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DEALING WITH EMISSIONS

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WANTED TO BE A MOTHER: PRIYANKA 13 VIVACITY

## 63% turnout in Ph-6; violence scars Bengal

Highest 80% polling in Bengal, lowest 55% in UP; EVM glitches reported

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports of large-scale violence in West Bengal and sporadic cases of EVM malfunctioning in several parts of the country, 63.48 per cent voters exercised their franchise in 59 parliamentary constituencies in six States and one Union Territory on Sunday. The highest voter turnout of 80 per cent was recorded in West Bengal, and the lowest of 55 per cent in Uttar Pradesh.

According to the Election Commission, West Bengal recorded 80.35 per cent polling; Delhi 60.21 per cent, Haryana 65 per cent, Uttar Pradesh 55 per cent, Bihar 59.29 per cent, Jharkhand 64.50 per cent and Madhya Pradesh 61.36 per cent. Delhi and Haryana recorded significant decline in turnout this time around as compared to 2014. Delhi's had clocked 65 per cent polling in 2014 and Haryana 71 per cent.

EC officials said that some EVM-related glitches were reported from Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav filed a complaint about EVM malfunctioning in Azamgarh.

A BJP worker was killed in West Bengal's Jhargram district amid widespread violence in the sixth phase of polling which saw the saffron party's candidate from Ghatal and former IPS officer Bharati Ghosh seeking refuge inside a temple after being chased by Trinamool Congress supporters.



Locals argue with State Police officials during the sixth phase of Lok Sabha polls, in Medinipur district of West Bengal on Sunday

The trouble started when Bharati Ghosh tried to enter a polling booth in Keshpur. Following it, bombs were hurled and stones were pelted towards her convoy when she tried to visit another booth in Keshpur after receiving complaints of poll rigging.

One of her security guards was injured and a vehicle of her convoy was damaged in the stone-pelting following which the security officers restored to lathicharge.

It was also alleged a Trinamool Congress worker was injured in the firing by the

Central force personnel who were with the BJP candidate who, however, denied the charge. The official said, "So far we have not received reports of any firing. We are looking into it. Our officials in the districts have been asked to send details of the incidents of attacks on Bharati Ghosh quickly."

The CEO also sought a report after Ghosh was seen videographing inside a polling booth at Pikurda in Keshpur.

Ghosh's vehicle was again blocked by locals when she tried to enter Keshpur market. The Bengal Police posted in the

area intervened and her vehicle was seized. "Her vehicle has no valid pass to move through the area on the polling day. We cannot allow her to move around like this. This is a matter of security," a Bengal Police officer said.

After the seizure, a large number of protesters gathered there and she took shelter inside a temple in Keshpur market area with her security officers guarding her.

The mob also pelted stones at policemen who resorted to lathicharge. Shop owners downed their shutters. Ghosh

### 2019 Elections Battle ground LOK SABHA

was then taken to the Keshpur police station to protect her from the wrath of the mob.

BJP's candidate and State party president Dilip Ghosh too faced protests from locals when he tried to visit a polling booth in his constituency, Medinipur.

Tamluk seat recorded the highest voter turnout at 82.99 per cent, followed by Bishnupur (SC) at 81.90 per cent, Jhargram (ST) at 81.68 per cent, Ghatal at 80.350 per cent, Kanthi at 80.06 per cent, Purulia at 78.64 per cent, Medinipur at 78.17 per cent and Bankura at 75.68 per cent in West Bengal. The eight constituencies are spread across five districts.

BJP candidate from West Champaran Dr Sanjay Jaiswal too was attacked with sticks by unidentified people in Bettiah. Jaiswal suffered some serious injuries.

The sixth phase of polling will decide the fate of former Chief Ministers Akhilesh Yadav, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Sheila Dikshit, Digvijay Singh, Union Agriculture Ministers Radha Mohan Singh, Harshvardhan, former Union Minister Ajay Maken, cricketer Gautam Gambhir, sufi singer Hans Raj Hans, former crick-

eter Kirti Azad, boxer Vijender Singh, Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Manoj Tiwari, Virender Singh and others.

The elections in this phase are seen as a big test for the BJP which had won 45 of these 59 seats in 2014, with the Trinamool Congress bagging 8, the Congress two and the Samajwadi Party and the LJP one seat each.

In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP had won 13 of the 14 constituencies in 2014, the only exception being Azamgarh, won then by SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav. Even though Delhi only sends seven MPs to the 545-seat Lok Sabha, it is considered a crucial indicator to who will form the Government at the Centre. It has been observed that since 1998, whichever party has got the higher number of seats in Delhi has also gone ahead to win the overall general election.

In 2014, all 7 seats were won by the BJP. However, the BJP had to face defeat in the bypolls in Phulpur and Gorakhpur constituencies last year. While, the anti-BJP alliance would like to retain its grip over both the seats, the saffron party is looking to wrest them from the Opposition.

Continued on Page 4

## Delhi polling sinks 5%, but 1st-timers, elders crowd booths



An elderly man, with the help of his grandson, walks to a polling station during the Lok Sabha elections in New Delhi on Sunday

SHEKHAR SINGH/CHANDAN PRAKASH/GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital witnessed a huge number of first-timers, elders differently-abled, and transgressors exercising their franchise in the Lok Sabha elections on Sunday.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former CM and Congress's North-East Delhi candidate Sheila Dikshit and Airtel managing director Sunil Bharti Mittal too cast their vote in Delhi.

Several students of Delhi Government schools voluntarily greeted voters at polling stations with rose and candies on the polling day with the city sizzling at 41 degrees Celsius.

Proving "age is just a number", several women in rural areas shun hookah to walk to polling booths in Delhi.

Continued on Page 4

### CAPSULE

**2 LeT TERRORISTS KILLED IN SHOPIAN ENCOUNTER**  
Srinagar: Two Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) terrorists were on Sunday killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu & Kashmir's Shopian district, police said.

**MAN HELD WITH SAFFRON WORTH ₹33 LAKH AT IGIA**  
New Delhi: A man has been arrested by the customs officials at IGIA in Delhi for allegedly trying to smuggle into the country 33 kg saffron. A detailed personal and baggage search of the passenger resulted in the recovery of 33 kg saffron worth ₹33 lakh, a statement issued on Sunday by the customs department said.

**CHEMICAL LEAK KILLS 3 WORKERS IN PALGHAR**  
Mumbai: Chemical leak at an industrial unit in Palghar district resulted in the death of three workers on Sunday.

**HOPEFUL OF WINNING ALL 7 DELHI SEATS: SHEILA**  
New Delhi: Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit on Sunday evening exuded confidence that the "love and affection" of the people will translate into votes for her party's candidates and claimed that the grand old party will win all the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national Capital. P3

## Don't shed crocodile tears on Alwar: PM to Maya

Modi asks agonised BSP chief to withdraw support to Raj Cong Govt; Maya retorts PM politicising Dalit's rape

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati were locked in a bitter war of words on Sunday as the PM tried to push the BSP chief in the corner for continuing to support the Rajasthan Congress Government despite gangrape of a Dalit woman in Alwar.

Addressing election meetings in Kushinagar and Deoria in eastern Uttar Pradesh, Modi said, "Please do not shed crocodile tears. If you are serious, why don't you withdraw support to the Congress Government in Rajasthan?"

Mayawati hit back at the PM accusing him of trying to politicise the gangrape case and also hinted that she could withdraw support to the Congress Government in Rajasthan if strict action is not taken against the perpetrators. Mayawati alleged that the PM remained silent on alleged atrocities committed against Dalits in BJP-governed States and suicide by a Dalit student in Central University Hyderabad while choosing to highlight only the Alwar incident.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses an election campaign rally for the Lok Sabha polls in Deoria district on Sunday

"Why does he not take the moral responsibility for the attacks on Dalits in BJP-governed States and tender his resignation," she asked. The BSP, contesting the Lok Sabha polls in alliance with the Samajwadi Party, has been at loggerheads with the BJP in UP.

The Alwar gangrape incident, however, has also led Mayawati to target the

Congress. "The Congress Government suppressed the matter of gangrape for their politics. They didn't let it come to fore till elections were over and even threatened the victim's family. Our party had to struggle given the very little action the Congress Government took in the case," said Mayawati.

The gruesome incident is



BSP chief Mayawati during an election campaign rally for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls at Nawanshahr on Sunday

about a Dalit woman — travelling with her husband — being waylaid by five youths who then took turns to rape her in Alwar earlier last week. The incident was reportedly also recorded by the accused men. While the Rajasthan Government has assured that the guilty will be caught and punished as per law, the blame game among the political parties is on.

While addressing election rally in Kushinagar on Sunday, the PM hit out at the Congress Government over the Alwar incident and also shredded Mayawati over her comments condemning it. Pointing out that Mayawati is supporting the Congress Government led by Ashok Gehlot, the PM accused her of shedding crocodile tears.

## Opp jeers at Modi for 'clouds helped jets evade Pak radars'

CPM moves EC, alleges that PM revealed 'military operational details' to influence voters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A massive controversy has erupted over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that clouds cover "helped" IAF planes evade Pakistani radars during the Balakot strikes, with some Opposition leaders terming the statement as "ridiculous and false".

The CPI(M) also moved the Election Commission alleging that Modi had revealed



"operational details of a sensitive military mission" in a television interview with the purpose to influence voters.

Rejecting the charge, senior BJP leader and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "PM Modi did not reveal anything (about the Balakot strike) he was not supposed to reveal."

In the TV interview on Saturday, Modi said he used his "raw wisdom" to dispel doubts of Defence experts who wanted the air strike to be deferred due to bad weather.

"The weather was not good on the day of air strike. There was a thought that crept in the minds of the experts that the day of strike should be

changed. However, I suggested that the clouds could actually help our planes escape the radars," Modi said while talking about the cross-border strike on terror camps in response to the Pulwama attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel.

The Prime Minister comment drew widespread ridicule and condemnation from various quarters, including a large number of memes on social media. In response to a tweet by the BJP on Modi's comment, the Congress tweeted a couplet, "Jumla hi fekta raha paanch saal ki sarkar mein, Socha tha cloudy hai mausam, nahi aunga radar mein. (He resorted to rhetoric during his five-year tenure hoping cloudy weather would keep him out of radar)."

Continued on Page 4

## Mumbai pulls IPL off in cliffhanger

PNS/AGENCIES ■ HYDERABAD

In a nail-biting finish in the IPL final on Sunday, Mumbai Indians emerged as the fourth time champions with one-run win over Chennai Super Kings. After winning the toss, Mumbai Indians elected to bat and scored 149, a below-par score, for eight against Chennai Super Kings in the IPL final.

Kieron Pollard top-scored for the Mumbai side with his unbeaten 41-run knock while Ojener Quinton de Kock scored 29. Lasith Malinga conceded seven runs in the final over to help Mumbai Indians lift the IPL trophy.

Chasing the target, Chennai had a fine start with Faf du Plessis charging from front but Mumbai Indians struck hard by removing Raina, Rayudu and Dhoni. Shane Watson was dropped thrice and that's where Mumbai

seemed to lose the plot but the batsman returned to pavilion after a runout. Chennai needed 2 runs in last ball of the match but Malinga's point-precision yorker dismissed Shardul Thakur and swung the match in Mumbai's favour.

Earlier Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the most successful wicket-keeper in the history of IPL by taking his dismissals tally to 132, surpassing his India teammate Dinesh Karthik. Dhoni, who took two catches in the IPL final against Mumbai Indians, has now taken 94 catches and 38 stumpings. Karthik has 131 dismissals to his credit while Robin Uthappa has 90 scalps behind the stumps.

Dhoni reached the milestone with a diving catch off Deepak Chahar to dismiss his opposite number Rohit Sharma.



Mumbai Indians' Lasith Malinga is carried by teammates as they celebrate their win in the VIVO IPL T20 cricket final match between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings in Hyderabad on Sunday



# Capital's Pink booths lure women voters

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR KIDS

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

The Election commission's initiative to encourage women participation in the general elections in Delhi, not only attracted the women voters in large numbers but also made them and their children especially toddlers happy. In first of its kind the 'Pink Polling Booth' exclusively manned by women staff with a crèche alike facility with toys and more than two women in attendance. More than two separate women staffers were deployed on 17 all women booth to play and take care of the children while the children's parents (both mother and father) were standing in the queue to cast their vote.

The entrance of the women polling station displayed a message in bold letters 'Naari Shakti' and was decorated with pink balloons in an arch style and the woman voters were welcomed with a flower by the polling staffs and volunteers. "It is very attracting and good to see that the polling staff is completely manned by female staffs. The facility of crèche with toys and teddy bears is a fantastic idea and it gives an immense enthusiasm and empowerment to the woman voters who can now aim to work and step outside the home," said a Aksa, who casted her vote at Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalaya no.1, Zeenat Mahal, Kamla Market. The 'Pink polling' booth has been initiated for the first time in the National Capital for the Lok Sabha Elections and about 17 polling staff most of



A woman voter inside a pink booth Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

them in North East, East parliament seats were set up where from presiding officers to ground staff, all were women. Apart from this, in this polls had large number of woman election cum returning officers (RO). Out of the seven parliament seats, four seats had woman RO.

Of the 17, two pink polling booths were set up at Matia Mahal, Kamla Market in Chandini Chowk Constituency, one in North East Delhi and the highest number of 10 all woman staffs were set up in East Delhi, one each in New Delhi, South Delhi, West and North West constituency.

However, at Jafrabad, very few women were seen at pink booths to exercise their franchise due to lack of awareness about the same. Many of the women said they have no idea about such booths and even were not told by anyone about it. Interestingly, only three to four women were in queue at the pink booth here to cast their votes. On the other hand a long queue of women was

# Voters disappointed after names go missing

CHANDAN PRAKASH/ GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Many voters in the national Capital came out disappointed after they found their names missing from voter list on Sunday. Some of the polling booth witnessed a chaos like situation as voters were running everywhere in search of officials of the Delhi Election Commission to lodge their plaint.

Tanvir Alam and three members of his family all resident of Jafrabad of north east constituency were among who could not cast their votes as their names were also missing from voter's list. "It feels very bad when you reach to cast your vote with your family but your name is missing in the list," he said, adding that he even sought help from officials there but they all were apathetic to even paying heed.

The 64 year old Hallena

(disabled), a resident of Matia Mahal in Chandni Chowk constituency kept floating around the polling station at Kamla Market for over half an hour. She left dejected as she could not vote as her name was missing from the electoral roll. When asked she said, "I have never experienced such a treatment. I have been voting in every election but could not do so this time".

Hallena was not the only one as there were many people like her who could not exercise their franchise in this Lok Sabha election. Those who could not cast their vote wore desolate looks. "This is ridiculous. I am the original residents of this area and have all the documents to prove my claim. My family is still living in the area and it is difficult to understand why my name is missing the list," said Kamla Devi, a 70 years old woman after she



Baljeet, a resident of Nehru Vihar

failed to cast her vote. Similar complaints were also reported in Nand Nagri, Timarpur and Nand Nagri areas. "I am a permanent resident here and have been voting for years. How can I be denied to exercise my franchise?" asked Baljeet, a resident of Nehru Vihar which comes under north east constituency. "I came to vote after taking lunch thinking that it will take a few minutes but people sitting out there at station did not find my name and asked me to

leave. I showed my voter identity card, Aadhar card and other proof to prove my claim but they said that my name should be in the list only after I could cast my votes," said Aman Arora, who works as an engineer in a private firm.

Rohit Kumar, 30, a resident of Timarpur who is preparing for civil services also rued that he could not vote. "I am feeling very disappointed after being denied to exercise my constitutional right to vote. I have been voting in every election whether it is assembly, Municipal Corporation's or parliamentary elections but suddenly my name has been cut from the list, how? he asked.

"The BLO of the area said that I was not found living at my residence. I have joined coaching center and spent 8 to 9 hours there," he said, adding that how the poll body can

cut names only because they did not find the person at home at the time of verification. They could have called to ascertain whether I am still resident or not, he added.

A booth level officer (BLO) at Nehru Vihar said that many of the voters here are not the permanent residents but students living for years. "They have become voters but keep changing locality. When we visit houses for verification, often they are found missing and owners of the buildings informed us they either have left or shifted to another locality. This is the primary reason that they did not find their name in voter list," she said.

There are 43 independent candidates. While 2,54,723 voters are in the age group of 18 and 19, there are 40,532 electorate with disability who would be provided pick up and drop facility.

# 5.5% EVMs replaced after 'malfunctioning'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A few complaints regarding the malfunctioning of electronic voting machines (EVMs) were reported at some polling booths across the Delhi as the national Capital voted in the sixth round of the General Election-2019 on Sunday.

Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ranbir Singh said 5.5 per cent EVMs were replaced in the morning, adding that problems in EVMs were reported from Chandni Chowk and West Delhi.

"Mock polls happened in the morning and where machines were found defective they were replaced. 5.5 per cent EVMs were replaced during morning hours and that might have caused delay in start of polling," Singh said.

According to a police official, they received information about an EVM not working at Begumpur in Rohini but the issue was addressed.

Aam Aadmi Party's Malviya Nagar MLA Somnath Bharti alleged that EVMs at booths 116,117 and 122 were not functioning.

"EVM in booth 132, Hauzrani is showing 50 votes

without anyone casting any vote in the machine n EVMs at booths 116,117, 122 in Malviya nagar not functioning," Bharti tweeted.

Mudit Agarwal, son of Congress's Chandni Chowk candidate JP Aggarwal, alleged EVMs malfunctioned at some booths in Matia Mahal and Ballimaran assembly segments.

AAP's Tilak Nagar MLA Jarnail Singh alleged that EVMs at polling booth number 27 were not working in the morning.

"At Prithvi Park polling booth in Tilak Nagar assembly segment, EVMs had not been working since 7 am at polling booth 27. It is the same area where AAP's vote bank is considered," Singh said.

He said the Election Commission claimed that faulty EVMs are changed within ten minutes, but at ground, such claims are telling a different story. A senior police official, posted at Nirman Bhawan polling booth, said there was a complaint about EVM malfunctioning which was replaced with another one.

There was connection error between control unit and ballot unit at Nirman Bhawan.

# 32 polling stations with balloons to mark democracy grand success

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to facilitate the electors and the polling staff to make the festival of democracy a grand success, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) set up 32 model polling stations, decorating it with balloons, set of furniture and other civic amenities.

The initiative was taken as per the instructions issued by the Chief Election Officer, Delhi and subsequent orders issued by the SDMC Commissioner Dr Puneet Kumar Goel, a senior SDMC official said. Goel ordered the officers and staff concerned to leave no stone unturned in providing all required facilities and temporary infrastructure to facilitate the electors and the polling staff to make the festival of democracy a grand success, he said.

The official said that staffs deployed helped aged and physically challenged persons to cast their votes. "The civic body had arranged 32 nine seated sofa sets, 3200 chairs and 128 tables provided in equal number at the these stations.

The civic body also com-



missioned total 5133 polling stations in all its four zones. Out of these, 1167 such stations were set up in South Zone, 1258 in Central Zone, 1241 in Najafgarh and 1467 in West Zone.

Apart from this adequate availability of the drinking water, shamianas, shades to give protection from the heat, voter assistance booths, ramps, medical kits, electricity, prop-

er signage, toilets, crèches and queue management teams did their best in helping the voters, the official added. The civic officers also visited a number of booths to resolve the glitches if any. The Commissioner has commended the efforts of the Additional Commissioner (Election) Ramesh Verma, Zonal deputy Commissioners and other officers to make it successful.

# Transgenders flaunt inked fingers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time in general elections, the transgender voters in the national Capital flaunted their inked fingers and expressed hope for a Government which ensures them a better future. This was the first time that transgenders were casting their votes under the category after Supreme Court had declared them as the 'third gender' in 2014. Earlier they had to cast their votes as male or female.

According to Delhi Chief Electoral Officer, a total of 660 transgenders were eligible to cast their vote besides 78,49,947 males and 64,21,283 female voters. Standing in queue at Matia Mahal polling booth, Saniya Bai, a transgender said that it's for the first time she had voted on her real identity. "I want a new Government which thinks about us and also consider us equally on their agenda," said Saniya.

While 19 year-old Reshma who voted at a polling booth in Burari area said that she wants



A polling officer puts indelible ink mark on the finger of a voter

a government that will ensure a special toilet facility for transgender people not only in Delhi but all over the Country. "It is a progressive move that we have been identified as a third gender. While lot needs to be done for us, to begin with special toilets are a must for us," she said.

"We have been neglected repeatedly by consecutive Governments for quite a long time. Our condition in the society is pathetic. We are still an outcast. People ridicule us and we are not even acknowledged. We have managed to secure this right after a long battle and will vote for the party which will work for our rights and for improving our condition," said Kamini, who lives in Janakpuri.

# PCR receives 300 poll-related complaints

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On the polling day in National Capital, more than 300 calls regarding poll-related complaints have been received by the Delhi Police Control Room (PCR). Most of the calls were regarding the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) glitches and minor quarrel among political party workers.

According to a senior police official, the nature of calls primarily ranged from pulling more tables, canvassing inside restricted area, quarrel among party workers and EVM glitches, etc.

"However, no serious complaint was reported throughout the day," said the senior police official.

"In total, 337 PCR calls were received till 6 pm regarding election-related complaints and they were promptly attended to," said a police official.

The Delhi Police had made elaborate security arrangements for the smooth conduct of general elections held in the national Capital.

# Children relish first hand polling process

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Several children on Sunday while shielding their parents hands, went inside the polling booth across the national Capital to share the joy and satisfy their curiosity about the electoral process. The children were also seen excited to pose in photo kiosks set up at some booths.

A few model polling stations also had a separate zone to entertain children as their parents went inside to cast their vote. Some of the parents were also seen explaining their wards about the electoral process in polling booths.

"You should not only take your child with you when you vote, but you should also talk to him or her about what's happening and why they should be excited to take part in the election process. Today they are excited, tomorrow we have to make them an engaged citizen. We have to begin before they are old enough to cast their own ballot," said Anjali Kataria, who voted in polling booth located at August Kranti Marg in

**'My granddaughter wanted to see the polling station as for last month she had been seeing it in news and advertisements on TV. We brought her with us and now she is happy and in excitement she has taken a lot of selfies too'**

South Delhi. Shubana (10) year-old who had come to Safdarjang Enclave polling booth with her grandparents wanted to see polling stations which she had seen on television. "My granddaughter wanted to see



Voters shows finger marked with indelible ink after casting vote Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

the polling station as for last month she had been seeing it in news and advertisements on TV. We brought her with us and now she is happy and in excitement she has taken a lot of selfies too," said Shubana's grandfather, Amar Nath.

Three-year-old Dhriti was excited to see an EVM machine and took the

ink mark on her mother's fingers as a "design". "She does not understand what an EVM machine is and she called the voting mark on my finger a design. But I have brought her with me and I will now answer her queries and explain the process," Dhriti's father Chaitanya Arya said.

# Diviyangs flock polling stations to cast vote

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Sensing their duty towards the nation, several differently-abled voters reached polling stations across the national Capital to cast their votes.

Polling staff, police personnel and volunteers deployed at polling stations offered help to differently-abled persons and ensured they cast their votes with least discomfort.

"Physical disability cannot be a barrier in ones' duty towards the nation as each vote counts.

"It is our duty towards the society to participate in the Government making process," said Rinku (26), who had come to vote with his neighbor at Vasant Kunj.

