and

other leading institutions with CSCs will further strengthen the government's vision of Digital India. It will also improve the technical skills of our VLEs and make CSCs future-ready to implement more government schemes," said CSC CEO Dr. Dinesh Tyagi.

The 15 higher education institutions which have been associated with CSC are IIT-Kanpur; School of Management Sciences, Lucknow; Bundelkhand University, Jhansi; Allahabad College of Engineering & Management; Pranveer Singh Institute of Technology, Kanpur; Kiranlata Singh Mahavidyalaya, Fatehpur; Seth Badri Prasad Smriti College, Jalaun; SRSSD College, Auraiya; Virendra Singh Group of Institutions, Unnava; Allen House Institutions; Rama University; National Post Graduate College, Lucknow; Lucknow Polytechnic, Lucknow; Dayanand Girl's PG College and CSM Degree College, Chitrakoot.

Madhya Pradesh new ATM for Cong, says BJP

New Delhi: The BJP on Friday attacked the Congress over unaccounted money being traced from "close associates" of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, saying the State has become a "new ATM" for the grand old party.

Addressing a Press conference at the party office, BJP spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao alleged that the Congress dispensation in the state is "minting money and diverting government funds. Rs 281 crore unaccounted cash was traced from his close associates".

Describing Madhya Pradesh as a new ATM of Congress, Rao alleged that as per entries in a diary traced by Income Tax Department, senior Congress leaders Digvijay Singh and Randeep Surjewala also got a cut from this unaccounted cash.

The Congress dismissed the charge, saying it was a sign of desperation of the ruling party. Senior party leader Anand Sharma said that raising these issues at this stage shows the mindset of the BJP and the ruling Government which were panicking. **PTI**

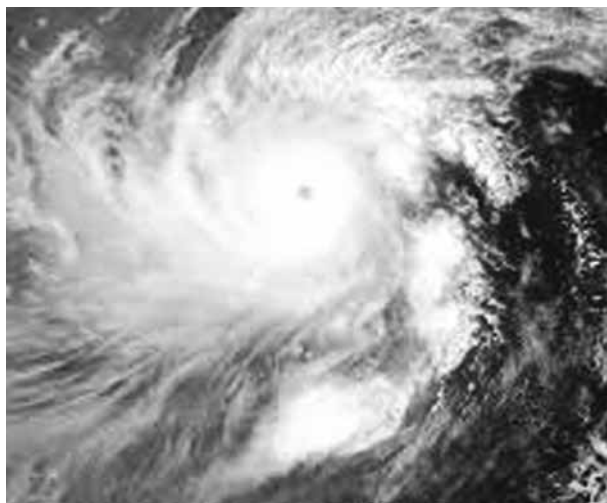
Rise & Fall of Hood of Snake



Mala, Helen, Nargis: How are cyclones named?

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Mala, Helen, Nargis and Nilofar may sound like the names of yesteryear Bollywood actors, but they are, in fact, lethal cyclones that have brought violent winds, heavy rains and wreaked destruction. As Cyclone Fani pounded the Odisha coast on Friday, the name 'Phoni', which was suggested by Bangladesh, also evoked curiosity. How the Cyclones named?
 Mritunjay Mohapatra, the Additional Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), said Fani, pronounced as 'Foni', means a snake's hood.
 The World Meteorological Organisation/Economic and Social Commission for Asia

and the Pacific Panel on Tropical Cyclones, at its twenty-seventh session held in 2000 in Muscat, Oman, agreed to assign names to the tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.
 After long deliberations among the member countries, the naming of tropical cyclones over north Indian Ocean commenced from September 2004.
 The eight countries along the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea suggest names that are sequentially listed. The nations suggest names alphabetically - Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
 The Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC) based here gives a tropical cyclone an identification from



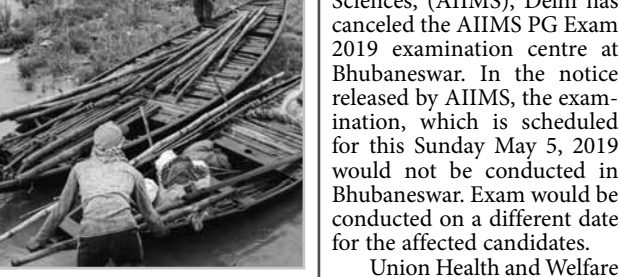
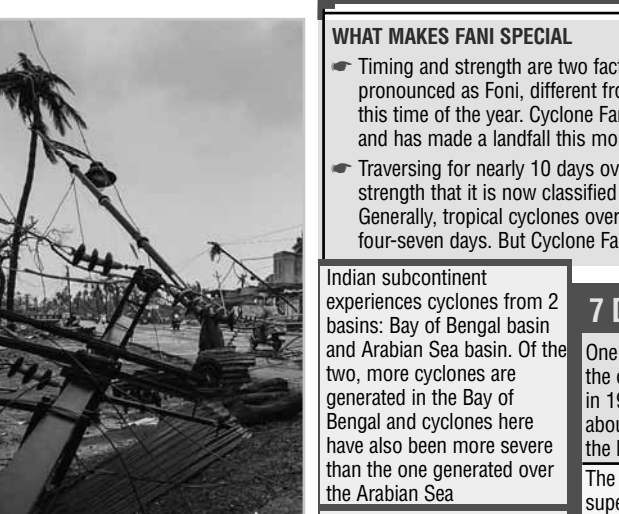
the names list. The identification system covers both the Arabian Sea and the Bay of

Bengal. So, for instance, Bangladesh suggested 'Onil' the first in the list. Onil originated in Arabian Sea, off the Gujarat coast between September to October 2004. It made landfall in the state, but impacted both India and Pakistan.
 Cyclone Phetai, suggested by Thailand, originated in the Bay of Bengal and made landfall in Andhra Pradesh, ravaging the coastal districts in December last year.
 The next cyclone, whenever it originates, will be named 'Vayu', suggested by India.
 Of the 64 names suggested by these eight countries, 57 have been utilised. Some of the names suggested by India are Agni, Bijli, Akash, while Mala, Helen and Nilofar were suggested by Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan respectively.

These lists are used sequentially and they are not rotated every few years, unlike the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific lists.
 "A storm causes so much death and destruction that its name is considered for retirement and hence is not used repeatedly.
 "If the public wants to suggest the name of a cyclone to be included in the list, the proposed name must meet some fundamental criteria," a circular on naming the cyclones over the North Indian Ocean said.
 "The name should be short and readily understood when broadcast. Further, the names must not be culturally sensitive and must not convey some unintended and potentially inflammatory meaning," it added. The name can be

communicated to the director general of the IMD.
 According to the IMD, in the beginning, storms were named arbitrarily. Laxman Singh Rathore, a former director general of the IMD, said the practice of naming the storm first started in the United States. This helped identify it and also aided the researchers.
 Earlier, the storm was named after the coast it hit, Rathore added. "Then the mid-1900s saw the start of practice of using feminine names for storms. In the pursuit of a more organised and efficient naming system, meteorologists later decided to identify storms using names from a list arranged alphabetically," the IMD said explaining the genesis of the naming process.

"Before the end of 1900s, forecasters started using male names for those forming in the Southern Hemisphere. Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Centre. They are now maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organisation," the IMD added.
 Storms over South Pacific and Indian Ocean are known as cyclones. In the North Atlantic, central North Pacific, and eastern North Pacific, the term hurricane is used.
 The same type of disturbance in the Northwest Pacific is called a typhoon, according to the National Ocean Service of the US' National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.



WHAT MAKES FANI SPECIAL

- Timing and strength are two factors that make Cyclone Fani, pronounced as Foni, different from most other tropical cyclones in this time of the year. Cyclone Fani started developing around April 25 and has made a landfall this morning in Odisha on the east coast
- Traversing for nearly 10 days over the sea allowed Fani to gather such strength that it is now classified as an extremely severe cyclone. Generally, tropical cyclones over the Bay of Bengal have a lifespan of four-seven days. But Cyclone Fani is different

7 DEADLIEST CYCLONES HAVE HIT INDIA SINCE 1970s

One of India's strongest cyclones was the one that affected Andhra Pradesh in 1977. With the lowest pressure of about 919 mbar, the cyclone claimed the lives of as many as 50,000 people	low-pressure system in the Andaman Sea. Over 124 deaths were reported during the time
The 1999 Orissa (now Odisha) super-cyclone claimed the lives of over 15,000 people. Winds reached the speed of 260 kmph	The Gujarat cyclone in 2015 claimed the lives of over 84 people when it hit the western regions of India
The Machilipatnam cyclone in 1990 claimed the lives of over 950 people. The lowest pressure of the cyclone was about 920 mbar	Cyclone Thane in 2011 was a strongest tropical cyclone, which majorly affected Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The cyclone left at least 33 people dead
Cyclone Hudhud in 2014, which hit major parts of eastern India and neighbouring Nepal, originated from a	Cyclone Phailin in 2013 caused the deaths of over 23 people. It affected mostly the regions of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand

BENGAL ON ALERT CM postpones poll programme

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA
With super-cyclonic storm Fani ravaging Odisha coastal belt and appearing in no mood to spare Bengal the State Government went on maximum alert state with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee cancelling her election rallies for the coming 48 hours.
 The Chief Minister who was currently camping at Kharagpur some 50 miles from the sea was personally monitoring the situation even as the state administration evacuated several lakh people from the coastal regions.
 Tourists had been evacuated from beach joints of Digha, Mandarmani, Shankarpur, Tajpur, Home Ministry sources said adding hotels at the mouth of Bay of Bengal in Bak Khali, Ganga Sagar, Namkhana, Sajne Khali

in Sundarbans had been evacuated and local villagers had been shifted to those places.
 "Taking lesson from Aila," that struck Bengal causing extensive damages in 2009 the Government had taken unprecedented measures, a senior official said.
 The Chief Minister said "be alert, take care and stay safe for the next two days but don't panic. I am personally supervising the situation on war footing. All the election-related programmes have been postponed for the next 48 hours."
 In Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim ordered evacuation of people from shanties and hutments. "Several thousand people have been shifted to community halls and roadside shops have been closed," a senior Kolkata Metropolitan Corporation official said adding. The "extremely severe"

storm is likely fade into a "severe cyclonic depression" by the time it would enter Bengal sometime in the wee hours of Saturday, weather office said advising "chances should not be taken and people should be on maximum alert."
 The State Government had directed owners of 'The 42' the tallest building in India to remove the tall crane affixed to it. While the Railways cancelled a number of local trains moving down south to Sunderban regions of Diamond Harbour, Canning, Namkhana causing massive passenger snarl at Sealdah Railway Station. "Trains are being run sparingly considering the entry time of the storm," an Eastern Railway official said. Flights out of Netaji Subhas International Airport had also been suspended for several hours till Saturday causing great inconvenience to the North-East bound passengers sources said.
 "Our flights have been cancelled and we are stranded in Kolkata without any boarding facility being provided by the airline authorities," said a Rakesh Sinharoy a passenger appealing to the authorities to make arrangements for the trapped passengers. Meanwhile, the with electoral code of conduct lifted from the affected zones political parties found a great opportunity of do pre-electoral service to the masses even as many of them jumped into action as hordes of mini trucks loaded with activists and relief materials rushed coastwards.

AIIMS cancels exam in Bhubaneswar

New Delhi: Due to Cyclone Fani that hit hard eastern coast of Odisha on Friday, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, (AIIMS), Delhi has canceled the AIIMS PG Exam 2019 examination centre at Bhubaneswar. In the notice released by AIIMS, the examination, which is scheduled for this Sunday May 5, 2019 would not be conducted in Bhubaneswar. Exam would be conducted on a different date for the affected candidates.
 Union Health and Welfare Secretary Preeti Sudan tweeted that, "AIIMS PG exam is scheduled on 5th May. Due to cyclone Fani, AIIMS Delhi is cancelling the exam centre in Bhubaneswar. Another exam

will be conducted for students affected by this cancellation as soon as normalcy returns".
 The examination is only cancelled for the candidates who were allotted Bhubaneswar exam centres.
 The examination at the other centres, however, would be conducted as per the schedule. The revised dates for Bhubaneswar centre would be released by AIIMS New Delhi at a later date. As for the AIIMS MBBS 2019 examination, there is no update.
 AIIMS would be releasing the admit cards for the MBBS examination on May 15 on aaimsexams.org, said a senior official from the Health Ministry. **PNS**

Centre with people hit by Fani: PM

Jaipur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the Centre stood with the people in states hit by cyclone Fani. Modi said, "I want to assure the families affected by the cyclone that we are with them at this point of hour. We have collected fresh updates from the officials and had released a fund of Rs 1,000 crore for relief work on Thursday.
 "Rescue teams have been operationalised. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy and Indian Army — all have been working with the administration. Coming together to combat bad times is the spirit of India." **IANS**



SIDELIGHTS

COASTAL ANDHRA ESCAPES 'FANI' FURY
 Coastal Andhra Pradesh escaped the fury of extremely severe cyclonic storm 'Fani', which hit Odisha coast near Puri on Friday, officials said. Though the cyclone had an impact on 700 villages in north coastal Andhra, the calamity passed off without causing any loss of life or major property damage. The cyclone triggered heavy rain in parts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts. Srikakulam district bordering Odisha witnessed the maximum impact. The gusty winds speeding up to 140 km per hour uprooted trees and electricity poles, affecting power supply and road transport. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu told reporters after a review meeting in the state capital Amaravati that 733 villages were affected and restoration works were completed in 408 villages by Friday evening.

ASSAM ON ALERT AS FANI LIKELY TO HIT TODAY
 The Assam Government has sounded an alert in all districts of the state following a warning that Cyclone Fani will lash Assam and other parts of the northeastern region for two days starting Saturday early hours. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) at Guwahati said that there will be heavy to very heavy rains in most of the northeastern states including Assam on April 4 and 5 and strong surface winds with speeds of up to 40 km per hour. "Extremely severe cyclonic storm, Fani (pronounced as 'Foni') over west central Bay of Bengal has already hit coastal region of Odisha. It is very likely to impact Assam and other northeastern states on late Friday night or Saturday early morning. There will be heavy to very heavy rain accompanied by strong winds," said Sanjay O'Neill Shaw, Deputy Director General of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) based in Guwahati.

BOLLYWOOD CELEBS PRAY FOR SAFETY OF PEOPLE
 A slew of Bollywood celebrities including Abhishek Bachchan, Tamannaah Bhatia and Riteish Deshmukh have prayed for the safety of those who have been affected by the cyclonic storm Fani. The extremely severe cyclonic storm Fani with wind speed touching nearly 200 kmph that made landfall earlier on Friday on the eastern coast wreaking havoc in Odisha, will cross several districts in the state before advancing to neighbouring West Bengal.

EC RELAXES MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT IN ANDHRA
 The Election Commission on Friday relaxed the model code of conduct (MCC) in four districts of Andhra Pradesh to facilitate rescue and rehabilitation works in the wake of the extremely severe cyclonic storm, Fani. Chief Electoral Officer of Andhra Pradesh had requested the EC to relax the provisions of MCC in East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts.

CYCLONE FANI TO AFFECT WEATHER IN NEPAL
 Extremely severe cyclonic storm Fani which made landfall in the Indian state of Odisha on Friday, is expected to affect the regular pattern of weather conditions in some parts of Nepal, weather officials said here. Although the cyclone is not likely to make its way to Nepal, light to moderate rain coupled with lightning and strong winds will occur in some parts of the Himalayan nation's eastern and central regions on Friday and Saturday, according to the Nepal Weather Forecast.

CYCLONE FANI TO HAVE NO MAJOR IMPACT ON LANKA
 Tropical cyclone Fani will not have a major impact on Sri Lanka in the coming days, Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said here on Friday. The powerful cyclone slammed into India's eastern coastline on Friday, bringing torrential rain and winds of up to 200 km/h. It is one of the most severe storms to hit the region in recent years. Assistant Director of DMC Pradeep Kodippilli said that cyclone Fani was expected to increase wind speeds up to 200 km per hour and although there was no major threat to Sri Lanka, officials were deployed in several districts in case of an emergency.

EC TAKES ALL MEASURES TO PROTECT EVMS, VVPATS
 With Cyclone Fani barreling its way to West Bengal from Odisha, the Election Commission has taken all measures to protect strongrooms where EVMs and VVPATS have been stored, a senior EC official said on Friday. The EVMS and VVPATS are for use in the seven parliamentary constituencies going to the polls in the fifth phase in the state on Monday, he said. EC officers in the state held video conferences with district magistrates and telephonic meetings during the day with senior officials on precautionary measures needed to be taken for the VVPATS and the EVMS.

RLYS TO TRANSPORT RELIEF MATERIAL AT NO COST
 The railways will transport aid and relief materials free of cost to cyclone 'Fani' affected Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, the national transporter said on Friday, in the wake of large-scale devastation by cyclonic storm.

MEGHALAYA BRACES FOR CYCLONE FANI
 The Meghalaya Government has sought deployment of a platoon of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in the state in view of Cyclone Fani, officials said on Friday.



'BABY FANI' BORN IN ODISHA RLY HOSPITAL
 A baby was born in an Odisha railway hospital as the extremely severe storm wreaked its havoc on Friday and her name came to officials in a flash — she could only be Lady Fani for them. The baby was born at 11.03 am in the railway hospital in Mancheswar, barely five km from the Odisha capital Bhubaneswar, officials said.

Burhan Wani's aide 'Tiger' shot

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces early on Friday morning dealt a body blow to top Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) commanders, active in Kashmir Valley, by neutralising Lateef Ahmad Dar, alias Tiger of Dogripora, Pulwama, one of lone surviving members of Burhan Wani group, along with two other local terrorists in a fierce firefight in South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Timing of the clinical operation is set to boost the morale of the security forces deployed in the area to ensure peaceful polling in the final phase in Shopian and Pulwama districts on May 6.

After the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen's poster boy, Burhan Wani, in July 2016, several other top commanders too were neutralised during sustained operations by the security forces.

Lateef Ahmad Dar, killed in Shopian, was lone surviving member of the group who was still active in the area.

According to police, Lateef

'Tiger' was reportedly involved in grooming young recruits for pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit. He was active in the area since 2014 and was a close confidant of Burhan Wani.

The killing of three local terrorists also sparked off protests in the area. Local residents tried to assemble near the encounter site provoking the security forces to use tear smoke shells to disperse the unruly mob. The authorities immediately snapped mobile Internet services in south Kashmir whereas train services through the area also remained suspended.

According to police spokesman, "The operation was launched on the basis of a credible input about the presence of terrorists at Adkhara Village in Imam Sahab area of district Shopian early on Friday morning." "During searches, the hiding terrorists fired upon the search party. The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter. Initially, with the efforts of police and security forces, the civilians trapped around the encounter site were evacuated to



safer places". During the operation, one Army jawan Yugendar Kumar also sustained gunshot injuries. He was evacuated to hospital and is undergoing medical treatment," the police spokesman said.

"In the ensuing encounter, three terrorists were killed and the bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. The three killed terrorists have been identified as Lateef Ahmad Dar alias Tiger of Dogripora Pulwama, Tariq Ahmad Sheikh alias Mufli Waqas of Moolu Chitragam Shopian and Shariq Ahmad Nengroo of Chotigam

Shopian," the spokesperson said. According to the police records, all the three terrorists were affiliated with the proscribed terror outfit HM and were wanted by law for their complicity in a series of terror crimes including attacks on security establishments and civilian atrocities.

As per police records, Lateef had a long history of terror crime records since 2014 and was involved in planning and executing several terror attacks in the area. Several terror crime cases were registered against him.

Similarly, Tariq also had a long history of terror crime records and was involved in several terror attacks. Several terror crime cases were registered against him. He was part of groups involved in planning and executing terror attacks on the security establishments in the area. He was instrumental in luring youth to join terror organisations. Moreover, he was also involved in several weapon snatching cases reported from the area. Shariq was also involved in several terror attacks.