"If I can go to watch movie, buy clothes on a wheel chair in shopping malls and market why cannot I go to the most important day for nation to cast my vote," said Ravinder at



A differently-abled voter came to vote, along with his sister Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Chandni Chowk. "Last time due to my operation I had missed election but this time I had geared up myself to vote. With first light in the morning my first thought was to get ready and go to vote," said Harminder, a resident of Karol Bagh.

"There has been a lot of development in Country which has also provided differently-abled persons a lot of facility in hospitals, schools, Government offices and others. Seeing this it is my responsibility to vote so that Government can bring more facilities for people like us," he added.

Badri, 30, who has paralysis in his legs, was accompanied by a neighbour who offered him a ride on his motorcycle to a polling station in Laxmi Nagar of the East Delhi constituency. He claimed that his pension from

the municipal corporation was pending for more than one month and lashed out at political parties for being "insensitive" towards the needs of the differently-abled people.

"Still I have come to vote because it's my duty and it is the only way you can make a change," Badri said.

Three visually-challenged youths - Kuldeep Singh, Adesh Kumar and Manoj Kumar Thakur - cast their votes at Kalkaji Extension polling station. "It is our duty towards the society to participate in the Government making process," Singh said. "Physical disability cannot be a barrier in ones' duty towards the nation as each vote counts," he said.

The three friends, who study at a special school for visually-challenged persons, appreciated the arrangements at the polling station and volunteers who helped them in casting their votes.

# Govt schools students shower flower petals on voters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Students from Delhi Government schools who had volunteered to help disabled and elderly voters to cast their ballot on Sunday greeted old aged people, first time voters and children with flowers and candies with motive to make voting a happy experience for one and all.

Sameeksha, a class 10th student who was at Chattarpur polling booth said that though she cannot vote right now but she can contribute by helping people especially old aged and differently

abled person by helping them at polling station.

"This is something which makes me and other happy too. By volunteering in the election process by helping people I can bring smile on people face. Such things and activities during electoral process boost up moral of voters to come and vote," she said.

"I am too excited about this. I got to see Rahul Gandhi who had come to vote here. We cannot go inside where votes are being cast but we can be around the polling booth. We are greeting people with flowers

and even providing water to elderly people.

"If somebody needs any help, we are here," said Soumya, a class eight student at Greater Kailash.

Similar excitement was shared by Sarthak Chaudhary, another class 8 student, at a polling booth in Gujranwala town.

"If anybody wants to check their names in the voter list before getting inside, I have been helping them out. Fulfilling any requests for wheelchair and facilitating early entry of pregnant women are part of my duties," he said.



# Grievances on voters' mind on voting day

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

From affluent posh colonies, traders' villas to low line clusters, voters of the New Delhi constituency cast their votes keeping grievances not the contender in their mind. The polling day learnt traders' choice for Member of Parliament (MP) and multiplicity of issues pertaining to sealing, education, pathetic conditions of roads in villages, air pollution, Non — Functional Upgradation (NFU), anomalies in pay commission and zeal to send a strong face in the Parliament.

It was more like a fight between traders. For instance — traders in Lajpat Nagar cast their votes to counter small traders in Amar Colony which is nearby.

In Lajpat Nagar-I, II and III, voters said, "Lekhi Kabhi Nahin Dekhi, Lekin Modi Dekha, said a business man. "On the name of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), we know Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and our unconditional support will go to PM Modi, the traders who are criticising Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)'s actions are the culprit and why they constructed illegal shops," asked Usha Narang, a resident of Lajpat Nagar I.

Interestingly, it was the first time when traders openly supported parties and spoke up about their choices.

Residents of Amar Colony made their support to the Congress known. They are the people who bore the maximum brunt of ongoing sealing drive on the orders of the Supreme Court empowered committee.

However, unlike, other traders in Lajpat Nagar, the traders of Amar Colony said, "Rahul nahin, Makaan hi Dekha." Lauding the work done by former Union Minister Ajay Maken, who is also Lok Sabha candidate for the constituency against BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi, JMK Ratna at polling booth 62 said, "Only Congress can fight for the right of the traders."

Ratan, who came to cast his vote with family said, "We are facing tough time, no hike in salaries, shops have been sealed, moreover fees have been hiked in private schools, what to earn and save? It is the question of our survival. We have hopes from Makaan only," said Ratan.

However, there were areas where voters preference was in sharp contrast to the people in Amar Colony. In many areas voters cast their votes keeping national interest in their mind. Voters residing in South Extension, East of Kaislah, Defence Colony, Greater Kailash shared their opinion without hinting the choice of

candidate.

Sushant K Singh, a government employee, said that ongoing general election will clear political understanding of masses. "Ye janta hai or sab jantai hai, said Singh and mentioned issues of evolution of slums in posh colonies."

Remarkably, when air pollution in Delhi is burning issue in every winter, voters said they need government who can frame policies to address climate issues. "It is sad, our coming generations will take their first breath in air purifier installed cabin, what we are giving to our children when we are failed to save their very first fundamental right - the right to breath," said Aditya Singh.

"It is time to take a call because politicians are not serious on air pollution issue," said Singh while coming back from polling booth in Defence colony.

"It should be known to all how Great Britain has declared 'Climate Change emergency' and we are fighting with each other on petty political issues, where is fresh air?" Singh questioned.

Amid hue and cry, there were voters who participated in the dance of democracy with happy spirit. "We are happy to be the part of democratic practice. Voting is our right. We claim our grievances if only we vote," said Sheela Kapur who

came to cast her vote along with husband Vijay Kapur in South Extension part - I

When questioned about grievances - the couple smile and replied: No grievances. "Be it water, electricity, employment or law and order. In our area, we do not face any hardships."

On the contrary, a village - Kotla Mubarkpur, in the vicinity of South Extension part - II, faced congestion, water logging, shortage in water and

power supply. Sarita, a Maharashtra resident and residing in Kotla Mubarkpur said, "As a voter, our support is unconditional for PM Modi, however, no political leader ever visited in our area. During monsoon, the condition of streets are pitiable and we are forced to think whether we should allow or children to go to school or not," said Sarita who is housewife.

Surprisingly, on the name



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament and Lok Sabha candidate for New Delhi Meenakshi Lekhi after casting her vote  
Pioneer photo



Lt Gen D Anbu, Vice Chief of Army Staff, votes in Delhi Cantt, New Delhi Parliamentary constituency  
Pioneer photo

on much trumpeted "Swachhta Mission"

Meherchand Market, near Lodhi Market were vocal in their support to a government that can work on cleanliness and remove cows squatting on the roads.

Swati, a private employee, said, "Any government be it state or central, should have a policy framework for cows hovering on roads," "Cleanliness and chain snatching are other problem here," said the voter near IV avenue road.

For voters in Delhi Cantonment, Moti Bagh and R K Puram, Non Functional Upgradation (NFU) is a burning issue which was never highlighted by any political identity for Defence officers.

Government employees who came to vote in Cantt area said, "Non acceptance of NFU for armed forces officers by government has not only caused them financial disadvantage vis-a-vis Group A civil services officers, but has also disturbed the equivalence with them. Ironically, NFU was meant to compensate for stagnation, if that be so, no Group A civil service has as much stagnation as defence services. Now even Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) has got it. This leaves only defence officers in that bracket of services who have been denied NFU," a serving officer said.

## Elated first-timers throng booths

SHEKHAR SINGH /CHANDAN PRAKASH/ GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Visibly enthusiastic and filled with excitement "first time voters" exercised their franchise on Sunday at different polling booths across national Capital.

For youngsters who voted on Sunday problems are many and their demands from the next Government include more institutes, jobs, women safety, and freedom to speak and address the issues of environment, religious intolerance and sanitation.

Some youngsters said they were not moved by the idea of nationalism while other appreciated the Government's "efforts against terrorism".

Ahaya Sharma (19), a resident of Vasant Kunj said my first vote has been casted with hope that new Government will focus on jobs and environment issues in Delhi.

However, Esha Singh (21), who lives in Dwarka Sector-6 voted for improvement in women safety and religious intolerance. "I hope the candidate who will win and represent our constituency will focus on women safety. I also



First time voters show their ink-marked fingers after casting votes at a polling station  
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

hope he would also raise the voice against religious intolerance in Country which is on hike," said Esha. "The residents of Chattarpur are

facing issues related to sanitation. I have voted for the first time and I hope this issue will be resolved by the winner of South Delhi constituency Parliament seat. If sanitation issue is resolved I will be happy that my vote has been in favour of development," said Aditya, a resident of Chattarpur Enclave phase-2.

"We have voted looking at the respect India is getting in foreign countries. Modi has travelled to several countries and he has brought investment, which will start yielding results in coming days," said Ankur, a resident of Mukherjee Nagar.

"Where in the world do you see a Prime Minister addressing the students before the board examinations? Modi is the one. No politician can love the youth as much as he does. He takes out time from his busy schedule to talk to students, to meet them so that he can address their issues," said Ananya (19), who voted for the first time at Greater Kailash.

"We youth are the future generation of this country, if the government will provide good schemes, scholarships and jobs, the youths of this country will

make the country number one. Be it Modi or Rahul, the promises made y them in the public rally meeting should also be proved in reality, on papers," said Aishwarya, 21 year old.

Another voter Ganshyam Sharma in Chandini Chowk constituency said that, "The youth will not get jobs till the Nation will be ruled by the Narendra Modi's party.

the Aam Aadmi Party has at least fulfill its party but this BJP has done nothing for the people."

Mansi Gupta, a resident of Nand Nagri after casting her vote said that "I have studied lots about the democratic system of our country and feeling very ecstatic after voting for the first time. I have voted in anticipation that the new government will create an ample job opportunity. Besides handling issue like poverty, terrorism and women security," she said.

"I was excited to vote and finally it is done. There are many issues that need to be addressed and only a strong government can tackle all these like corruption, terrorism, unemployment among others," said Vivek Tyagi, a resident of Burari.

## Virat among early voters in G'gram which sees 67% turnout

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Gurugram constituency on Sunday witnessed 67.38 per cent voting till 10 pm in the sixth phase of the national election.

The highest voter turnout was recorded in Pataudi Vidhan Sabha constituency with 72% and lowest in Punahana constituency with 63.37%.

Polling was initially slow in Gurugram but started to pick pace as the day progressed. No untoward incident was reported in the Gurugram constituency across the day.

However, according to the election officer two election-related first information reports (FIRs) were registered in Nuh in the Gurugram constituency. Gurugram is one of the constituencies in 10-seat Haryana. Voting was held between 7 am across nine Vidhan Sabha constituencies in three districts -- Gurugram (4), Rewari (2) and Nuh (3).

There has been 21.50 lakh registered voters in four Vidhan Sabha constituencies include Gurugram, Badshahpur, Sohna and Pataudi which make up Gurugram. Of 1,122 booths, 69 are 'sensitive' and 89 'highly sensitive' ones.

Gurugram District Election Officer and Deputy

Commissioner (DC) Amit Khatri visited several polling stations across the day to observe the situations. Mohamad Akil police Commissioner, Gurugram along with other police officers had also visited several polling stations thought-out the day.

"The elections in the district held without any violence. There were some minor problems reported with few EVM machines the same was replaced immediately so that the voters could not face any problem in casting vote. The Gurugram constituency has three strong rooms in Gurugram, Rewari and Nuh districts where the EVM machines will be stored. The EVMs will be kept under CCTV surveillance and three layers of security as per the election commission mandate," Gurugram District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Amit Khatri said.

Apart from this, Indian cricket team skipper Virat Kohli and his family members cast their vote on Sunday morning appealed to voters to exercise their franchise. He was first among early voters.

Before he left, a polling booth volunteer asked him if he could stand behind a cutout installed at the booth for a voter awareness programme for a

photo, which he agreed. The cricketer then showed his inked finger as fans took his photos and selfies with him.

The contest in Gurugram is mainly between sitting BJP MP Rao Inderjit Singh and Captain Ajay Singh Yadav of the Congress.

Also in the fray is Mehmood Khan of the Jannayak Janata Party-Aam Aadmi Party alliance and Virender Rana of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD).

Lok Sabha elections in 2019, Gurugram constituency has 21, 50 thousand registered electors-11,35,004 of the male and 10,04, 749 female and 5,148 physically challenged.

Around 4,000 police personnel and more than 1,300 home guards had been deployed across Gurugram to ensure free and fair elections, police said. At the time of the previous Lok Sabha elections in 2014, Gurugram had seen a 71.58% voter turnout in the Lok Sabha polls.

In 2014, Rao Inderjit Singh defeated Zakir Hussain of the INLD by a huge margin of 2,74,722 votes. The Union Minister of State had then promised to provide rail connection and water canal to Haryana's most backward district, Nuh. But none of the promises got fulfilled, says the Opposition.

## AAP will fall back at 3rd place in contest: Tiwari

STAFF REPROTER ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming that the BJP would emerge victorious in all the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, the party's city unit President Manoj Tiwari Sunday evening claimed that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will trail at the third place in the contest.

The Congress will do only slightly better than the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi, said Tiwari who is contesting the polls from North East Delhi parliamentary seat.

"The feedback of party leaders and workers as well as people shows the results of polls will be encouraging for the BJP. We will win all the seven seats in Delhi with huge margins while the AAP will trail at third place and the Congress doing slightly better



BJP candidate North East Delhi Manoj Tiwari after casting votes Pioneer photo

than it," Tiwari claimed. Citing allegations of bogus voting by the AAP's South Delhi candidate Raghav Chadha, the Delhi BJP chief said, "He is levelling the bogus voting charge as he is scared of defeat."

He said people had expectations from Narendra Modi in 2014 which now has changed into their strong faith in him.

Tiwari, who cast his vote in Yamuna Vihar in North East

Delhi, said he felt ecstatic after exercising his franchise after a gap of some years and was nervous while pressing the button on EVM, fearing he would goof up and end up voting for a rival. Tiwari alleged a BJP worker was slapped by an AAP MLA in Mayur Vihar Phase III and said it reflected the "decline" in political ethics on the part of the ruling party in Delhi.

Attacking Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, he said that the Nakaampanthi has so much ruined Delhi that the voters going to push AAP to the third number.

"The political graph of these Bahanapanthis is going down because they have been trying to find new excuses for not working in the interest of the people," Tiwari said.

## Love, affection will translate into votes: Sheila Dikshit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit on Sunday expressed confidence that the party will win all the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national capital.

She said that "love and affection" of the people will translate into votes for her party's candidates. Dikshit, who is contesting the polls from North East Delhi Lok Sabha seat, cast her vote in the morning at DAV school in East Nizamuddin which falls under East Delhi constituency.

Later, she toured her own constituency and met party workers in Ghonda, Seemapuri, Gokalpur, Timarpur, Barabpur, Seelampur and Karwal Nagar. "We are hopeful that Delhiites' love and affection will turn into votes for the Congress candidates," Dikshit said.



Congress candidate North East Delhi Sheila Dikshit after casting vote  
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

She claimed that the Congress will sweep all the Lok Sabha seats in Delhi and her party will form government at the centre. The former three-time Delhi chief minister also thanked the Election Commission, voters and the police for "peaceful" polling in the city.

## Voting starts late at a few stations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A few residents in national Capital alleged that voting which was scheduled to start at 7 am, began late at some booths in the national Capital on Sunday. Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain said voting started 50 minutes late at three polling booths.

"Voting started at 7.50 am at 3 booths of Railway Jhuggi, Shakurbasti," he tweeted. However, there was no immediate response from the Chief Electoral Office.

Shashi Devi, a 58-year-old resident of Mayur Vihar I, said that she and her son were made to wait for 20 minutes by officials at a polling



Voters stand in queue as they display their voter identity cards at a polling station  
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

booth. "My son and I came to cast our votes to avoid the heat, but after reaching the polling booth at 7 am, we were asked to wait for 20 minutes as officials were still in the process of starting polling," Devi said.

Another voter, Rahul Sharma, had to wait for half an hour outside the polling booth of his area to cast his vote.

Among the early voters in the national Capital were former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, Congress's New Delhi candidate Ajay Maken, Union minister Harsh Vardhan, BJP's East Delhi candidate Gautam Gambhir, and BJP national general secretary (organisation) Ram Lal.

## Kejriwal comes with family members to cast vote

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and national convener of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Arvind Kejriwal cast his vote at a polling booth in Civil Lines on Sunday. He came, along with his family members, to cast vote. Kejriwal also appealed to people on Sunday morning to vote for those who have done work and not for those spreading "hatred" and "venom" as polling in seven Lok Sabha constituencies got underway.

The chief minister asked people not to vote for those who are stopping the works of Delhi. "Good morning Delhi. Please vote. Vote for those



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal casting votes  
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

who have done your works. Don't vote for those who are spreading hatred and venom and also stopping Delhi's works. Your vote can change the country," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

## Youngsters at a loss about issues, contestants

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Even in this age of social media, youngsters who became eligible to vote in this election appeared to be ignorant as they were not aware about the names of the candidates and the issues before the people. At the same time, the elder voters, most of them un-educated were well versed with the general knowledge and correctly pronounced the names of sitting Member of Parliament (MPs), leaders and did not even miss the newly born parties.

Riya and Kirti, standing on the queue in the polling station at Wazirpur in Chandini Chowk constituency stood blank staring each other when asked about the name of sitting Member of Parliament (MP) of the constituency and the candidates in fray.

When asked about the issues in the national capital, Anju Mehta, a resident of Model Town who recently graduated from a private university said that issues does not matter as every party are on the same page," she said, adding that she voted anticipating a strong government at centre that can address the issues



Young voters at a polling booth in North Delhi  
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

effectively. However, she was not even aware about the main political parties and their candidates who are contesting election from her constituency.

Similarly, Prakash Bansal (23), who runs a grocery shop at Mukherjee Nagar, said that he is simply following the pattern on which the family has been voting. "I do not care about candidates as they never turned back after winning election to solve the issues," he said.

Another youth said I voted for Congress candidate Yogesh Verma. Interestingly, there was no candidate with such name from Chandini Chowk con-

stituency. However, JP Agarwal from congress, Harshvardhan from BJP and Pankaj Gupta from AAP is in fray for the Chandini Chowk seat.

Another voter Rajnishi Asiwali from Shakur Basti, said, "I do not know what is the issue, my mother asked me to vote and having a Voter Identity is very useful at various places."

Further, many people just voted in the name of congress, BJP and AAP. "We do not know who is contesting from here but we know that either people will vote for Rahul ji or Modi ji," said Guddi.





A polling officer puts indelible ink mark on the index finger of a divyang voter who is carried by a man in Prayagraj on Sunday

AP

## 63% turnout in Ph-6; violence scars Bengal

From Page 1

In Madhya Pradesh, Rajgarh recorded the highest polling at 68.15 per cent, followed by Vidisha 65.31 per cent, Guna 64.80 per cent, Bhopal 60.95 per cent, Sagar 60.42 per cent, Gwalior 56.03 per cent, Morena 54.36 per cent and Bhind 50.82 per cent. In Bhopal, Congress veteran Digvijay Singh is locked in a battle with BJP candidate and 2008 Malegaon blast accused Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur. Digvijay Singh could not cast his vote as he is a registered voter of his hometown Raghogarh in Rajgarh Lok Sabha seat. Thakur exercised her franchise in the morning at a polling booth in Rivera Town area in the State capital. Congress general secretary Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is seeking reelection from Guna seat, cast his vote at a booth early in the morning in Gwalior.

Sporadic violence, scuffles and allegations of vote rigging marked the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh in which polling was held on 14 seats. The highest turnout was in Ambedkar Nagar where 55.24 per cent polling was recorded. The lowest turnout of 46 per cent was in Phulpur. In Azamgarh, which is a SP stronghold, the contest is between Akhilesh Yadav and BJP's Dinesh Lal Yadav "Nirahua". In Jaunpur, violence was reported when a man was seen wiping his shoes with a BJP flag. BJP supporters beat up the man which led to clashes, and the police had to resort to lathicharge to disperse the mob. Polling was not affected during the incident. In Sultanpur, tension prevailed throughout the day after BJP candidate Maneka Gandhi accused her BSP rival Sonu Singh of 'terrorising' voters. Sonu Singh, who came face to face with Maneka Gandhi at one point, said that he was being unnecessarily targeted by the ruling BJP.

In Bhadohi, BJP MLA Dinanath Bhaskar allegedly beat up a presiding

official in the Aurai Assembly segment after accusing the officer of deliberately slowing down the polling process.

Jharkhand recorded 65.17 per cent polling for four Lok Sabha constituencies on Sunday. As per EC data, Giridih recorded 65.93 per cent voter turnout, Dhanbad 61.90 per cent, Jamshepur 66.44 per cent and Singhbhum or Chaibasa 67.79 per cent.

A voter turnout of 65 per cent was recorded in 10 Lok Sabha seats of Haryana with Kurukshetra and Hisar constituencies witnessing brisk polling. As per the constituency-wise break up, Kurukshetra from where Haryana Minister Nayab Singh Saini is pitted against Congress's Nirmal Singh

and INLD's Arjun Chautala, recorded poll percentage of 67.51 while Hisar recorded poll percentage of 68 per cent. Sirsa, Karnal, Bhiwani-Mahendergarh, Sonapat, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Ambala and Faridabad registered polling percentage of 72, 56, 69, 68, 62, 66 and 58 per cent respectively, as per poll officials.

Indian Cricket team captain Virat Kohli was among early voters who exercised his franchise at a polling booth in Gurgaon. After exercising his franchise, he posted a picture of his inked finger on his Twitter handle.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar was among the early voters in Karnal while former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda of Congress, fighting from Sonapat, cast his vote in Kilo in Rohtak district. The State Congress chief Ashok Tanwar exercised his franchise in Sirsa. JJP candidate and Hisar sitting MP Dushyant Chautala also cast his vote in Sirsa. JJP leader Digvijay Chautala, candidate from Sonapat, alleged that at booths number 88, 89 and 90 in Jind district, his party symbol (a pair of slippers) was "not clearly visible on EVM machines".

IAN S

## Curfew extended till 7 am of May 14 in Assam's Hailakandi

**Hailakandi (Assam):** The indefinite curfew in Assam's Hailakandi has been further extended to 7 am of May 14 in view of the law and order situation in the district, officials said on Sunday. The curfew was to be in force till 7 am on Monday, as per earlier orders of the State Government.

District Magistrate Keerthi Jalli had ordered relaxation in curfew in the entire district from 12 noon to 3 pm, as no untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the last 24 hours.

"The overall law and order situation will be reviewed and a decision will be taken whether to lift the curfew after 7 am tomorrow (Monday)," another senior official said.

During the three-hour relaxation of the curfew, most shops and business establishments remained closed and only private vehicles were seen on the roads.

Internet services, too, remained suspended in Hailakandi, Karimganj and Cachar districts of the Barak Valley since Friday night.

"The services will resume only after assessing the situation on Monday," said an official.

Following the clashes on Friday, curfew was imposed initially in Hailakandi town from 1 pm and later extended to the entire district from 6 pm, as the authorities apprehended breach of peace and tranquility.

One person had died in police firing and at least 15 people were injured, while more than 15 vehicles were damaged and 12 shops vandalised and set on fire in some parts of the town.

The district administration has begun assessing the damages to shops and properties.

Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said due compensation will be given by the state government after assessment of the extent of damage.

To bring back normalcy and instill confidence among the people, the Rapid Action Force (RAF) has been deployed in Hailakandi town and elsewhere.

The Army and other paramilitary forces were also deployed in the district.

The Assam Government has instituted a one-man inquiry panel headed by Additional Chief Secretary Rajiv Kumar Bora to conduct a probe into the incident.

Hailakandi Superintendent of Police Mohneesh Mishra said the first and foremost priority of the administration is to restore normalcy, and then identify the miscreants behind the violence.

Jalli claimed that the incident is the "handiwork of some miscreants" and not a communal flare up as "there exists unity and amity among the communities" in the district.

Trouble started when a group of people decided to hold the Friday noon prayers on the road, located at Kali Bari point of the town, in protest against some motorcycles being damaged by people belonging to another community. Police had to disperse the protesters initially by resorting to lathicharge followed by firing in the air.

PTI

## Migrant labourers stay back in Delhi to 'vote for change'

**New Delhi:** Summer is the time migrant labourers go back home for a break, but this time, some of them stayed back here to "vote for change" in the Lok Sabha elections on Sunday.

"Every year we go back to our respective hometowns/villages for a break in April-May. This time we decided to stay back because of the elections. We don't have voter cards in our respective homes but in Delhi. If we had gone back, we would have missed the chance of casting our vote," said 43-year-old Rajesh.

Asked why they feel voting is important, 52-year-old Pappu said they have suffered enough in the past few years and "if I had gone home without voting, I would also have lost my right to complain about the government and lack of opportunities for people like us".

While Pappu, who lives in Ghonda, was working at a garment shop in Chandni Chowk which was sealed last year, Rajesh, living in Karawal Nagar, was working in a small firm which stopped production after the 2016 demonetisation.

"Things were good before that (2016). We were earning well. My family was staying with me in Delhi. After I lost the job, I was forced to ask them to shift back to Barabanki (in Uttar Pradesh). Now I am staying here with other men. There is no fixed job now. I am still looking for a stable job," Rajesh said.

Pappu said he was working in the shop since 2002.

"Now suddenly they say it is illegal. It was there even

before I was working in it. I was there since 2002, how can suddenly they say that it is illegal. If it was, why they (authorities) were sleeping till now."

"Initially, we were told that we will be relocated. That is also not happening. With the kind of money we earn, we cannot afford to sit at home for more than a week. Now it has been months. It is not easy to find a job that is respectable. Now I am pulling a rickshaw here. I have a family of six in Bihar. They all are surviving on the money I send," he said.

Another labourer in Seelampur area said the lack of jobs in the national capital is surely a sign of danger.

"I came here (Delhi) in the early 1990s. It is not that there were always good options for people like us to work even then, but the good part was that there were options. At least you can go back to your home with some money in hand."

"I am not going home this summer as I don't have any money. My family will expect me to bring things. I don't want to go home with an empty pocket."

"Since the past two-three years, it has been almost impossible to survive here. Most of the people have returned home. I don't have any land and so can not even think of farming," said 49-year-old Boomi Ram from Bihar.

Mohan, who lives here with two of his family members, said that the lack of jobs is increasing exploitation.

"Earlier, it was easy to find

jobs as there were options. Now, at times, we keep searching for a job for months and cannot find one. This has also increased exploitation. The jobs where we were paid Rs 400 or 500 per day, now we were offered Rs 200 or 300. They say there are others who are ready to work even on lesser money. This is pure exploitation," said the 29-year-old, who works as a carpenter.

Mohan and his relatives said that they will vote for a change this time. Asked what do they expect from a new government, they said they want some decent job options at least.

"We want work. We can earn for us and our family. Give us work. People come to Delhi or any other big city for jobs. There are no jobs in our hometown. If there were no jobs even in big cities, where will we go," they said.

For 35-year-old Santosh, hailing from Rajasthan, the lack of better-earning options is also pushing the next generation into poverty.

"My father did not have money for my education. I wanted to provide education to my children. But without a stable job, I don't see that happening. Sending my children to a decent private school is a dream. I can see that without education, some 20 years later, there will be more Santoshes. I wish that the government should see that too," he lamented.

All the seven constituencies in Delhi went to polls on Sunday. Votes will be counted on May 23.

PTI

## Daughters of Uri martyr bring smile to mother's face with exam feats

IAN S ■ PATNA

Kiran Devi had lost all hopes about her future nearly three years back when her soldier husband Naik Sunil Kumar Vidyarthi was killed in a dastardly terror attack on an Army camp in Kashmir's Uri. Now her hopes have been rekindled by her three daughters.

Aarti Kumari, Anshu Kumari and Anshika Kumari have scored excellent marks in their Class 10, 8 and 4 exams this year, paying a real tribute to their slain father.

Aarti, 16, secured 92.4 per cent marks in Class 10 exams. She was a student of DAV School in Gaya. Anshu, 14, got 93 per cent in Class 8 and 93 per cent in Class 10, secured 99 per cent in her Class 4 exams.

"I am proud of my daughters who are doing really well in education, which is more than I had expected. They have paid the real tribute to their martyr father," said the 35-year-old wife of Vidyarthi who was killed in the terror attack

in Jammu & Kashmir in 2016. "They will fulfil his dream to become educated human beings who will make a difference in their own and others' lives," she added.

The slain soldier was a resident of Baknauri village in Gaya. Naik Vidyarthi had joined the Army in 1998. He was one of three soldiers from Bihar who were killed in Uri.

Kiran Devi also has son. She has been looking after them single-handedly since her husband was killed. She admits life has not been smooth or easy for her in the absence of Vidyarthi. "I hold my head high, thanks to my daughters. I was depressed after I lost my husband."

"I had no hope left but my daughters have brought a new ray of inspiration into my life. They are hardworking and determined. They want to do well, make their father proud — bring alive his dreams — the once he had about them," Kiran Devi told IANS over telephone from the government quarters provided to her in the military

camp at the outskirts of Gaya town, about 100 km from Patna.

She did not forget to admit that all this was possible due to the help by Sarvesh Tiwari, a social activist who runs an organisation in Delhi.

Tiwari, originally hailing from a village in East Champaran district, was moved by the killing of soldiers in the Uri attack and had announced to fund the education of Vidyarthi's three daughters.

"Tiwariji came forward at a time to support help and help me educate my daughters, when I felt all was lost. He was God send. A helping hand for us. If today my daughters have made me and others proud, all credit goes to Tiwariji," said the widow.

Tiwari has handed over a cheque of Rs 20 lakh to her for the children's education.

"Annually we get ₹2 lakh from it to spend on educational purpose, including school fees and home tuition," she explained.

## Opp jeers...

From Page 1

A number of Congress leader also hit out at Modi over his remarks.

The Congress took a jibe and said Modi is an expert in planning 'escape' operations including that of Nirav Modi, Mehul Bhai and Vijay Malaya as they were never on his radar. Congress spokesperson Sanjay Jha said, "Now (Finance Minister Arun) Jaitley will write a blog explaining the atmospheric decomposition of air particles that accentuates chemical metabolism resulting in a diabolical cloudburst that can conceal large aircraft's from being spotted by Tata Sky radars across the LoC."

Congress social media head Divya Spandana said, "We also have this amazing new and improved 'radar' since 2014 to detect stupidity, lies, corruption, fudged data...How else do you think we detected a stealth one like you...Narendra Modi the radar to detect planes, cloud or no cloud has been there for decades. Even for the stealth ones. If not, other the country's planes would be crisscrossing the skies firing away at will... This is what happens when you're stuck in the past."

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah tweeted, "Pakistani radar doesn't penetrate clouds. This is an important piece of tactical information that will be critical when planning future air strikes."

Taking a swipe at Modi, he tweeted, "I was raked over the

coals for questioning veracity of Balakot strikes. But seeing Pak media & journo troll PM on cloud gaffe is awfully embarrassing. BJP's ability to suspend logic in its quest to win another term is mind numbingly fatuous. Our armed forces don't deserve this."

CPI(M leader Sitaram Yechury termed the remarks as "shameful" and moved the Election Commission, demanding action against Modi for violating the model code of conduct. Yechury said Modi's words are "truly shameful".

"Most importantly, because they insult our Air Force as being ignorant and unprofessional. The fact that he is talking about all this is itself anti-national; no patriot would do this. National security is not something to be trifled with.

Such an irresponsible statement from Modi is highly damaging. Somebody like this can't remain India's PM," he tweeted.

"Modi's ridiculous comments on radars, clouds and fighter jets have been deservedly mocked but the EC needs to act against him for invoking armed forces hours before the sixth phase of voting. Letter to EC asking for prompt and strict action on this flagrant violation," he said. In his letter to the EC, Yechury has alleged Modi's statements were in clear and deliberate violation of the guidelines which were re-issued and reiterated by the Election Commission before the first round of polling, making it clear that the armed forces, which belong to all of India, cannot be a subject for hyperbolic and false claims by any party.

## Delhi polling sinks 5%, but 1st-timers...

From Page 1

Ram Rati (79), along with other elderly women, left their hookah in the middle to cast their vote in Munirika Village in South Delhi constituency. She said that she along with her group of elderly woman has stopped smoking hookah just to cast their vote for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I just asked my grandchildren to take us to polling booth and we pressed Modi's symbol (referring to BJP) here," said Ram Rati.

A 111-year-old Bachan Singh, the oldest voter in Delhi who till the last Assembly elections in 2015, cycled to the polling booth to cast his vote, this time reached the Tilak Vihar booth in a car

along with poll officers. "I will vote for those who worked for us," he said.

Jasbeer Singh (63) eldest son of Bachan Singh claimed that his father has never missed out on an election since 1951. "Till a few years ago, he would cycle to the polling booth and cast his vote. He never needed any help. He cooked for himself and spent most of time doing seva in gurdwara," said Jasbeer.

According to data shared by the Delhi CEO Office, there are a total of 96 centenarians who are eligible to vote in Lok Sabha polls in Delhi -- 42 male and 54 female. Besides centenarians, several senior citizens, aged above 80, braved the heat and old-age ailments and turned up at the polling booths to exercise their franchise.

Interestingly, people took their children at polling booths to educate them about the democratic system of the country. Many of parents were seen briefing them about importance of voting and the difference between Assembly and parliamentary election. Several children on Sunday while holding their parents hands, went inside the polling booth across the national Capital to share the joy and satisfy their curiosi-

ty about the electoral process. A few model polling stations also had a separate zone to entertain children as their parents went inside to cast their vote. Some of the parents were also seen explaining their wards about the electoral process in polling booths.

"You should not only take your child with you when you vote, but you should also talk to him or her about what's happening and why they should be excited to take part in the election process. Today they are excited, tomorrow we have to make them an engaged citizen. We have to begin before they are old enough to cast their own ballot," said Anjali Kataria, who voted in polling booth located at August Kranti Marg in South Delhi.

Meanwhile, first time voters filled with joy and excitement reached polling booths early in the morning to franchise their vote. Most of the youngsters were even seeing praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi efforts for young generation.

"We have voted looking at the respect India is getting in foreign countries. Modi has travelled to several countries and he has brought investment, which will start yielding results in coming days," said

Ankur, a resident of Mukherjee Nagar.

"Where in the world do you see a Prime Minister addressing the students before the board examinations? Modi is the one. No politician can love the youth as much as he does. He takes out time from his busy schedule to talk to students, to meet them so that he can address their issues," said Ananya (19), who voted for the first time at Greater Kailash.

However, the children who are studying in a Delhi Government school volunteered at polling stations to help elderly and differently-abled with aim to encourage people cast their vote with a smile.

"I am too excited about this. I got to see Rahul Gandhi who had come to vote here. We cannot go inside where votes are being cast but we can be around the polling booth. We are greeting people with flowers and even providing water to elderly people. If somebody needs any help, we are here," said Soumya, a Class VIII student at Greater Kailash.

Similar excitement was shared by Sarthak Chaudhary, another Class VIII student, at a polling booth in Gujranwala town.

"If anybody wants to check

their names in the voter list before getting inside, I have been helping them out. Fulfilling any requests for wheelchair and facilitating early entry of pregnant women are part of my duties," he said.

The transgender people for the first time have caste their votes under the category after the Supreme Court had declared them as the "third gender" in 2014. Earlier they had to cast their votes as male or female.

According to Delhi Chief Electoral Officer, a total of 660 transgenders were eligible to cast their vote besides 78,49,947 male and 64,21,283 female voters.

Feeling excited on the day, 19 year-old Reshma who voted at a polling booth in Burari area said that she wants a Government that will ensure a special toilet facility for transgender people not only in Delhi but all over the country. "It is a progressive move that we have been identified as a third gender. While lot needs to be done for us, to begin with special toilets are a must for us," she said.

Voting was held for all the seven constituencies in Delhi on Sunday between 7 am to 6 pm, young and old, first-timers and centenarians queued up to exercise their franchise throughout the day.

**NOTICE**  
General Public is hereby informed through this notice that **Dr. Attam's Nursing Home** situated at 19 Bhera Enclave, New Delhi-110087 is going to destroy its Medical admission records upto March 2016, as per record destruction rule, if any body is interested in obtaining the records of March 2016 and before may contact the Nursing Home within 7 day of appearance of this notice. After that administration will not be responsible for the records.  
Thanks  
**Hospital Manager**

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Email: secretary@kanplas.com; Web: www.kanplas.com

**NOTICE**  
Pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirement) Regulation 2015, notice is hereby given, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Monday, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019 at 12:00 Noon** at the Registered Office of the Company to, *inter-alia*, consider, approve and take on record Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.

For Kanpur Plastipack Limited  
Sd/-  
(Ankur Srivastava)  
Company Secretary

Place: Kanpur  
Date: 11/05/2019



TERROR BODY 'PROVINCE'

# Alert in Valley over ISIS claim

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/ SRINAGAR

Intelligence agencies have been put on high alert after the Islamic State terror group has claimed through social media that they have established a new "province" in India. The declaration was made by ISIS through its news agency Amaq News Agency, which is itself blacklisted by the US for terror related money laundering along with Al-Hayat Media Centre.

The Arabic name of the new branch is "Wilayah of Hind" (India Province), the dreaded terror outfit, (also known as ISIS and ISIL), said through its Amaq News Agency. Though intelligence agencies reject this development as just a claim, they exercise caution regarding its possible supporters in Kashmir and other sensitive regions. Many senior Jammu & Kashmir police officers have also rejected the claim.

The ISIS' news agency, Amaq, did not elaborate on the branch's geographical remit as it mentioned the name of its new branch in a low-key announcement. The ISIS operates two news agencies known as Amaq and Al-Hayat Media Centre. Both were blacklisted by the US for terror related money launder-



Representational image

ing in March 2019.

Many Intelligence officers feel the announcement of the new branch is a part of ISIS' strategy to give the impression of strengthening its global affiliations following the territorial losses in the Middle East. Such strategies of fake announcements were highlighted by ISIS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in the past. "But this shows that they have some sleeper cells in certain regions physically and in the online world," said a senior IB officer.

The brief ISIS statement of May 10 via the messaging app Telegram said that the Islamic State terrorists using machine guns had clashed with the Indian security forces in the village of Amshipora in Kashmir's Shopian district, killing or injuring a number of them. The statement, however, did not mention when the alleged clashes occurred.

Media reports on May 10 said that one militant was killed in clashes with security forces in Kashmir's Shopian district.

ISIS began claiming attacks against Indian security forces in Kashmir since November 2017 without any branch affiliation. Previously, ISIS attacks in Kashmir were linked to its so-called Khorasan Province branch, which was set up in 2015 to cover "Afghanistan, Pakistan and nearby lands".

Though agencies feel these fake announcements are part of rumour mongering and mischives in the social media, they say caution must be exercised on these elements.

'IN-HOUSE' PROCEEDINGS OF BANKS

# Loan defaulters have no right to be represented by lawyer: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has held that a person has no "right" to be represented by a lawyer in "in-house" proceedings initiated by banks or financial institutions to declare him willful defaulters for non-payment of dues.

A bench comprising Justices RF Nariman and Vineet Saran was dealing with the question whether a person is entitled to be represented by a lawyer of his choice in the process undertaken by banks to declare him a "wilful defaulter" under a circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

"We are of the view that there is no right to be represented by a lawyer in the in-house proceedings contained in...The Revised Circular dated July 01, 2015, as it is clear that the events of wilful default as mentioned...Would only relate to the individual facts of each case.

"What has typically to be discovered is whether a unit has defaulted in making its payment obligations even when it has the capacity to honour the said obligations; or that it has borrowed funds which are diverted for other purposes, or siphoned off funds so that the



funds have not been utilised for the specific purpose for which the finance was made available," the top court said in its verdict delivered on last Wednesday.

It said that the question whether a default was "intentional, deliberate, and calculated" was the question of fact which can be dealt by the borrower or the lender and the assistance of lawyer was not needed.

The apex court allowed the appeal of State Bank of India against the Delhi High Court order which had held that the firm, Jah Developers Pvt. Ltd., can be represented by lawyers in the in-house proceeding of the lending bank to declare it a willful defaulter.

Setting aside the high court

order, the apex court ordered that the bank must give to the borrower the copy of the order of the first in-house committee which conducted the proceedings to declare the firm a willful defaulter.

"The borrower can then represent against such order within a period of 15 days to the Review Committee...The Review Committee must then pass a reasoned order on such representation which must then be served on the borrower," the apex court said.

The lending bank had contended that the defaulting borrower does not need the assistance of lawyers in the proceedings as no complex legal questions are decided in declaring a person a willful defaulter. **PTI**

Will PM Modi hang himself at Vijay Chowk if Cong wins 40 seats: Kharage

Bengaluru: Stoking a controversy, senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharage on Sunday asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would hang himself at Vijay Chowk in Delhi if his prediction of the opposition party getting less than 40 seats in Lok Sabha polls is proven wrong.

Addressing a rally in support of Subash Rathod, the Congress candidate for the Chincholi Assembly bypoll in Karnataka, Kharage said, "It is you the people sitting here who are going to write the future and fate of this country, it is in your hands to write the fate of Subash and ours, not it their (BJP/Modi) hands."

"Wherever (Modi) goes, (he) says Congress will not get 40 seats (in Lok Sabha polls). Does any of you agree with this? If we get 40 seats, will Modi hang himself at Vijay Chowk in Delhi?" the senior Congress leader said.

The Congress had won 44 seats in the 2014 parliamentary election.

Senior BJP leader and MP Shobha Karandlaje has demanded Kharage's apology, saying that she never expected such low remarks from a senior leader like him.

"Blatant lies, fake allegations, derogatory remarks have become common with hollow Congress, nothing progressive! He should apologise!" Karandlaje tweeted. **PTI**

POST EASTER BOMBINGS

# Lanka deports 600 clerics, including 100 Indians

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Out of the 600 foreigners including 200 hardcore maulvis (Muslim religious preachers) deported by Colombo over the last week after the suicide bombings there, over a 100 were Indians. They, along with those from Pakistan and Maldives, were suspected to be engaged in radicalisation in the Sri Lankan mosques.

Besides the Indians, clerics from Pakistan and Maldives have also been deported in large numbers owing to their terror links that emerged after serial suicide bombings in Colombo on Sunday Easter last month that took a toll of over 250 persons including 11 Indians. Besides the 200 maul-

vis, the 400 other individuals are also suspected to have travelled on tourist visas but have been essentially been engaged in radical preachings, sources said.

Sri Lankan authorities have identified about 1,200 such individuals who are being screened for terror links and depending upon antecedent verification more such clerics are likely to be deported to the respective countries.

The revelation of the Indian maulvis in radicalisation activities in the island nation has set alarm bells ringing in the security establishment here as they apprehend the international terror groups might have developed a hub of such transnational radical preachers in the country.

The deportations began on Tuesday after the Sri Lankan authorities informed the respective foreign missions on the issue. By Thursday, the 600 such radicals were deported to the respective countries.

Pakistani clerics have infiltrated the mosques in the region including in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Maldives and even in some of the ASEAN countries. These clerics are being exploited by the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence for the larger design of implementing state agenda of sponsoring terror in the neighbourhood, sources said.

The sources said such radical clerics are also part of the transnational radicalization

networks of the international terror groups like the Al Qaeda and ISIS who have a long term agenda of radicalisation and subsequently recruit them into their fold for their terror designs, including logistics management chain and funding through illegal narcotics supply chain.

During the last over two years, Indian clerics in large number, as revealed by the Sri Lankan deportation, are also taking up jobs of Islamic preaching in foreign shores.

In the wake of the development, the challenge for the security agencies is two-fold: first, to keep tabs on their activities after their deportation, and secondly to establish their role and extent of involvement in radicalization during

their stay in Sri Lanka, insiders said.

Officials also said the Indian security agencies will have an onerous task ahead to contain the impact of the deported radical clerics.

They said counter-terrorism and security-related issues come under the domain of the security agencies in so far as Sri Lanka is concerned as any adverse activity there has a direct bearing on the security calculus in South India, especially Tamil Nadu.

Ahead of carrying out the suicide bombing in Colombo, chief National Thowheed Jamat Zaharan Hashim had stayed in South India for three months but remained undetected by the Intelligence Bureau.

No poll code violation by Niti Aayog in sharing district level data with PMO: EC

New Delhi: The Election Commission has found no violation of the poll code in Niti Aayog sharing data with the Prime Minister's office on places where PM Narendra Modi was set to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.

Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Sandeep Saxena said the commission has disposed off the complaint as the Prime Minister is exempted from the provision that bars ministers from combining official visits with campaigning.

The exemption to the prime minister was given in October, 2014. "It was not a one time exemption but a standing instruction," Saxena told reporters here.

Sources later said, the Niti Aayog had not shared any political data but district-level data with the Prime Minister's office (PMO).

The EC had written to Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on May 4 flagging the allegations made by the Congress and the AAP. Asking Kant to furnish the reply "immediately", the EC had referred to the allegations that the Niti Aayog has asked officers in various states and Union territories to provide to the PMO write ups about destinations of the prime minister's campaign.

The EC also responded to a question on the Congress's fresh complaint against information allegedly sought by an officer of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade from the Commerce Ministry on Start Up India, claiming that it was meant to be used for BJP's manifesto. Saxena said the Ministry has been asked to respond. **PTI**

# Foreign electoral representatives witness elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electoral representatives and lawmakers from over 20 countries witnessed the complex Indian election process in action and the use of the Electronic Voting Machines in the national Capital on Sunday.

Representatives from ECs of these countries, which include Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Fiji, Georgia, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Romania, Russia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe, have been monitoring the Indian election closely in a bid to perfect the methodology of conducting elections in their own countries. These representatives were invited by the Election Commission of India to join the Election Visitors Program.

EA Shevchenko, a member of the central Election Commission of Russia, said he visited 12 polling stations in Delhi and spoke to election observers. He said it was interesting to know about EVMs.

"We saw the new machines and we liked what we saw. We visited north and south Delhi constituencies and it was interesting to know about EVMs and learn that one gets to know that their vote has been registered," he said.

"In Russia, only the passport serves as the ID. Voters can vote from any part of the country and do not have to be in the city where they live. During the last presidential polls, over six million people voted from cities other than their hometowns" he said.

The official said in Russia, elections take place on a single day, not in phases.

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora hailed the contribution of the founders of the Indian Constitution in an address to the participants. He also underlined the EC's commitment towards conducting free, fair and peaceful elections in India.

"The objective and intention of the Commission is to always keep learning from the experiences of the past for necessary course corrections for the future," he said while adding that criticism and scepticism have never bogged down EC.

Arora also stressed that the process of conducting elections in a country as diverse as India needs to be constantly updated to keep it robust, ethical, inclusive, accessible and participative. He highlighted the contribution of IT developments in helping with the electoral process in recent years.

On the occasion, second issue of EC's quarterly magazine "My Vote Matters" was also released on this occasion by the Commission. The Magazine presents a comprehensive glimpse of preparatory initiatives in different States for the ongoing elections. First issue of this magazine was presented by CEC to the President Ram Nath Kovind on the National Voters' Day 25th January 2019.