Incriminating material including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. Police has registered a case. All these incriminating materials have been taken in case records to probe their complicity in other terror crimes.

Police also appealed to citizens not to venture inside encounter zone since such an area can prove dangerous due to stray explosive materials. "People are requested to cooperate with police till area is completely sanitised and cleared of all explosive materials if any," said a detailed police advisory.

BANK FRAUD CASE

Life term for one, four get RI, ₹3.13 crore fine

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A special CBI court on Friday sentenced one person to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 3.13 crore and awarded rigorous imprisonment to four persons, including a former branch manager of Andhra Bank, for periods ranging from three years to ten years and levied fines collecting amounting to Rs 3.70 lakh in a bank fraud case.

The CBI court handed out life imprisonment to one Rajendra Marutao Patil, a private individual, and imposed a fine of Rs. 3.13 crore.

The court sentenced Bandalmudi Mahipal, then Branch Manager, Andhra Bank, Ghodbundar Road Branch, Thane (Maharashtra) and three others. The Prosecution's case was that the accused persons had availed a term loan of Rs. 203.35 lakh for purchase of 15 Skoda Laura Cars. However, they purchased only one car, while they allegedly siphoned off rest of the money was siphoned off for other purposes by the borrower.

Surve alias Majeed Naik, Reshma Kunte @ Smt. Reshma Rajendra Patil and Premnath Atmaram Nikumbhe, all private individuals and imposed fines of Rs 18,000, Rs 12,000 and Rs 12,000 respectively on them for allegedly causing a huge loss to the Andhra Bank.

The CBI had registered a case on 30.01.2010 on a complaint from General Manager, Andhra Bank, Andheri, Mumbai against Rajendra Patil, Bandalmudi Mahipal, then Branch Manager, Andhra Bank, Ghodbundar Road Branch, Thane (Maharashtra) and three others.

The Prosecution's case was that the accused persons had availed a term loan of Rs. 203.35 lakh for purchase of 15 Skoda Laura Cars. However, they purchased only one car, while they allegedly siphoned off rest of the money was siphoned off for other purposes by the borrower.

The accused also availed another facility of Secured Overdraft of Rs.139.95 lakh against term deposit worth Rs.155.50 lakh which was also not cleared and thereby Andhra Bank was put to a total loss to the tune of approximately Rs. 2.30 crore.

After its investigation, the CBI filed a charge sheet in the special court against the accused under 120-B (conspiracy), 420 (cheating), 465 (punishment for forgery), 467 (forgery of valuable security, will etc) 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating), 471 (using forged document as genuine one) & 511 (punishment for attempting to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life or other imprisonment) of IPC and Section 13(2) r/w 13(1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and substantive offences.

TN Addl CS files complaint against top PMO official, CVC

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitching in with his moral support to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Communities, a cartel of bureaucrats are working round-the-clock to victimise, disgrace and humiliate Government officials belonging to the SC/ST and BC sections. This has been brought to light by a Chief Secretary grade IAS officer in Tamil Nadu.

The 13-pages long complaint filed by Jagmohan Singh Raju, Commissioner of Land Reforms (additional chief secretary) Government of Tamil Nadu, and which the Tamil Nadu Police refused to accept reveals shocking developments and happenings in the country's civil service.

The Pioneer had brought out the news that Raju, a Punjab-born IAS officer belonging to the SC community is being denied promotion to the post of additional secretary/secretary to the Government of India because of his status as a member of the SC Raju, who began his er in the civil service at the age of 22 has been honoured internationally and nationally for the meritorious and exemplary services rendered by him for the upliftment of the society. He was due for empanelment as additional secretary /secretary to the Government of India in 2016.

But certain people in the corridors of power cannot digest the fact that an officer from the SC community

would occupy the post of cabinet secretary, the topmost post a civil servant could aspire.

A group of officials ganged up and devised strategies to derail the progress of Raju's career by foisting false fake and frivolous cases on him.

Though all cases were found to be fake by the investigating agencies of the Government of India and judiciary, the people responsible for removing the blots on the career of the officer ganged up and retained the charges with more vigour.

Police complaint accessed by The Pioneer threw out shocking goings on in India's bureaucracy.

"My career has nosedived because of caste based discrimination at the hands of senior government functionaries and others. I have been in particular victimised by Kabindra Joshi, G Srinivasan, KV Chowdary (CVC), PK Mishra (additional principal secretary to the Prime Minister). With the sole motive of harming my current and future professional/employment prospects and social standing they have been ruining my impeccable reputation as an honest officer by giving false information against me to public servants, instituting false and malicious inquiries against me contrary to established norms and practices and creating an atmosphere of distrust and prejudice to discriminate against me. Thereby they have committed atrocities on me which are an offences inter alia under Section 3 of the SC/ST (Prohibition of Atrocities Act) 1989," Raju said

in his complaint which the Tamil Nadu police refused to accept. Joshi and Srinivasan are under secretaries in the central Government with unlimited power at their disposal.

Raju's complaint is replete with the modus operandi followed by the quartet of Joshi, Srinivasan, Mishra and Chowdary, the last named being the chief vigilance commissioner of the country.

Despite Raju being cleared in all the inquiries held by the vigilance department of the government of India, these officials succeeded in retaining the charges against him by tampering the Vigilance Information System of the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) of the Government of India.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) which went into the woes of Raju expressed its anguish and shock over the way the officer has been subjected to the worst kind of treatment.

"What is shocking is the denial of justice to Raju has happened despite the Prime Minister's assurance to the members of the SC, ST and OBC sections that this was going to be their century," said a senior civil service officer privy to the goings on in India's corridors of power.

People who cry from rooftops for any alleged violation of the rights of the oppressed classes have not uttered a single word in support of Raju.

They may be indifferent because Raju does not command any vote bank in Tamil Nadu.

Modi takes dig at Priyanka

Not snake charmers, India is now about IT-expert 'mouse charmers'

PTI ■ BIKANER

A day after Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra impressed photographers during an interaction with snake charmers, Modi accused her of projecting an image of the country that did not sit well with the reality.

"Now it is 'mouse charmers' and not 'snake charmers,'" Modi said on Friday, referring to the young Indians in the IT sector. He did not directly name the Congress general secretary. Photojournalists covering Priyanka Gandhi's election campaign in her mother Sonia Gandhi's constituency of Rae Bareilly had caught her talking with snake charmers.

"Nothing will happen, it's fine," she had said when someone warned her against holding a snake. At an election rally here, Modi referred to a photo of Jawaharlal Nehru. "There was a time when the 'naamdars' of the Congress used to feel happy showing snake charmers to foreign guests," he said.

"There is popular picture of the first Prime Minister showing a snake charmer to foreign guests. It is available on social media. He was feeling proud," he said.

Such pictures made the world call India a country of snake charmers, Modi said.

"The fourth generation of the 'naamdar' family is doing this now as well," he added.

Modi said they forget that the country has moved ahead,

and Indians hold the computer mouse now. "Now it is 'mouse charmers' and not 'snake charmers'."

He said the country's young people have changed the image of the country by making a name in the field of IT.

"But the fourth generation (of the family) is seeking votes by showing snake charmers," he said. He also accused the Congress of doing nothing for the welfare of the nomadic community of snake charmers.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a memento presented by BJP workers during an election rally ahead of Lok Sabha polls, in Bikaner on Friday PTI

Battleground LOK SABHA

Protect farmers' fields as that is nationalism as well: Priyanka to PM

PTI ■ RAE BARELI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra advised Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protect the fields of farmers on Friday, saying that is nationalism as well. "You are protecting people from Pakistan's aggression. This is a big achievement. Everyone is happy. But you should also protect fields of farmers. That is nationalism as well," she told an election meeting in support of her mother and the Congress candidate from Rae Bareilly on the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, Sonia Gandhi.

"Loving people also means respecting them. If they are saying something, you (PM)



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during an election campaign for the Lok Sabha polls, in Raebareilly on Friday PTI

should listen to them as their voice is the voice of democracy. What kind of nationalism is this that you ignore farmers, youngsters and women?" the Congress general secretary in-charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh said.

"When you demonstrate for your rights, your voice is curbed. Why is this done? Because the Government is afraid of your power. They know that they did not honour any of the promises

they had made in the last five years. They had a majority Government, but did nothing in the interest of people," she added.

Claiming the Government only focussed on its own publicity, Priyanka said, "Wherever you go, you see his (Modi's) face. Half of his speech targets the opposition. Everyone is a nationalist. What does nationalism mean? It means you should hear the voice of the people."

Gutted RK Studios sold to Godrej

New owner to develop swanky residential-cum-shopping plaza on landmark property

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai's landmark property RK Studios, which had been up for sale ever since a massive fire gutted the premises in September 2017, has finally changed hands. Its new owner is: realty major Godrej Properties Ltd (GPL), which is now planning to develop a swanky residential complex-cum-shopping plaza on the premises.

Confirming that it had inked a deal with Kapoors, GPL said in a statement here on Friday that 2.2 acre RK studio property, located at Chembur in north-east Mumbai, would offer to the new owner an approximately 3,50,000 sq ft (33,000 square meters) of saleable area comprising modern residential apartments of various configurations as well as a luxury retail experience.

Located on the main Sion-Panvel Road, the property offers an extremely well developed social and civic infrastructure with multiple schools, hospitals, retail malls, residential, and commercial spaces in close proximity.

Not surprisingly, GPL has not disclosed the amount at which it purchased RK Studios,

which had been named after legendary filmmaker Raj Kapoor.

According to informed sources in the real estate market, the estimated value of the prized property is anywhere from Rs 500 crore to 600 crore. The ongoing rates of Developed residential-cum-commercial rates in Chembur is any where Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 per sq feet.

"We are happy to add this iconic site in Chembur to our development portfolio. This fits well with our strategy of deepening our presence in key locations across India's leading cities. We will seek to ensure we celebrate the remarkable legacy of this site with the goal of delivering an outstanding lifestyle for its residents," Godrej Properties' Executive Chairman Pirojsha Godrej said.

Filmmaker and late Raj Kapoor's son Randhir Kapoor of RK Studios said, "This property offers an extremely well developed social and civic infrastructure with multiple schools, hospitals, retail malls, residential, and commercial spaces in close proximity. Not surprisingly, GPL has not disclosed the amount at which it purchased RK Studios,



Significantly enough, Kapoors have sold the property more than six months after the late Raj Kapoor's widow, Krishna, passed away at the age of 87, on October 1, 2018 last year.

The Kapoor family had been looking out to sell the famous property ever since a huge fire broke out on the premises on September 16, 2017. After the fire reduced the studio and also precious memorabilia and costumes from the RK Films & Studios banner films to ashes, Kapoors had expressed their inability to revamp and restart the studio.

So much so that after the fire mishap, senior actor Rishi Kapoor had gone on record that it had become economi-

cally unviable for his family to renovate and maintain the place. "Even before the fire, for years RK Studio had become a huge white elephant, toting up losses," Rishi Kapoor was quoted as saying.

Constructed in 1948, RK Studios contributed a great deal to the Indian cinema. After the first film Aag made at this studio bombed at the box office in 1948, the Studios — which made films under the RK Films — tasted first success with Barsaat (1949). The banner went on to make successful films like Awaara, Boot Polish, Jagte Raho and Shree 420.

Many RK Films movies featured Kapoor opposite actress Nargis. Raj Kapoor appeared in 15 RK films with Nargis and travelled around the world with her to promote the studio's films. The music director duo-Shankar Jaikishan also worked frequently on RK Films productions during this period.

In the following decades RK Films produced many films, including Jis Desh Men Ganga Behti Hai (1960), Mera Naam Joker (1970), Bobby (1973), Satyam Shivam Sundaram (1978), Prem Rog (1982) and Ram Teri Ganga Maali (1985), which was Raj Kapoor's last film.

BRANCH MALAVIYA NAGAR
C-35, Malaviya Nagar, New Delhi 110017
E-mail : B:9094@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 13.02.2019 calling upon the borrower/surety/owner of the property, Shri/Smt Harjit Singh Kohli, AMRIT KAUR KOHLI to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 21,71,303.93 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Seventy One Thousand Three Hundred Three and Paise Ninety Three Only) within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower/surety & owner property having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower/surety & 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 30th Day of April, 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/surety/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, MALAVIYA NAGAR, DELHI Branch for an amount of Rs. 21,71,303.93/- and interest thereon, costs etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the FREE HOLD PROPERTY BEARING NO. 72C, 2ND FLOOR, DDA-MIG FLAT, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110027 owned by Smt. Amrit Kaur Kohli W/o Sh. Harjit Singh Kohli
Bounded :
On the North by FLAT NO. 73
On the South by FLAT NO. 71
On the East by OPEN BELOW
On the West by OPEN BELOW

Date : 30.04.2019
Place : NEW DELHI
Authorized Officer (Syndicate Bank)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Yogesh Kumar S/o Shri Chand Sharma R/o H. No. C-89, Sheela Mata Road, Opp. Shiv Mandir, Rajiv Nagar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 do hereby declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Yogesh Sharma and Sri Chand Sharma in my service record and name of my father has been wrongly written as Shree Chand Sharma in my 10th class marksheet and certificate and name of mine has been wrongly written as Yogesh Sharma in my 12th class marksheet and certificate. The actual name of mine and my father is Yogesh Kumar and Shri Chand Sharma, which may be amended accordingly.

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi

... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Tender Notice Date: 04.05.2019

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all bidders

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Cost of EMD (Rs.)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/19-20/RB/AK/010	Providing Support Services for Recovery in BYPL	₹ 9.25 Crores	₹ 9.25 Lacs	16.05.2019 14:30 HRS.	16.05.2019 15:00 HRS.

Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying Requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase/Submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> Tenders-> BSES YAMUNA POWER LIMITED -> Open Tenders.

Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLCT111525
TEL: 011-39997111 | Fax: 011-39992076 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

PAPER WITH PASSION

Genuine scores?

The high percentages in CBSE raise questions on marks moderation policies and testing standards in our schools



Should we celebrate the high scores of the CBSE's Class XII results or worry about imposing unrealistic performance pressure on the younger generation, considering that only a skimming layer of five to 10 per cent students will get into good colleges? Or should we stop to wonder if we are building an unfair expectation of deservedness among our young and not preparing them for a failure in a realistic competitive scenario that's not based on marks or grades but application of imbibed knowledge? These are questions we

must seek answers to considering that with the results hitting almost 100 per cent accuracy, the pressure is upon the universities to keep the cutoff percentages high. This year, a total of 17,690 candidates scored 95 per cent and above in aggregate, up 39 per cent from 12,737 in 2018. A staggering 94,299 scored 90 per cent and above, an all-time high for the CBSE. And with greater excellence showed by students in Delhi/NCR, many from other boards are worrying that their chances of making it to prestigious national colleges are next to nil.

While there is much debate going on about CBSE's marks moderation policy, which allows grace space to students and sets a grammar for a more equitable assessment code, question is of the status of the average students who may not have breached the 90s' barrier but aren't too bad either. Also, what of those who have not peaked the expectation levels that keep cresting year after year? Clearly, standardisation of marking protocols is building up more complexities in the system of higher education. Testing methods are being simplified and made more objective without factoring into account analytical ability or subjective assessment, the last being the preserve of humanities. Isn't it extraordinary that tests for non-quantitative subjects such as English or History can yield perfect scores? St Stephen's, one of the country's premier arts colleges, had a cut-off that went up to 99.25 per cent in one of the recent years! The problem with such a testing format is that it encourages learning by rote rather than priming creative thinking or challenging teaching quality. In the process, merit, too, is being compromised as two students with different real capacities, maybe one 80 per cent and the other higher, are being flat-planed on a performance graph. This formula is also setting off an unhealthy competition among boards which are inflating the marks of the students to get better results. In this androidish rush, all we are producing is overhyped talent and attempting an artificial bridging of divides. Something that has consistently been reflected in the series of Annual Status of Education Reports (ASERs), which show how students fail in simple language and mathematical ability when tested outside the format. Improving scorelines does not necessarily mean achieving high outcomes in actual learning. The solution clearly lies in a more realistic evaluation mechanism in our school system. While it is good to know that we have a high percentage of young people with a competitive edge, it is imperative that we make our higher institutions of learning as competitive when it comes to teaching standards and create more berths for students at the state level rather than have them flock to Delhi or known hubs. At the same time, more disciplines need to be developed so that students can stream into their chosen vocation with a specific qualifier entry test matching their skills. Till we arm every student with an opportunity to make good, the larger purpose of education in developing potential will be unmet.

Unveiling some truths

A Kerala institution's decision to prohibit women from wearing *niqab* is about right interpretation of texts



The decision by the Kerala-based Muslim Educational Society (MES), prohibiting female students from wearing veils in its institutions across the country, is not only about keeping to its reformist legacy but more about challenging the theological discourse set by powerful revisionist groups, who control mosques and madrasas. It is a brave attempt to uphold the true spirit of the holy texts and the Prophet amid a sea of interpretations by variant scholars, some of which have set the rigid template of Islam in our perception. It is

about reinstating the position of women in Islam as it was intended and not circumscribing them by patriarchal interventions and culture constructs of the later years. At a time when Islamophobia has overpowered a true understanding of the religion, such voices are needed to dispel mistruths and begin where it is needed most, in education. The group runs 35 colleges, 72 schools and has around one lakh students, the future generation which MES president PA Fazal Ghafoor believes should be mainstreamed rather than feared, feel respected rather than reviled. In its circular, the MES even quoted a Kerala High Court order from December 2018, which dismissed a plea filed by two female students of Christ Nagar Senior Secondary School in Thiruvananthapuram, seeking to wear headscarves. The rationale being that the disadvantages of being marked out narrow down the advantages of maintaining parity. Although it would appear that the IS-operated blasts in Sri Lanka and the resultant swoop in South India may have set a precautionary context, Ghafoor has been consistent in his stand against veiling for far longer, saying it was un-Islamic and a cultural import. He had also said that wearing the *niqab* continuously can cause Vitamin D deficiency in Muslim women. Most importantly, such a move would actually uphold the identity of women as the misuse of the veil as a subterfuge has cost the community, the latest suicide bombers turning what should be a matter of choice to a matter of concern. Many purist scholars, too, maintain that the *Quran* does not specifically mention the *burqa* or tell women to wear confining clothes and cover their faces. Instead, it instructs men and women to dress and behave modestly in society and lower their gaze when interacting with each other. Much of the legitimacy of the *burqa* is drawn from the *Hadith* or traditions of life in the days of Prophet Muhammad and are, therefore, attributed to him. These have been conflated to embody the very idea of religiosity. However, he himself had always professed followers to go by the *Quran*. Besides, women in his times were progressive, were allowed to work unveiled and even today, they are not allowed to cover their faces during Haj, the idea being there should be no barrier between the devotee and her experience of divinity.

Of course, one must understand that in the backdrop of a growing Islamophobia, the veil has returned as an identity marker of the revivalist fervour of the times. This has resulted in the veil being politicised and tokenised as a tool for impact. Little wonder then that the extreme rightists at home raised the issue of banning the veil given its misuse by terrorists in Lanka. So long as it continues to be a power tool to perpetuate the politics of religion, the veil can only generate controversies and be used for point-scoring. Real victory is when women themselves are comfortable about choosing or shunning it.

An evolving democracy

Despite the Constitution being a comprehensively written document, ambiguities remain, which have been resolved by smart interpretations



KK PAUL

The selection of a Prime Minister is a relatively smooth affair in case the results of a general election are decisive. In such cases, the Prime Minister virtually selects himself. But this is not always the case. There have been instances post a general election, as also a mid-term poll, where Presidents have had to undertake strenuous exercises before making the final selection. Some such cases — where the decision-making was not so smooth and conventions were not followed — will be recalled in this column.

India's Constitution is one of the longest in the world. Its drafting took almost three years and was debated extensively before being finalised. Despite being a comprehensively written document, ambiguities remain, resulting in varying interpretations, sometimes leading to controversies.