Lok Sabha election in the country is the largest democratic exercise anywhere in the world and countries around the world have witnessed every election here with keen interest, and a high degree of amazement.

# Priyanka votes, says BJP will face defeat in LS



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accompanied by her husband Robert Vadra greets an elderly voter after casting her vote during the sixth phase of general elections in New Delhi on Sunday **AP**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday said it is "very clear" that the BJP will face defeat in Lok Sabha polls as people are "angry and distressed" and they will convey their sentiments through voting. Interacting with media after exercising her franchise, the senior party leader said it was "very clear that the BJP Government is going". Priyanka along with her party chief Rahul Gandhi hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said the PM doesn't reply to any of the issues that Congress has raised and that Modi has "used hatred" during the elections but the grand old party "used love".

"There is anger among people, and they are under distress. Modiji, instead of talking about real issues, has been talking about random things. And, now, they will express their anger against this Government through voting," the Congress general secretary said. She said this will be witnessed especially in Uttar Pradesh.

Asked about the constant criticism the Nehru-Gandhi family faces from the BJP, Priyanka recounted an anecdote about her guru telling her the calmness that Lord Buddha had in face of detractors. Priyanka said Modi and his party had in 2014 promised to deposit ₹15 lakh in every Indian's bank account and create two crore jobs, but Prime

Minister Modi "doesn't talk about that".

Rahul Gandhi who also casted his vote said that so far it has been a "good fight" in the elections. Asked how many seats the Congress is winning, he said, "I won't comment on that. It will be decided by the people." "People are the master. Whatever people say, we will accept. How many seats we will win, people will decide that... Jai Hind," he said.

"There are four issues in this election, these are not our issues but people's issues. And most important among these is of unemployment. Then, condition of farmers, demonetisation, Gabbar Singh Tax (mocking GST), corruption and the Rafale issue," he said.

# Vadra posts Paraguay flag in place of Tricolour, gets trolled

New Delhi: In an embarrassing goof-up, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's husband Robert Vadra on Sunday used the flag of Paraguay instead of the Tricolour to spread awareness about the Lok Sabha elections on social media, inviting ridicule from netizens.

"Our right our strength!! Everyone must step out in support...we need all support, to create a combined future for our loved ones, n for a secular, safe productive future of our country," Vadra tweeted with a joined hands emoji, the Indian Parliament and a Paraguayan flag, along with a photo of his inked finger after casting his vote.

The tweet, which became

the butt of jokes on social media, remained for over four hours on his Twitter page.

Soon after the goof-up, Vadra was mercilessly trolled on social media, following which he deleted the tweet.

A user said, "Robert Vadra Declared Himself A Paraguayan Citizen On 12th May, 2019". Another sarcastically asked, "Voted for BJP right?" Though Vadra posted a correct caption on his Facebook page, he however failed to check the offending flag while posting it on Twitter.

Hours later he deleted the tweet and posted the screenshot of his Facebook post which had the Indian flag in the caption. **PTI**

# Tech helping natural calamity victims

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a classic example of how disaster risks and agony of affected lives can be reduced through the greater use of science and technology, various labs of the country's top research agency, Council of Science and Industrial Research (CSIR) are providing a range of services, including cyclone-proof shelters, safe drinking water and ready-made food to name a few to Fani cyclone battered people in Odisha.

CSIR DG Shekhar Mande said since usually its water and food supply that is affected post disasters, our labs have extended help in these areas.

He explained that the Bhavnagar-based Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI) has already deputed its indige-

nously developed 40-foot long bus housing a water purification and desalination plant to ensure pure water to the people in the severely affected cities like Puri and Bhubaneswar.

The customised bus can purify more than 40,000 litres of drinking water per day. The plant can purify any available contaminated water including the silt laden left by the floods, the brackish water along coastal areas or high TDS water and make it potable and good for drinking. The bus has a RO desalination and ultra-filtration plant and consists of TFC membrane filtration that can remove viruses and bacteria as well.

Similarly, the central food technological research institute (CFTRI) has supplied a combination of seven reconstitutable foods products --

instant mixes of poha, upma, ready-to-eat upma, high-protein rusks, high-protein biscuits, long-shelf-life chapati and tomato chutney.

"The products were chosen keeping in view the Indian palate. The decision to manufacture and send rations was taken as soon as Fani hit the Indian coasts," added K S M S Raghavarao, director, CFTRI.

The CSIR's Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar, is taking care of logistics at the other end. Raghavarao added that "Reconstitutable versions of the poha and upma mix have shelf-lives of more than a month and so can be used as and when needed. The ready-to-eat upma is a cooked and the sterilised product that can be consumed immediately. With a shelf-life of 10-12 days, it is suitable for immediate relief."

Similarly, CSIR's Institute of Himalayan Bio-Resource Technology, Palampur too has announced supplying 1 lakh units of ready-to-eat canned food (dal rice aloo mix) and protein bars weighing around 20 tonnes. Dr Sanjay Kumar, IIBT director said that "the institute has technologies for preparing such foods and in such tragic circumstances, it is the duty of national institutes to come forward and support the affected people."

In fact, its disaster-proof buildings constructed a few years back in Odisha have already earned praise, having saved many lives who were evacuated from the coastal regions just before the Fani cyclone had made the landfall in the State. Around 75 buildings were constructed near the coastal areas that were cyclone safe, said the CSIR DG Mande.

This is not the first time that the CSIR has responded to the crises in the country. For instance, since 2004, when the tsunami hit the eastern coasts of India, the CFTRI had geared up voluntarily to help the disaster struck with special relief food packages. It sent food to Uttarakhand in 2013, and to Coorg and Kerala, last year. The IIBT had extended support to the victims during Kerala floods.

Similarly, the CSMCRI's mobile van unit has served in several mass disaster incidents, including the ones at North 24 Parganas, cyclone Aila in June 2009 in West Bengal; heavy rains and floods in Raichur, Karnataka in 2009, floods in Odisha's Ganjam and Jagatsinghpura in 2013; and in during the Himalayan Tsunami in Srinagar Garhwal and Rishikesh in 2013.



INDIA VOTES



**VIOLENT BENGAL**  
Amid violence, polling down at 80%

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KESHUPUR/MEDINIPURE

In Bengal history continued to repeat with vengeance as poll-day dogfight left two dead and many more — including a BJP candidate — hurt as BJP, TMC and CPI(M) cadres fought among themselves at various polling stations. Notwithstanding, the eight constituencies that went to polls in the sixth phase witnessed about 80 per cent polling.

Political volatility matched the mid-May noon's unforgiving temperatures as cadres of BJP and the ruling Trinamool Congress clashed against each other at various places from Barojora in Bankura to Bhagwanpur at Kanthi to Gopiballapur. The historically volatile Keshpur however remained at the centre stage of the day-long political skirmish witnessing sporadic clashes and stone pelting after a band of restive TMC workers accosted Ghatl BJP candidate and former IPS officer Bharati Ghosh whose security guard opened fire in "self-defence" injuring a TMC worker.

As though the locals were taking out their pent up anger on Ghosh — who had a couple of days ago threatened to bring a thousand boys from UP to teach the TMC men a lesson — she was literally accosted and chased until she took shelter inside a local Kali Temple where she remained parked for more than two hours before being rescued by the police. The candidate had to literally leap across the high parapet of the Temple premises, along with the media who were also holed up inside.

Amid the pandemonium Ghosh, the SP who had humbled the dreaded Maoists collapsed on the ground, injured her toes and began crying till she was rescued by the jawans of Central forces.

Several persons from both the sides were injured and half-a-dozen vehicles were smashed in the melee even as the locals alleged "violence started after Ghosh came to the scene." The BJP leader however said the TMC goons got



A BJP activist shows injury sustained after an alleged attack by TMC workers during the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections, in Burdwan, on Sunday PTI



BJP activists wave party flags as they protest after an alleged attack by TMC workers during the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections, in Burdwan, on Sunday PTI

angry as she stopped them from jamming the booths and rigging. The police have seized her vehicle and lodged and FIR in the case. The security guard of Ghosh sustained head injuries in stone-pelting. He had been hospitalised.

Earlier, a booth-level BJP leader Ramen Singh from Gopiballapur under Jhargram constituency was found dead in mysterious circumstances. His family members said he was murdered by the local TMC goons. The ruling party denied such charges.

Body of a Trinamool Congress worker Sudhakar Maiti was recovered from Kanthi. The TMC alleged he was bumped off by a joint band of BJP and CPI(M) goons while he was returning from a hospital.

Elsewhere at Bhagwanpur in Kanthi constituency two BJP workers Ananta Guhait and Ranjit Maity were shot at by alleged TMC goons the latter however refuted the charges.

Firing also took place at Barjora in Bankura where TMC and CPI(M) cadres clashed against each other. Clashes also took place at Bishnupur and Bhagwanpur in Purulia constituency.

In the sixth phase of polls voting took place at Jhargram and Medinipur, Tamluk, Kanthi, Ghatl, Bankura, Bishnupur and Purulia. Elections to 33 out of 42 seats ended till sixth phase of polling on Sunday.

Till reports came in the eight constituencies had witnessed about 79.93 per cent polling with Bishnupur recording 80.90 per cent, Ghatl recording 80.35 per cent. About 75.68 per cent voters of Bankura and 78.64 per cent at Purulia exercised their franchise whereas Medinipur and Jhargram polled 78.17 and 81.68 per cent respectively. For Tamluk and Kanthi the polling percentage was 82.99 per cent and 80.16 per cent respectively.

Voters board 'Shiksha Express' in Bihar to exercise franchise!

PTI ■ MUZAFFARPUR

It is an express train that only a few voters can board. Welcome onboard "Shiksha Express" in Vaishali Lok Sabha segment, where voting is underway in two polling booths.

The building of a Government school at Kanti block of Muzaffarpur district in the constituency has been painted in shades and designs which give the feel of a railway station with a train compartment stationed on the premises, beckoning visitors for an onward journey.

"The school was painted this way and named Shiksha Express in order to make learning an exciting experience for the students. We are glad that the endeavour has also made it

attractive to adults taking part in the dance of democracy," said Block Development Officer Uma Bharti.

The polling stations have also been declared pink booths which imply that all personnel, except those entrusted with security, are women, she said.

"Two booths — numbers 38 and 39 — in Vaishali segment have been set up in the school building. Both were designated as model booths, which means arrangements have been made for drinking water, sheds to avoid Sun while waiting in the queue, and an amusement zone for children who may be accompanying their mothers," the BDO said.

The Vaishali Lok Sabha constituency has altogether



1,803 polling stations, 302 of these falling under Kanti assembly segment.

One of the primary contestants here is veteran RJD leader and former Union

Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who had represented the seat five times on the trot before losing it to Lok Janshakti Party's Rama Singh, who rode the Modi wave of 2014.

The LJP has, however, replaced its sitting MP — a mafia don-turned-politician — with Veena Devi, who is a former MLA and was earlier with the BJP.

**ELECTION COMMISSIONERS DAY OUT!**



Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, along with his family members, shows his finger marked with indelible ink at a polling station, at Nirman Bhawan in New Delhi, on Sunday PTI



Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra shows his inked finger in New Delhi, on Sunday PTI



Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa after casting his vote in New Delhi on Sunday PTI



Police disperse a mob during a clash at a polling station at the sixth phase, in East Medinipur, on Sunday PTI



**CELEB CORNER**



Table tennis player Manika Batra



Cricketer Virat Kohli

**POLITICIAN'S CORNER**



President Ram Nath Kovind



Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu



Sonia Gandhi



Uttar Pradesh Minister Sidharth Nath Singh

**Report: Social media plays key role in influencing first-time voters**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A survey conducted by a digital marketing company has claimed that nearly one-third of first-time voters were influenced by political messages on social media platforms in the ongoing general elections.

As many as half of around 15-crore first-time voters received political messages through various social media platforms, said the report based on an online survey of around 25 lakh participants.

Political movement on social media was higher in 2019 Lok Sabha elections than

in 2014, the report by ADG Online said. "30 per cent of 150 million first-time voters are engaged and influenced through social media platforms, political messages have reached out to 50 per cent of first-time voters through social media and rest 20 per cent are aware of the developments in the country," the report said.

Social media messages have a greater influence on youths, the report said, adding that more than 50 per cent of voters influenced by social media are less than 25 years of age.

As per the survey report, around 40 per cent of youths

(18-24 years) kept themselves updated about the political developments through at least one of the five social media platforms — Facebook, Instagram, ShareChat, Whatsapp and Twitter.

The very nature of social media helped in amplifying engagement through comments, online interactions, trolls, posts, pictures showing support, it said.

Anuj Sayal, Group Chairman, ADG Online, said, "Political parties have used big data analytics techniques for increasing mass outreach and conveying their key messages for the general elections."



Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev



Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajaj



BJP's Faridabad Lok Sabha constituency candidate Krishan Pal Gurjar



Sushma Swaraj



UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya



Dilip Ghosh

**72.32% turnout in repoll in 168 polling stations**

PTI ■ AGARTALA

An estimated 72.32 per cent of the 1,41,251 voters exercised their franchise in the repolling held in 168 polling stations of West Tripura Lok Sabha constituency on Sunday, an official said.

Fifteen companies of Central Armed Police Forces were deployed during the repoll, the official said.

"Repolling passed off peacefully with 72.32 per cent voter turnout. The percentage can increase slightly after final computations," Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Sriram Taranikanti told reporters.

The Returning Officer, Vikash Singh said "Cameras were installed for videography both inside and outside polling stations. We also engaged additional videographers to record all events during the elections. Section 144 was clamped outside polling stations and there were patrolling by the security forces."

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Arindam Nath said there were stray incidents of intimidation. "We had reports of intimidation from Kasba and Chelikhola areas in Sipahajala district and from Totabari in Gomati district. One Bijoy Das was apprehended for intimidation from Kasba," Nath said.

The opposition CPI(M) and Congress alleged that the intimidation and attacks were reported during the repoll.

**Will take revenge in every inch, Mamata tells Modi**

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ MEDINIPORE

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee once again stoked the squatting controversy during Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prove his charges against her or else do the sit-ups which in any case "I also would also do if I fail to prove my points."

The Chief Minister who addressed a whirlwind round of three rallies in South 24 Parganas accused the Prime Minister of peddling lies in Bengal and BJP of humiliating and harassing her which would not go unpunished.

"I will remember everything. The atrocities and humiliations heaped on my State and I will not go unpunished. I have all the records and documents with me. I will take revenge for what is being done to me inch by inch. All those who are perpetrating the offence should remember this," Mamata said accusing the Prime Minister of selling "dirty lies" in Bengal.

"Every time he comes here and says that I do not allow the Hindus to perform Durga Puja or Sarswati Puja. I want to ask you all whether this accusation has a grain of truth. He is a liar whom I feel ashamed to call a Prime Minister. I challenge him to prove his charges or do sit-ups in the public and I also will do the same if I fail to prove my point," Banerjee said, adding the BJP had unleashed



West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee with party candidate from Jadavpur Parliamentary constituency Mimi Chakraborty (R) during her election campaign rally for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, at South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, on Sunday

a reign of terror in Bengal in the name of elections.

Accusing the saffron outfit of running a parallel Government by using the Election Commission and excessive deployment of Central forces she said, "The EC can do everything within its power. But why the State Government will be by-passed where there is question of law and order.

Today also one of their central force personnel has shot at a TMC worker at Ghatat."

She warned the opposition parties "the EC or the CAPF

will be there for a few more days. Tomorrow it is the State police that will be the master of situations."

Attacking the BJP for publicising violent ideas she said, "Today they worship people who killed Gandhiji. They have no love for non-violence. In the name of cow protection they have unleashed a band of cow-vigilantes who are creating terror and panic among the people. But I also warn them against doing excesses. After all the Central force will go soon and the BJP will go from power in the Centre. Then we will take revenge in every inch."

**SP, BSP & Congress looted public resources: Adityanath**

PTI ■ KUSHINAGAR/GHOSI/ GORAKHPUR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday accused the Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and the Congress of looting public resources and building big bungalows for themselves using Government funds.

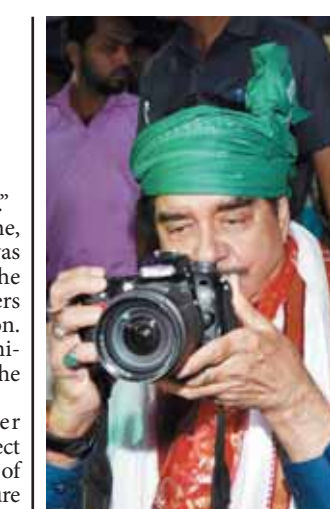
Addressing election rallies in Kushinagar, Ghosi and Gorakhpur, Adityanath claimed that the SP-BSP-RLD alliance was worried after seeing India "growing and developing" each passing day. "The SP, BSP and the

Congress have looted the resources of the public. They never built houses for the poor, but made sure to build their big bungalows using government funds," Adityanath said. "These parties have never done any work in public interest. They kept the public in dark because thieves do not like full-moon night."

The BJP leader took a jibe at SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and said, "When the Supreme Court had ordered (Akhilesh) to vacate the bungalow, 'babua' stole the Government tap (from the vacated house). He had misused the government

funds during his tenure too." Without taking any name, Adityanath said a broker was already locked in jail. "In the same way, many other brokers will be behind the bars soon. Terrorists will also be eliminated from the country in the future," he said.

The Chief Minister appealed to the people to reject those who play the "politics" of caste and creed. "We made sure to free 54,000 hectares from the land mafia who were nurtured during the tenures of the SP and the BSP. We took initiatives to construct schools, hospitals and cow shelters."



Congress candidate from Patna Sahib seat Shatrughan Sinha clicks photos during an election campaign in Patna, on Sunday

**Naqvi: India wants permanent PM, not contractual one**

Kolkata: Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday said the country wants a permanent and decisive Prime Minister, instead of a contractual one.

Hitting out at the Opposition alliance for having "too many" contenders for the PM's post, Naqvi said the country "does not want a contractual Prime Minister, where you have someone as prime minister for six months and somebody else for the next six months." He told a Press conference here, "The country does not want a 'juggad' or 'jod tod ki sarkar'."



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav being presented a memento by his party workers during an election campaign rally for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, in Mirzapur, on Sunday

**Haryana sees 5% decline in polling**

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Over 67 per cent of 1.80 crore electorate exercised their franchise in the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, where 223 candidates, including two Union Ministers and a former Chief Minister, are in the fray. In the 2014 general election, the overall poll percentage stood at 71.86. State Joint Chief Electoral Officer Inderjeet Singh said till compiling of figures at 9 pm, 67.40 per cent voters exercised their franchise in the polls.

No untoward incident was reported in the state and the polling remained peaceful.

The highest polling percentage (till 9 pm) was recorded in the Sirsa parliamentary constituency (73.11) followed by Kurukshetra (72.46) per cent and the lowest was in Karnal (60.78).

Notable candidates included Union Ministers Rao Inderjit Singh, Krishan Pal Gurjar, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Kumari Selja of the

Congress and JJP leader Dushyant Chautala.

Eleven women candidates are in the fray, prominent amongst them being Kumari Selja (Ambala) and Shruti Choudhary (Bhiwani-Mahendergarh) of the Congress and Sunita Duggal (Sirsa) of the BJP.

There were reports of minor skirmishes from some parts, including Fatehabad, Nuh in Mewat, Sirsa and Gurgaon, between supporters of political parties.

While poll officials said voting went on smoothly during the day, Congress' Rohtak candidate Deepender Singh Hooda, who is seeking re-election for a fourth term, accused Haryana Minister and Rohtak MLA Manish Grover of intimidating voters by forcibly entering some polling booths.

Deepender Hooda, son of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, also lodged a complaint with Rohtak's deputy commissioner. Grover rejected the charge as "baseless" allegations in the

face of "imminent defeat". The minister alleged that there were complaints against Congress workers of intimidating some voters.

While polling was underway, the Rohtak police claimed to have arrested Ramesh Lohar, a history sheeter of Bohar village, along with his accomplice Sunil in front of a school, and seized three fake vehicle number plates, 15 cartridges of 0.32 bore, sticks and lathis.

Three vehicles with temporary numbers were also impounded, police said. Two cases of electoral offences were registered in Nuh district, they said. Jannayak Janta Party's (JJP) Sonipat candidate Digvijay Chautala alleged that his party symbol (a pair of slippers) was not clearly visible on electronic voting machines at booths 88, 89 and 90 in Jind district.

The election officer said there were some glitches in EVMs and the voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) at a few booths early in the morning, but those were replaced immediately.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar voted in Karnal, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who is fighting from Sonapat, cast his vote at Kilo in Rohtak district. State Congress chief

Ashok Tanwar, JJP candidate and sitting Haryana MP Dushyant Chautala exercised their franchise in Sirsa.

Enthusiastic voters were seen at several places.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Damini D/o Lt. Vasudev R/o H.No. B-5/377, Nand Nagri, Delhi** has been missing from her house since 18.04.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 75-A dated 20.04.2019 has been lodged at PS Nand Nagri, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age: about 21 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Pink colour top, blue colour jeans and mehroon colour shoes in feet.**

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Nand Nagri, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO  
P.S Nand Nagri, Delhi  
North-East Distt. Delhi  
Ph. 011-22585985

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to replace the Train No. 12275/12276 Allahabad - New Delhi - Allahabad Duranto Express with Humsafar Express w.e.f. 13.09.2019 (Friday). Further it is also informed that its frequency has also been increased from tri-weekly to 4 days a week. Hence the service will run as 12275/12276 Allahabad - New Delhi - Allahabad Humsafar Express (4 days a week). The details are as under :-

Existing	Revised	STATION	Existing	Revised
12275 Allahabad - New Delhi	12275 Allahabad - New Delhi Humsafar Express (4 days a week) from 13.09.19	Allahabad	12276 New Delhi - Allahabad Duranto Express (tri-weekly)	12276 New Delhi - Allahabad Humsafar Express (4 days a week) from 14.09.19
Duranto Express (tri-weekly)	Dep. 22:20 (Tue, Thu & Sun)		Arr. 06:20 (Thu, Sat & Tue)	
Dep. 22:20 (Tue, Thu & Sun)	Dep. 22:20 (Tue, Thu, Fri & Sun)	New Delhi	Arr. 06:15 (Wed, Fri & Mon)	Dep. 22:15 (Wed, Fri, Sat & Mon)
Arr. 06:15 (Wed, Fri & Mon)	Arr. 06:15 (Wed, Fri, Sat & Mon)		Existing Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.	
Revised Accommodation: AC 3 Tier.				

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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

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1406/2019 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



PAPER WITH PASSION

## Lessons from Fani

Yes, the evacuation was spectacular. But there can be no complacency about post-disaster management

While there are no two ways about our mammoth effort in minimising human casualties with probably modern India's biggest pre-emptive evacuation plan before the dreaded cyclone Fani struck, we have obviously not been as sharp about post-event management of human lives and rehabilitation. Fact is the operational efficiency of existing disaster drills is not enough to counter the ecological, financial and infrastructural damage caused by Fani, the destructive scale of which has been much larger than ever anticipated. So though deaths have been few, the lives of over 1.5 crore affected people may not return to normal very soon as everything that they built over the years and the world as they knew it have all but flattened. With power grids in disarray, roads cut off in places, food and water supply disrupted and most importantly, the capital Bhubaneswar in a shambles, reconstruction is a taller order. Restoring the basics of power and water may take up to a week in some places. Imagine, it could take up to a month to restore power supply to the entire Puri district! People are crowding Bhubaneswar station to charge their communication devices as it is the only place that has a power supply. Providing food, shelter and medical care is immediate priority and with hospital buildings and other structures decimated, there's no roof over people's heads quite literally. About 80,000 km of low tension power lines and 64,000 distribution transformers cannot be repaired overnight and with the nerve centres of Odisha — Cuttack, Puri and Bhubaneswar — crippled, Odisha is staring at a much longer road to recovery. In short, disaster preparedness along Odisha's coast should now mean a re-assessment of how basic infrastructure has been planned along these cities all this while and how they can be saved, reconfigured or brace up for the future. For climate change-induced extreme events mean that cyclones will only become more intense in the Bay of Bengal.

And this is the real problem, understanding the intensity. While the IMD and satellites predicted the superstorm with a fair bit of accuracy, the response mechanism probably erred on visualising how the gale force would manifest itself. Most rescue teams had factored in a tidal wave surge swamping the coastline, that being the traditional impact that people are used to and probably resulted in the spectacular evacuation drive. Instead, the wind speed, at 200 kmph, was very high and took down everything in its path. Which means that power cables now on have to be embedded in the earth than strung to overground poles. Such a measure helped Puducherry, which was hit by a severe cyclone in 2011, restore power in less than 12 hours. Odisha faced a similar problem during Phailin and considering the lay of its land, will have to permanently invest in disaster risk-reduction measures. Building zones need to be reclassified for height and structural stability, a system of common underground shelters needs to be executed and more out-of-the-box solutions developed with disaster mitigation experts. With thousands of trees uprooted across Lake Chilika and marine life affected because of heightened salinity of its waters, the change in biodiversity maps could take decades to overturn and will drastically change livelihoods and the local economy. It is for such rapidly changing climate impacts that the Government passed the National Disaster Management Act (2005). It envisaged a comprehensive framework and introduced a management approach called Incident Response System (IRS) which each State was expected to follow. A national guideline was also issued subsequently in 2010. Had these been followed in spirit, they would have resulted in better utilisation of resources. The private sector with interests in this belt should partner with the government in recovery and rejig efforts and make disaster risk reduction a part of its CSR. Yes, we have managed to evacuate well. But in times of climate change, there is no room for complacency in meeting immediate goals. We cannot just go by past experiences, we have to look far ahead and use a predictive methodology. Lives have been saved no doubt but robbed of their past, we have not given them answers what to do next. They are refugees in their own land.

## Relationship or rape?

We need a framework for consensual relationships which, for whatever reason, break down and the woman cries 'rape'

At the very outset, this newspaper unequivocally states that violence against women, including sexual abuse and assault, is a major problem in India, where patriarchal forces still reign. Laws that protect women against such assault have been written and amended over the years, particularly after some high-profile cases. Of course, one has to recognise that the implementation of the law and the closure rate of rape cases remain abysmally small. However, it is becoming apparent that there is a growing number of cases where consensual relationships, for whatever reason, break down and the female partner cries 'rape'. There is also a large number of cases of women who claim they have been 'raped' because their partners promised to marry them.

In the latter case, one could argue that consent acquired through lies is not consent. And while one could say that the women were stupid for believing the men who bedded them, sometimes all of us fall for lies and promises that cannot be kept. And many of the women who fall for these lies may come from less educated and less privileged classes. So crying 'rape' is possibly the only option they have because they could be left high and dry, possibly even pregnant, by the man who scoots away and marries someone else. And the problem with a patriarchal society, and make no mistakes, we are one, is what happens to the poor girl afterwards. This is why the Supreme Court ruled in April that consent for sex obtained under the false promise of marriage is rape. The only issue, it is one person's word against another, because unlike a Memorandum of Understanding, there is no paperwork involved in getting that consent. But the first issue is coming into more prominence due to some rather high-profile cases in Bollywood. And this is troubling because relationships go sour all the time and claiming rape afterwards is unfair. Not only will it be unfair to the accused, falsely indicted and often crucified by the media, it is also unfair to the women who are actual victims of sexual crime and assault and who, too, would be accused of a cry-wolf syndrome. It is important for men to realise that they cannot have it all their own way anymore; consent cannot be forced or coerced. It is becoming more and more important for them to retain correspondence, almost always in digital form nowadays, to prove their cases.

# Dealing with emissions

The new Bharat Stage-VI norms will drastically reduce vehicular emissions, particularly for diesel cars, but India has to start adapting new drivetrain technologies for itself



KUSHAN MITRA

Over the past few weeks, the surprise announcement by Maruti Suzuki, the country's largest carmaker, that it would be withdrawing from the diesel segment after the new Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) norms come into force on April 1 next year, has the entire automotive industry in India aflutter. But Maruti Suzuki chairman RC Bhargava, had a point: Small diesel-engined cars will, for the large part, become unaffordable once these new norms come into force.

There are a couple of reasons behind this. The first and one, which should not be ignored, is the accelerated timeline the Government introduced for BS-VI emission norms three years ago, following a particularly polluted winter in the capital. In doing so, India was to skip Bharat Stage-V (BS-V) emission norms and move directly to the next level. Those of us, who understand how carmakers plan their future, know that it takes year, often a decade, to develop new cars and engines, particularly in modern times when emissions, fuel-economy and safety are paramount. Skipping a generation meant that carmakers scrambled to develop BS-VI engines instead of BS-V ones and this sudden shift meant that the engineering work did not just double but increased by several multiples. And crucially so did costs.

What is the second factor? Today, a diesel engine variant of a small car or sedan in India costs around ₹1 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh more than a similarly-specified petrol model. Yes, diesel engines are a bit more complex because of the way they operate. Advanced technologies, such as high-pressure injection and variable-geometry turbochargers, have made even a small one capable of producing huge amounts of power. Surprisingly, that too, without much of the lag that diesels from the early 2000s had. Volvo sells cars equipped with a two-litre turbo-diesel engine that produces 235 horsepower, which frankly is incredible and would have been considered impossible on a standard road car by engineers a few short years ago.

But these technologies that make diesel so appealing are expensive and do not take away from the fact that the fuel still emits some rather nasty compounds when it is burnt. Hazardous compounds like benzene, nitrous oxides, sulphuric oxides as well as much more particulate matter. Diesel after all is a heavier hydrocarbon compound and it has far more impurities than petrol. In addition, to making diesel burn more efficiently, sulphur is still added to it. But under BS-VI norms, impurities have to be reined in. For one, crude refineries will have to produce diesel with far lower sulphur con-



tent but carmakers will have to build and develop systems that capture much of the emissions. And those capture systems, even though they might on the face of it appear simplistic, drive up the cost. This has been noticed in Europe when Euro-VI emission norms, which are broadly similar to Indian norms, have come into play.

So to make a BS-VI compliant small diesel car is not only expensive but costs a significant premium to even a BS-IV diesel car, as much as a lakh of rupees more. A premium hatchback in diesel could cost over ₹2 lakh more if it has a diesel engine. And at today's prices at the pump, that would mean a lot of daily driving to make back the additional investment, which if you live in the National Capital Region (NCR) is accelerated further because of the Supreme Court imposed strictures mandating that diesel cars must be deregistered after 10 years.

While the introduction of the new norms should mitigate this condition for BS-VI compliant vehicles, the possibility that the courts and the National Green Tribunal

might impose further strictures on diesel are ever present. There were serious talks last year of the possibility of all diesel vehicles being banned in the NCR during really bad days with hazardous Air Quality Index scores, and given that it is not just the NCR but almost the entire northern half of the nation that chokes every winter, this remains a possibility, even though it cripples the economy.

However, increased prices of diesel vehicles do lead to an intriguing possibility. One major reason why people bought diesel cars was that they are incredibly fuel efficient, sometimes as much as 40-50 per cent more economical. While that made a huge difference when petrol and diesel prices were miles apart, even in today's pricing environment, it makes a sizeable difference. If you are driving more than 50 km a day, a diesel still makes sense as of today. What will that heavy usage person think of once that diesel option is taken away from him/her?

The answer in my opinion is not electric, not just yet, but hybrids, particularly those

with as much as 30-50 km or pure electric range as well as the ability to be plugged-in overnight. Both Honda and Toyota have fairly advanced hybrids available in India but they are in the large sedan segment and quite expensive. But if such a hybrid was made available in a smaller vehicle —and with technology and battery prices falling that is clearly possible — why wouldn't a buyer consider one such?

A strong plug-in electric hybrid could reduce fuel bills dramatically, much more than diesel vehicles. The fact that it also has an electric mode could curb emissions spectacularly.

Pure electric cars are still far too expensive and it is more likely that electric mobility will be driven in India by two-wheelers and public transportation. But far more studies need to be conducted. While India produces more than enough electricity, our grids are currently not capable for the large part of dealing with a surge of electric vehicles. To make such vehicles viable, huge subsidies on the vehicle manufacturing costs and the power supplied

are still needed. But subsidised power will mean that a commercially viable charging ecosystem cannot develop alongside. There are hundreds of questions and the fact is that "visionary" politicians and bureaucrats, who have declared the future of mobility is electric, have been incredibly lazy, because this is an industry that employs millions and plays a huge role in the economy.

Hybrids are easier, they take care of the infrastructure problem by having an onboard generator in the engine. They will be slightly expensive to buy but the potential fuel savings on hybrids, if the Honda Accord and Toyota Camry hybrids that are currently sold in India are any indication, could be more than that of diesel, even if the battery is not regularly charged.

Charge the battery overnight and your fuel tank could stretch for weeks rather than days. And it will get Indians used to a new normal. But one thing is clear, that new normal will not have diesel play a big role!

(The writer is Managing Editor, The Pioneer)

## SOUNDBITE

Nathuram Godse (who killed Mahatma Gandhi) is now BJP's leader. They (BJP) have forgotten Netaji who gave the Jai Hind slogan.

TMC chief —Mamata Banerjee

I'm not the type of mother who believes in 'oh today my child learned this so watch it on a video.' I don't believe in the showmanship of a child.

Actor —Neha Dhupia

Let him (Modi) organise a debate at any place. I can guarantee to the youths of the country that after 15 minutes of debate, he won't be able to show his face to them.

Congress chief —Rahul Gandhi

The world has started saying that the BJP is dangerous for democracy. The world's biggest magazine has written that these are the very people who divided society.

Samajwadi Party chief —Akshay Yadav

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Clear the air

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Delhi confidential" (May 11). Without an iota of doubt, the 2019 Lok Sabha election will go down in the history of India as the dirtiest one. With even senior leaders indulging in below-the-belt remarks day in and day out, we should not be surprised by the pamphlet row between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

To her credit, AAP leader Atishi Marlena has a huge role to play in restoring lost credibility of the Government schools in Delhi. But having said that, it would also be wrong to blame BJP candidate Gautam Gambhir for this fiasco without any solid proof. A thorough probe must be launched and whosoever has played this dirty game must be brought to book and punished. For sure, in a democracy as vibrant as India, it is expected of the voters to be smarter than the politicians. As for the parties, such vileness will only tend to backfire.

Bal Govind Noida

### Pitroda's remarks prove costly

The 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi were sad and shameful days for India as a country known to embrace all religions without bias. The tacit support of some Congress leaders behind the killings was alleged and courts were moved. But anti-Sikh "anger" remains a blot on the Congress' widely hailed secular image. Unfortunately, while top Congress leaders have been subdued and sober on the horrific tragedy, some medium-level cadres and "intellectuals" have put the party in a spot of bother with their of the cuff and immature remarks. Sam Pitroda was considered a right hand man of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The "overseas chairman" of the Congress suddenly emerged from nowhere to "help" the Congress.

Earlier, Pitroda had courted controversy by refusing to blame Pakistan for the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks and his latest "hua toh hua" remarks on the Sikh killings have caused a huge uproar among the community. His blooper may affect the party in Punjab and Delhi. There have been huge protests by the Sikhs against his comments and the BJP has made them an election issue.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

### Odisha needs help

Sir — Fani, the cyclone that hit Odisha recently, has affected the people of this State most severely, depriving them of essentials like food, drinking water, power supply among other things. Nevertheless, the

State's preparedness in preventing casualties is highly appreciable. Even before Fani could make a landfall, people were moved to safer places. Many cyclone shelters were constructed and the Government instituted a disaster risk reduction system that included preparedness activities by families, communi-

ties, Government bodies and NGOs. These efforts drastically minimised the damage. However, the priority right now should be to restore power and telecommunications immediately and ensure adequate drinking water supply to the affected regions, which will require massive manpower and resources.



Further, it was heartening to know that in a noble gesture, the Indian Railways has been transporting relief material free of cost. This move must encourage more people to chip in and expedite relief work to the affected regions.

Varun Dambal Bengaluru

### Grave injustice

Sir — It is astonishing that the Supreme Court's inquiry committee, probing allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India (CJI), found "no substance" in the accusations of a former court employee against him. This will not only affect the reputation of the top court, which is the last hope of the aggrieved seeking fair play and equitable justice, but the reputation of the CJI himself as a man of impeccable character in personal and professional dealings. It might not be salvaged by the decision to keep the report under wraps.

Sushant Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



**FIRST COLUMN**

## Stem the rot within

It is disheartening that the credibility of our institutions stands eroded today. There's a need to restore what's lost through informed effort



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The state of many Indian organisations at best verges on being unprofessional and dubious. There was a time in the national arena when in popular psyche a public institution was trusted and the entry of the private sector elicited reactions of "nationalise them." There was also a time when similar rumblings affected some Government organisations, too, and the cry went out, "privatise them." In this merry-go-round of "privatisation" and "nationalisation", the intensity of the disease only worsened. Many NGOs as also registered societies fared no better. The fate of educational institutions almost caused universal regret but no dramatic turnaround was visible. It was assumed that somehow, the system would cure itself. But it didn't.

A famous story about a sinking ship, one of the biggest in the ocean, goes: When it was hit by an iceberg and began sinking, it had a stray cyclist on its deck. When the ship tilted to the side, the cyclist almost fell over. Out of idle curiosity, he asked a fellow seafarer: "What's happening?" The fellow replied: "The ship is sinking", to which the cyclist said, "You must be joking" and he continued pedalling on. Many Indian organisations fit into this analogy. The brewing crisis is not even being recognised in suitable measure.

Among all institutions, banks have been the first notable victims, both private as well as public sector ones. The only gainer seems to be the defaulters. The working of these institutions seems only to lurch ahead. If the ignominy of a CEO or identification of a scam were to cure the malaise, almost all institutional problems would have been curable. A CEO would have been inept. His kin and friends would have profited out of an unsavoury situation. But what sentiment makes them take liberties? This is only the tip of an iceberg. If one bank scam is unearthed, it is equivalent to catching one rat in a field infested with rats. The CEO may come and go but the overall inefficiency inherent in the situation is corrosive. Killing rats may be a temporary solution but rat holes have to be plugged and the fields have to be sanitised.

Analogies in other sectors exist, too, because perhaps very few realise the gravity of the situation, which threatens to be endemic. Take the case of the education sector: Irrespective of the category or the type of university, in most cases, the moment the post of a vice-chancellor falls vacant, people make a beeline to get on the crease to bat much like the way school children vie with each other for their turn. The pathetic situation of the institution is not unknown to the aspirants of the vice chancellor's post but that does not affect the number of entrants to the race. This situation, which is repeated across various sectors, has led to institutional degradation, which the best of talent at the top may not be able to contain, let alone expect a turnaround, without taking some drastic steps.

Our institutions are allergic to drastic steps. Then enters the new *dramatis personae* on the stage. Concerns of equity, caste and religion are new issues for them to negotiate. Rules of the game can anyway be changed. Nobody wants to speak about reforms because they will cause a furore. The media, with its chat shows and printed word in its columns, creates a clatter which confuses any clear hearing.

All this is eating the vitals of economic stability. There is a need to take a step back and look carefully at the situation before it becomes graver than it is today. And it did not begin with 1947 but since 1935, when institutionally, the sub-continent passed into the self-governance mode. Several institutions were established for many good reasons and sometimes not so good ones and even today their historical evaluation is coloured with pre-conceived notions.

Putting it in simple terms, all institutions need a clarity of functioning. They require an effective communication flow. They must also have clear decision centres, complete package of objective data, suitable financial flows and above all, balanced and educated decision-makers, who can see emotion for what it is and objectivity for what it should be.

This will not happen on its own. It needs conscious and informed effort. India needs a nation-wide movement to bring coherence and further strengthen the credibility of our institutions. Else, there will always be doubts about the credibility of the Election Commission, the Supreme Court and the Parliament — some of our most prized institutions. A conscious effort must be order to stem the tide.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**

A RIFT IS APPARENT IN THE SP-BSP ALLIANCE. LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES ARE ACCUSING EACH OTHER OF FAILING TO TRANSFER THEIR RESPECTIVE VOTE BANKS.

—UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH



THE SP-BSP ALLIANCE IS STRONG. IT IS MY APPEAL TO THE WORKERS OF BOTH THE PARTIES TO REMAIN ALERT AND NOT PAY HEED TO RUMOURS.

—SAMAJWADI CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV

# What constitutes privacy?

India does not even have a data protection policy. This is something that our policy-makers need to look forward to instead of batting for the right to be forgotten



RAGHAV PANDEY

ANOUSHKA MEHTA

As a concept, the Right To Be Forgotten (RTBF) evolved in the 1990s in western Europe and subsequently developed as part of human rights jurisprudence. France became a pioneer of this issue when it recognised the "right to oblivion." This right was available to all convicted individuals, who had served their prison sentences. Often, in cases like these, social stigma is attached to individuals even after they have served their punishments. In general, people had ready access to the criminal history of such cases and the actual commission of a crime would perpetuate stigma. As a result, individuals suffered regardless of the geographical location.

The RTBF is reflected in Article 17 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union (EU). The EU Parliament took nearly four years of preparation and debate to approve the GDPR in 2016, which was finally enforced on May 25, 2018. The GDPR framework replaced an outdated Data Protection directive from 1995. It contains provisions that require businesses to protect their personal data as well as privacy of the EU citizens for transactions that occur within the member states of the EU. It also regulates the exportation of personal data outside its boundaries.

In the Indian context, RTBF is envisaged in the Justice BN Srikrishna Committee report (2018) on Data Protection Bill. The report held that the "rights of the citizens have to be protected, the responsibilities of the States have to be defined but data protection can't come at the cost of trade and industry." Thus, there is also a strong possibility of this right making its way into the Indian legislature. The rationale of the Supreme Court of India in the Puttaswamy judgement has upheld other fundamental rights securing individual liberty in the Constitution. In addition, individual dignity is one of the basis for right to privacy. Privacy itself was held to have a negative impact (the right to be let alone) and a positive one (the right to self-development).

The sphere of privacy includes the right to protect one's identity. This right recognises the fact that all information about a person is fundamentally their own and he/she is free to communicate or retain it for himself/herself. This core of informational privacy is, thus, a right to autonomy and self-determination with respect to one's personal data. Such a notion has also been echoed in the Srikrishna Committee report (2018) on data protection.

Further, it believes that a free and fair digital economy, one that empowers the citizens, can only grow on the foundation of individual autonomy, working towards maximising the common good. However, the report manifests an approach to balance free speech with RTBF. Many have pointed out that the Bill doesn't lay down the golden principle of allowing individuals to be true owners of their own data. The report further includes a balancing test with five criteria for the judiciary to weigh the freedom of speech and expression with RTBF.

RTBF is sometimes referred to as the Right to Erasure (RTE). As it is commonly misunder-

stood, RTBF is not synonymous to the RTE. It is rather an extension of it. The underlying principle of RTE is that when there is no compelling reason for the subject's data to be processed, he/she can request the data controller to erase/remove their personal data, stop any further distribution of their personal data or potentially prevent third parties from processing their personal data.

RTE was applied to only proprietary databases. For example, if one wishes to unsubscribe from a magazine, he/she can ask the concerned firm to delete all information that they possess of him/her. RTE did not apply to search databases as RTBF does. Hence, RTBF is actually an extension of the RTE.

The debate around this has gained a lot of traction in India after the Supreme Court recognised Right to Privacy in its landmark case of *Justice KS Puttaswamy (Retd) and Anr vs Union Of India and Others*. The apex court held that right to privacy is part of the right to life and personal liberty as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. A nine-judge Bench held that "life and personal liberty are inalienable rights. These are rights which are inseparable from a dignified human existence. The dignity of the individual, equality between human beings and the quest for liberty are the foundational pillars of the Indian Constitution..." The verdict has given impetus to demands for recognition for other



RIGHT TO PRIVACY GUARANTEES LIBERTY IN PRIVATE SPACES, ELECTRONIC OR OTHERWISE. THIS MEANS THAT THE INFORMATION, WHICH IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, IS PROTECTED FROM COMING INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN, ON THE OTHER HAND, INVOLVES INFORMATION THAT IS ALREADY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND IS REQUIRED TO BE DELINKED FROM THE INDIVIDUAL, WHO DOES NOT WANT TO LEAVE A FOOTPRINT

fourth generation human rights in India, like the right to be forgotten and RTE.

The right to privacy guarantees liberty in private spaces, electronic or otherwise. This means that the information, which is not in the public domain, is protected from coming into the public domain. Right to be forgotten, on the other hand, involves information that is already in the public domain and is required to be delinked from the individual, who has claimed the right to be forgotten.

Further, the RTE operates in an even niche area, where an individual can target a specific database and claim a RTE against it for the removal of information which concerns them. But the fourth-generation communication rights, like the right to be forgotten, come with their own set of flaws.

First, one of the major problems is that the guarantee of the right vests with only a few individual corporations. Take the example of Google. As per Google's Transparency report, it can remove only 41 per cent of the URLs against which some issue was raised. This means that the authoritative framework for implementing such a right now vests with a corporation and it is performing an adjudicatory function while deciding to accede to a request of removal. This is something which the Indian legal system does not envisage; wherein adjudicatory role is an essential state function.

Second, there is a concern that accused criminals can wipe out valu-

able evidence while their guilt is under adjudication. This can turn out to be an implementation nightmare for security agencies, especially those who are collaborating on international crimes and possibly terrorism.

Third, the sheer reach of the internet make a case for something, like the right to be forgotten absolutely impractical. If there is an adjudicatory order, for instance against Google, the information, which a claimant is seeking to protect, is not necessarily saved by such a request. This simply because Google is not the sole repository of that information. Details may be available through other search engines and may still be hosted as it is a primary website. Hence, it is highly problematic to put such a right in motion. Regardless to mention, it also involves significant expenditure to bring it into force.

Fourth, India does not even have a data protection policy. This is something that our policy-makers need to look forward to instead of batting for the right to be forgotten. Because in the absence of such a system, multinational corporations, which practically administer and govern the internet, are beyond the jurisdiction of the Indian law and courts. Hence, even a guarantee will be meaningless if the decisions of our courts are not respected/recognised.

(Raghav Pandey is an Assistant Professor of Law and Anoushka Mehta is a student of Law at the Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai)

# Trade row precursor to another low

Amid a vicious circle of mistrust between the US and China, what is quite likely to happen is that the latter will slide into a huge recession, dragging the rest of the world behind it. Maybe not as bad as 2008 but very bad and probably very long

Washington) China started to "renege" on parts of the deal it had earlier agreed to. Washington is probably telling the truth about that: It's practically standard in the closing stages of any negotiation with the Chinese Government.

So, Trump responded by imposing heavy new tariffs on Chinese exports, to come into effect in less than a week's time unless they back off. According to his Twitter-storm, the existing tariff of 10 per cent on \$200 billion of Chinese exports to the United States will more than double to 25 per cent. In another move, Trump ordered tariff hike on remaining Chinese imports valued at \$325 billion and will face 25 per cent customs duties.