Article 74 of the Constitution is modelled on Section 9 of the Government of India Act, 1935, which lays down the basis of a Cabinet system (Council of Ministers) with the Prime Minister as the head of the Cabinet to aid and advise the President. Article 75 lays down that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President. Obviously, it is left to the latter to take a decision and appoint the former. As per the Constitution, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are responsible to the House of the People. Article 75(3) says such a person chosen as the Prime Minister has to have the confidence of the House. Though not mentioned explicitly in the Constitution, ultimately, it becomes the weightiest factor in the selection process with the President.

In the case of a single political party or a pre-poll alliance having majority, who have chosen a leader, the decision-making is uncomplicated and smooth. Complications arise in cases where claims of relative strengths conflict and overlap. For such situations, too, over a period of time, conventions and precedents have evolved, facilitating the decision-making process.

Presidents have adopted varying yardsticks for different situations, which are now part of our Constitutional history. After the sixth general election in March 1977, Morarji Desai of the Janata Party had become the Prime Minister. He had to resign mid-term on July 15, 1979, on account of certain intra-party stress factors, even though he continued to be the leader of the Janata Party. The next day, the then Deputy Prime Minister Ch Charan Singh broke away from the Janata Party and formed his own party. As per the convention, the then President Neelam Sanjeev Reddy invited Leader of the Opposition YB Chavan to form the Government. Expressing his inability, Chavan suggested to the President that a combination of parties had emerged led by Ch Charan Singh, which could form the Government. The President at this stage set a precedent when he asked for lists of



supporting MPs, both from Morarji Desai as well as Ch Charan Singh. Ultimately supported by the Congress, Charan Singh was sworn in as the Prime Minister on July 28, almost two weeks after Morarji Desai's resignation. He was supposed to prove his majority during the Monsoon Session of Parliament but had to resign on August 20 for want of support from the Congress.

While resigning, he had advised the President to dissolve the House for a fresh election. Strictly following the convention, the advice of a Prime Minister, who had failed to win the confidence of the House, was not binding on the President. In this case, President Neelam Sanjeev Reddy, instead of making an offer to Jagjivan Ram, then Leader of Opposition, dissolved the House and Ch Charan Singh continued as the care-taker Prime Minister for almost five months till the seventh general elections were held in December 1979. It has been often observed that this decision was propelled by the previous history of the President and Jagjivan Ram from their days together in the Congress at the time of its split in 1969.

The precedent of obtaining lists of MPs in support was later repeated in 1999 by President

KR Narayanan, when one of the claimants was unable to furnish the requisite numbers, leading to the post-Kargil war general elections in September 1999.

Earlier in November 1989, after the ninth general election, as no party had secured an absolute majority, President R Venkataraman invited Rajiv Gandhi in his capacity as the leader of the largest party in Parliament to form the Government. After his refusal, VP Singh, with letters of support from the Left Front as well as the BJP, formed the Government. As the latter withdrew their support on October 23, 1990, VP Singh was asked to prove his majority in the House. Having lost the vote 142 to 346, he had to resign on November 7, 1990. The Congress was once again asked to form the Government, but they instead supported Chandrasekhar's breakaway group. Accordingly, Chandrasekhar was sworn in as the Prime Minister. Later, in March 1991, after the withdrawal of support from the Congress, he resigned, advising dissolution of the Lok Sabha, which was accepted by the President.

At least on one occasion, the principle of making the first offer to the largest party appeared to be embarrassingly impractical. In 1996, the then

President Shankar Dayal Sharma had invited Atal Bihari Vajpayee to form the Government, as the BJP was the largest party with 161 seats, its allies having 34, thus making it a total of 195.

On the other hand, the United Front had a total of 318, including the Congress' support. Embarrassingly, also for the President, Vajpayee failed to secure the vote of confidence and had to resign within 13 days of being sworn as the Prime Minister. Obviously, while extending the invitation to Vajpayee, his capacity to win confidence of the House had not been considered.

Ultimately, what matters is the satisfaction of the President that his choice would be able to win the confidence of the House. Based on this principle, after Indira Gandhi's assassination, Giani Zail Singh as President had invited Rajiv Gandhi to be the Prime Minister in 1984, even though at that time, he had not been formally elected as the leader of the party.

In 2004, the difference between the Congress (145) and the BJP (138) was very small, but the then President, APJ Abdul Kalam had invited the Congress to form the Government not only because it was the largest party but also

because it had the largest pre-poll support (UPA) in numbers.

The modalities of the selection process were looked upon in detail by the Sarkaria Commission, which had recommended that the President should invite the leaders of the parties in the following order, (i) Leader of the largest pre-poll alliance of parties, (ii) Leader of the single largest party, (iii) Leader of the post-poll alliance.

Later, the Commission, to review the working of the Constitution chaired by former Chief Justice of India MN Venkatachaliah, had suggested that in certain ambiguous situations, the President could send a message to the Lok Sabha to choose a leader, who would then be appointed the Prime Minister. Such a procedure would do away with the requirement of a vote of confidence in the House. Ever since our independence, despite our initial lack of experience in running democratic institutions, it is heartening that we have, as the world's largest democracy, evolved in a manner to set an example to the rest.

(The writer is a former Governor of Meghalaya and Uttarachal and a former Commissioner of Police, Delhi)

SOUNDBITE

I was member of Lok Sabha for three decades. I am getting a feedback that Lok Sabha will miss me.

Lok Sabha Speaker
—Sumitra Mahajan



I don't understand the unwarranted interest about my citizenship. I have never hidden or denied that I hold a Canadian passport.

Actor
—Akshay Kumar



You (Modi) are protecting people from Pakistan's aggression. This is a big achievement. Everyone is happy. But you should also protect the fields of farmers.

Congress leader
—Priyanka Gandhi



I don't like Prime Minister Modi and BJP president Amit Shah but I don't see Congress president Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister either.

Lyricist
—Javed Akhtar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep up the momentum

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Azhar nailed, finally" (May 3). The Pulwama terror attack on February 14 was, perhaps, the deadliest that occurred in the Valley in the past three decades of militant activity in Kashmir. This Pakistan based-terror outfit, the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), claimed responsibility for the attack and was also responsible for many other attacks in India, including on the Parliament, Pathankot and Uri among others.

For the last 10 years, India had relentlessly tried to put him on the terror list but China's opposition was the thorn in India's side. It was only after Pulwama that the US, the UK and France moved a fresh proposal in the UN Security Council on February 27 to designate JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. The efforts put by these countries as also by the Modi Government, which raised the costs for Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism, led to this diplomatic victory. Times are becoming harder for Pakistan day by day. It stands isolated and

Gambhir cannot play down debates

Elections in Delhi, which are scheduled for May 12, are all set to witness high-octane contests. One among them is the East Delhi seat where BJP's Gautam Gambhir is taking on Atishi Marlena of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Gambhir, a former cricketer, was handed the ticket as soon as he joined the BJP. His popularity in this constituency is a mystery. Most know him as a temperamental player with a history of brawls on the field. On the other hand, Atishi is credited with "transforming" the face of Government schools in the constituency in her capacity as an advisor to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. Meanwhile, Gambhir turned down a "debate" offer by Atishi.

By refusing to take up the gauntlet, he played down the seriousness of the debate and ridiculed the role of discussions in politics. Gambhir was an intense cricketer, who played his game with a grim face and spoke little; though he refused to take sledges and intimidations of the opposition lying down. Gambhir, on a debating level, is no match for Atishi, whose *alma mater* includes Oxford University and he may come a poor sec-

ond. Debates and discussions are essential for parliamentary democracy. An exemplary orator has always excelled in Parliament. Questions of importance have to be taken up with due diligence. If Gautam wins the seat, he may have to learn the intricacies of debates in the literal minefield that politics is.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola



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Akola

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy. The Congress says such doubts had been clarified in 2016 itself and this charge was old wine in a new bottle. Now that the Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case in the coming week, matters should be resolved once and for all.

Nimai Charan Swain
Bhubaneswar

Half-baked action

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Azhar nailed, finally" (May 3). Kudos to the European countries, the US and the UK, who played an important role in pressuring China to toe the line. New Delhi should now mount pressure on the UN as also those nations who are a witness to terrorism like India, to fight collectively and ensure that the most wanted terrorists are extradited to face trial in Indian courts.

Abhinav Kumar
Via email

Irresponsible conduct

Sir — Congress chief Rahul Gandhi should have put the matter to rest by admitting his mistake for attributing the phrase '*chowkidar chor hai*' to the Supreme Court. The top court's stand, asking him for an apology, will act as a deterrent against being irresponsible.

Anish
Via web

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Riding rough seas of book piracy

UNESCO's 'Open Access' policy is promoting a flow of ideas and helping narrow the knowledge gap between industrialised and other nations



ERIC FALT

In recent years, publishers, authors and booksellers have been plagued by piracy, copyright infringements and resulting sales losses. Book pirates directly threaten publishers by running websites that offer quick and free downloads of e-versions of the books. Thus, online book piracy poses the same threat to legitimately produced and distributed books that pirates and buccaneers pose to lawfully registered boats on the high seas.

The Association of American Publishers claims that the book publishing industry in the United States alone loses \$80 to \$100 million to online piracy every year. Other art forms such as films and music have also fallen prey to piracy. According to the UK-based piracy tracking company MUSO, members of the illegal downloading community paid more than 300 billion visits to pirate websites in 2017.

As internet connectivity and bandwidth have continued to grow, so has online piracy. Recently, in a decisive step, publishing giants, including Penguin Random House and HarperCollins, took legal action against OceanofPDF, an e-book piracy website, which led to its deactivation. However, OceanofPDF is just one of thousands of websites that mushroom every day and sprout back under different domain names when discovered.

Online piracy has both technical and socio-economic implications. While the rapid proliferation of creative products online often makes it almost impossible to check their authenticity, or to distinguish between the real and the fake, pirated books may understandably have a certain appeal for those keen to obtain books at cheaper prices or for free. Unsurprisingly, more than four million e-books — or 17 per cent of all e-books — are pirated.

Unfortunately, piracy of popular books is rampant in India, too. Best-selling author Jeffrey Archer was once famously approached by a vendor at a traffic light who tried to sell him a pirated version of one of his own books. Indeed, reproducing a book along with its jacket is one of the most common forms of piracy in India, and often dupes readers into buying pirated books.

Piracy in the education sector is also widespread. As recently as March, over 30,000 pirated National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) books worth ₹5 million were seized by the Delhi Police. Despite their low prices, piracy of school and college textbooks in India tends to be alarmingly high. The delayed availability of books creates an artificial scarcity that pirates capitalise on.

UNESCO lauds the Government of India's efforts to protect the book trade through successive amendments to the Indian Copyright Act (1957). These amendments have sought to make the infringement of copyright a punishable offence. However, there have also been occasional setbacks relating to the recognition of copyright in the country.

For instance, a prominent case in 2016, involving a leading academic publisher and a photocopy service provider, saw the Delhi High Court rule, "Educational institutions do not require a licence or permission from publishers for making and distributing course packs to students if the copyrighted materials included in them [are for] instructional use." With escalating demand for educational resources in India, it is imperative that we build a robust culture of honouring copyright and appreciating its importance.

At UNESCO, we have chosen to make all our electronic publications freely accessible and downloadable. We are proud that our adoption of an 'Open Access' policy is legitimately promoting the unrestricted flow of ideas and helping narrow the knowledge gap between industrialised and other countries. Besides, since 2010, UNESCO has maintained the World Anti-Piracy Observatory (WAPO), a free online platform to raise awareness on copyright legislation, news and announcements of events related to the fight against piracy worldwide. Going forward, sustained advocacy campaigns targeting students and teachers at various levels can contribute effectively to the ethical consumption of creative and educational content.

In a world where the internet is uber-present, copyright infringements have become rife and the lines between the authentic and inauthentic are often blurred, let us arm ourselves against book pirates and expose piracy for the crime it is.

(The writer is Director, UNESCO and a representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka)

MULTIPLE SURGICAL STRIKES WERE CONDUCTED DURING UPA'S TENURE BUT THE THEN GOVERNMENT DID NOT NEED TO RIDE ON THE ARMY'S ACHIEVEMENTS.

—FORMER PRIME MINISTER
MANMOHAN SINGH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



CONGRESS SPEAKING LIES. I THINK SUCH LEADERS PLAY VIDEO GAMES AND PERHAPS ENJOY SURGICAL STRIKES THINKING IT OF SOME GAME.

—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI

A long haul lies ahead

The listing of Masood Azhar as a global terrorist is a notable diplomatic victory for India. But the coming months are going to be very critical for us not only diplomatically but militarily as well



ANIL GUPTA

India has secured a big diplomatic victory with the listing of Masood Azhar, Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief, as a global terrorist by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) after China decided to lift its earlier imposed technical hold. It has been a long struggle for the Indian diplomatic corps since the issue had been hanging fire for almost a decade now. Incidentally, the JeM had already been listed as a global terror organisation by the UN since 2002. However, Azhar continued to avoid the listing due to Chinese patronage. The decision from the UN Security Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee came after China lifted its technical hold, imposed on March 13, on a proposal made by the US, the UK and France to this end. Even before that, China, a permanent member of the UNSC, had been blocking India's attempts to secure designation of Azhar for almost a decade.

Certainly, India's consistency has paid off. It was not an easy task to propel China to change its mind, especially when it had clarified after the Brics summit declaration that it was "for banning terrorist organisations but not individuals." China still had three months to lift the technical hold but stretched it to the last limit. Now that it has given in, it is definitely a victory of the Modi Government. The declaration, coming as it does in the midst of the electoral battle, indicates the respect the Chinese leadership has for the current leadership in India with Modi at the helm. It is a spin-off of the Wuhan spirit and definitely a win-win for India.

In diplomacy, there are no clear cut winners or losers until a decisive victory in a war has already declared the winners. In the instant case, both India and China had been pursuing their national interests. The latter was also treading the path very carefully. Chinese national interests were under attack from America as a result of the ongoing trade war between the two countries that had begun much before Pulwama. China's GDP was on a decline. Many companies are contemplating shifting their manufacturing units to India. China, which considers itself as an emerging global power, can ill-afford a declining economy. Also, China's image as a responsible member of the global community was being dented due to its continuous support to Azhar, thus labelling it as pro-terror. The recently held second summit of the Belt Road Initiatives (BRI) also forced China for a re-think. India's persistence to stay away from the initiative and not very encouraging response from those who attended, including Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, made the Chinese think-tank a bit nervous.

China was feeling the heat of international isolation with majority nations not aligning with it in the matter of terrorism. America's threat to take the matter to the UNSC further weakened China's insistence because it was hardly left with any allies. The fear of losing a huge market like India — one of the major trading partners of China — also weighed heavily in the minds of the Chinese leadership. It was, therefore, perceived by China that in its national interest, it can no longer afford to be seen as a pro-terrorist nation. However, it also did not want to offend its only ally, Pakistan, with whom it pronounces its friendship as stronger than the Himalayas. Hence, China ensured that no reference was made to



Kashmir and Pulwama, a face-saving gimmick for Pakistan, in the Sanction Committee's declaration listing Azhar as global terrorist.

"On this listing issue, China has been communicating with relevant parties in a constructive and responsible fashion. Recently, relevant countries revised and re-submitted the materials for the listing proposal to the 1267 Committee. After careful study of the revised materials and taking into consideration the opinions of relevant parties concerned, China does not have objection to the listing proposal," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a press statement.

"The proper settlement of the above-mentioned issue again shows that in international counter-terrorism cooperation, we have to uphold the rules and procedures of relevant UN body, follow the principle of mutual respect, resolve differences and build consensus through dialogue, and prevent politicising technical issues," he added.

In his statement, Geng pointed out that Pakistan has made "enormous contributions to fighting terrorism", which should be recognised by the international fraternity. Thus, it is a win-win situation as far as China is concerned. It is a win-win situation for France, the US, Britain and other members of 1267 Committee as well.

Pakistan is also claiming a win-win situation on the pretext that no mention has been made of Kashmir and Pulwama since India has been blaming Azhar as the mastermind and JeM as the executor of the dastardly Pulwama terror attack. Let Pakistan rejoice but the bare fact remains that it has been recognised and designated globally as a fountainhead of terror. The Damocles' Sword in the form of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) continues to hang on its head. A fragile and failing economy is an issue, which cannot allow this rejoicing to be a long lasting pleasant experience. India should also not particularly worry about the fine print because the intent was to have Azhar

declared as a global terrorist and that has been achieved. With the JeM already on the ban list and now its chief also meeting the same fate, it would be a Herculean task for Pakistan to defy the Sanctions. It will have to act, and act swiftly.

A word of caution: The deep state in Pakistan has mastered the art of circumventing international sanctions as is evident from its past behaviour. The banned organisations appear in a new avatar or with a different name and their leaders assume charge again though ostensibly of a different outfit, generally portrayed as a philanthropic organisation. But the watchful eye of FATF may make the task difficult for Pakistan this time.

Undoubtedly, India has secured a huge diplomatic victory but this should not be the end. India has to tread its path carefully to ensure that this victory is not turned into defeat through a Sino-Pakistan collusion. India also has to be prepared for the immediate consequences of this decision. The JeM sympathisers in Kashmir may carry out a sensational attack to show their solidarity with Azhar and as a protest to his listing. Pakistan is already singing a different tune. It says that by not naming Kashmir and Pulwama in the declaration, the global community has accepted their contention that what is happening inside Kashmir is an internal resistance movement. Indirectly, both China and Pakistan have continued to support their consistent policy of "good" and "bad" terrorists. Pakistan has also made its intentions clear that there would be no laxity as far as Kashmir is concerned and that it will continue to follow its policy of "thousand cuts."

India will have to ensure that Pakistan and China are compelled to give up their policy of classifying terrorists to suit their convenience. As far as China is concerned, India has to keep its counter-narrative active and play the 'Tibet card' tactfully. In view of the ensuing summer, when passes in the Himalayas are open, India will have

to be vigilant and guard against any Sino-Pakistan collusion militarily. After the Balakot strikes, both India and Pakistan continue to maintain the stand-off. It is the conventional edge that the Indian armed forces enjoy over their counterparts in Pakistan and the international pressure that has kept Pakistan reined in so far. A misadventure from Pakistan to avenge Balakot with the collusion of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is a possibility that cannot be ruled out straight away. A lot would also depend on the electoral results on May 23 that would determine the new Government in New Delhi. Before resorting to any misadventure, Pakistan will like to determine the thresholds of the new regime. In a nutshell, the coming months are going to be very critical for India not only diplomatically but militarily as well.

Pakistan's mindset against India will change only if its Army changes its attitude towards India and stops projecting us as a quintessential threat. That can only happen when Pakistan's economy cannot be saved from a collapse. Fear of FATF sanctions may also, to some extent, force the Army to concede a bit. When IMF's bailout package becomes almost a certainty, the Pakistan Army will have no option but to relent. Islamabad will be forced to denounce terrorism as the instrument of state policy.

India has a long haul ahead. It has to ensure that it further tightens its grip against Pakistan through diplomatic, economic and military means. It also has to ensure that the global watch over Pakistan does not slacken. With all indications that Modi may return to power and India continuing with its tough policy against Pakistan, there is a hope that coming years may see a decline in cross-border terrorism. However, the universal fight against global *jihadi* terror will continue relentlessly.

(The writer is a Jammu-based political commentator, columnist and strategic analyst)

Ukraine has nothing left to lose

What is Zelensky going to do for Ukraine now that he has been swept into office with a landslide majority? Nobody actually knows and this may include Zelensky himself. But Ukrainian voters are no fools



GWYNNE DYER

Ukraine has a new President and he's a comedian. Oh, wait a minute, that's not such a big deal. Guatemala was the first country to elect a comedian as President: Jimmy Morales in 2015. Although Morales turned sort of serious once he took office: He's a Right-wing nationalist, who supports death penalty and opposes abortion. Whereas Volodymyr Zelensky hasn't turned.