Decades of experience in the Manhattan real estate market have taught Donald Trump to recognise the smell of fear and he is right: The Chinese are terrified. But he knows nothing about trade or the Chinese economy, so he doesn't understand the implications of that. (This is a guy who boasts that the Chinese are having to pay these new tariffs. It is, of course,



the American importers who pay.)

The Chinese leaders are terrified because their economy is already trembling on the brink of a major recession. They dodged the last one in 2008 by flooding the economy with cheap credit and setting off an investment boom that kept employment high, especially in construction. But that trick only works once.

All four corners of almost every major intersection in the hundred biggest Chinese cities are now occupied by 'dark towers': Forty or 50-storeyed apartment buildings with few

or no occupants. It would take an estimated four years with no new construction whatsoever to sell off the currently unsold housing stock.

And the building is still going on, albeit at a somewhat slower pace. The vaunted six per cent annual growth in the Chinese economy is just creative accounting. At least half of that is actually spending on white elephant projects like the dark towers that create employment but will never produce an adequate return on investment.

Meanwhile, the real Chinese economy (annual growth rate between two

per cent and three per cent) is slowing to a near-stall. Last year, for the first time in a quarter-century, new car sales in China actually fell by almost six per cent. A big hit to its exports to the US, its biggest single customer, could tip it over the edge.

China is now such a big player that the rest of the world economy would probably follow it into a recession — and it would be much worse than the usual couple of years of slow or no growth because none of the major players has really recovered from the last recession yet. The main way Governments fight recessions is by cutting interest rate, but that is still near zero in most big economies from the drastic cuts in interest last time round. Moreover, Government debt is much higher than it was a decade ago and there would be no public support for bailing out the banks the taxpayers' money again.

"We're in much worse shape to deal with whatever shocks come along than we were ten years ago," said Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman in a recent Bloomberg interview. China is in particularly bad

shape. Its total debt, even according to the untrustworthy official figures, is nearing three times its GDP, which is when the alarm bells usually start ringing. So what happens if Trump's huge tariff hikes do not force an immediate Chinese surrender on whatever issues remain in contention in the trade talks? What if Chinese President Xi Jinping and his people decide to tough it out rather than lose a lot of face? What is quite likely to happen is that China slides into a huge recession, dragging the rest of the world behind it. Maybe not as bad as 2008, but very bad and probably very long.

Something else might happen too. The Chinese version of the 'social contract' is that power and privileges of the post-Communist autocracy that runs the country will be tolerated as long as people's living standards rise rapidly. But they are already stagnating. How would the Chinese public react if living standards actually begin to fall? Really badly, in all likelihood. We live in interesting times.

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



**FOREIGN EYE**



## REWRITE THE RULES OF TRADE

The world's trading rules need rewriting, not least so that its largest economies can trade peacefully. They need to allow a freer hand for countries to pursue "fairer trade" strategies that suit their economies and societies. In richer nations, labour markets ought to be protected from social dumping and technology leakages.

Developing nations should be able to pursue an independent economic strategy. (The Guardian editorial)



GWYNNE DYER

US President Donald Trump is playing the hard-ball with China over trade and the worry-warts are fretting that he's going to start a real trade war by accident. The bigger threat, however, is that he will push first China and then the whole world into a deep recession.

It's been 10 years since the last recession (2008-09) and that one was a doozy. Recessions tend to come around once a decade, so one is due about now anyway — and the Chinese economy is so shaky that almost any serious shock can topple it into the pit. The rest of the world will follow.

A week ago, according to both sides, the US-China trade deal was almost done, but then (according to



# Imminent crisis in NBFC sector: Corp Affairs Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI  
There is an "imminent crisis" in the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) sector as misadventures by some large entities and credit squeeze present a perfect recipe for disaster, a senior Government official has said.

In recent months, the country's financial system has been grappling with multiple woes in the wake of the turmoil at diversified IL&FS group as well as debt defaults by some other large entities.

In an interview to PTI, Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas said the NBFC sector is facing issues of credit squeeze, over-leveraging and misadventures by some large entities.

"There is an imminent crisis in the NBFC sector. There is a credit squeeze, over-leveraging, excessive concentration, massive mismatch between assets and liabilities, coupled with some misadventures by some very large entities, which is a perfect recipe for disaster," Srinivas said.

However, he added that "responsible" companies are managing the risk well and are not facing such a dire situation.

Srinivas also said corporate governance in India is being put to test.

"It is a defining moment. The way things are moving, in the medium to long term it will be for the good. In the short term, there can be turbulence,"

he said. "If you are responsible, you manage the risks. There are many companies in the country that have strong corporate governance. They take risks but manage them as well. So, they don't face such dire situation that some others are facing today," Srinivas said.

Amid instances of the situation of non-performing assets (NPAs) being linked to external factors, Srinivas noted that it would not be a convincing explanation.

"To say that the situation (NPA) can be attributed entirely to external factors and business risks is not a convincing answer because there is something known as responsible behaviour," he emphasised.

Earlier this month, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the banking sector is "under severe stress" and the way out of "this mess" is to reverse some "gross distortions", work closely with the RBI, re-start the process of credit delivery and ensure sufficient liquidity and cash in circulation.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI  
The Reserve Bank of India proposes to come out with a mobile application to aid visually impaired persons in identifying Indian currency notes.



At present, banknotes in the denominations of ₹10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 2,000 are in circulation, besides ₹1 notes issued by the Government of India.

Intaglio printing based identification marks for helping the visually challenged in identification of denomination of banknotes are present in notes of ₹100 and above.

The RBI has solicited bids from technology firms for developing the mobile application.

"The application should be able to identify denomination of legal tender banknotes of Mahatma Gandhi Series and Mahatma Gandhi (New) series by capturing the image of the notes placed in front of mobile camera or scrolled across it," said the request for proposal issued by the central bank.

Also, the mobile application should be searchable via voice option in all app stores, it said.

"The mobile application

# RBI proposes mobile app to help visually impaired to identify currency notes

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Also, the mobile application should be searchable via voice option in all app stores, it said.

"The mobile application



should be able to identify the bank note denomination in 2 seconds or less," the RBI said, and added that the app should also work in offline mode without internet connection.

Further, the mobile application shall provide multi-lingual support as well as audio notifications. The application is expected to support Hindi and English language as a minimum, it said.

Cash constitutes the most important means of transaction in the country. As on March 31, 2018, there were about 102 billion pieces of banknotes in circulation having a value of ₹18 lakh crore.

There are about 80 lakh blind or visually impaired people in the country, who are likely to benefit from the initiative of the central bank.

In June, 2018 the central bank had declared that it would explore the feasibility of developing a suitable device or mechanism for aiding the visually impaired in the identification of Indian banknotes.

# NCLAT dismisses insolvency plea against SpiceJet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has dismissed a plea for initiation of insolvency proceedings against Spicejet by Ramco Systems Ltd, an operational creditor of the low-cost carrier.

A two-member bench headed by Chairman Justice S J Makhopadhyaya upheld the orders passed by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in this matter saying that it has rightly rejected Ramco's plea by observing that such petition requires strict proof of debt and default, which was absent in this case.

The appellate tribunal said there was nothing on record to suggest that the demand notice relating to invoices issued by Ramco System was forwarded or received by Spicejet.

"For the reasons aforesaid, no relief can be granted," said NCLAT.

Ramco Systems had entered into agreement with Spicejet to provide 'Aviation Software Solutions' in May, 2013.

Later in July 2014, 'Change Order Demand' was executed between the parties.

The earlier 'Software Licence Agreement' for 180 number of authorised users were amended to 55 aircraft tails and unlimited users with other amendment and modifi-



cation which also followed various modification and alteration.

Ramco Systems counsel claimed before the NCLAT that a huge amount is payable by Spicejet and invoice for ₹62.89 lakh was intimated to them and sent by email on January 2016.

Rejecting it, Spicejet claimed before the NCLAT that all claims depended on invoices for the financial year 2013-14, including the invoice dated July 23, 2014. This was due and payable by August 22, 2014 and said that it was barred by limitation.

Moreover, the demand notice was issued by Ramco Systems on April 24, 2017, without attaching the invoices relating to debt which are payable. It further contended that two demand notices dated July 23, 2014 for amount ₹59.83 lakh and ₹33.70 was never issued by Ramco Systems. Consenting to it, the

NCLAT said: "There is nothing on the record to suggest that the invoices dated July 23, 2014 were forwarded or received by Spicejet."

"... In absence of specific evidence relating to invoices actually forwarded by the Appellant and there being a doubt, we hold that the Adjudicating Authority (NCLT) has rightly refused to entertain application under Section 9 which requires strict proof of debt and default," said the NCLT.

Ramco Systems has moved the NCLAT after the National Company Law Tribunal has dismissed its insolvency plea on December 14, 2017.

The NCLAT has dismissed Ramco System's application on the ground of inconsistency in the overall payments and the non-compliance with the provisions by the operational creditor, in the absence of a certificate from the financial institution maintaining its accounts.

# Positive sentiment continues for manufacturing sector in Q4, capacity utilisation up at 80%: FICCI survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sentiment in the manufacturing sector remains positive as overall capacity utilisation rose to 80 per cent in the fourth quarter, a survey by FICCI said.

According to FICCI's 'Quarterly Survey on Manufacturing', the overall sentiment in the manufacturing sector remains positive as the proportion of respondents reporting higher output growth (around 54 per cent) during the January-March 2018-19 remained the same as compared to the third quarter.

"First time in last many quarters, the overall capacity utilisation in manufacturing has witnessed an increase to 80 per cent in Q4 2018-19. It was hovering at 75 per cent for last many quarters," it added.

On hiring front, the outlook for the sector seems to have slightly improved for near future.

"While in Q4 of 2017-18, 70 per cent respondents mentioned that they were not likely to hire additional workforce, this percentage has come down to 62.5 per cent for Q4 of 2018-19," the survey pointed out.

In terms of order books, 44 per cent respondents in March

2019 quarter said they expect the number to go up as against 43 per cent in October-December 2018 quarter.

Going forward, it is expected that hiring scenario will improve further as 37.5 per cent respondents in Q4 2018-19 are looking at hiring more people now as compared to 30 per cent in the year-ago period.

FICCI's survey assessed manufacturers in 12 major sectors namely automotive, capital goods, cement and ceramics, chemicals, textiles, leather and footwear, metal and metal products, fertilisers and pharmaceuticals, and others.

Responses were drawn from over 300 manufacturing units from both large and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of over ₹3.56 lakh crore.

About 72 per cent respondents said the cost of production as a percentage of sales has risen — primarily on account of increased cost of raw materials, wages, power cost, rising crude oil prices, increase in finance cost and rupee depreciation.

About 40 per cent respondents reported plans for capacity additions for the next six months as compared to 47 per cent in the third quarter.

# FinMin reworking strategic sale procedure for CPSEs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry is reworking strategic sale procedure to ensure outright sale of CPSEs within 4 months of issuance of documents to potential investors, a move aimed at ensuring speedier conclusion of the entire process, an official said.

However, for CPSEs like Air India, which are relatively bigger in size, the timeline for completion of strategic sale is likely to be fixed at 6 months from the date of issuance of Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) about the company.

Currently, there is no set timeline for concluding strategic sale of a State-owned company and the entire process, in some cases, drags on for months, if not years.

"The strategic sale policy is already in place, but the procedure needs to be streamlined so that the sale process is completed within 3-4 months' time. The thinking is that if a process cannot be completed in 4 months then it should be abandoned," an official told PTI.

Facing a daunting task of meeting the ₹90,000-crore disinvestment target in the current fiscal, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) will focus on outright sale of selected CPSEs, which have been



pending for long. NITI Aayog has already identified 35 profitable and loss-making CPSEs which can go in for strategic sale.

"The procedure would be drafted in a way such that the process can go on simultaneously for more than one CPSE. For bigger CPSEs, the timeline for completion of sale could be extended till about 6 months," the official added.

The companies which have been shortlisted for strategic sale include Air India, Air India subsidiary AIATSL, BEML, Scooters India, Bharat Pumps Compressors, and Bhadravati, Salem and Durgapur units of steel major

same for Scooters India, Hindustan Newsprint was floated in March 2018. The same of SAIL's Alloy Steel Plant was issued in February, while that of Hindustan Prefab was posted on website in October 2017. However, these transactions could not be completed so far due to variety of reasons.

In last fiscal the Government had raised ₹84,972 crore from CPSE disinvestment, of which ₹15,914 crore came in from strategic

stake sale. During the fiscal, state-owned NBCC bought government stake in HSCC for Rs 285 crore. Besides, a consortium of four ports acquired the government's 73.44 per cent stake in Dredging Corp of India for Rs 1,049 crore, while National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) was sold for Rs 80 crore.

An amount of Rs 14,500 crore was raised by way of state-run state-run Power Finance Corp acquiring the government stake in REC.

So far in current financial year, the Government has mopped up ₹2,350 through disinvestment transactions.

# Govt to set up panel under DGFT to look at steel availability for engineering exporters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has decided to set up a committee under the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to look into availability of steel at competitive prices for engineering goods exporters, an official said.

"The committee will submit its report to steel and commerce ministries within two months. It will suggest measures which will be a win-win situation for both steel producers and engineering exporters," the official added.

Engineering goods exporters are demanding that they should get steel at global prices as domestic rates are higher. However, steel producers state that freight charges and cost of production is high in the country, which push up prices.

The decision to set up the committee, which will also have members from the engineering sector, was taken during a meeting last week between the senior officials of steel and commerce ministries and exporters.

In that meeting, engineering players said steel should be made available at competitive rates so that outbound ship-

ments can be pushed further. Another official said that if steel prices are "so high, then how are engineering exports recording healthy growth rate".

The country's engineering exports rose by 6.36 per cent to \$83.7 billion in 2018-19 from \$78.7 billion in 2017-18.

These exports accounts for over 25 per cent of the country's total merchandise exports, which stood at \$331 billion last fiscal.

Shipments to North America and Europe constitute about 40 per cent of the total engineering exports.

Engineering exports include transport equipment, capital goods, other machinery/equipment and light engineering products like castings, forgings and fasteners.

According to a report of the World Steel Association (worldsteel), India's crude steel production in 2018 was at 106.5 million tonnes, up by 4.9 per cent from 101.5 million tonnes in 2017.

Since 2011-12, India's exports have been hovering at around \$300 billion. During 2017-18, the shipments aggregated at \$303 billion.

Promoting exports helps a country to create jobs, boost manufacturing and earn more foreign exchange.

# CAPSI signs MoU with Sardar Patel University of Police, SPUP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a step that would upscale technical skills of private security personnel, Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice (SPUP), Jodhpur (Rajasthan) to cooperate and collaborate in framing of syllabus and conduct degree, diploma and certificate courses in security management.

"There is a need for specialized courses on security management. Our association with SPUP will help in getting good quality of managers and supervisors for private security industry. There is a growing demand for private security personnel from abroad also. Our trained manpower with proper degrees and certificates will increase their employability abroad, particularly in Europe



and Gulf nations where demand is increasing," said CAPSI Chairman Kunwar Vikram Singh after signing the MoU.

According to Kunwar Vikram Singh: "As per the agreements signed between CAPSI and SPUP, the two organizations will establish collaborative relations between them in the area of academics and research besides working in developing curriculum for degrees, diplomas and certificate courses. Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice, Jodhpur (SPUP) has been established by an Act Passed by the State Legislature, Government of Rajasthan in 2012.

# Finmin seeks applications for post of DMDs at IIFCL, IFCI, Exim Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry has invited applications from eligible candidates to fill the vacancy of deputy managing directors of three state-owned financial institutions including Exim Bank and IFCI.

India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) and IFCI require to fill one post of deputy managing director (DMD) each, while Exim Bank has two such vacancies.

The maximum permissible age for eligible candidates is 55 years as on the date of vacancy which in case of IFCI dates back to December 12, 2016, as per the public notice.

The maximum age of entry for both internal as well as other candidates shall be 55 years as on the date of vacancy (August 16, 2017) for the first and July 21, 2019 for second vacancy for the Exim Bank, it said.

With regard to educational qualification, it said, candidates should have a post graduate degree preferably in eco-



nomics, commerce, business administration or finance or a graduate degree with professional qualification of chartered accountancy, cost accountancy of chartered financial analyst.

Candidates should have a minimum 18 years of experience as on the date of vacancy in different verticals or domain in banks or financial institutions with at least 2 years at the highest level below the board level, it said.

The positions are open for

All India Service officers on deputation basis with minimum 15 years of experience of which 2 years as director or deputy secretary to Government of India in relevant filed.

The last date for submission for these applications is May 27, 2019.

The Finance Ministry will screen applications and the shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by panel headed by the Financial Services Secretary.

# Lenovo launches EGO smartwatch in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lenovo launched digital smartwatch EGO on Saturday. Bridging the gap between smartphones and wearables, Lenovo EGO offers health and fitness features while offering the services of a smartphone too. This new digital smartwatch has core features like 20 days battery life, 24/7 heart-rate monitor, scientific sleep monitor, and is water resistant up to 50 meters allowing it to be used as a swim tracker. Lenovo EGO is priced at ₹1,999 and will be available on Flipkart.

CP Khandelwal, PR Innovations Pvt. Ltd. said, "Smartwatch as a category has transformed its way in the previous years and the industry of smart wearable devices shall continue to grow. We expect Lenovo's new digital smartwatch, EGO to acquire India market at a fast pace. We look forward to building this partnership and expanding the smartwatch portfolio while constantly fulfilling the needs of our customers."

# General Manager, North Railway inspects electric loco shed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TP Singh, General Manager, Northern Railway, accompanied by SC Jain, Divisional Railway Manager, Delhi, & Principal Head of Departments of Northern Railway inspected Electric Loco Shed and EMU Car Shed and Signal Workshop Ghaziabad.

At Electric Loco Shed, General Manager inspected the speedometer section, pneumatic test setup, PPIO unit & Electronic Laboratory. He appreciated the work of calibration of speedometer during maintenance.

At EMU Car Shed, General Manager inspected the 3 Phase EMU rake and Ladies Special EMU Rake alongwith the maintenance activities in the different sections of the shed.

General Manager was given a detailed presentation at



the sheds regarding the various maintenance activities. He also interacted with the recognized Unions and assured them that the matters relating to staff would resolve expeditiously.

TP Singh, General Manager said that there should be increase in reliability of Locomotives & EMUs and to increase the outage of sheds. He instructed that the "Dos and Don'ts" and other safety instructions in the risk prone or critical areas of workplace should be followed by the maintenance staff.







TRUMP TO CHINA

# Trade deal now or it will be 'far worse' after 2020

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump warned China on Saturday that it should strike a trade deal with the United States now, otherwise an agreement would be "far worse for them if it has to be negotiated in my second term".

Washington and Beijing are locked in a trade battle that has seen mounting tariffs, sparking fears the dispute will damage the global economy.

Two days of talks ended Friday with no deal. China's top negotiator said the two sides would meet again in Beijing at an unspecified date, but warned that China would make no concessions on "important principles".

"I think that China felt they were being beaten so badly in the recent negotiation that they may as well wait around for the next election, 2020, to see if they could get lucky & have a Democrat win -- in which case they would continue to rip-off the USA for \$500 Billion a year," Trump said in a tweet Saturday.

"The only problem is that

they know I am going to win (best economy & employment numbers in U.S. History, & much more), and the deal will become far worse for them if it has to be negotiated in my second term. Would be wise for them to act now, but love collecting BIG TARIFFS!" Trump had accused Beijing of renegeing on its commitments in trade talks and ordered new punitive duties, which took effect Friday, on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, raising them to 25 percent from 10 percent.

He then cranked up the heat further, ordering a tariff hike on almost all remaining imports -- \$300 billion worth, according to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer -- from the world's second-biggest economy.

Those tariffs would not take effect for months, after a period of public comment.

Trump also said Saturday that firms could easily avoid additional costs by producing goods in the United States.

"Such an easy way to avoid Tariffs? Make or produce your goods and products in the good old USA. It's very simple!"

he tweeted, echoing a similar message he sent Friday -- and even retweeted.

Only a week earlier, the United States and China had seemed poised to complete a sweeping agreement.

Washington wants Beijing to tighten its intellectual property protections, cut its subsidies to state-owned firms and reduce the yawning trade deficit; China wants an end to tariffs as part of a "balanced" deal.

While supporters laud Trump as a tough negotiator, free-trade-minded Republicans have warned that the tariffs could do real damage to the economy, and many farmers -- including Trump supporters -- say the tariffs have hit their bottom line.

As the trade war spread, China imposed \$110 billion in duties on farm exports and other US goods.

Republican Senator Chuck Grassley, from the farm state of Iowa, cautiously welcomed the new tariffs but urged negotiators to reach a quick solution "so we can avoid prolonged tariffs, which we know have an impact on the US economy."

# US transfers funds meant for Af, Pak for building Mexico wall

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States is transferring USD 1.5 billion originally meant for the Afghan security forces and the Pakistan military to a fund to help pay for construction of the US-Mexican border wall, according to acting US Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan.

"We reprogrammed USD 1.5 billion toward the construction of more than 120 miles of border barrier without impacting readiness," Shanahan said in a statement late Friday.

"The funds were culled from a variety of sources, to include unexecuted prior year funds, the suspension of reimbursements to Pakistan, and costs reductions in a series of contracts," he said.

More than USD 600 million of these funds come from an Afghan security forces account. The US is also taking USD 78 million from the Coalition Support Fund, which is money used to reimburse Pakistan for logis-

tical and military support for American military operations in Afghanistan.

The funds have been reprogrammed despite an increase in attacks inside Afghanistan and a complaint by the US chief negotiator that peace talks with the Taliban are not moving at a sufficient pace, Dawn said.

The US and the Taliban have held six rounds of direct talks since October in Doha, Qatar, to end America's longest war in which the US has lost over 2,400 soldiers. The latest round of negotiations ended on Thursday. The Taliban control nearly half of Afghanistan, and are more powerful than at any time since the 2001 US-led invasion.



# Brexit Party doubles UK European parl poll lead

AFP ■ LONDON

The newly-formed Brexit Party, which wants a clean break from the EU, has doubled its lead over other British parties in an opinion poll out Sunday on the European Parliament elections.

The Opinium survey in The Observer newspaper put the Brexit Party of eurosceptic figurehead Nigel Farage on 34 percent, doubling its lead over the main opposition Labour Party to 13 points in a fortnight -- and on course to get more votes than Britain's two main parties put together.

Labour, on 21 percent, has dropped seven points while the anti-Brexit Liberal Democrats are in third place on 12 percent, up five points, on the corresponding poll from two weeks ago.

Prime Minister Theresa May's governing Conservatives are in fourth place on 11 percent.

Had Britain left the European Union as planned on March 29, it would not be taking part in the European Parliament elections, which will be held in the UK on May 23.

**PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY'S GOVERNING CONSERVATIVES ARE IN FOURTH PLACE ON 11 PERCENT**

In the 2016 referendum on Britain's EU membership, 52 percent voted to leave while 48 percent voted to remain.

Adam Drummond, head of political polling at Opinium, said Remain voters were scattered among several parties.

"While 63 percent of Leavers say they will vote for the Brexit Party in the European elections, the most popular party among Remainers (Labour) only has 31 percent, versus 22 percent for the Lib Dems and 14 percent for the Greens," he said.