Right through the presidential election campaign in Ukraine, Zelensky avoided speeches. Mostly, he just toured the country with a comedy troupe, performed in skits and did stand-up. And he's not just a comedian, he's a Jewish comedian — the very best kind. His style is south Ukrainian,

sort of vaudeville, with a distinctive Jewish inflection and people love it.

Congratulations to Ukraine, by the way, for having Jews as both President and Prime Minister (Volodymyr Groysman) at the same time in the heart of traditionally anti-semitic Eastern Europe and not even making a fuss about it. But what is Zelensky going to do for Ukraine now that he has been swept into office with a landslide majority (73 per cent)? Nobody actually knows and this may include Zelensky himself.

When Zelensky did offer more than jokes, in the short videos he released from time to time during the campaign, it still wasn't policies. More like mood music, really.

"He's from a family of Jewish Soviet intellectuals from a Russian-speaking industrial region (in eastern Ukraine), Vyacheslav Likhachev of the National Minorities' Rights Monitoring Group in Kyiv told the *Haaretz* newspaper. "He has repeatedly made fun of over-the-top (Ukrainian) national patriotic discourse."

"Zelensky might make some symbolic gestures toward nationalist sen-



timent to fend off accusations that he'll sell us out to Russia," Likhachev continued, "but that seems unlikely to me. He probably realises that it'll be hard for him to win over the most nationalist-oriented part of society, so he'll wash his hands of them so as not to alienate the majority."

That will be a welcome change after five years of the pompous nationalist bilge of billionaire Petro Poroshenko, who won the presidency in 2014 after a popular revolt overthrew the pro-Russian stooge Viktor Yanukovich.

In a video Poroshenko released just

three-to-one, Ukrainians voted to put their future in his hands. Although, to be frank, most of them doubt that he can really deliver the future of peace and prosperity that they hope for.

The only evidence they have of Zelensky's industry, honesty and wisdom is the television series he writes and stars in, *Servant of the People*. It's a heart-warming story of a humble high school history teacher, whose rant about the dreadful state of the country is secretly recorded by his students and goes viral when they upload it to YouTube. So he is elected President of Ukraine.

Zelensky is not a high school teacher; he is a show business millionaire with his own production company. He may be just as warm and sincere in person as Vasyl Petrovych Holoborodko, the former teacher and accidental President, whom he plays in *Servant of the People*. (It's one of Ukraine's most popular series and is now nearing 50 episodes). Or he may not be.

Journalists are now working their way through all the box sets of *Servant of the People*, trying to glean some clues

about what the new President has in mind. But that's a thankless task because a lot of the show is sheer fantasy (like the sequence where the frustrated Holoborodko machine-guns the entire Parliament).

Ukrainian voters are not fools. They know they are buying a pig in a poke. But they calculate that things might change if Zelensky becomes President, whereas they certainly wouldn't change if any of the usual suspects won the presidency. And things are certainly not good now.

Ukraine has become the poorest country in Europe — far poorer than Russia. Millions of Ukrainians have left the country seeking work in Poland or Russia and the low-intensity war against the Russian-backed separatists in the east drags on endlessly. No post-Soviet leader of Ukraine has made even a dent in the corrupt rule of the oligarchs. Indeed, most of them have been oligarchs themselves. So why not vote for Zelensky? Most Ukrainians feel that they have nothing left to lose.

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



FOREIGN EYE



NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

If we have to avoid the dangerous consequences of a warmer world, we must find ways not only to limit and mitigate the risks of physical changes; but also to make political ones. The kind of long-termism that climate change requires is not a good fit with modern electoral cycles — or 24-hour news. Finding ways to counter this is a challenge not just for politicians, environmentalists and civil society groups, but for human civilisation as a whole. (The Guardian editorial)

VIOLATION OF REGULATORY NORMS

RBI penalises Vodafone m-pesa, PhonePe

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it has imposed penalties on five pre-paid payment instrument (PPI) issuers, including Vodafone m-pesa and PhonePe, for violation of regulatory norms.

Also, penalties have been imposed on Western Union Financial Services Inc and MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, both US firms, for non-compliance of guidelines.

"In exercise of powers vested under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalty on...Five PPI Issuers for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines," the central bank said in a statement.



A penalty of ₹3.05 crore has been imposed on Vodafone m-pesa and ₹1 crore each on Mobile Payments, PhonePe, Private and GI Technology.

Also, a penalty of ₹5 lakh has been imposed on Y-Cash Software Solutions.

In another statement, the RBI said it has imposed penalty of ₹29,66,959 and ₹10,11,653 on Western Union Financial

Services Inc, USA, and MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, USA, respectively, for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.

Penalty on Western Union and MoneyGram has been imposed by the RBI under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for compounding of the contravention.

No gold shifted outside India in 2014 or thereafter, says RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said no gold was shifted outside the country in 2014 or thereafter.

The statement comes against the backdrop of reports in certain sections of the print and social media regarding the central bank shifting abroad a part of its gold holding in 2014.

It is a normal practice for central banks world over to keep their gold reserves overseas with central banks of other countries like Bank of England for safe custody, according to the statement.

"It is further stated that no gold was shifted by the RBI from India to other countries in 2014 or thereafter. Thus the media reports cited above are factually incorrect," the statement said.

India extends retaliatory tariff deadline on US products again

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has again extended its deadline to impose retaliatory import duties on 29 US products, including almond, walnut and pulses, till May 16.

A notification of the Finance Ministry has said that implementation of increased customs duty on specified imports originating in the US has been postponed from May 2 to May 16 this year.

These deadlines were extended several times since June 2018, when India decided to impose these duties in retaliation to a move by the US to impose high customs duties on certain steel and aluminium products.

This extension comes in the backdrop of the US decision to withdraw export incentives being provided to them to Indian exporters under Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme, which is expected to impact



India's exports to the US worth USD 5.6 billion under this scheme. America has given 60 days notice, which would end this week, to withdraw these benefits. Amid this, US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu will hold bilateral meetings on May 6 here to discuss trade-related issues.

According to sources, India may go ahead with its decision to impose retaliatory tariffs if the US would withdraw the GSP benefits.

Further extension of GSP benefits was part of a trade package being negotiated between the countries. However, those negotiations hit a roadblock after the US announced its decision to roll back GSP benefits from Indian exporters.

Business Corner

INDIAN OIL: 46 GIRLS OF VIDUSHI CENTRES CLEAR JEE MAINS



As part of IndianOil Vidushi, a flagship CSR project, 46 of the 56 girls who underwent coaching at IndianOil Vidushi Centres in Bhubaneswar and Noida have cleared the JEE Mains examination. The CSR project aims to provide specialised coaching to girl students from economically backward sections for competitive exams like JEE Mains and JEE Advanced. "We are happy that 82% of the girl students who underwent coaching at the two IndianOil Vidushi Centres have cleared the JEE Mains," said Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra, Director HR, Indian Oil. 28 out of 30 girls from the Bhubaneswar centre and 18 out of 26 girls from the Noida centre achieved this feat, he added.

LIC HFL LAUNCHES 'UDYAM' FOR MARGINALISED YOUTH



With an objective to empower youths of this country, LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL) has launched "UDYAM": meaning enterprise. Commenting on UDYAM, Mr. Vinay Sah, Managing Director & CEO of LIC Housing Finance Ltd says, "It is an important part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) whereby along with our implementing partner we will skill the youth to be enterprising for livelihood. Under UDYAM, Centres of Excellence (COE) has been started in Delhi and Bangalore and later on be expanded to other cities."

NCC HOLDS BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The two day bi-annual conference of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) was held at its headquarters in New Delhi on 02-03 May 2019. Whilst inaugurating the conference Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra, AVSM, Director General, National Cadet Corps highlighted the efforts made in the past six months to improve the training, infrastructure and logistic functions of the organisation.

INDIAN COST GUARD HELPS MINIMISE FANI EFFECT



Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Fani commenced making landfall in Odisha on Friday. Indian Cost Guard has initiated series of pre-emptive measures from 23 April onwards with the first sign of low pressure in South East Bay of Bengal.

SCOPE MD ADDRESSES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, SCOPE and CMD, NLC India Ltd addressed the valedictory session and distributed certificates to participants in the Advanced Management Programme with theme "The Power of Thinking Big: A Programme for High Potential Leaders" organised jointly by SCOPE Academy of Public Sector Enterprise (APSE) and S.P. Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR).

FinMin to take call on bank recap after September

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry will review the capital infusion requirements of PSU banks after September and there will be separate allocation for recapitalisation in the general Budget likely to be presented in July.

Sources said the interim Budget did not have the provision for any recap from April to July as the banks were adequately capitalised till September.

According to official sources, by September (end of second quarter), the capital position with regard to the regulatory requirements and growth of all the PSU banks which received funds in 2018-19 will be clear.

The remaining PCA (Prompt Corrective Action)



banks will also require fresh funds to come out of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) framework for weak banks. But for this, the banks would have to match the performance parameter targets required for PCA removal and would have to show improved performance.

In 2017, the Government announced its ₹2.11 trillion

over the budgetary allocation. In February 2019, the Government had announced capital infusion of ₹48,239 crore into 12 public sector banks to help them maintain regulatory capital requirements and finance growth plans.

Before that in December 2018, the Finance Ministry had increased capital infusion into these banks for FY19 by a combined ₹41,000 crore to ₹1.06 lakh crore from the originally planned ₹65,000 crore.

Now the entire recap amount has been exhausted. After the removal six banks from the PCA framework, Central Bank of India, IDBI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, UCO Bank and United Bank of India remain under the PCA now.

HUL Q4 net profit rises 13.8 pc to ₹1,538 crore



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

FMCG major Hindustan Unilever (HUL) on Friday reported a 13.84 per cent increase in its net profit to ₹1,538 crore for the quarter ended March 31.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,351 crore in the January-March quarter of the previous fiscal. Sales during the quarter under review stood at

₹ 9,809 crore, up 8.95 per cent, as against ₹9,003 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, HUL said in a regulatory filing.

HUL's total expenses for the said period was ₹7,765 crore compared to ₹7,181 crore, up 8.13 per cent.

Shares of HUL settled at ₹1,692.80 apiece on the BSE, down 2.04 per cent from previous close.

Hyundai pockets 2,000 bookings for Venue in 1 day

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor India on Friday said it has received 2,000 bookings of its upcoming compact SUV Venue on the first day of initiating the process.

The company had opened the pre-launch bookings for the model on May 2. "The Day-1 response is a record booking for an SUV, with an average of 84 Venue cars every hour," Hyundai Motor India Ltd

(HMI) National Sales Head Vikas Jain said in a statement.

The company is receiving customer enquiries at all its touch points across the country, he added. "Further, the notable traction in online booking is coming from semi-urban areas due to strong telecom infrastructure. This showcases emergence of new era of connected-mobility solutions and acceptance of technology in day-to-day life," Jain said.

Extramarks unveils scheme to boost students' confidence

Personal guru to help achieve goals; designed based on SNAAP - student needs analysis and academic profile

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Extramarks Education, a global EdTech company, on Friday announced the launch of Extramarks Achieve, a unique programme to tackle learning woes faced by students and improve their comprehension and confidence.

The programme provides for personal academic gurus, who offer custom guidance and support to students. It aims to address the root of the many problems in the nation's education system: lack of personal attention due to abysmal teacher-student ratio, inadequate emphasis on self-study, absence of mentors to clear doubts and to keep tabs on

progress. "There is hardly any constructive support available to students when it comes to building personalised learning plans suited to their unique needs," said Atul Kulshrestha, founder and CMD of Extramarks Education.

He added, "Through Achieve, we also seek to reinforce the importance of self-study and look to meticulously guiding students towards academic success."

Extramarks Achieve begins with a scientific assessment programme called SNAAP - Student Needs Analysis and Academic Profile. SNAAP helps identify the learning gaps and needs of a child, based on which an academic profile is built. Mapped to this academic profile, an appropriate academic guru is appointed, who charts an academic course for the student. Under Extramarks Achieve, a plethora of services are provided:

twice a week compulsory interactions, unlimited doubt-clearing sessions, practice tests and worksheets, motivation and mentorship, scheduling and planning studies, and emphasising on the importance of self-study.

Not just this, a monthly performance and progress report is also generated, which is shared with parents, in order to keep them posted about their ward's performance. Because of integration with the learning app by Extramarks, a student avails full benefit of the LPT (learn-practice-test) pedagogy, which is focused on concept clarity.

The concept of Achieve functions on the 9-9-7 model - which means that from 9 am to 9 pm, all 7 days of a week, the academic gurus are only a chat/mail/call away for the students. Extramarks has already implemented a team of over 300 experienced subject matter

experts to guide the students and accompany them on the academic journey towards excellence. The programme enables students to solve their doubts instantly, rather than waiting to meet the teacher next day in class, and potentially forgetting the doubt. A personal guru also takes away the fear of being judged in public from the students by serving as a friend, motivator and guide, all rolled into one.

Atul Kulshrestha said, "Our academic gurus are motivated educators, who hold student welfare and success paramount."

Launched on May 1, 2019, Extramarks Achieve is another game-changing offering. In a situation where the deep-set fears, worries and lack of understanding among individual students are hardly addressed, this new venture by Extramarks is poised to be a plausible solution to student woes.

Vodafone Idea signs multi-million dollar IT deal with IBM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd on Friday announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with tech giant IBM.

"This engagement will also contribute to Vodafone Idea's merger synergy objectives by reducing its IT related costs," the telecom firm said in a statement.

The company did not

divulge the size of the deal but some reports pegged it at about USD 700 million.

"The collaboration will provide Vodafone Idea with a hybrid cloud based digital platform to enable more intimate engagement with its over 387 million subscribers (as of December 31, 2018), enhancing business efficiency, agility and scale plus simplification of its business processes," it said.

The new infrastructure platform will remove con-

straints to exponential growth of data usage driven by increasing consumption of video, streaming and digital commerce, the statement said, adding that it will also drive enhanced customer experience to millions of connected consumers and businesses in India.

"Vodafone Idea is collaborating with leading global technology partners including IBM to deploy new age technologies with built-in customisations and novel inno-



ventions. We believe that use of IBM's hybrid and multi-cloud, analytics and AI security capabilities will accelerate Vodafone Idea's progression to an open, agile and secure IT environment," the statement said.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead from the Jurisdiction of P.S. Keshav Puram Delhi on 22.04.2019 at 11:43 P.M. In this regard a case has been lodged vide FIR/DD No. 60-A dated

22.04.2019 at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age: 28 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Built: Normal, Complexion: Sallow, Wearing: White Colour T-Shirt and White Colour Lower.** If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi Ph.: 011-27181325, 8750870223

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1	N.I.T. No.	232-Elect-EMU-WC-20-18-19
2	Name of work	Overhauling of various types of air dryers (Knorr Bremese India Limited, Faiveley Stone India Ltd., Parag Polymers & Trident) fitted with EMU/MEMU Coaches at EMU Car Shed, Ghaziabad over a period of 09 months.
3	Tender cost	Rs. 2360.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
4	Approximate cost	Rs. 540000.00
5	Earnest Money	Rs.10800.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
6	Completion Period	09 Months
7	Validity of offer	45 days
8	Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website	02/05/2019 (13:53 Hrs.)
9	Date & Time from tender submission start and end	16/05/2019 (00.00 Hrs.) to 30/05/2019 (15:00 Hrs.)
10	Tender closing Date & Time	30/05/2019 (15:00 Hrs.)
11	Date & Time of tender opening (immediately when tender submission ends)	30/05/2019 (15:00 Hrs.)

Note 1:- All participant Tenderer/Tenders will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void.

Note 2:- Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/up loaded.

Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in 1322/2019

232-Elect-EMU-WC-20-18-19 Date: 02.05.2019 1322/2019

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely **Vishal S/o Jagbir Singh R/o Village-Ghevra H.No.130, Near Bagh Wali Chopal, Delhi Aged - 26 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 15.04.2019 vide DD No.30-A Dated 25.04.2019 registered at Police Station Kanjhawala, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'10", Face: Long, Clothing: Unknown

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

DP/2810/RD/19



Vishal

MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one lady, **Namely: Jyoti, D/o: Beer Singh, R/o: H. No. B-103, Vikas Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Gali No. 7, Verma Road, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since 03.04.2019 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard, a case vide FIR No. 219/19 u/s 365 IPC, Dated 07.04.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the lady could not be traced. The description of the missing/ kidnapped lady is as under:

Name: Jyoti, D/o: Beer Singh, R/o: H. No. B-103, Vikas Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Gali No. 7, Verma Road, Delhi, Age: 20 years, Height: 4'9" Feet, Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Pink Suit-Golden Pajami and hawai chappal in feet. If anyone has any information about the missing lady, then please inform P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.

DP/2163/OD/19



Jyoti

THE NAKODAR COOP SUGAR MILLS LTD., NAKODAR (JAL)

Website: www.nakodarsugar.com E-mail: csm.nkd@gmail.com Area Code - 01821 Ph: GM(O) 511000

Global e-Tender Notice Export Sale of Molasses

Online tenders are invited from the Overseas Buyers or their authorized agents in India for the Export sale of Molasses (approximate quantity 46100 MTs) lying with various Cooperative Sugar Mills in the State of Punjab. Online tenders will have to be submitted in two bid system i.e. Technical and Financial bids on or before 12.30 PM on 29.5.2019 alongwith EMD and other supportive documents as required. Technical Bids will be opened on next day i.e 30.5.2019 at 2.30 PM. Financial Bids of the technically qualified bidders shall be opened on 30.5.2019 at 4.30 PM. In the presence of bidders who wish to be present.

Pre Bid Conference will be held on 15.5.2019 at 11 A.M. in the office of Sugarcop, Punjab, SCO No. 53, Sector 54, Opposite Bassi Theatre, S.A.S. Nagar Mohali. The Earnest Money @ Rs. 50.00 per quintals. The details for submission of e-bids will be available on the e-tender portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and also on website www.nakodarsugar.com. The molasses sale committee reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids without assigning any reason.

For participation in the above e-tendering process, the bidders shall have to get themselves registered with the website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get user ID, Password, Class-2 or Class-3 digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. For any clarification or difficulty regarding e-tendering process, please contact us on 94173-70679, 98722-05319, 98684-99779

In this regard any corrigendum, correction, appendix, time extension/postponement if any, will be uploaded on <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and www.nakodarsugar.com. All tenderers are requested to go through the said website on regular basis. General Manager CSM Nakodar Mobile: 9417370679

Markets end marginally lower; IT stocks drag

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmarks surrendered early gains to end with modest losses on Friday, led by selling in IT bluechips, as investors awaited fresh buying triggers amid frothy valuations.

After trading on a positive note through the day, the BSE Sensex ended 18.17 points, or 0.05%, lower at 38,963.26.

In similar movement, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 12.50 points, or 0.11%, to close at 11,712.25. During the holiday-truncated week, the Sensex fell 104.07 points, or 0.26%, while the Nifty shed 42.40%, or 0.36 per cent.

IT stocks came under pressure after tech giant Cognizant slashed its full-year revenue growth outlook. A strong rupee also weighed on the counters.

The US-headquartered Cognizant, which has a significant portion of its employees based in India, revised its full-year 2019 revenue growth outlook to 3.6-5.1% in constant currency terms, significantly less than 7-9% projected just months ago.

In the Sensex pack, losers included TCS, HUL, Tata Steel, HCL Tech, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, HDFC, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, ITC and Vedanta, shedding up to 3.70%.

HUL too ended in the red ahead of its quarterly results.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, NTPC, Yes Bank, Tata Motors, ONGC, Bajaj Auto, M&M, Maruti, Hero MotoCorp and Kotak Bank rose up to 3.11%.

"Market started on a positive note



supported by strong rupee and fall in oil prices. However, gains are capped due to the premium valuation.

"Fall in 10-year yield led the bank index to outperform. Market is likely to stay range bound due to weak global cues while better quarter results may provide opportunity to accumulate," said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE IT, tech, healthcare and FMCG indices fell the most, dropping up to 1.91%.

However, telecom, realty, auto and bank rose up to 1.56%.

The broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices followed the benchmarks to end up to 0.31% lower.

Meanwhile, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equity worth ₹597.54 crore on Thursday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) sold shares to the tune of ₹791.69 crore, provisional data available with stock exchanges showed.

Elsewhere in Asia, Korea's KOSPI and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended on a mixed note, while other major bourses in China and Japan were shut for holidays. European equities started off on a firm footing.

The rupee, meanwhile, appreciated to 69.34 against the US dollar intraday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.62% lower at USD 70.31 per barrel.

India produces 32.11 million tonnes sugar in Oct-Apr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sugar output in India has reached 32.11 million tonnes in the first seven months of the ongoing marketing year that started October 2018, and the total production could touch a new record of 33 million tonnes, the industry body ISMA said on Friday. Much of the sugar has already been manufactured and only a few mills are in operation at present, it said.

The country's sugar output during the 2017-18 marketing year (October-September) was a record 32.5 million tonnes. The annual domestic requirement of India, which is the world's second largest producer, is only 26 million tonnes.

According to the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), mills have manufactured 32.11 million tonnes of sugar between October 2018 and April this year. Only 100 mills were in operation as on April 30. The country's top three sugar producing states — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka — have produced 11.26 million tonnes, 10.7 million tonnes and 4.32 million tonnes, respectively, during the October-April period of the 2018-19 marketing year.

"Even though the quantum of sugarcane crushing in the current year is less than that in the last year, the sugar production in 2018-19 will be marginally more than last year," it said in a statement.

Sugar recovery in northern India has been substantially better than last year. In the other parts of the country, including Maharashtra and Karnataka also, the sugar recovery is better than last year, though not as high as it achieved in north India. "Therefore, the sugar production in the current year for the whole country is expected to be around 33 million tonnes, about 5,00,000 tonnes more than last year," the ISMA predicted.

Cognizant slashes full-year growth outlook; Q1 net income tumbles 15%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT company Cognizant has reported over 15% drop in net income for the quarter ended March, and slashed its full-year revenue growth outlook.

The US-headquartered company, which has a significant portion of its employees based in India, revised its full-year 2019 revenue growth outlook to 3.6-5.1% in constant currency, significantly less than 7-9% projected just months ago.

Cognizant follows January-December as financial year.

It cited "first quarter under-performance" and likelihood of slower growth in financial services and healthcare as reasons for the massive cut in full-year outlook.

The first quarter net income at USD 441 million was 15% lower than USD 520 million clocked in the year-ago period. The quarterly revenue rose to USD 4.11 billion, up 5.1% (6.8% in constant currency) from the year-ago period, the company's own estimates.

"Cognizant's growth and performance in the quarter leave room for improvement," Brian Humphries, chief executive officer of Cognizant, said in a statement.

Humphries, who took over the baton from the Francisco D'Souza on April 1, admitted

that the company, despite its client centricity and innovative spirit, was not yet delivering against the market opportunity.

"While I am encouraged by our client centricity, our employees' winning spirit and our innovation, we are not yet delivering against the market opportunity. We are committed to strengthening our execution to invest in growth and drive shareholder value," Humphries added.

Cognizant said its second quarter 2019 year-over-year revenue growth was estimated to be in the range of 3.9-4.9% in constant currency. In the coming quarters, the company intends to bring cost structure closer in line with the revised revenue expectations but will continue to invest in growth, talent, and innovation, McLoughlin said. Also, the strong balance sheet enables Cognizant to maintain financial flexibility while returning capital to shareholders.

HUL Q4 NET PROFIT RISES 13.8% TO ₹1,538 CRORE

FMCG major Hindustan Unilever (HUL) on Thursday reported a 13.84% increase in its net profit to ₹1,538 crore for the quarter ended March 31. The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,351 crore in the

January-March quarter of the previous fiscal.

Sales during the quarter under review stood at ₹9,809 crore, up 8.95%, as against ₹9,003 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, HUL said in a regulatory filing.

HUL's total expenses for the said period were ₹7,765 crore compared to ₹7,181 crore, up 8.13%.

CENTURY TEXTILES AND INDUSTRIES Q4 NET PROFIT ₹227.62 CRORE

Century Textiles and Industries Ltd (CTIL) on Friday reported a standalone net profit of ₹227.62 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2019. It had posted a net profit of ₹108.69 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, Century Textiles said in a BSE filing.

The company's total income during the quarter was ₹1,008.54 crore. It was ₹993.32 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. CTIL's total expenses stood at ₹765.38 crore.

Meanwhile, the company said its results were not comparable as it had granted right to manage and operate its Viscose Filament Yarn business, part of the textile segment, to Grasim Industries for 15 years from February 1, 2018, which has paid an upfront royalty of ₹600 crore.

The CTIL board has recommended a dividend of ₹7.50 per share of ₹10 each equivalent to 75% on paid-up equity share capital of the company for the year ended March 31, compared with 65% paid for the previous year for the year.

GCPL NET PROFIT RISES 51.5% IN MARCH QUARTER

Homegrown FMCG major Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) on Friday reported a 51.53% increase in consolidated net profit to ₹935.24 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹617.19 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, GCPL said in a BSE filing.

However, its total revenue from operations during the quarter fell 3.06% to ₹2,481.72 crore, compared with ₹2,560.14 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

The firm's total expense stood at ₹1,974.73 crore, against ₹2,016.65 crore, a drop of 2.07%.

During the quarter, GCPL's India sales were marginally down 0.9% to ₹1,356.09 crore, compared with ₹1,369.76 crore in the year-ago period.

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11722.60	11770.90	11699.35	11712.25	-12.50
BHARTIARTL	324.45	333.85	324.45	332.75	8.55
NTPC	133.10	136.65	133.00	135.85	2.75
ICICIBANK	397.15	405.20	394.70	402.75	7.20
YESBANK	170.00	177.80	169.70	175.80	2.05
TATAMOTORS	205.00	213.65	203.05	209.55	2.25
ONGC	168.85	171.90	168.70	170.70	1.80
INFRAEAT	272.55	278.55	272.10	273.75	2.90
BAJAJ-AUTO	3028.00	3066.00	3020.00	3059.80	29.25
KOTAKBANK	1406.40	1435.75	1400.20	1416.95	10.60
JSWSTEEL	308.00	310.45	305.10	308.90	2.25
TITAN	1145.00	1154.80	1135.05	1145.00	6.85
BPCL	384.95	386.50	378.55	380.60	2.15
SBIN	309.00	311.80	308.70	309.70	1.55
HEROMOTOCO	2550.00	2587.00	2547.40	2563.20	11.50
BAJAJFINSV	7595.00	7669.90	7590.00	7610.00	31.15
HDFCBANK	2364.20	2380.20	2356.50	2365.00	9.20
REL	961.20	974.00	959.05	967.65	3.75
POWERGRID	190.90	192.95	190.20	190.95	0.75
RELIANCE	1407.95	1417.50	1402.65	1409.90	4.85
AXISBANK	754.15	763.80	753.45	754.90	2.55
MARUTI	6675.00	6780.00	6675.00	6705.50	22.25
IT	1362.00	1373.20	1360.00	1362.50	3.75
HINDALCO	206.00	206.00	202.65	205.00	0.30
SUNPHARMA	455.00	456.20	448.85	452.45	0.25
ASIANPAINT	1443.80	1456.00	1432.20	1436.00	-0.60
M&M	645.05	652.50	642.85	645.00	-0.90
ITC	304.25	307.45	303.30	304.55	-0.45
GRASIM	900.00	905.00	881.55	897.00	-2.30
COALINDIA	253.05	253.95	251.30	251.70	-0.65
VEDL	168.70	169.00	165.80	167.40	-0.60
INDUSINDBK	1565.00	1579.00	1546.80	1554.15	-7.15
DRREDDY	2911.00	2932.75	2890.70	2906.10	-13.80
CIPLA	568.00	573.00	561.65	562.95	-2.65
GAIL	346.80	350.90	342.40	345.80	-1.75
BAJFINANCE	3130.10	3165.00	3130.20	3110.90	-20.85
WIPRO	293.50	293.70	288.55	291.65	-2.00
HDFC	2027.50	2037.60	2000.00	2002.80	-14.60
INFY	722.90	731.00	718.20	723.65	-7.15
ECHERMOT	20571.00	20600.00	20340.00	20356.00	-209.10
ULTRACEMCO	4625.00	4628.00	4552.00	4559.80	-56.50
TATASTEEL	554.00	556.00	546.60	547.70	-7.25
IOC	159.95	160.00	155.70	155.90	-2.20
HCLTECH	1144.00	1149.15	1126.25	1142.00	-18.05
ZEEL	418.00	422.40	410.10	411.55	-6.90
HINDUNILVR	1720.00	1727.00	1682.00	1690.65	-32.90
ADANIPOR	393.00	398.40	385.05	387.30	-8.00
TECHM	830.00	834.45	813.00	815.15	-21.85
BRITANNIA	2782.95	2803.85	2690.00	2702.50	-80.55
TCS	2185.00	2186.05	2125.00	2137.00	-78.40

BSE 500

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP
YESBANK	176.80	177.90	169.95	175.60
RPOWER	5.48	6.67	5.41	6.48
JETAIRWAYS	125.10	137.95	124.25	135.50
RELIANCE	1407.00	1417.00	1401.40	1407.05
DHFL	135.00	142.75	131.30	141.35
TATAMOTORS	204.90	213.70	209.50	213.70
SPICEJET	129.80	131.90	129.00	130.10
RELCAPITAL	133.00	139.35	132.25	136.50
IJBULHSFIN	685.65	710.00	672.40	705.95
PJEWELLER	113.75	115.40	109.60	113.75
TCS	2191.00	2191.00	2125.15	2132.50
IBREALEST	116.30	119.20	114.00	117.30
BOMDYEING	134.00	134.00	125.50	126.50
INFY*	723.75	730.60	719.00	723.75
HDFCLIFE	402.00	418.80	402.00	413.60
SUZLON	6.85	6.86	6.70	6.74
INDUSINDBK	111.15	112.20	108.25	110.00
RELIANCE	308.10	311.00	308.10	309.15
MARUTI	6669.15	6780.00	6669.15	6710.90
ICICIBANK	397.45	405.25	394.70	401.85
ASHOKLEY	90.00	90.75	88.45	89.30
HEG	1736.05	1801.90	1710.00	1770.05
BIOCON	560.90	563.10	550.05	551.50
BRITANNIA	2785.50	2801.05	2688.20	2706.00
MFLS	422.00	424.95	415.00	422.25
INDIGO	1550.00	1604.25	1549.75	1570.10
WIPRO	293.55	293.55	289.10	291.00
KOTAKBANK	1409.00	1435.50	1401.05	1418.15
L&TFH	130.10	131.25	126.30	127.25
AXISBANK	754.95	763.30	753.65	755.00
BANKBARODA	117.00	121.00	116.55	118.95
CENTURYTEC	934.00	954.00	904.25	941.40
TATASTEEL	552.50	555.00	545.85	547.60
HINDUNILVR	1720.00	1727.00	1683.35	1692.80
PERSISTENT*	628.00	629.00	617.00	622.15
HDFCBANK	2361.20	2376.00	2360.00	2368.80
ICICIBANK	403.00	405.90	392.50	398.40
DLF	172.05	178.95	172.00	177.90
GODREJCP	652.70	653.00	642.15	649.00
BHARTIARTL	324.90	334.90	324.00	334.80
FEDERALBNK	94.50	98.45	94.50	97.75
JASSOCIAT	5.25	5.40	5.22	5.27
TATAMTRDRV	97.90	102.90	97.10	100.40
NTPC	133.00	136.70	133.55	135.55
STRTECH	191.00	196.00	189.90	191.85
KANSAINER	415.00	438.80	415.00	435.00
DABUR	382.00	385.60	377.70	382.00
GUJALKALI	496.00	535.00	496.00	525.00
TATAPOWER	65.75	68.10	65.50	67.15
JSWSTEEL	307.50	310.40	308.60	310.40
BHEL	160.00	160.00	155.55	156.15
IOCL	69.65	70.65	68.40	68.55
BLUESTARCO	699.00	711.25	684.35	697.00
DBL	491.15	513.00	472.05	479.85
ZEEL	418.45	422.45	410.00	411.10
IT	1364.70	1373.20	1358.30	1361.00
BPCL	383.20	386.05	378.65	380.05
SUNTECH	467.95	470.45	452.20	467.45
SUNPHARMA	455.20	456.00	449.40	453.00
TATAELSI	888.70	890.40	869.00	873.65
ABCAPITAL	100.00	102.50	99.10	101.65
TATACHEM	578.00	578.00	554.15	557.50
GODREJPROP	830.00			

Pak issues order to freeze assets of Azhar

Also impose travel ban on Jem Chief

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD CRPF soldiers and led to a spike in military tensions between India and Pakistan. The Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) ordered all non-banking financial institutions and regulating authorities on Thursday to block all investment accounts of Azhar. The SECP ordered that all companies should scan their data and inform the SECP within three days about the necessary action being taken against the accounts of Azhar. An official of interior ministry said that Azhar was already on the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorist Act (ATA) and could not travel without permission of the police. He

was also barred from having any weapons due to the listing under the ATA. His name was also already on the list of proscribed persons maintained by the National Anti-Terrorist Authority (NACTA). According to Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal, Pakistan would fully cooperate with the international community. Pakistan's foreign ministry, in a notification issued Wednesday said: "The Federal Government is pleased to order that the Resolution 2368 (2017) be fully implemented" against Azhar. The government directed officials to take actions "as appropriate for the implementation of sanctions" against the Jem chief, according to the notification. The UN designated Azhar as a "global terrorist" after China lifted its hold on a proposal by the US, the UK and France to blacklist him. The US, the UK and France had moved the proposal to designate Azhar as a "global terrorist" in the UN Security

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD meet international standards in stopping financial crime. "We want Pakistan downgraded on the FATF list," Jaitley told reporters in New Delhi, adding that the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was due to meet in mid-May and India would make its request then. "The statement re-confirms Pakistan's longstanding concerns that this technical forum is being politicised by India against Pakistan," Pakistan Foreign Office said. Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee in February, just days after the deadly Pulwama terror attack carried out by the Jem in Jammu and Kashmir.

Benin divided after troops crush post-poll protests

AFF ■ COTONOU Troops in Benin maintained a tight clamp on protests after two days of deadly violence sparked by elections in which not a single opposition candidate took part. Soldiers broke up demonstrations with gunfire on Thursday around the home of ex-president Thomas Boni Yayi, which had become a focal point of protests. Life returned back to normal in much of the economic capital Cotonou on Friday, but soldiers and police kept a strong presence on the streets around Boni Yayi's house, according to an AFP reporter. At least two people were confirmed killed in the violence. Parliamentary elections last Sunday were marked by low turnout and widespread anger at changes to electoral rules that effectively barred opposition parties from fielding candidates. The final results, issued late Thursday by Joseph Djogbenou, president of Benin's Constitutional Court, showed that all seats were won by the only two parties allowed to take part — both allied to President Patrice Talon. Turnout was 27.1 percent, a record low since Benin transitioned to democracy nearly 30 years ago, although higher than the 23 percent given in preliminary results, Djogbenou said. The protests began hours after the initial results were released on Wednesday. Large numbers of troops and riot police — as well as hundreds of protesters manning burning barricades — squared off in the streets of Cotonou. On Thursday, soldiers

GLOBE TROTTER

UN: CONGO SHOULD EXCEED 1K EBOLA DEATHS Geneva: Ebola deaths in Congo's latest outbreak are expected to exceed 1,000 later on Friday, the World Health Organisation announced, as attacks continue on health workers trying to contain the virus's spread. **TERRORISTS KILL 18 MALI CIVILIANS IN TWIN AMBUSH** Bamako: Armed men killed 18 civilians in two ambushes in Mali's restive central region, officials said on Friday. **JORDAN'S KING ABDULLAH II RESHUFFLES TOP BRASS** Amman (Jordan): King Abdullah II of Jordan has reshuffled his top brass amid fears of instability in the Arab country. The most prominent change reported this week by state news agency Petra is the replacement of the general intelligence chief. In a letter to the new director, Ahmed Hossni, the king cited "many unprecedented

US adds robust 263K jobs; unemployment hits 49-year low



AP ■ WASHINGTON US employers added a robust 263,000 jobs in April, suggesting that businesses have shrugged off earlier concerns that the economy might slow this year and now anticipate strong customer demand. The unemployment rate fell to a five-decade low of 3.6% from 3.8%, though that drop partly reflected an increase in the number of Americans who stopped looking for work. Average hourly pay rose 3.2% from 12 months earlier, a healthy increase though unchanged from the previous month. Friday's jobs report from the Labor Department showed that solid economic growth is still encouraging strong hiring nearly a decade into the economy's recovery from the Great Recession. The economic expansion is set to become the longest in history in July. Many businesses say they're struggling to find workers, yet each month they seem to add a substantial number. Some have taken a range of steps to fill jobs, including training more entry-level workers, loosening educational requirements and raising pay sharply. Years of steady hiring have sharply lowered unemployment for a range of population groups. The unemployment rate for women fell last month to 3.1%, the lowest point since 1953. The rate for Latinos dropped to 4.2%, a record low since 1973, when the government began tracking the data. For Asians, joblessness has matched a record low of 2.2%. And the unemployment rate for veterans of the Iraq and Afghan wars dropped to 1.7%, also a record low.

UK's main parties get Brexit bruising in local elections

London: Britain's two main political parties, the ruling Conservatives and the Opposition Labour Party, suffered a severe Brexit bruising as local election results poured in from around the country on Friday. The Liberal Democrats celebrated a major boost to their figures as voters overwhelmingly used the polls, to elect local councillors in nearly 250 councils across England and Northern Ireland, to punish the main parties for failing to find a solution to the ongoing Brexit uncertainties. Smaller parties like the Green Party also gained hundreds of seats, but the far-right pro-Brexit UK Independence Party (UKIP) lost much ground. British Prime Minister Theresa May, who is facing renewed calls to resign, appeared at a Conservative party conference as the dam-

Assange UK bail sentence disproportionate: UN experts

AFF ■ GENEVA The 50-week jail sentence given to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for breaching a British court's bail conditions seven years ago is "disproportionate," the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said Friday. Assange took refuge in Ecuador's London embassy in 2012 after a British judge ordered his extradition to face Swedish allegations of sexual assault and rape, which he strongly denied. He was arrested last month after Ecuador gave him up. He will now serve the nearly one-year jail sentence while fighting a separate attempt to extradite him to the United States. The UN working group noted that the Swedish allegations — the initial offence that triggered his British arrest — had been withdrawn and that the original bail terms should therefore have been nullified. It noted too that he had been given near the maximum 12-month sentence available in the UK for breaching bail conditions. The group is "deeply concerned about... The disproportionate sentence imposed on Mr Assange," it said in a statement. It accused Britain of extending "the arbitrary deprivation of (his) liberty." The experts took further issue with Assange's detention at the Belmarsh high-security prison. "This treatment appears to contravene the principles of necessity and proportionality envisaged by the human rights standards," the panel said. The US has charged the 47-year-old Assange with "conspiracy" for working with former US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to crack a password stored on Department of Defence computers in March 2010. Manning passed hundreds of thousands of classified documents to WikiLeaks, exposing US military wrong-doing in the Iraq war and diplomatic secrets about scores of countries.