Brexit voters have deserted the Conservatives to such an extent that they now have a higher share of Remainers (12 percent) backing them than of Leavers (11 percent), he added.

the next general election -- which must be held by May 2022 -- left-wing Labour is on 28 percent, the centre-right Conservatives on 22 percent, the Brexit Party on 21 percent and the centrist Liberal Democrats on 11 percent.

Opinium Research conducted an online survey of 2,004 British adults between Wednesday and Friday. The results were weighted.

A ComRes general election poll, which appears in The Sunday Telegraph newspaper, puts Labour on 27 percent, the Brexit Party on 20 percent and the Conservatives on 19 percent.

The poll of 2,034 adults conducted on Thursday was commissioned by Brexit Express, a campaign group run by the Brexit Party's biggest donor.

May has pledged to step down once a Brexit divorce deal has been agreed upon by parliament.

ComRes chairman Andrew Hawkins said of those bidding to replace May: "If the Conservative leadership contenders are not careful, there will be no party for them to lead."

# N Korean cargo ship seized by US arrives in American Samoa

AP ■ PAGO PAGO (AMERICAN SAMOA)

A North Korean cargo ship seized by the U.S. because of suspicion it was used to violate international sanctions arrived at the capital of this American territory, where it will undergo inspections.

The Wise Honest was slowly towed to the port of Pago Pago during a cloudy Saturday morning and docked at the main docking section of the port that afternoon.

The trip from Indonesia took about three weeks and American Samoa, in the South Pacific, was chosen because of "its central strategic location," U.S. Coast Guard public affairs officer Amanda Wyrick said.

"We also have a good strong relationship and partnership with the American Samoan government," Wyrick said.

"With that being said, we

security of the vessel but most importantly the Port of Pago Pago."

The ship was detained in April 2018 as it traveled toward Indonesia. Justice Department officials announced Thursday the U.S. had seized the ship.

Asked as to how long the ship will be in the territory, Wyrick said the U.S. Department of Justice is "leading the investigation so they will be conducting that. Upon the conclusion of the investigation, the ship will be moved."

But she said the next destination is unknown.

"I do know that Justice Department is going to do the investigation as fast as they can," Wyrick added.

She said she didn't have the exact number of U.S. Coast Guard personnel or people from other federal agencies who have traveled to American Samoa for the investigation.

"We have a marine and safety security team here from Honolulu," Wyrick said.

# 5 persons, 3 terrorists killed in Gwadar hotel attack

Islamabad: At least eight persons, including four civilians, a Pakistan Navy soldier and three militants, were killed in Saturday's deadly attack on a luxury hotel in the port city of Gwadar in the restive Balochistan province, as the security forces cleared the building and defused explosive devices left behind by the attackers, the Pakistan Army said Sunday.

Three militants of the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), armed with automatic weapons, stormed the Pearl Continental (PC) Hotel in Gwadar and opened random firing, killing a guard on Saturday.

All three attackers were killed by the security forces.

China has built a deep-sea port in Gwadar, which is one of the focal points of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Beijing has invested over USD 50 billion to link the port city with the China's far-western Xinjiang region. Many Chinese and workers from

other provinces of Pakistan are also employed at the port.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday condemned a deadly attack on the PC hotel, saying the terror strike was an effort to "sabotage" the country's economic projects and prosperity.

Pakistan Army spokesperson, in a statement, said the security forces have completed the clearance operation at the PC Gwadar, in which five persons and three attackers were killed.

"All three terrorists killed. Terrorists' bodies are held for identification. During operation five individuals, including four hotel employees and a Pakistan Navy soldier, died," the statement said.

Six individuals got injured which include two Army officials, two Pakistan Navy soldiers and two hotel employee.

Army said the terrorists had attempted entry into the hotel with an aim to target or take hostage the guests present there, but security guard at the entry challenged them and

foiled the attempt of the militants to enter into the hotel's main hall. The terrorists went to the upper floors of the hotel through the staircase.

"Terrorists opened fire, resulting into martyrdom of security guard Zahoor while enroute to stairs, terrorists kept firing indiscriminately resulting into martyrdom of three more hotel employees - Farhad, Bilawal and Awaiz - while two others got injured," the Army said.

It further said that the Quick Reaction Forces of the Army, the Navy and the Police immediately reached the hotel and secured guests and staff present, and restricted the attackers within corridor of the fourth floor of the hotel.

After ensuring safe evacuation of guests and staff, the security forces launched a clearance operation against the terrorists, who made the CCTV cameras dysfunctional and planted improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at all the entry points leading to fourth floor, it said.

# 5.1 magnitude quake hits western Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A moderate intensity earthquake of 5.1 magnitude hit the western Nepal in the wee hours of Sunday, but there was no immediate report of damage to the property or any casualty, officials said.

## THE EPICENTRE OF THE EARTHQUAKE WAS IN DAILEKH DISTRICT

The epicentre of the quake, which was recorded at around 00:36 hours on Sunday, was in Dailekh district, about 600 km west of Kathmandu, according to the National Seismological Centre. The tremor was also felt in Kathmandu, it said, adding there was no immediate report of any casualty or damage to the property.

# Saudi forces kill 8 in attack on Shia town

**Earlier, a prominent Shia cleric Ayatollah Sheikh Baqir Nimr al-Nimr was killed in 2016**

AFP ■ RIYADH

Eight Saudi Shias were killed on Saturday in a police raid in Saudi Arabia's eastern Qatif region, a Shia minority stronghold, State media reported.

The recently-formed cell was preparing to carry out "terrorist" activities against the security of the country, the official Saudi Press Agency reported citing a state security spokesman.

He said the men were killed after they fired shots at security forces, who had surrounded a residential apartment in the Sanabis neighbourhood.

"They were called on to surrender, but they did not respond and opened fire at the security forces... Which resulted in their killing," said the

spokesman. No civilians or security forces were injured in the operation, he added.

Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province -- which includes Qatif -- has seen bouts of unrest since 2011 when protesters emboldened by the Arab Spring uprisings took to the streets.

The demonstrators have demanded an end to what they say is discrimination by the Sunni-dominated government, a charge Riyadh denies.

One of the leaders of the protest movement, prominent Shia cleric Ayatollah Sheikh Baqir Nimr al-Nimr, was executed in 2016 for "terrorism". Nimr's execution exacerbated sectarian tension both across the Gulf and with Saudi Arabia's main regional rival, Shia Iran.

The Shia community is estimated to make up between 10 and 15 percent of the kingdom's population of 32 million, but the government has released no official statistics.

# Germany debates 'mosque tax' to replace foreign funding

AFP ■ BERLIN

Support is growing in Germany for a "mosque tax" to make Islamic institutions less dependent on potentially anti-democratic or "radical" foreign funding sources, a media report said Sunday.

The federal Government sees it as "a possible path", according to an answer to a parliamentary query, the Welt am Sonntag newspaper reported.

Several of Germany's 16 states had also signalled support in principle for the idea which would mirror Germany's voluntary Christian "church tax", the newspaper said.

Concern has grown in Germany about the influence

of foreign funding sources on mosques for the country's estimated five million Muslims, who hail mostly from Turkey and Arab countries.

Some 900 mosques in Germany are run by the Turkish-Islamic Union of the Institute for Religion (Ditib), under the authority of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government. Its imams are paid by the Turkish state, and the group has come under scrutiny with some of its members suspected of spying on Turkish dissidents living in Germany.

At the height of a bitter row between Germany and Turkey in mid-2017, two German ministers warned in a Spiegel Online commentary that

Erdogan's "dangerous ideologies must not be imported to Germany via certain mosques."

In other cases, some mosques have come under police scrutiny or been closed for preaching radical and militant Islamist ideas.

Welt am Sonntag said that, in the newspaper's own survey, several states had affirmed that mosque communities in Germany should be able to finance themselves.

The interior ministry of the regional state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania had said it was open to "mosque financing based on the church model" to reduce foreign influence, including "the danger of possible radicalisation".

# French FM urges Iran to show 'political maturity' over N-deal

AFP ■ PARIS

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has described Tehran's threat to resume nuclear work -- in what would be a contravention of its commitments under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal -- as a "bad reaction", calling on Tehran to show "political maturity".

"Iran has had a bad reaction, faced with a bad US decision to withdraw from the Vienna agreements and impose sanctions," Le Drian said in an interview published online by Le Parisien, referring to the 2015 deal signed in Vienna.

"It is a pity that the United States is not honouring its

commitments, Iran must show its political maturity," Le Drian added.

Iran announced earlier this month that it will stop respecting some limits on its nuclear activities imposed under the landmark 2015 deal.

The announcement came exactly a year after the US withdrew from the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with further measures threatened if the agreement's other signatories fail to mitigate the impact of renewed American sanctions within 60 days.

Le Drian also warned against a "bellicose spiral", stressing the "responsibility" of the Americans and the importance of dialogue with Tehran.



Blindfolded peace activists protest before the presentation of the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest participants in Tel Aviv, Israel on Sunday



Local residents perform a kirin dance during a parade on the outlying Cheung Chau island in Hong Kong to celebrate the Bun Festival Sunday, May 12, 2019. Thousands of local residents and tourists flocked to an outlying island in Hong Kong to celebrate a local bun festival on Sunday. The festival features a parade with children dressed as deities floated on poles

# BANGLADESH RESCUES 23 ROHINGYA GIRLS FROM TRAFFICKERS

Dhaka: Twenty-three teenage Rohingya girls were rescued after being brought from refugee camps to the capital Dhaka to be sent to Malaysia by air, Bangladesh police said Sunday.

Dhaka police also arrested four human traffickers including a Rohingya couple and recovered over 50 Bangladeshi passports from them on Saturday.

Police spokesman Mokhlesur Rahman said they raided a residence in the northern part of the city and found the teenagers hiding in a room behind a tailoring shop.

"They were promised jobs in Malaysia and brought from refugee camps in Cox's Bazar," he told AFP, referring to the Rohingya settlements in Bangladesh's southeastern coastal district.

# UN kicks off major climate change effort

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has kicked off a major United Nations push for progress on what he calls the defining issue of our time: climate change.

Guterres travelled to New Zealand on Sunday, from where he is set to visit several Pacific islands where rising sea levels are threatening the very existence of those small countries.

The stepped-up diplomacy will culminate with a climate action summit at the UN in September, an event billed as a last chance to prevent irreversible climate change, three years after the Paris agreement went into force.

"We are seeing everywhere a clear demonstration that we

# Netanyahu says needs more time to form new Govt

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday he would ask President Reuven Rivlin for more time to form a new coalition government, citing recent holidays and the Gaza flare-up.

Netanyahu's Likud won 35 seats in the April 9 general election, with most party chiefs represented in the 120-seat parliament recommending that he forms the next governing coalition.

On April 17 Rivlin formally tasked him with the mission, which by law needs to be completed within 28 days -- although a 14-day extension is automatically granted upon request.

# UN MONITORING REBEL WITHDRAWAL FROM YEMEN'S HODEIDA

Cairo: The U.N. said Sunday it is monitoring the redeployment of rebel forces from three key ports in Yemen after the government dismissed the withdrawal as a "farce."

The rebels, known as Houthis, said Saturday they began the long-delayed redeployment of their forces from the key port of Hodeida, as well as the two smaller ports of Saff and Ras Issa, as part of a cease-fire reached in December.

The long-delayed redeployment is seen as a key first step toward ending the civil war, which erupted in 2014 when the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa.

A Saudi-led coalition joined the war the following year on the side of the government. Tens of thousands of people have been killed and the war has generated the world's worst humanitarian crisis.



Trend Slazer

'Always wanted to be a mother'

Actress **PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS** is looking forward to starting a family with her husband, **NICK JONAS**.

She said, "I've always wanted to be a mother. I think, you know, whenever God wants it to happen."

Priyanka said she and Nick consult with each other on their outfits in general.

"I definitely ask his opinion. I think he's extremely stylish and his choices of clothes are so great and I love a man who's well turned out. My (late) father was that, always well turned out, like took care of himself, and that shows that you care about your wife," she said.



'I have worked with all the Khans — Shah Rukh, Salman, Aamir and Saif. But for me, it is an honour and privilege to work with Irrfan Khan. He is the pioneer, one of the finest actors among all the Khans. So, I had to tick that box of acting with him in Angrezi Medium. I know it is a small role but that does not matter. I know I am too excited, and I am really looking forward to this one.'

—Kareena Kapoor Khan



Actress **YAMI GAUTAM** believes her part in *Uri - The Surgical Strike* helped her bag a role in *Bala*.

She feels that certain films and roles tend to elevate an actor's perception in the eyes of other filmmakers. Yami said, "I think we actors keep shifting our moulds with each film. Every film we do is a projection of what we are capable of. I have had the fortune of working on some amazing projects and some very challenging roles. But I do feel that after *Uri*, people have seen me in a whole new light. We are perceived slightly different after each film. And that's the wonderful part of our job."



**Kylie to launch skincare range**

Reality TV star **KYLIE JENNER** is set to launch a skincare range with make-up free campaign, and boasts it's "vegan and cruelty free."

The "self-made billionaire" already has a successful make-up company called Kylie Cosmetics. And now Kylie has revealed she is expanding her billion dollar empire with a skincare line - called Kylie Skin By Kylie Jenner.

The 21-year-old entrepreneur wrote, "Skincare and make-up go hand in hand and Kylie Skin was something I dreamt up soon after Kylie Cosmetics. I've been working on this for what



# HALIMA IS NOT THE FIRST

Afro-American people have had an influence on fashion in the Muslim world going back at least eight decades and shown that fashion and Islam are indeed compatible

Media reports have celebrated Halima Aden becoming the first woman to be featured in the *Sports Illustrated* annual swimsuit edition wearing a *hijab* or a *burkini*. In the past, she has appeared on the covers of *Allure*, *British Vogue* and *Glamour* magazine.

As a scholar who studies Black Muslim fashion, I often find that reporters covering Muslim women's fashion seem to have the notion that Islam and fashion are incompatible. This attitude ignores the influence Black people have had on Muslim fashion going back at least eight decades.

**EARLY ISLAM IN THE US**

First, it's important to understand the long history Muslims have in the United States. According to the Pew Research Center, Black Muslims account for one-fifth of all Muslims in the United States. Islam first came to the United States with enslaved Africans.

Their numbers were small, ranging from 30,000 to 40,000. However, as historian Sylviane Diouf notes, enslaved African Muslims left a lasting impact on Black American culture, especially in the Sea Islands and Lowcountry region, the coastal area stretching from North Carolina to northern Florida.

The first Islamic text in the United States, the Bilali Document, was written by an enslaved African living on Sapelo Island named Bilali Muhammad in the 19th century. It includes rules about daily prayers and a list of beliefs of Muslims. Another important text — perhaps the only known narrative by an enslaved person in Arabic — was written by Omar Ibn Said in 1831, who lived as a slave in North Carolina. In it, he recounts his life in Senegal, including his religious education. The autobiography also includes several Muslim prayers.

**CLOTHING AS IDENTITY**

In the 20th century, Black Americans were reintroduced to Islam through several people and organisations. These included the



Halima Aden featured on *Sports Illustrated* cover

Moorish Science Temple of America and the Nation of Islam. The Moorish Science Temple of America was founded by a Moorish American, Noble Drew Ali, in 1913 in Newark, New Jersey.

Drew Ali taught his followers that they were not Negroes or Ethiopians, rather they were Moors and that Islam was their true religion. According to Drew Ali, Moors are descendants of the ancient Moabites who founded Mecca, one of the most important cities in Islam.

WD Fard Muhammad, who founded what would become known as the Nation of Islam in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan, also taught his followers that they had

forgotten their true identity as Asiatic Muslims and members of the lost tribe of Shabazz. The term Asiatic referred to Black people and other people of colour.

Clothing played a central role in constructing a unique Black Muslim identity. Black Muslim women used their dress to challenge American beauty standards, which typically holds thin young white women as the ideal beauty. Their dress practices also challenged beliefs that Islam was only an Arab religion by encouraging members to develop their own local dress practices. In the Moorish Science Temple of America, male members wore fezzes or turbans and women wore turbans often paired with long

shift dresses as part of their everyday wear.

Men in the Nation of Islam dressed in tailored suits and bowties or ties. Women donned a Muslim Girls Training uniform. The Muslim Girls Training included lessons for women and girls on the rules and beliefs of the Nation of Islam as well as how to cook, clean, raise children and practice self-defence. The uniform included a high-neck tunic that came down to the thigh. It was paired with either loose-fitting pants or a skirt that came to the ankles.

**BLACK MUSLIMS**

In my forthcoming book, I argue that Nation of Islam and the Imam WD Mohammed community have played an important role in developing the modest fashion industry in the United States. Imam WD Mohammed took over the leadership of Nation of Islam in 1975, following the death of his father Elijah Muhammad, who had succeeded the founder WD Fard Muhammad.

These organisations and their members have organised fashion shows and operated clothing stores centered on Islamic modesty since the 1960s. The models were usually volunteers from the local community. Elijah Muhammad discouraged female members from embracing the fashion trends of the day.

The fashion shows were a means of highlighting the creative ways Nation of Islam women could dress modestly and maintain the unique aesthetic, while still looking beautiful. They featured diverse head coverings such as berets and fezzes, colour-block outfits and different takes on the classic Muslim Girls Training tunic.

Imam WD Mohammed and his members would continue to encourage women's fashion ventures. They incorporated Afrocentric inspired designs and clothing, like the *dashiki* and *kente* cloth.

For a decade, starting in the 1960s, when the oldest daughter of Elijah Muhammad, Ethel Muhammad Sharrieff led the Muslim Girls Training, clothing

became a way of building a self-sustaining Black Muslim community.

A clothing factory she managed produced the official Muslim Girls Training uniform. Members were encouraged to buy the uniform from the factory. Temple #2 clothing, a store in Chicago, Illinois, sold a wide range of products including shoes, lingerie and jewellery.

**FASHION SHOWS**

This May, I attended the *Sealed Nectar Fashion Show*, an annual fashion show hosted by the Atlanta Masjid of al-Islam in Atlanta, Georgia. It is one of the longest-running Muslim fashion shows in the United States, with 2019 marking its 33rd anniversary.

The fashion show was founded in 1986 by Amira Wazeer, an Atlanta-based designer, as a means of celebrating beauty and modesty. This year's theme, "World Traveller," featured six Black Muslim women designers from the United States, Tanzania and Kenya. More recent ones include in cities such as Washington DC, Houston and an forthcoming one in Philadelphia.

The fashion shows and *bazaars* highlight Black women's creativity and diverse definitions of Islamic modesty. This includes different styles of wrapping head scarves — turbans and buns that leave the neck and ears exposed to show off jewellery — as well as multiple clothes layering techniques, like wearing a pair of skinny pants under a short dress.

**BLACK MUSLIM MODELS**

What Aden has been able to accomplish in three years is certainly worth celebrating. She has opened the doors for other *hijabi* models like Ikram Omar Abdi, who was featured on the cover of *Vogue Arabia* along with Aden and another Muslim model, Amina Adan.

However, in my view, it is important to place Halima Aden within the larger history of Black Muslim fashion in the United States. Unless we do that, there is a risk of erasing the Black Muslim fashion trailblazers who came before her and made her rise possible.

—AP/The Conversation



'Not interested in controversies'

Actor Ranbir Kapoor has reacted to actress Kangana Ranaut's statement where she slammed him for being apolitical. Ranbir said he doesn't have any interest to get into controversies.

A few months ago, Ranaut sparked a controversy by saying that few actors like Ranbir Kapoor don't want to talk about political and social issues of the country just because they are living a luxurious life.

Ranbir said, "If anyone asks me any question, I always try to answer, but I don't have any interest to answer these questions and to get into such kind of controversies. People can talk about me whatever they feel like. I know who I am and what I say."

'PEOPLE CAN TALK ABOUT ME WHATEVER THEY FEEL LIKE. I KNOW WHO I AM AND WHAT I SAY'

Talking about his actor-father Rishi Kapoor's health who is taking medical treatment in the United States for the last one year, Ranbir said, "He is doing much better. Hopefully, he should be back in a month or two and his spirits are up and there is a lot of positivity in his behaviour."

Paying his tribute to acting coach Roshan Taneja who died on Friday night, Ranbir said, "He was a legend of our film industry. He taught acting to my father. I also took acting classes from him. I pray for his soul. He was a great talent and was an amazing boon to our film industry."

—IANS

TECH TALK

## FREE IS HARD TO TURN DOWN

Finding gems in the junk through video streaming can give you a treasure-hunting rush

Free services let you watch thousands of films and TV shows online, but using them feels like wandering through a low-rent, digital version of Blockbuster (RIP).

Reality TV, long-forgotten "classics" that never made it to theaters — these are the lackluster shows and movies you'll find for free. But finding gems in the junk, like the original *Roseanne*, can give you a treasure-hunting rush.

Unfortunately, websites and apps for many of the services have poor designs and search capabilities — not conducive to finding those gems. An outside search aid such as Roku, Reelgood, Decider and JustWatch can help scan multiple services to see which ones have the titles you want.

Once you find something to watch, you'll have to put up with commercials. You'll get fewer ads compared with traditional TV channels. But as entertainment costs rise — especially as AT&T, Disney and Apple introduce new video subscriptions — free is hard to turn down. Here's a look at some of the best:

**CRACKLE**

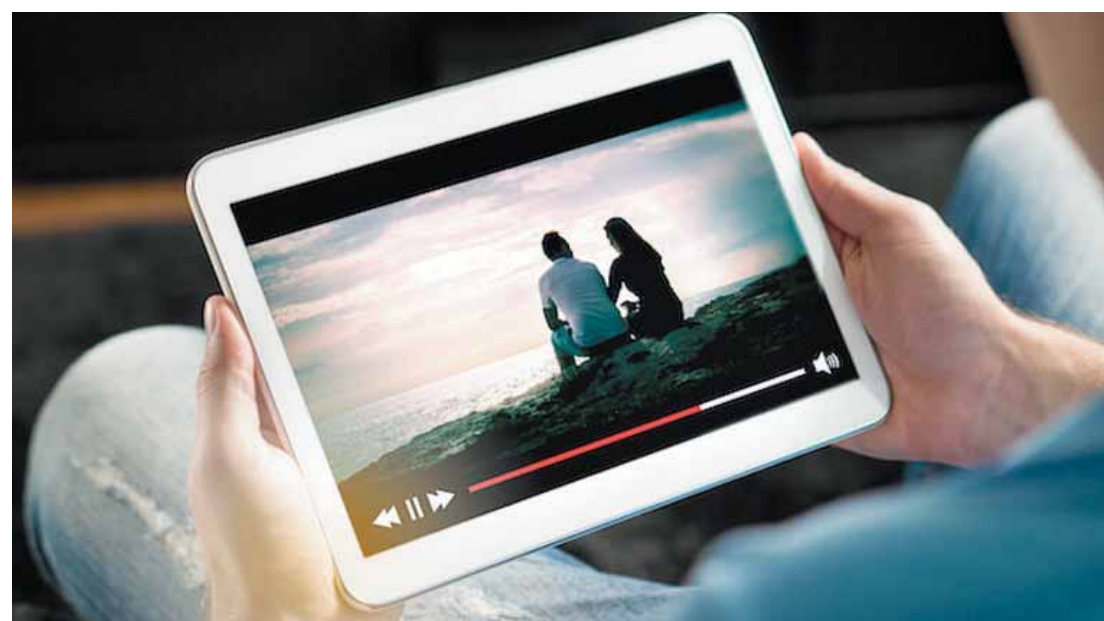
What's on: "Classic" films and TV shows along with some originals — although the best-known, Jerry Seinfeld's *Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee*, is now on Netflix instead. You can browse movies by broad categories like "action" and "drama."