Putin challenges Washington in Venezuela power play

Moscow: Russia emerged as a crucial power broker in the crisis in far-away Venezuela this week when Washington accused Moscow of convincing President Nicolas Maduro not to flee to Cuba. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Maduro had a plane on the tarmac ready to fly to Havana when "the Russians indicated that he should stay". Moscow hit back, dismissing the claim as fake and accusing Washington of supporting a coup "that has nothing to do with democracy" by backing opposition leader Juan Guaido. Moscow has its reasons for standing behind Maduro — he's a rare ally in Latin America and Russia has poured billions into the Venezuelan economy. **AFP**

More than 1 million children affected by Mozambique cyclones

Pemba (Mozambique): Isabella Mussa has not set foot in a classroom or read a book for the past week. For the 13-year-old, displaced by a deadly cyclone in northern Mozambique, it feels like a lifetime. Yet she is called one of the lucky ones. More than 1 million children have been affected by a pair of cyclones that ripped into Mozambique in less than two months, the United Nations children's agency says. **AP**

Afghanistan loya jirga demands 'immediate, permanent' ceasefire

AFF ■ KABUL A historic "loya jirga" peace summit in Kabul ended on Friday with delegates from across Afghanistan demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and President Ashraf Ghani saying he was conditionally prepared to implement the call. This week's loya jirga, or grand assembly, saw about 3,200 religious and tribal leaders, politicians and representatives try to find a breakthrough in Afghanistan's gruelling conflict, which is now in its 18th year. "The government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban movement should declare and implement an immediate and permanent ceasefire," delegates said in a declaration at the end of the jirga. They said the ceasefire should start at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, which gets underway in the coming days.

NZ PM Ardern to marry long-time partner

AFF ■ WELLINGTON New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and her long-term partner Clarke Gayford have become engaged to be married, her office said on Friday. A spokesman for Ardern and Gayford said the couple, who have a baby daughter Neve, agreed to tie the knot over the Easter break. He could not reveal whether a date for the prime ministerial nuptials had been


Ardern, 38, had Neve last June, becoming only the second prime minister in the world to give birth while in office and later taking the infant onto the floor of the UN Assembly in New York. Since the birth, Gayford, a television fishing show host, has taken on the role of stay-at-home dad. The engagement comes after a trying time for Ardern, who has been widely praised for her response to the March 15 Christchurch mosque shootings that claimed the lives of 51 Muslim worshippers. Ardern said in an interview last year that she would not propose to Gayford, even though she regards herself as a feminist. "I want to put him through the pain and torture of having to agonise about that question himself," she told the BBC. News of the engagement broke after journalists noticed Ardern was wearing a diamond ring while carrying out her duties on Friday.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
 The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work. **Name of work with its location:** Provision of IBS rooms adjacent to Jn stations towards longer block section between ROKSMF, JHI-B20 and JHL DLI-BTI section. **Approx. cost of work:** Rs.35,51,521.25 **Earnest money:** Rs.71,000.00 **Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender:** Up to 15.00 hrs. on 24.05.2019 opening of e-Tender at 15.00 hrs. on 24.05.2019 **Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded:** Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/1419-20/W-IV Date: 03.05.2019 1326/19
 Serving Customers With A Smile

POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, J&K
Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub-Transmission Division, Udhampur.
 No. STD/Udh/135-37 Dated: 29-04-2019
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-Tender No. 01 of 2019-20
 "Expression of interest" is invited from Original Equipment Manufacturer/ Authorized Dealers/ Local Representatives/ Local SSI units/ Registered Firms already in the trade, for supply of below mentioned Spares/minor Stores/T&P/Equipments/Hardware items required from time to time for day to day Operation/Maintenance/Construction of Power Sub-Transmission network of this Division during the financial year 2018-19.
S.No.1. Name of Work :- FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL ITEMS AND STORES/HARDWARE ITEMS
Name of Division :- Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division Udhampur
Cost of document :- 1000.00,
Earnest Money :- 100000.00
Date of Publishing :- 29.04.2019
Time and date of downloading :- 29.04.2019 to 20.05.2019 up to 16.00 Hrs
Time and last date of submission of tender :- 20.05.2019 up to 16.00 Hrs
Time and date of opening of tender :- 21.05.2019 at 14 noon
The following documents shall be tendered in the bid;
 a. Business establishment address proof with photograph.
 b. Copy of PAN Card.
 c. NOC from Electric Department (PDD) for clearance of dues of the Business establishment ending 03/2019.
 d. GST Registration certificate.
 e. Clearance certificate of income Tax/GST (Copy of last year return).
 f. Tender fee amounting to **Rs. 1000/-** in favour of Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division Udhampur.
 g. Copy of CDR/FDR pledged to the undersigned amount to **Rs.100000/-** (Rupees one lakh only) as earnest money in favour of Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division Udhampur.
 The material of required quantity shall be purchased from time to time if the same is not available in the Divisional Store and Electrical Central Store/Division of Power Development Department.
 The offer documents containing detailed list of items, terms & conditions can be downloaded from the web site as per details given.
 The bidder may quote rates for all or any number of items of the list.
1/Date of Publishing from 29.04.2019
2/ The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://jk.tenders.gov.in from 29.04.2019 to 20.05.2019 up to 16.00 Hrs.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Sub Transmission Division
Udhampur
 No. DIP/J-436-P/19
 Dated : 03-05-2019

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

 General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Age : 50 years, Height : 5'7", Complexion : Wheatish** **Wearing: Blue colour checkdar shirt & blue colour pant and bare foot** has been found dead at footpath, opposite Metro Pillar No. 30, Bulward Road, Civil Lines, Delhi on 29.04.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 42-A dated 29.04.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi.
 Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO :
P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi
North Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23810633, 23815444
 DP/9974/N/19

MISSING

 General public is hereby informed that one boy, **Namely: Aakash, S/o: Sh. Raju Shah, R/o: H.No. 733/7, 4th Floor, Govindpuri, New Delhi,** has been kidnapped since 24.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Govind Puri, South-East District, New Delhi. In this regard, a **Case Vides FIR No. 71/19 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 25.02.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi.** Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the boy could not be traced. The description of the missing boy is as under:
Namely: Aakash, S/o: Sh. Raju Shah, R/o: H.No. 733/7, 4th Floor, Govindpuri, New Delhi, Age: 14 years, Height: 4'5" Feet, Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red Colour T-Shirt and Grey Jeans. If anyone has any information about the missing boy, then please inform P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi.
 email: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: No.011-24368639
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **S.H.O**
P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi
 DP/7387/SE/19.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS
(See Section 82 Cr.PC)
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that (1) **Habib Ur Rahaman (2) Atik Ur Rahman, Both S/o Sayad Ahmad, Both R/o C-12/76, Yamuna Vihar, Bhajanpura, Delhi** have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.557/16 u/s 420/406/34 IPC, P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accuseds **Habib Ur Rahaman and Atik Ur Rahman** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accuseds **Habib Ur Rahaman and Atik Ur Rahman** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).
 Proclamation is hereby made that the said accuseds **Habib Ur Rahaman and Atik Ur Rahman of FIR No.557/16 u/s 420/406/34 IPC, P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi** are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **07.06.2019.**
By Order,
Ms. Aditi Garg, (MM),
North East Room No.73, Karkardooma,
Courts, Shahadara, Delhi
 DP/7047/NE/19-(Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

 General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Unknown S/o Unknown R/o: Unknown, Age: 45 yrs, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White & Black Checkdar shirt, Grey colour pant & bare footed,** who was found dead at in front of Metro Gate No. 7, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No: 09A dated 26.04.2019 has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, 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. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23967889
 DP/9967/N/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

 General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Pooja with her Child Roli D/o Santosh, R/o D-72, Deep Vihar, Delhi** has been missing / kidnapped since 07.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Begum Pur. In this regard a **DD No. 18-A dated 18.04.2019** has been lodged at PS, Begum Pur, Delhi.
 The description of Missing/kidnapped lady is as under:
Name: Pooja with her child Roli, Father's Name: Santosh, Age : 24 years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Red Colour Suit-Salwar & Hawai Chappal in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.
SHO
P.S., Begum Pur, Delhi
Ph : 011-27581118
27581128
 Website : http://cbi.nic.in
 e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax : 011-24368639
 Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
 DP/2814/RD/19

MISSING

 General public is hereby informed that one person, **Namely: Yogender @ Bhola S/o: Sukhbir Singh, R/o: H.No. 401, Near Balmiki Basti Ghevra, Delhi** has been missing since 08.04.2019 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard, a **DD No. 43-A, Dated 15.04.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.** Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:
Name: Yogender @ Bhola S/o: Sukhbir Singh, R/o: H.No. 401, Near Balmiki Basti Ghevra, Delhi, Age: 37 years, Height: 5'8" feet, Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Brown T-Shirt & Blue Jeans & Sports Shoes in feet. If anyone has any information about the missing person, then please inform P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.
 email: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: No.011-24368639
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **S.H.O**
P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
 DP/2812/RD/19.

SHORT CIRCUITS

BHUMI PEDNEKAR

Nowadays, there is space for every type of actor. Today, we are doing very good work and there is no scope for unhealthy competition. We all are supporting each others' work and want that our films should do well and get appreciation. All my colleagues are competent and brilliant so, I get inspired when I look at their work.



ADNAN SAMI

Whatever I am today and whatever I will be, it will be all because of her (singer Asha Bhonsle). I cannot thank her enough for supporting me during the tough phase of my career. I want to thank her for giving me a roof during my struggle as it is all because of her blessings it is where I have reached today.



ANANYA PANDAY

My father didn't give me any advice before my Bollywood venture because he knows that his time was really different as compared to mine. So he thinks that I cannot apply the things which he applied during his acting stint. But I have learnt a lot from his behaviour. He never changed because of his successes and failures, I want to be like that.



SANYA MALHOTRA

I like dressing up. At the same time, I know that I can't be perfect all the time. Actors don't have to be conscious all the time or up their game when it comes to fashion. I am a very lazy and a moody person. I'll only dress up if I'm in a mood. If not, I don't care if people judge me on social media. Everyone has an opinion. You can choose to not listen.

NICOLE KIDMAN

The greatest thing our family priest told us in our marriage was, 'Always kiss hello and goodbye.' It just keeps you connected. And when I got divorced, Hugh (Jackman) and Deb (Deborra-Lee Furness) were so much a part of my healing. They were some of my best friends through that period.



VERVE 45 MINUTES

Years after the Formula 1 failed at the Indian racing circuits, car racers ARMAAN EBRAHIM and ADITYA PATEL announce the X1 League, which will bring the thrill back to the tracks. CHAHAK MITTAL discovers the key moves made to implement the plan



PRIX GETS A NEW FACE

Super cars, classic sports cars, motors, single-seater race tracks — I had only witnessed them in dreams or while scrolling through my social media feed, until today. Even before I entered inside the main campus of the Buddh International Circuit at Greater Noida-Yamuna Expressway, the whizz of the racing cars as they ran through the tracks was audible. As I stepped into Pit 5 to attend the X1 Racing League Summit, the tracks were what immediately caught my attention. But the best was yet to be for we could experience life in the fast lane in a racing car alongside the driver. Even from far, I could hear the whizz of the car which made my spine tingle. The speed was equally thrilling. But let me confess, that my legs trembled at the thought of sitting inside the mean machine... yet I was extremely tempted to do so.

so hard that I could hear it above the din of the cars that were screeching past. But before I could change my mind (not that I had any intention to), we took off! The first few moments were the scariest but so was the thrill which was out of this world. All I could imagine was a huge audience cheering for us and the checked-white and black waving flag to announce that we had cleared the finish line in record time. The lap ended. Too soon, too fast. But it was certainly the experience of a lifetime. It was back from terra firma and to reality.

Indian car racers and young enthusiasts and aspirants lost their hopes of ever witnessing a Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix at the Buddh International Circuit after it was besieged with financial problems including a tax dispute with the government.

However, all that is set to change. The Summit saw the announcement of the X1 Racing League that begins from October 2019, the biggest feature of which is, "that it is backed by government and the Federation of Motor Sports Club of India (FMSCI) assuring long-term partnership rights for city-based 4W racing events and competitions in league format," said

'LOOKING BACK, F1 WAS NOT INDIA-CENTRIC, HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE INDIAN PUBLIC, NO GOVERNMENT BACKING OR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. THESE HAVE BEEN KEPT IN MIND TO KEEP THIS ONE COMPETITIVE'

Indian car racer Aditya Patel, at the Summit.

Talking about what went wrong and how it could have had been encouraged after 2011-2013 (the first Grand Prix in India), Patel said, "F1 indeed had a lot of problems and unfortunately, even the government did not back it enough. So they themselves weren't willing to come back. I feel that if the government would have supported it financially, it would have certainly worked."

However, he said that with growing technological advance-

ments, more people becoming aware, involved, and interested as well as with more brand sponsors and investors, the racing industry has definitely evolved over the years.

The racing league, he said, would be the world's first professional franchise-based motorsport league, which will include a mix of track and street races. Racer Armaan Ebrahim, who is co-launching the racing league, said, "This will be a new face of car-racing in the country. India has never had a history of racing but this will initiate a legacy which will last for years to come. You learn from history." Looking back, he goes on to add, "F1 was not India-centric, had no connection with the Indian public, no government backing or international support. These have been kept in mind to keep this one competitive."

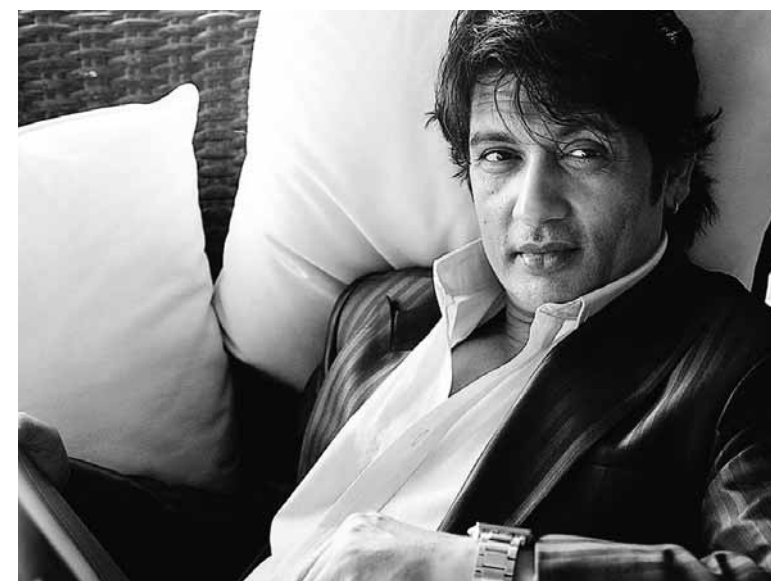
He added that the league, which includes participation by 32 drivers including both national and international, males and females, had been worked to keep in focus the factors which would "sustain in India and be suitable for it. We have gone in-depth to find such things out."

The league, he informed us, will go on for 12 weekends, have 24

race days and 40 races. "There was a need to revive this culture in India and encourage its interest in people in order that the charm of this sport is not lost. It's an unconventional sport choice which not many opt for freely in this country. To encourage more participation, this was very important. We couldn't have relied on F1 to come back after years. The young talents and aspirants need proper training and exposure and a platform which is specific to India. Also, such an initiative will bring people from the grassroot level," said Armaan. There are still a few training centres in India, he claimed, and they "need to grow."

For someone who has been following the evolution of racing culture as a part of the circuit for 15 years, he said, "It's been ever-evolving. There are certain companies who do host championships on small scales. The only need now is to take them to the next level. The rationale has been great since India has had so many international car racers as well over the past few years."

Well, the races, each of which will be of 45 minutes, will take place at the Buddh International Circuit and the MMRT in Chennai.



'Glad Nandita made a film on Manto'

Actor SHEKHAR SUMAN will soon essay the Urdu writer's role in a play

If Nandita had not made this film on Manto, probably he (would have) died in the memories of people... A play, movie or a series is the best way to reintroduce these great figures back to the society," said actor Shekhar Suman who will be essaying the role of late Urdu writer Saadat Hasan Manto in Randhir Ranjan Roy's play *Ek Haan*.

Manto, who died in 1955 at the age of 43, penned an impressive body of work touching various genres. He churned out about 22 collections of stories comprising a novel, essays, personal sketches and movie scripts. His work also gained attention for weaving stories around the ordeal of partition as well as sexuality.

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui brought the character to life in Nandita Das' *Manto*, which follows the most tumultuous years in the life of the writer and those of India and Pakistan which Manto inhabited and chronicled. Shekhar is glad that Nandita made the film.

But he has not seen it. "I haven't seen *Manto* though, which in a way is good as I want to have my own interpretation of the play and not get influenced by anything that I have seen before."

Talking about Manto, Shekhar said, "Everybody knows who Manto was and now we are making it simpler to understand who Manto was. An intense writer who presented the world during the time when the reality was so harsh

to digest." Shekhar also played role of poet and lyricist Sahir Ludhianvi for a play *Ek Mulaqat* alongside Deepti Naval who essayed the role of novelist-poet Amrita Pritam.

"I enjoyed playing Sahir saab thoroughly and have followed Manto's work closely. It would be interesting to play him on stage," said the actor, who will begin readings and rehearsals with Suchitra Krishnamoorthi later this week.

Suchitra will play a journalist in the play who navigates the life of the writer. She has started preparing for the role.

"My character of an Indian journalist visits him in Pakistan, just around the time of partition and through his stories, is trying to understand both the countries, the socio-political and emotional situation. She is also trying to understand herself through their conversation."

"There is a lot of imagery from that era of how women dressed, how would people speak among a lot of other things. So while I have a few references in mind I would like to explore some more as we proceed with the rehearsals. We would also be speaking a lot of Urdu and I am going to work very hard on my dialogues to get them right," said the actress.

Roy said "We will be in theatres in June this year." The production is by Panache Media, screenplay and direction is by Roy.

—IANS

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

May the Fourth be with you

Today is Star Wars day and here is a list of things fans could do to celebrate the saga created by George Lucas



6), *The Force Awakens* (Ep: 7), *The last Jedi* (Ep: 8) and *The Rise of Skywalker* (Ep: 9).

Save up for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the new Star Wars land at Disney World

Your fandom for *Star Wars* will not be complete if you don't visit the much-anticipated Disneyland's new *Star Wars*-themed Galaxy's Edge land, which will open on May 31. Imagine getting a chance to fly the Millennium Falcon, join the Resistance, build a custom lightsaber and design a droid. Start saving up for this a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Disney World in Orlando.

Prepare for the *Revenge Of The Fifth* (of May)

This unofficial fan holiday celebrated on May 5, the day after *Star Wars* Day marks the louder side of the film. Rhyming with the *Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith*, this day covers the dark side of the force universe, with all things sissy and funny, which is not necessarily a part of the original trilogy.

Lastly, the nostalgia will not be complete without remembering Late Carrie Fisher who portrayed the role of the popular self-rescuing Princess Leia and made her last appearance in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.



Another legend lost

Peter Mayhew, who became known to fans worldwide as the lovable Wookiee Chewbacca in the *Star Wars* galaxy of films, has died. He was 74. The actor died on Tuesday in his North Texas home with his family by his side. His official Twitter account shared the news on Thursday, as per the reports. Mayhew had undergone spinal surgery in July in an effort to improve his mobility.

The actor had done some minor acting — he played a minotaur in the Ray Harryhausen fantasy *Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger* (1977) — and was working as a hospital orderly when he tried out for the part of Chewbacca. He got the role based on his physique, as writer-director George Lucas was in desperate need of someone who would be able to play taller than Darth Vader.

Lucas mourned the death of the actor, saying, "Peter was a wonderful man. He was the closest any human being could be to a Wookiee: big heart, gentle nature... and I learned to always let him win. He was a good friend and I'm saddened by his passing."

Star Wars veteran Mark Hamill tweeted, "He was the gentlest of giants. A big man with an even bigger heart who never failed to make me smile and a loyal friend who I loved dearly. I'm grateful for the memories we shared and I'm a better man for just having known him."

Harrison Ford, who played the Han Solo also expressed his condolences. "Chewbacca was an important part of the success of the films we made together. He knew how important the fans of the franchise were to its continued success and he was devoted to them. I and millions of others will never forget Peter and what he gave us all. Rest easy, my dear friend," Ford said. Mayhew is survived by his wife Angie, and three children.

—IANS

May the 4th is here to be with you, which means it's that time of the year when you must leave everything aside to celebrate the iconic space saga by George Lucas, *Star Wars* and embrace the force within you. While it all started in a galaxy, far away, we can celebrate *Star Wars* in a galaxy, which is not so far away. Jatin Varma, founder of Comic Con India suggests five different ways to celebrate the day.

Talk like Yoda with your colleagues and friends the entire day

There can be no better way to celebrate the day than starting with the oldest, wisest and the most powerful Jedi from that universe. His peculiar language, Yodish is similar to English but in a disordered sentence structure where the object comes first followed by the subject and the verb instead of the usual subject-verb-object order used in English sentences. So, 'Yoda, talk like' the entire day with friends/colleagues or throw a *Star Wars*-themed party and 'Yodish language at the party interact in'.

Invest in a *Star Wars* Lego Set and spend the day building it

Lego has introduced a new line of a 279-piece building set based on *Star Wars* to celebrate the classic saga's 20th anniversary this year. The set comes with three miniature figures of Anakin Skywalker, Luke Skywalker, and Padme Amidala.

The brand also has plenty of other building sets from the chronicle already on the shelves. So, invest in one and spend the day building your own model of Anakin Skywalker's custom-built podracer.

Do a *Star Wars* movie marathon

With all the events, Cosplay, merchandise, and other celebrations taking place everywhere, it's easy for them fans to miss out the crucial part of *Star Wars* Day, the movies.

The celebrations will not be complete without revisiting all the films that have made this series so beloved. And, make sure you get someone from your team, who has never watched the series before, join you in the movie marathon. Watch

all of them in the mentioned order: *Prequel-The Phantom Menace* (Ep: 1), *Attack of the Clones* (Ep: 2), *Revenge of the Sith* (Ep: 3); *Rogue One* (Spin-Off); *Sequel - A New Hope* (Ep: 4), *The Empire Strikes Back* (Ep: 5), *Return of the Jedi* (Ep:

GALLERIA 45 MINUTES

ALL THAT JAZZ

This cruise line rivals Broadway and London's West End combined with 134 shows, 50 theatres

In a non-descript building in North Miami, two dozen dancers in bouncing yellow skirts are high kicking the can-can, aerialists are spinning perilously high from silk cords and frantic seamstresses are hemming outfits in a 20,000 square-foot costume shop. They are all part of a company that puts on more live productions a year than Broadway and London's West End combined.

Royal Caribbean International's cruise line directs 134 shows in 50 theatres on 26 ships around the world, including seven Broadway-originating shows, eight aqua shows, 18 ice shows and dozens of original musicals.

"We have a nightly audience of about 100,000. It is by scale a very, very large operation. Probably under one roof, the biggest in the world," said Nick Weir, senior vice president of entertainment. "At any one time, there's 1,500 to 1,800 cast members employed to make this all come to life."

It takes two to four weeks for an army of dancers, singers and aerialists to learn a show before they're dispatched to ports as far away as Australia and China.

On a recent afternoon, dancers roamed the halls in crop tops and buns. One stretched into a wide split on the floor. There are 14 dance studios, 15 rehearsal rooms, a recording studio, gymnasiums and auditorium. Exercise equipment lines some hallways. Nearby are living accommodations for 470 of the performers.

Often dismissed in the past as second-tier, cruise entertainment has evolved to a genre that Royal Caribbean says commands some of the best talent and technology around.

Several of the main characters in *Mama Mia* are from the Broadway version of the show. While New York theatre has struggled to turn profits with its small, intimate venues, fickle crowds and finite real estate, the cruise industry's onboard audience is growing exponentially.

Royal Caribbean is building five ships in the coming years, each with a custom-built theatre with sophisticated stages and high-tech effects. A few years ago, they built a small plane with a 22-foot wingspan that now flies over the audience in every production of *FLIGHT: Dare to Dream*.

"The stages that they have on the ships, the technology is far better than it ever was on a Broadway stage, even 10 years ago," said Greg



Graham, who was the resident choreographer for *Billy Elliot* on Broadway before coming to the cruise line to choreograph *Hairspray*.

Roughly 3,000 hopefuls showed up to recent auditions for *Hairspray* in New York and London.

Weir said the casting operation is massive, culling talent from 75 cities a year auditioning nearly 25,000 performers last year alone.

"At my audition, there were hundreds of girls... it's very competitive. There are so many people who want to be doing this," said Taryn Borman, a 21-year-old Australian dancer, who's performing on a ship for the first time in a new show with aerialists and contortionists. She'll head to Asia with the cast in a few weeks.

Singer and dancer Oli Reynolds, 26, wrapped up a starring role in London's West End production of *Mama Mia* and came back to Royal Caribbean where he's reprising the same role.

"I think there's still a stigma about cruise ship performing... historically, a lot of cruise lines didn't

put the focus on the performing, it was more about the destinations," said Reynolds, who stressed that's changed. "People come from Cirque du Soleil, they come from Vegas, they come from London, they come from Broadway and it is a progression in my career for me."

John Kenrick, a musical theatre historian and adjunct professor at New York University, says the evolution was inevitable as more sophisticated cruise audiences — accustomed to seeing shows in spots like Vegas and Atlantic City — are demanding better entertainment.

"It's certainly upped the game. (Cruise theatre) used to be a little better perhaps than summer stock just with better costumes," said Kenrick, adding "it's definitely improved. I can't say it's Broadway."

Each performance on every ship worldwide is rehearsed at the roughly 1,33,000 sq ft facility where the halls are literally alive with the sounds of music.

In one room, dancers with black top hats are perfecting choreography to *All That Jazz*. Across the



hall, six singers are harmonizing a number from *Once Upon a Time*. In a recording studio next door, the walls reverberate with what sounds like theme music from an adventure movie.

At the massive costume shop, the hum of a sewing machine where

a seamstress works on a gold glitter costume competes with the hiss of a steam iron. One of the head seamstresses is busy completing a white sequin ballroom dress, with flowing feathers and a rhinestone-studded bodice. The cruise line makes its own costumes and must



THE CAST ON EACH SHIP PERFORMS NOT ONE, BUT THREE SHOWS — A BROADWAY MUSICAL LIKE *HAIRSPRAY* OR *GREASE*, A BALLROOM STYLE SHOW AND A POP SHOW. THESE ARE UPBEAT AND FAMILY-ORIENTED AND CHOSEN TO APPEAL TO A WIDE AUDIENCE

coordinate fittings for dozens of shows.

The cast on each ship performs not one, but three shows — a Broadway musical like *Hairspray* or *Grease*, a ballroom style show and a pop show. The shows are upbeat and family-oriented and chosen to appeal to a wide audience — nothing too sexual or intellectual.

Scheduling all the rehearsals is more precise than the choreography. The new casts arrive, rehearse and depart to sea at a dizzying pace every few weeks. It takes exactly 26 days to train a new cast to perform the musical *Cats*.

Typical theatre productions will rotate in new cast members periodically, but Royal Caribbean prefers to sign performers to roughly nine-month contracts. They spend a few weeks learning three shows from scratch and then head to sea. When it's over, the cruise line casts a new set of performers and begins again.

Staging a show at sea has its own challenges and quirks. Performers need extra core strength to adapt to rough waves and pitching ships. If a costume is ripped, there's no one to run to the store.

There are also perks that even the most legendary theatres on land can't compete with — picturesque ports, free meals, room and board, the chance to interact with the audience and the sense of onboard community not found at other venues where performers simply go home each night.

"You definitely become more of a family," said Mya Carpenter, a 22-year-old dancer who performed in Paris before joining Royal Caribbean. "You come to know people inside and out. They're friends for life."

—AP

CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES

Wearing it like armour

Game of Thrones is not just breaking the social media but also world records



and declare it officially — 'Most in-demand' TV premiere.

The Parrot methodology claims to use global, real-time and platform-agnostic TV demand measurements. Guinness and Parrot charted worldwide demand for all series premieres from April 2015 to the day of *Game of Thrones* season eight premiere to determine the measurement.

"The fantasy series amassed a per capita global audience demand of 25.46 on the premiere day. Compared to its per capita global demand of 24.74 on the day of its season seven premiere, the latest and final season has premiered 2.9 per cent higher globally. Premiere day demand has been particularly strong in the US, United Kingdom and France," said Samuel Stadler, Vice President of marketing, Parrot Analytics.

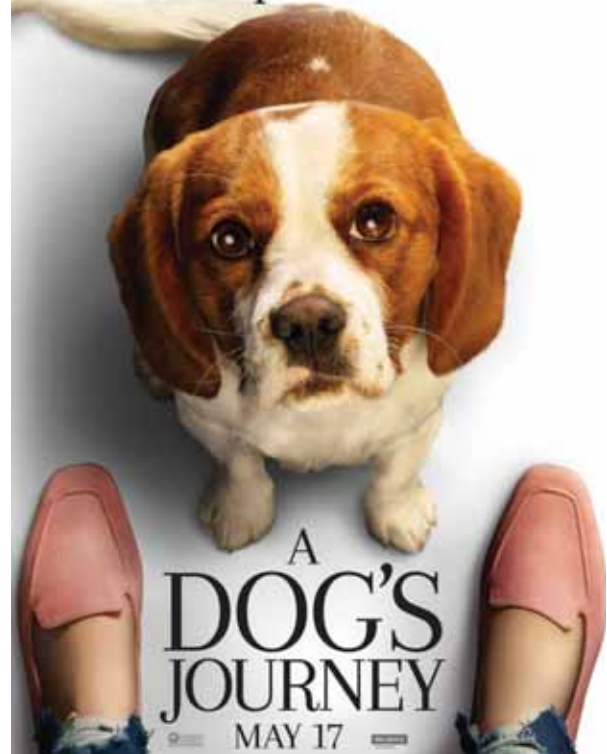
Craig Glenday, editor-in-chief at Guinness, said, "*GoT* looks like it's going to continue breaking records right up to the final, undoubtedly devastating episode."

Game of Thrones, based on George R.R. Martin's novels, is about the quest to claim the Iron Throne. But it also stands for complicated political gambits, scheming and the backstabbing nature of people and finding love in troubled times. The final season will wrap up on May 19. It is aired in India on Star World.

—IANS

An obvious choice

Some friendships transcend lifetimes.



Based on the eponymous novel by W. Bruce Cameron, *A Dog's Journey* is about a dog being on a mission to protect a person. The film, sequel to the global hit *The Dog's Purpose*, is directed by two times Emmy award-winning director Gail Mancuso.

Producer Gavin Polone feels that since the film involved protecting a young girl it was most appropriate to have a female director for the film. Polone says, "The first

'The film A Dog's Journey is about a dog being on a mission to protect a person. Since it involved protecting a young girl, it was appropriate to have Gail Mancuso as its director'

film was about our dog going from person to person to get back to Ethan. But with this film, our dog is on a mission to protect one person: a girl who becomes a woman. Of course, the dynamics of issues with young girls and their mothers is a different perspective."

Since the makers of the film were, in particular, looking for a director with great deal of experience with comedy, Gail was an obvious choice. A women's perspective was key for the makers. Polan further adds, "I had worked with Gail Mancuso on *Gilmore Girls*, and there are things tonally and comedically that are reminiscent of that show with this movie"

An animal lover herself, director Gail says, "I loved the first film and when the opportunity was given to me to direct this one, it was a blessing. I have five dogs and truly love animals."

This heartwarming adventure of Bailey (dog) through multiple lives filled with love, friendship and devotion music and laughter is set to release in India on May 17 by Reliance Entertainment.

Don't understand the negativity around my citizenship: Akshay

Actor Akshay Kumar on Friday issued a statement regarding the controversy over his citizenship. He says he has never hidden or denied that he holds a Canadian passport and that he doesn't understand the unwarranted interest and negativity about it.

"I really don't understand the unwarranted interest and negativity about my citizenship.

I have never hidden or denied that I hold a Canadian passport. It is also equally true that I have not visited Canada in the last seven years," Akshay tweeted.

"I work in India, and pay all my taxes in India. While all these years, I have never needed to prove my love for India to anyone, I find it disappointing that my citizenship issue is constantly dragged into needless controversy, a matter that is personal, legal, non-political, and of no consequence to others," he added in the statement.

He concluded by saying, "Lastly, I would like to continue contributing in my small way to the causes that I believe in and make India stronger and stronger."

His absence from the polling booth made netizens think that it was due to his alleged Canadian citizenship.

In 2017, Akshay had said that he has been bestowed with an honorary citizenship by the Canadian Government, and hence, he carries the Canadian citizenship.

Akshay, who recently grabbed headlines for his "non-political" interview with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was widely trolled for not casting his vote this year.

"*Chaliye, chaliye* (let's go, let's go)" is how Akshay responded when at a special screening of the film *Blank*, a mediaperson asked him about giving voting a miss. He then walked away.

The actor has featured in many films like *Kesari*, *Baby*, *Holiday - A Soldier Is Never Off Duty* and *Airlift*, with patriotism as a theme.

—IANS





Arsenal's Alexandre Lacazette, center, controls the ball between Valencia's Gabriel, left, his teammate Mesut Ozil and Valencia's Cristiano Piccini, right, during the Europa League semifinal first leg match between Arsenal and Valencia at the Emirates stadium in London on Thursday

ADVANTAGE ARSENAL

Gunners overcome goal deficit to beat Valencia 3-1 in Europa League 1st leg semis

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal manager Unai Emery insisted his side's Europa League semi-final against Valencia is still "50-50" despite the Gunners taking a 3-1 first leg lead to Spain.

Valencia's bright start at the Emirates on Thursday was rewarded with Mouctar Diakhaby's away goal.

But Alexandre Lacazette quickly turned the game around with two goals in eight first-half minutes before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's late strike gave Arsenal a two-goal advantage to defend at the Mestalla on May 9.

However, Emery, who managed Valencia between 2008 and 2012, knows the tie is far from over due to Arsenal's terrible away record this season.

"It is a good result at home, but the second leg is going to be very difficult and maybe different. I consider for both teams it is 50-50," said Emery.

Arsenal are desperate not just for silverware in Emery's first season but the guarantee of Champions League qualification for next season that winning the Europa League would bring.

A run of three straight Premier League defeats has left Emery's men needing more favours from Chelsea or Tottenham to stand any chance of Champions League qualification via a top-four Premier League finish.

The Gunners had conceded three times in all three of those defeats to Crystal Palace, Wolves and Leicester and the same defensive deficiencies cost them again early on.

Valencia had already missed a glorious chance to take the lead when Ezequiel Garay blazed over before Diakhaby forced the ball home at the back post for the vital away goal on 11 minutes.

Emery has been reticent to start Lacazette and Aubameyang together up front, but the game turned on one moment of magic from Arsenal's two prolific strikers.

Lacazette played in Aubameyang and the Gabon international left his marker and Valencia goalkeeper Neto on the ground before squaring for his strike partner to roll into an empty net.

Seven minutes later, Arsenal led as terrible defending allowed Lacazette a free header from Granit Xhaka's cross and a weak Neto could not prevent the ball crossing the line.

"We had the game completely in control until their first goal," lamented Valencia coach Marcelino Garcia Toral.

Lacazette missed two glorious opportunities to complete his hat-trick as he firstly failed to connect with an inch-perfect Aubameyang cross before Neto made a brilliant save at his near post to keep the Spanish side in the tie.

At the other end Petr Cech also had to make a smart stop as he raced from his goal to deny substitute Kevin Gameiro.

The veteran stopper has announced he will retire at the end of the season.

And Cech's final game could well be against his former club Chelsea as the Blues secured a 1-1 draw away at Eintracht Frankfurt in the first leg of the other semi-final.

Arsenal still have work to do, but they moved much closer to booking their trip to Baku when Aubameyang turned home at the back post in the final minute.

"WE CAN BE PROUD OF THE PLAYERS. IT IS NOT EASY TO BE CALM AND COME BACK WITH THAT RESULT AGAINST THIS TEAM."

—Unai Emery

"WE WANT TO WIN THE EUROPA LEAGUE TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE BUT ALSO TO WIN A TROPHY."

—Alexandre Lacazette

"WE PLAYED AGAINST TWO STRIKERS THAT ARE VERY GOOD WHICH IS WHY THEY COST THE MILLIONS THAT THEY DID. WITH THE SLIGHTEST ERROR THEY PUNISH YOU."

—Marcelino Garcia Toral

'In no-man's land': Federer taking baby steps on clay return



AFP ■ PARIS

Roger Federer returns to clay court tennis for the first time in three years at Madrid next week, admitting it feels like a journey into "no-man's land".

The 37-year-old last tested his ability on European dirt at the Rome Masters in 2016, before opting to concentrate on the world's hard surfaces and grass courts which have yielded the majority of his 101 titles.

But with his career in its twilight, the Swiss has decided to re-enter a realm of tennis for so long dominated by rival Rafael Nadal — and Madrid seems the logical venue.

Federer has won two of his 11 clay titles in the Spanish capital where the high altitude helps him negate the traditionally pedestrian pace of the dusty surface.

"I'm very excited. It's a good challenge, a good test. Confidence, I don't know, it's in no-man's land. I have to start from scratch," said Federer after winning his most recent title in Miami.

His long-term aim this spring is Roland Garros where he was champion in 2009 and where he has been a four-time runner-up in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2011, losing on every occasion to Nadal.

However, with 11-time French Open winner Nadal in something of a claycourt slump, having been deposed as Barcelona

and Monte Carlo champion in recent weeks, Federer saw a glimmer of hope.

That shaft of light brightened when world number one Novak Djokovic exited Monte Carlo in the quarter-finals.

"Roger is still very hungry," Federer's coach Ivan Ljubicic told *Sky Sports Italia*.

"And he has got used to playing on clay again pretty quickly."

Federer's last clay title was in Istanbul in 2015, the same year which saw his last Roland Garros appearance end with a quarter-final exit at the hands of close friend Stan Wawrinka.

Rome in 2016 witnessed the Swiss star's most recent competitive outing on clay, a straight sets loss to Dominic Thiem in the third round seemingly convincing him that his dirt court career was done.

"I'm not very confident going into this clay court season, I can tell you that — I don't even remember how to slide anymore," said Federer.

"You know, I'm taking baby steps at this point. To be honest, I didn't play one point — not one shot on clay last year. Two years ago I played two days.

"Three years ago I played not feeling great in Monaco and Rome and all that. So it's been so little that I really don't know what to expect." Despite his caution, his longtime rivals are wary of under-estimating the 20-time Grand Slam champion next week.

You will do special things in World Cup: Yuvraj to Hardik

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Yuvraj Singh, hero of India's victorious campaign in the 2011 World Cup, is expecting "special performances" from all-rounder Hardik Pandya in the 2019 edition, beginning May 30.

Pandya is back to his best, at least with the bat, following testing times which saw him serve an interim suspension.

The 25-year-old has been in remarkable form this IPL and his Mumbai Indians teammate Yuvraj hopes that he extends his explosive run to the 50-over mega event.

"I was actually having this conversation with him (Hardik) yesterday where I told him that 'you have a great chance of performing really well with the ball and bat', the kind of form he is in at the moment.

"Definitely, the way he is batting at the moment, it is phenomenal and I hope he carries that form (into the World Cup). He has been bowling well in patches but as I said it is all about how you handle the pressure," said Yuvraj.

Pandya has been in the form of his life and Yuvraj said that his 91 against the Kolkata Knight Riders was the best IPL innings he has seen.



"It is probably the best shape as a batsman to get in. I have been watching since the practice games, he is hitting the ball really well. I had told him 'it is going to be a special tournament for you, the way you are hitting the ball'," said the southpaw.

"Over the years, as an experienced player you know if someone is hitting the ball well, he is in great shape. He got 91 from 34 balls against KKR, probably that is the best innings I have seen in the IPL

just because he hit four quality bowlers he was batting against.

"When you are doing that, you know that someone is batting very well," added Yuvraj, who is known for hitting six sixes in the 2007 edition of World T20 in South Africa.

The man of the tournament of the 2011 World Cup also backed Virat Kohli-led India, hosts England and Australia to do well in the mega event.

"My first two teams are England and India. Obviously with (David) Warner and (Steve) Smith coming back, Australia will be in contention. West Indies also looked a very power-packed side. You can't say much at this stage. I think it would be India and England first, third would be Australia. Fourth I don't know," said Yuvraj.

He also backed chinaman Kuldeep Yadav to do well in the World Cup.

"I don't assess T20 cricket (form) over 50 over (cricket). I think Kuldeep has been a fantastic bowler for India and I'm sure he will bounce back quickly. He has been very effective against England, South Africa, Australia," said Yuvraj when asked whether Kuldeep's current form in the IPL was a concern ahead of the World Cup.

SMITH, WARNER BACK IN AUSSIE COLOURS

AFP ■ BRISBANE

Steve Smith and David Warner have been welcomed back to the Australian team with "no tension", coach Justin Langer said on Friday, with the World Cup offering another opportunity for redemption.

The duo returned to the national side for a World Cup training camp on Friday in Brisbane after serving year-long bans for their part in the "sand-papergate" scandal in Cape Town.

"There is no tension," a smiling Langer told reporters. "They're back in the team now. They've been selected, which is brilliant."

The duo have enjoyed a solid comeback in IPL, with Warner in blistering form, topping the batting rankings with 692 runs from 12 innings.

Langer acknowledged there would need to be some adjustments for the former team leaders, but said the team would be boosted by their experience.

"When you come from the titled position of captain then there is going to be a certain degree of humility that comes with that," he said.



"One of our really strong values is humility, so there will be great opportunity to develop that."

The Aussie coach welcomed the selection dilemma Smith and Warner added to the top order, joining Aaron Finch, Usman Khawaja and Shaun Marsh, making it "exciting to have those five 100-makers at our disposal".

Australia are the reigning World Cup champions and have been in recent red-hot form winning eight one-day internationals on the trot, against India and Pakistan.

"We have had great success in the past. While we celebrate that, it means nothing on how we play this (World Cup)," Langer said.

He said the team needed to use every tournament on the calendar to "make Australians proud of us again". "We must make the most of every opportunity that comes up, including this World Cup," he said.

SINGLES

MBAPPE SLAPPED WITH 3 MATCH BAN

PARIS: French World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe was banned for three matches on Friday following his sending-off for a reckless tackle during Paris Saint-Germain's French Cup final debacle against Rennes. The French football Federation (FFF) said they had also opened disciplinary proceedings against Mbappe's teammate Neymar for striking a Rennes fan following the shock defeat on penalties after extra time. Mbappe lunged with his studs into the knee of Rennes defender Damien Da Silva near the close of extra time on Sunday. Having already missed one game, Mbappe will miss Saturday's match against Nice and the trip to Angers the following week but will be available for the last two games of the season.

NABY KEITA OUT FOR THE SEASON

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool midfielder Naby Keita will miss the rest of the season with an adductor injury that is set to sideline the Guinea international for two months, manager Jurgen Klopp said on Friday. Keita limped off midway through the first half of Liverpool's 3-0 loss to Barcelona at the Camp Nou during Wednesday's Champions League semi-final first leg. "Bad news, a high-grade adductor injury with the tendon rupture so it keeps him out for at least two months," said Klopp of Keita, who will now miss Saturday's trip to Newcastle, as well as home games against Barcelona and Wolves — Liverpool's last match of the Premier League season. "Bad news for us and for Guinea with the Africa Cup of Nations coming up. Not nice," German boss Klopp added.

PRANNOY CRASHES OUT FROM NZ OPEN

AUCKLAND: H S Prannoy fought valiantly before losing to fifth seed Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan in the men's singles quarterfinal, drawing curtains on India's campaign at the New Zealand Open badminton tournament, here on Friday. Unseeded Prannoy squandered a one-game advantage before losing 21-17, 15-21, 14-21 to world number 11 Japanese shuttler in a marathon last-eight round match which lasted an hour and 13 minutes. The two shuttlers now enjoy a 1-1 head-to-head record against each other. Tsuneyama will play third seed and Jakarta Asian Games Gold medalist Jonathian Christie in the last-four round.

GHOSAL, JOSHNA ENTER ASIAN SEMIS

KUALA LUMPUR: India's Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa moved into the semifinals with convincing victories over their respective opponents in the Asian Squash Championship here on Friday. Ghosal's was the last match of the day and the Indian had hardly anything extra to take care as he disposed of Malaysia's sixth seed Mohd Nafizwan Adnan in straight games for an 11-4, 11-4, 11-3 win. Joshna on the other hand had a task in hand suppressing compatriot Tanvi Khanna before prevailing 12-10, 13-11, 11-7. Tanvi, who had made impressive strides in the championship and played with lots of motivation, continued in that vein against her senior. Unforced errors undid much of her spirited fight but it must be said to her credit, Tanvi stretched Joshna in the first two games before losing them over tie-break points. **AGENCIES**

'Gambhir has no great records, just lot of attitude'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

They have never shared a great rapport on and off-the-field and now former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has gone a step further terming former India opener Gautam Gambhir as someone with "no great records and just a lot of attitude".

In his just released autobiography 'Game Changer', Afridi launched a scathing attack on Gambhir, some of which termed out to be factually incorrect.

"Some rivalries were personal, some professional. First the curious case of Gambhir. Oh poor Gautam. He & his attitude

problem. He who has no personality. He who is barely a character in the great scheme of cricket. He who has no great records just a lot of attitude," writes Afridi.

Gambhir played 58 Tests, 147 ODIs and 37 T20 Internationals scoring more than 10,000 international runs across formats. Afridi played 398 ODIs for Pakistan with a lot of matches as opener but the average despite 8000 plus runs stand at less than 24 compared to Gambhir close to 40. In Tests, Gambhir has an average of close to 42 compared to Afridi's 27 plus.

In fact, Gambhir was the top scorer with 75 against Pakistan in

the 2007 World T20 final. He retired from all forms of cricket in December last year.

However that didn't stop Afridi from taking a sarcastic dig at Gambhir.

"Gambhir behaves like he's a cross between Don Bradman & James Bond. In Karachi, we call guys like him saryal (grumpy). It's simple, I like happy, positive people. Doesn't matter if they are aggressive or competitive, but you have to be positive & Gambhir wasn't," he writes.

Afridi, who also reveals his real age in the book making him five years older than what the official records state, recollected the



infamous heated exchange with Gambhir during an Asia Cup game when they nearly came to blows.

"I remember the run-in with Gambhir during the 2007 Asia Cup, when he completed his single while running straight into me. The umpires had to finish it off or I would have. Clearly we had a frank bilateral discussion about each other's female relatives," Afridi recalled the uncharitable verbal exchange.

Afridi featured in 27 Tests, 398 ODIs and 99 T20 Internationals. He retired from international cricket after the 2016 World T20 in India.

LEADERBOARD

RUNS	692	David Warner (SRH)
WICKETS	25	Kagiso Rabada (DC)
6S	671	Everyone knows Bumrah is the best in death, he bowled brilliantly in the last overs as well as the Super Over
4S	1448	— MOHAMMED NABI



MILLION DOLLAR MAN

Sam Curran's power hitting in final over helps Kings XI post 183-6 in must win clash



AGENCIES ■ MOHALI

Sam Curran notched up his maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) half-century as Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) posted a competitive 183/6 in 20 overs against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in a crunch encounter at the PCA IS Bindra Stadium here on Friday.

Curran, who did not play the last couple of matches, came in to bat when Kings XI were 140/4 after 13.3 overs, having lost Mayank Agarwal (36; 26 balls, 4x2, 6x1) and, more importantly, Nicholas Pooran (48; 27 balls, 4x3, 6x4) in quick succession.

The England all-rounder smashed an unbeaten 24-ball 55 with the help of seven fours and two sixes as Kings XI plundered 58 runs in the last five overs.

Curran made the most of a reprieve after he was dropped on 17 by Rinku Singh off Sunil Narine, hitting Harry Gurney for 22 runs in the final over, including three fours and a six off the last four deliveries.

Earlier, Pooran had set the platform with a brilliant knock as he shared 69 runs for the third wicket with Agarwal.

Sandeep Warrier (2/31) jolted Kings XI early, accounting for both of their top-performing batsmen K.L. Rahul (2) and Chris Gayle (14). Rahul was the first to go with Chris Lynn taking his catch at mid-on after the India batsman tried to clear the infield.

Warrier then set Gayle up with a short ball which the veteran West Indies opener failed to negotiate, hitting straight to backward



square-leg where Shubman Gill took an easy catch.

Kings XI were in some sort of trouble at 41/2 after the powerplay overs. This is when Pooran came to the party, taking the likes of Piyush Chawla, who had a forgettable day, to the cleaners by scoring at a brisk rate.

The hosts were 84/2 at the halfway stage with Pooran going great guns, and KKR skipper Dinesh Karthik failing to stop him even with spinners operating from both ends.

This is when Karthik introduced Nitish Rana into the attack

FASTEST 50 IN IPL 2019

Balls	Player	Opposition	Venue
17	Hardik Pandya (91)	KKR	Kolkata
18	Risabh Pant (78*)	Mumbai Indians	Mumbai
21	Andre Russell (65)	RCB	Kolkata
22	Kieron Pollard (83)	Kings XI Punjab	Mumbai
23	Andre Russell (62)	Delhi Capitals	Delhi
23	Sam Curran	KKR	Mohali
24	Warner (50)	CSK	Hyderabad
24	Moeen Ali (66)	KKR	Kolkata

and the move worked as Pooran holed out to Sandeep Warrier at deep mid-wicket, bringing his knock to an abrupt end.

Kings XI Struggled to get going

after Pooran's dismissal but once Curran got going, there was no looking back even after Gurney bowled a brilliant 18th over to leak just four runs and take a wicket.

Up Next



Royals face DC to keep hopes alive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Their play-off berth sealed, Delhi Capitals will aim for a big win against Rajasthan Royals to enhance their chances for a second-place finish when the two teams clash in their final league match here on Saturday.

A big win on Saturday will not only boost Delhi's morale after the 80-run hammering at the hands of CSK but it could also propel the side to the second position in the eight-team standings.

Delhi are currently sitting third with 16 points from 13 games, just behind Mumbai Indians (16 points) and table toppers CSK (18 points).

A win against Rajasthan will enhance Delhi's chances of featuring in Qualifier 1, giving them two shots at the May 12 final.

In the absence of Rabada, Delhi's bowling attack looked miserable, but it is the shoddy performance of the batting unit which would be a cause of concern for skipper Shreyas Iyer.

The likes of Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant and Colin Ingram would like to forget the disastrous outing against CSK and come out afresh in Delhi's last home game.

Rajasthan, on the other hand, are mathematically still alive in the tournament with 11 points from 13 games.

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2

DC vs RR

NEW DELHI

SATURDAY | 4:00 PM

HEAD TO HEAD

M 19

DC 3

RR 11

They need to win against Delhi and hope for favourable results from other remaining games to secure a play-off berth as the fourth team.

But a win against Delhi might just not be enough for Rajasthan as it will take them to 13 points, after their last game against Royal Challengers Bangalore was washed away.

With Steve Smith having departed home for World Cup preparations, Ajinkya Rahane will return to captaincy duties. Ashton Turner is expected to replace Smith in the playing eleven.

The departure of Smith, Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes has weakened Rajasthan's batting, putting more responsibility on the shoulders of Rahane, Sanju Samson and Liam Livingstone but the team's bowling unit would be pumped up after the leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal's hat-trick in the rain-truncated match against RCB.

In the last encounter between the two sides last month, it was Delhi Capitals who came out on top in Jaipur by six wickets in a high-scoring affair.

Will work harder to earn Indian team spot: Samson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sanju Samson has always been considered as a bright prospect but he has not been able to break into the Indian team and the Kerala wicket-keeper batsman on Friday said instead of feeling frustrated he would work harder to earn a spot for himself.

Samson, who has played just one T20 International for India against Zimbabwe in 2015, has been one of consistent performers with the bat in this IPL with 337 runs from 11 games that included a century and a half-century.

Legends like Brian Lara have found it difficult to understand why a talented player like Samson has not even been considered in India's World Cup probabilities.

"It feels really great when legends like Lara talk highly of you. It boosts your confidence. I am very confident and happy the way I have been playing. But I am excitedly waiting for my opportunity to play for India," the Rajasthan Royals player said.

"There is no point in getting frustrated. You can use it as a motivation and push more. It's not easy to get into the Indian team. You need to work hard and earn that spot."

Insisting that failure is the secret of success, Samson said he has gone through many tough phases in his career which only made him a better, determined cricketer.

"If you talk about my career or anyone's career, there are definitely ups and downs. Going through such phases I feel is very lucky because when you go down then only you will know how to climb up."

"I am lucky that I have gone down many times in my career. I'm happy to have all these experiences.



To enter the Indian team you need to know how to make a comeback, you need to be strong enough and you only get strong when you fail. I failed a lot of times and now I am strong enough to play for India," he said.

Steve Smith has flown back to Australia to prepare for the World Cup but Samson said his team has good bench strength.

"Definitely, it (Smith's departure) is a great loss. First Jos Buttler, Ben Stokes and now Smith but we knew this before the tournament. We have enough bench strength to cover the losses," Samson said.

The Royals are mathematically still in the play-off hunt with 11 points from 13 games but to progress any further they will first have to win against Delhi Capitals and then hope for favourable results from the other remaining league games.

CSA call back Rabada, to miss remainder of IPL



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Injured Kagiso Rabada was on Friday ruled out of the rest of the IPL after South Africa decided to call the pacer back as a precautionary measure ahead of the World Cup.

Rabada had missed Delhi Capitals' last match against Chennai Super Kings due to stiff back and his unavailability is a severe blow to Delhi Capitals, who are striving to win their maiden title.

According to a statement from the Delhi Capitals, Rabada, the current Purple Cap holder, has been advised to return home by CSA.

"It is indeed very hard for me to leave the Delhi Capitals at this stage of the tournament," said the 23-year-old Rabada, who took 25 wickets from 12 matches that he played this season.

"But with the World Cup just a month away, a collective decision has been made for me in this regard. It's

been a tremendous season for me with the Delhi Capitals, both on and off the field, and I truly believe that our team can win the trophy."

Proteas team manager Mohammed Moosajee said Rabada's recall was precautionary based on his history.

"Kagiso experienced stiffness in his lower back a few days ago and was taken for scans for further investigation. The scan results, combined with further assessment by our physiotherapist Craig Govender who is fortunately in Delhi, led the CSA medical committee to the decision to withdraw him from the remainder of the IPL," Moosajee said in a Cricket South Africa statement.

"Kagiso has a history with back injuries and the CSA medical team is taking the best measures to ensure he is fully fit for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup next month. He will consult with a back specialist upon his return and proceed with a treatment and rehab programme."

Delhi Capitals' head coach Ricky Ponting termed the development as "unfortunate".

"It's unfortunate that Rabada is having to leave us at this stage of the tournament. But I have full confidence in our team and I'm sure each and every member of this unit will step up to the occasion," Ponting said.

He is now banking on New Zealand pacer Trent Boult's experience in the upcoming play-offs.

"It's a massive loss obviously but it's a loss that we can cover. We have someone like Trent Boult, who is a world-class fast bowler. He had a terrific season for the Daredevils (erstwhile) last year. With him coming to the side now, we think we can cover for the loss of Rabada quite well."

Rahane re-appointed RR captain following Smith's departure

NEW DELHI: Ajinkya Rahane was on Friday re-appointed captain of Rajasthan Royals following the departure of Australian Steve Smith.

Rahane returns to lead Royals for the game against Delhi Capitals on Saturday after Smith replaced him as captain in the middle of the season following the team's disappointing run which saw it lose six out of their first eight games.

However, there was a revival of fortunes of the side under Smith which led Royals to winning three out of the last four games, giving them a slender hope of making the play-offs with a game to go.

Smith has returned home to join

the Australian team ahead of the World Cup.

"We have requested Ajinkya to take on the captaincy of the team; as a true Royal he has shown great courage and character in graciously accepting the responsibility, which accompanies this role, whilst it would have been easier for him to take a back seat and focus solely on his batting," said Zubin Bharucha, Head of Cricket at Rajasthan Royals.

"A true team man and a true Royal, we are extremely fortunate to have characters like him playing this sport and even prouder he is part of Rajasthan Royals franchise." PTI

We don't depend on few to take us over the line: Rohit

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Not depending on specific individuals and handling the pressure situations with aplomb has been key to Mumbai Indians' Play-off journey, an elated skipper Rohit Sharma said.

Mumbai Indians sealed their place in the Play-offs with a Super Over win over Sunrisers Hyderabad. They still have a game in hand.

"It's a good positive for us to qualify with one game to spare. In 2017, when we won the trophy, we qualified with two games in hand. As a team what

we have done well is that we have handled the pressure situations well," said Rohit. "A lot of guys have put their hand up and taken the responsibility which is why we don't have anyone, barring Quinton (de Kock), in the top five (of the highest run scorers). It's not about one or two individuals. "If you want to win the tournament everyone needs to do well. That's the hallmark of this team, whether it is (leggie) Rahul Chahar or Quinton. We don't believe in individuals to win the game on their own. We want everyone to chip in and take us over the line," he elaborated.



Rohit said the eight overs of spin bowling done in tandem by left arm Krunal Pandya (2-22) and Chahar (0 for 21) did the trick in stopping SRH from winning the game.

"They understand the conditions really well. Vijay Shankar and Manish were batting and they kept varying the length. Their eight overs were probably the turning point. They bowled really well with a wet ball, which is not easy," he said.

Looking ahead, Sharma said the team's batting order was flexible from positions 3-7 which gives them the option to send

big-hitters Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard higher.

"If you look at the whole tournament, they (Hardik and Pollard) have batted around the 14th or 15th overs and scored 70-80 runs the maximum number of times. Right from number 3-7 all our batsmen are flexible. They can bat anywhere at any given time which makes our job easier."

"And Pollard and Hardik we have that option. Polly has done it a few times — if you remember he had done that against (Kings XI) Punjab (batted at No 4 and made 83 off 31 balls). We will keep our options open."

Match After



Sunrisers eye Play-off berth against RCB

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Sunrisers Hyderabad would look to complete the unfinished business and seal their place in the IPL Play-offs when they clash with laggards Royal Challengers Bangalore, here on Saturday.

The defeat against Mumbai Indians via Super Over must be hurting but they need to shrug it off and add two points to take their tally to 14, good enough to stay in top-4.

Despite their defeat against Mumbai, Hyderabad's net run rate is +0.653, which is superior to others in contention for the Play-offs.

Even if Hyderabad lose their last match, they can still reach playoffs if Kolkata Knight Riders and Kings XI Punjab don't win more than one of their last two matches.

In the absence of their batting mainstay David Warner, young Manish Pandey (71 off 47 balls) shouldered the responsibility pretty well against Mumbai as he pushed the match into the super over.

But with just nine runs to win in super over, Pandya and Kieron Pollard took

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RCB vs SRH

BENGALURU

SATURDAY | 8:00 PM

HEAD TO HEAD

M 13

RCB 5

SRH 8

Mumbai home with three balls to spare.

Captain Kane Williamson, all-rounder Vijay Shankar and comeback man Wriddhiman Saha will look to score in the key match.

Hyderabad bowlers have performed well in patches and need to get their act together against Bangalore's master blasters AB de Villiers and Virat Kohli.

The visitors boast of multi-pronged attack in which Afghanistan's Rashid Khan has been the standout performer.

Sandeep Sharma, Khaleel Ahmed and experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar, along with the Afghan spin twins Rashid and Mohammed Nabi add sting to Hyderabad attack.

Bangalore will be playing for pride after their hopes of entering playoffs went up in smoke after their match against Rajasthan Royals was abandoned due to rain.