How odd: An "up next" feature plays something else after you're done watching. But instead of bringing up the next *Who's the Boss* episode after finishing the pilot, it landed on the movie *Ali*. And despite what the search results tell you, Julia Roberts is not in *El Mariachi*.

**PLUTO**

On demand: The original nine-season run of "Roseanne" (but not the recent reboot) and some appealing movies from the past few decades like *Election*, *Short Term 12* and *Heathers*.

Live TV: Pluto is unusual in that it also offers dozens of channels with "live" video. Though some of these are pretty niche, dedicated to Minecraft or cats, the service is owned by Viacom, so you also get shows from well-known Viacom networks like MTV and Comedy Central. There's an entire



channel dedicated to MTV's *The Hills*. Finding video: Good luck. There's no search tool, though Pluto says it's coming.

How odd: The TV guide only shows what's on in the next 90 minutes, and you can't pause, rewind or fast-forward the video.

**TUBI**

What's on: Fun retro stuff (I do love *Problem Child*), prestige films from past decades and some old hits. A tenth of the library changes every month.

Finding video: Films and TV shows are organised into useful categories, some with cheeky themes like *Cult Classics* or *Not on Netflix*.

Ad interruptions: It's great that I can fast-forward through scenes without being forced to watch an ad. Other free services often show ads when you jump ahead. TV episodes that I watched only had ads before the show, not during it, but that doesn't mean the same will happen for you.

How odd: A third of the movies brought up by searching actor John Ritter came out after he died. His ghost is not in them.

**VUDU**

What's on: The Walmart-owned service sells shows and movies, just like

Apple's iTunes and Google Play, but there's also plenty of free TV shows and movies, with such categories like *Westerns*, *Anime* and *Kids TV*. Vudu will also introduce original content this summer.

Those ads: Though ads will break up movies, they didn't interrupt the TV shows I watched. Rather, as with Tubi, the ads were all shown before the episodes.

How odd: Different seasons of TV shows each get their own tile, making me scroll more to find different shows.

**BEYOND THAT**

There are many, many other free services, including ones that focus just on children's video (PBS Kids) or local news (NewsON). Here are a few that will have broader appeal:

— **Youtube** is the world's largest free video site, but it's not the best place to find full versions of traditional movies and TV series for adults. Its selection of free movies is small and uninteresting (Find them by searching for "movies" and looking for the "free with ads" tag). The site also streams live events and plans to make its original shows free.

— **Hoopla** and **Kanopy** technically charge for viewing videos, but it's your public library that pays for it. It's

free for you with a library card. The movie selection is noticeably better, particularly Kanopy, with recent critical favourites, though don't expect the latest *Marvel* or *Star Wars* blockbusters. No ads, but libraries limit how many you can watch each month.

— **Yahoo View** is Hulu's old free business, with a few recent episodes of broadcast-network shows. You can watch only on a traditional computer, not a mobile or streaming device.

— **The Roku Channel** with live channels and on-demand films and shows. It works on computers and mobile, so you don't need to own a streaming device.

— Amazon-owned **IMDb Free-Dive** has on-demand movies and shows, but not as extensive as what you get with an Amazon Prime membership.

— **Locast** streams over-the-air stations for ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC, PBS and others in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Ads asking for donations interrupt what's on TV.

— Facebook has a **Watch** tab with cult favourite  *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Jada Pinkett Smith's* talk show, but it isn't easy to use or tell what's available. —AP

WEBBED

RIM OF THE WORLD



*Rim of the World* follows four misfit campers who must stay together and battle extraterrestrials during a freak alien invasion. The group of kids are ambushed by otherworldly creatures, which almost wipe out civilisation when they arrive, and they have to survive the apocalyptic incident. The film directed by McG will hit Netflix on May 24.

MALIBU RESCUE



When a long list of shenanigans lands Tyler in hot water, he's forced to suit up and spend his summer training for an elite junior lifeguard program. Starring Ricardo Hurtado, Breanna Yde and Jackie R Jacobson, the film will release today on Netflix.

GOOD SAM



A curious reporter finds love while pursuing the story of a mysterious figure who's leaving bags of cash for strangers around New York City. Starring Tiya Sircar, Chad Connell and Marco Grazzini, the film will release on May 16 on Netflix.



# A BIODYNAMIC FARM

A documentary, *The Biggest Little Farm*, shows an intimate look at how a filmmaker and a chef converted 200 acres of land into an organic space

John and Molly Chester, a filmmaker and a chef, had made a decision that many urbanites only fantasise about — They decided to leave their life in Los Angeles and start a farm that would function in harmony with nature. Their family and friends thought they were crazy, but they were determined. They'd bought 200 acres of land 50 miles away from downtown LA, in Moorpark, California, and they'd found an investor to fund the adventure. The only problem? The land was dead and they knew nothing about farming.

Eight years later, visiting the idyllic and suspiciously lovely smelling Apricot Lane Farms — where they grow over 100 types of vegetables, 75 types of fruit, from avocado to citrus, and raise animals including cows, sheep, chickens, ducks, guinea hens and a pig named Emma — you'd hardly know either of those things.

But the Chesters have pulled the curtain back on what it took to get there in the documentary — *The Biggest Little Farm*. The film, which John Chester directed, does not gloss over the hardships, the doubt and the occasional death that came with their dream of not using chemicals on the crops or drugs on the animals in this intimate look at how they made a biodynamic farm out of nothing.

John Chester said it's "life affirming" to go back and watch how far they've come. "It was about continuing to move forward in the presence of great failure and great embarrassment," he said.

They didn't set out to make a film initially. John Chester had left the business behind, and besides, he figured, they weren't even experts. Still, being a documentarian at heart, he had the itch to film nonetheless and starting amassing footage of everything (mostly failures). But then five years in, things started to change, the farm was actually working.

"We saw the return of so much wildlife and we saw pest and predator relationships start to balance things out and I was able to capture those things," John Chester said. "I knew at that moment that we had a very unique opportunity to tell a story."

The technique employed at Apricot Lane Farms is something known as biomimicry, which basic-



ly relies on the idea that any problem can be solved through nature. The secret to everything, they say, is in the soil and the cover crops that rebuild the land and preserved the water.

"The food we grow truly is special," said Molly Chester. "It's very nutrient-dense and flavorful because we focus on soil development."

The produce, meat and eggs from the farm are sold at local groceries and at various farmers' markets, from Calabasas to Santa Monica.

The Chesters have already seen a raised profile for themselves and the farm through film festivals like Telluride, Toronto and Sundance, and are readying themselves for even more recognition and interest as the

**YOU CAN FIND AS MUCH JOY IN A QUARTER ACRE AS YOU CAN ON 200 ACRES. YOU HAVE TO DESIGN THE FARM. LEARN FROM OTHER FARMERS, VOLUNTEER, USE THEIR MISTAKES AS YOUR LESSONS. THAT'S SOMETHING I WISH WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN TO DO MORE OF. LESS PRESSURE, MORE TIME UNDER SOMEBODY ELSE'S DIME'**

audience meet the film's stars like Emma the pig, the guardian dogs, Maggie the cow and others.

In fact, they hear the same question often after screenings of the film: "Is it real?"

They do offer private tours, including some for children, but as a working farm, it's not open to the public every day. And they're renovating space that eventually will be usable for farm-to-table dinners and movie nights. John Chester said that the tours are a way to, "inspire people to support what we do and what other farms like us do."

"We're not the first to do this," he said. "We're mimicking many mentors who have done this far longer

than we have. We're just maybe the first in this neighbourhood."

As for whether or not they'd recommend following in their footsteps, both say yes, but with some caveats.

"I would recommend it on a smaller scale and not with 250 things," John Chester said. "You can find as much joy in a quarter acre as you can on 200 acres. You have to design the farm and where it is based around the life you want to live. Learn from other farmers, volunteer, use their mistakes as your lessons. That's something I wish we would have gotten to do more of. Less pressure, more time under somebody else's dime."

—AP

## HEAL THE WORLD BY BEING A RESILIENT SOUL

Spiritual integrity, on the basis of purity, specifically involves creating constructive goals that enable people to actively manage difficulties and find positivity even in adverse situations, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI



Spiritual beliefs tremendously influence the outlook of people about the world. It can offer solace to them in turbulent times or provide them support from a like-minded community. These beliefs may contribute to resilience and well-being and result in improved performance. In simple words resilience is the potential to absorb and recover from any change and return to the original form. With respect to people, it is the ability to maintain internal equilibrium in the face of trauma, distress or disruption through multiple pathways. When we consider spiritual resilience, we refer to the will of the spirit, the core of human resilience and the foundation of maintaining this will and resilience is purity. This term is normally used to describe water and the natural environment rather than human behaviour or character. However from a spiritual perspective, purity is something or someone existing in its true and original state, which is unfettered, uncomplicated and unpolluted. It is also the understanding that the self is an eternal spiritual being and interacts with other people and the environment on this basis. Purity is the attitude that feeds the unexpressed dialogue beneath the conversations we have and the decisions we make. Spiritual resilience recognises and works with people's inherent proficiencies and strengths. When organisations and communities work together while incorporating a broad attitude and approach, there

is better recognition of the inherent capacities of local communities which leads to greater success.

Spiritual resilience, on the basis of purity, specifically involves acknowledging personal qualities, communal resources and creating constructive goals that enable people and communities to be actively manage difficulties, resist disintegration of capacities and find positivity even in adverse situations. This approach to spiritual resilience has four steps. The first step is the awareness that peace, strength and dignity are innate to every human being. This includes maintaining respect for oneself as a person of great and unique value, which is a matter of self-regard and self-respect. This pure awareness forms a positive attitude, which creates and sustains motivation and hope among people, governments and service-providers who work together to achieve common goals. From this vision, we can see the strengths, capacities and culture of those whom we are supporting. This four-step process of awareness, attitude, vision and action is cyclical and dynamic, through which we create the world around us and it responds directly to our attitude and intention. When we see the world with a vision of the whole, we draw on the proficiencies of people, generating a sense of kinship with the world's population. So let us imbibe purity within us to become spiritually resilient and bring a positive change in society.

The growing trend of skinny body types or the most idealistic zero figure has made women to start resorting to extremely unhealthy ways of losing weight. For instance, by avoiding food, eliminating carbs and fats, mono dieting or eating insufficiently and even puking forcefully. This is an extremely dangerous phase to be in. It affects women mentally, physically as well as psychologically and can also lead to mental illness. There are also surgical methods used by women all across the globe to transform their body types. Desperate attempts to look thinner, better and fairer makes them try everything, without proper understanding the implications of one's health.

This becomes a case of anorexia nervosa, an eating disorder which consists of causing people to obsess about their weight and what they eat. In the cycle of self-starvation, the body is denied the essential nutrients it needs to function normally. Thus, the body is forced to slow down all of its processes to conserve energy, resulting in serious medical consequences. It is associated with a distorted body image with an intense fear of becoming fat even though underweight. Anorexia isn't all about food, rather it's an unhealthy way to try and cope with mental stress. It is usually

## Be your own kind of beautiful

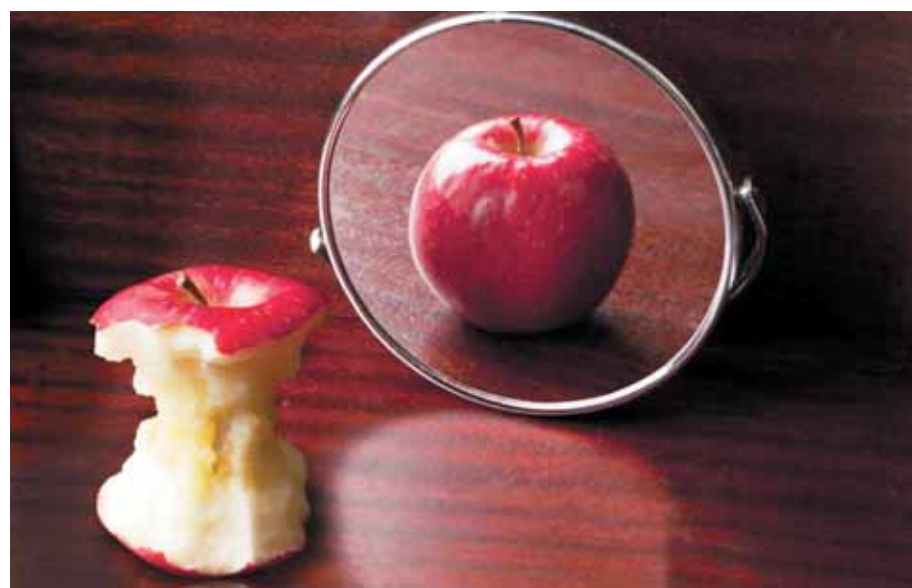
Being supportive is a crucial part of treating anorexia, it's not solely about the patients, says PREETY TYAGI

10 times more common in females. Although the disorder most frequently begins during adolescence, an increasing number of children and older adults are also being diagnosed with it. You cannot tell if a person is struggling with illness by looking at them. A person does not need to be emaciated or underweight to be struggling. Studies have found that larger-bodied individuals can also have anorexia, although they may be less likely to be diagnosed due to cultural prejudice against fat and obesity.

An individual experiences an intense fear of becoming fat and has a relentless drive for thinness despite obvious starvation. It can be of two types:

### Restricting (No binge eating):

This type is present in approximately 50 per cent of people suffering from Anorexia. Food intake is highly restricted and people may be relentlessly and compulsively overactive. A person with restricting anorexia nervosa often have depression and anxiety associ-



ated with it.

### Binge-eating

Individuals alternate attempts at rigorous dieting with intermittent episodes of binge eating. It is often associated with self-induced vomiting or frequent use of laxatives to

compensate for the bingeing episodes. The other symptoms are the medical complications of starvation as slower heart rate and feeling cold due to reduced fat that is stored in the body.

There are many challenges with regards to the treatment for anorexia. However, the key is to

kick the concept of being skinny and welcome the notion of being fit. The most important point is to restore person's nutritional state and maintain a healthy body weight. Patients must willingly participate for the treatment to succeed in the long run. The sooner someone

gets treatment, the more likely they are to make a full recovery. The treatment of anorexia is a combination of a therapy, family education and in some cases, medications.

### Therapy:

People with anorexia connect their body weight to their self-worth. They urge to check themselves in the mirror very frequently. Therapy helps the patient to cope with their life's struggles and to change their behavior towards what is going on in their life. A patient should confront their anxieties and must try to getaway with them.

### Family-based therapy:

Education is the answer to everything. It's important to educate the family about the illness so that they can be supportive towards the patient. It's a crucial part of the curing process as it's not solely about the patients themselves. The family must also work as a whole for the recovery. Parents are the most important aspect of the recovery process.

(The author is a health expert and the founder of a health and wellness organisation.)



Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.

—Albert Einstein

### GOOD SLEEP CAN HELP YOU STAY SHARP

Memory slips with age, but getting a fair amount of sleep every night and having a cheerful mood each day may help you stay sharp even when you grow old, suggests new research.

Poor sleep quality and a depressed mood are linked to a reduced likelihood of remembering a previously experienced event, said the study published in the *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*.

The researchers found strong associations between working memory and three health-related factors such as sleep, age and depressed mood. Working memory is the part of short-term memory that temporarily stores and manages information required for cognitive tasks.

It is critically involved in many higher cognitive functions, including intelligence, creative problem-solving, language and action-planning. It plays a major role in how we process, use and remember information.



### VIRTUAL REALITY CAN HELP WITH DEMENTIA

Virtual reality (VR) technology can enhance the quality of life for people with dementia by helping them to recall past memories, reduce aggression and improve interactions with caregivers, says a study.

The technology helped patients recall old memories by providing new stimuli difficult to achieve, due to ill health or inaccessible within a secure environment, said the team from the University of Kent in the UK.

These memories not only provided positive mental stimulation for the patients but also helped their caregivers learn more about their lives before care, thereby improving their social interaction.

"VR can clearly have positive benefits for patients with dementia, their families and caregivers. It provides a richer and more satisfying quality of life than is otherwise available, with many positive outcomes," said Jim Ang, Professor at the University of Kent.



### STRESS IN EARLY LIFE MAY LEAD TO DEPRESSION

People who take stress in early life are at risk of developing negative thinking which could lead to major depressive disorder (MDD), says a study.

"This study supports a wider body of literature which suggests that depression may develop from an interesting yet complex interaction between biological and psychological processes," said study lead author Emma Robinson, Professor at the University of Bristol in Britain.

"As we start to understand these better we hope that the knowledge we generate can be used to better guide current and future treatments," Robinson said.

Using a rodent model of early life adversity, the study showed that offspring are much more sensitive to negative biases in their cognition when treated with the stress hormone, corticosterone.

Published in the *Journal of Neuroendocrinology*, the research showed a dose of corticosterone had no effect on normal rats but caused a negative bias in the early life adversity animals.

The study also found that the early life adversity rats were less likely to anticipate positive events and failed to properly learn about reward value.



### ANGER MORE HARMFUL THAN SADNESS

Anger is more harmful than sadness for older adults and may lead to health complications -- potentially increased inflammation which is associated with chronic illnesses like heart disease, arthritis and cancer, say researchers.

The study, published in the *Journal of Psychology and Aging*, shows that anger can lead to the development of chronic illnesses whereas sadness did not.

"Sadness may help older seniors adjust to challenges such as age-related physical and cognitive declines because it can help them disengage from goals that are no longer attainable," said study lead author Meaghan A Barlow from the Concordia University in the US.

The research examined whether anger and sadness contributed to inflammation, an immune response by the body to perceived threats, such as infection or tissue damage.

The researchers suggest that education and therapy might help older adults reduce anger by regulating their emotions or by offering better coping strategies to manage the inevitable changes that accompany ageing.



### ONLINE BULLYING LEADS TO DEPRESSION

Parents, please take note. Teenagers who experience cyber bullying are more likely to suffer from poor sleep and depression, warns a study.

In one of the few studies to explore the connection between cyber victimisation and sleep quality, the research team from University at Buffalo examined the relationship between online bullying and depression among over 800 adolescents.

"Cyber victimisation on the Internet and social media is a unique form of peer victimisation and an emerging mental health concern among teenagers who are digital natives," said Misol Kwon, a PhD student from University at Buffalo. Nearly 15 per cent of US high school students report being bullied electronically, said Kwon.

At severe levels, depression may lead to disrupted school performance, harmed relationships or even suicide. The study was scheduled to be presented at "SLEEP 2019" conference in Texas from June 8 to 12.





# DOUBLE DONE & DUSTED

Man City beat Brighton 4-1 to seal second consecutive English title as Liverpool finish second despite 2-0 win

AFP ■ LONDON/LIVERPOOL

Manchester City retained the Premier League title in style on Sunday, holding their nerve to come from behind against Brighton and see off a charging Liverpool after a thrilling campaign.

Pep Guardiola's team thumped Brighton 4-1 away to finish on 98 points — the second-highest total in Premier League history — as Liverpool beat Wolves 2-0 at Anfield to finish a single, agonising, point adrift.

City, who strung together 14 league wins at the end of the season, are the first side to retain the title since their bitter rivals Manchester United managed the feat in 2009, and remain on course for the first domestic treble in English football history.

But Guardiola's team of aristocrats did not have it all their own way on a day of drama on England's south coast in keeping with an astonishing season in which the lead switched hands time after time.

Liverpool drew first blood on Sunday, with Sadio Mane striking in the 17th minute to put them mathematically top of the table and on course for their first English top-flight title since 1990, before the Premier League era even started.

City fans' nerves were shredded even further when Glenn Murray put Brighton in front from a corner in the 27th minute, resulting in a huge roar at Anfield.

But those cheers were quickly muted, with Guardiola's side level just 83 seconds later, Aguero staying inside and keeping his cool to finish after a brilliant ball from David Silva.

Ten minutes later, the unmarked Aymeric Laporte rose to head in Riyad Mahrez's corner to complete the turnaround for City.

Guardiola's side continued to dominate at the start of the second half and were rewarded when Mahrez smashed in a third goal with 27 minutes to go.



Manchester City players celebrate at the end of the English Premier League match between Brighton and Manchester City at the AMEX Stadium in Brighton on Sunday. Pep's men become first team in a decade to win back to back titles AP

Ilkay Gundogan then blasted home a free-kick to put the result beyond doubt.

## RECORD-BREAKERS

City broke a host of Premier League records in romping to the title last season, becoming the first team in English top-flight history to reach 100 points and finishing a record 19 points clear of closest rivals Manchester United.

This term has been a totally different campaign, with Guardiola's men forced to dig deep to see off the relentless challenge of Liverpool, who have lost just one Premier League game all season.

The champions have ground out a number of 1-0 victories in recent weeks, showing they have added steel to their style.

The outcome was cruel on Liverpool, who are second behind

only United in the all-time list of English champions with 18 titles, although the last came in 1990.

The Merseysiders' points tally is the third-highest in Premier League history.

Jürgen Klopp's side travelled to face City at the Etihad in January with the chance to open up a 10-point lead but the defending champions won 2-1 in what turned out to be the pivotal match of the campaign.

Liverpool suffered a blip in late January and February, held to a series of draws, but they found their form again and relentlessly harried City, finishing with nine straight league wins.

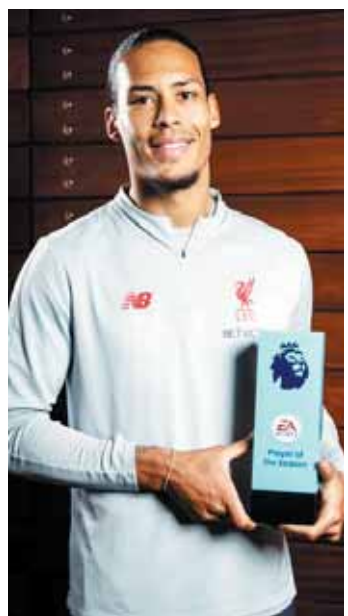
Klopp's team will have to put the disappointment behind them as they prepare to face Premier League rivals Spurs in the Champions League final in Madrid on June 1.

Elsewhere on the final day of

Premier League action, Tottenham made mathematically certain of a place in the top four, drawing 2-2 against Everton.

Arsenal beat Burnley 3-1 while fellow Europa League finalists Chelsea were held to a goalless draw at Leicester.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United finished their season with a whimper, losing 2-0 at home to relegated Cardiff.



There were also wins for Crystal Palace, Newcastle and West Ham. Southampton and Huddersfield drew 1-1.

## THREE WAY RACE

Mohamed Salah has shared the Premier League's Golden Boot award with Liverpool team-mate Sadio Mane and Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Salah went into the final day of the season two clear of the chasing pack but he failed to find the net as Manchester City retained the title ahead of the Reds.

The Egypt star could not match his incredible return of 32 Premier League goals from last term, but 22 was enough to share the award with two fellow Africans.

Aubameyang hit a double in Arsenal's 3-1 win at Burnley while Mane scored both Liverpool goals in their 2-0 home win against Wolves.

Salah follows players including Harry Kane, Robin van Persie, Thierry Henry, Michael Owen and Alan Shearer in winning the award in successive seasons.

## SINGLES

### ANKITA MAKES S/F EXIT FROM LUAN ITF

**NEW DELHI:** Ankita Raina recovered from a slow start but could not carry forward the momentum and crashed out of the \$ 60,000 ITF women's event in Luan, China. The second seed Indian lost 3-6, 6-1, 2-6 to local girl Ying-Ying Duan in the semifinals of the hard court tournament. "I am very upset. I thought I had the match after the second set. I had good rhythm in the second and in the third as well but I don't know what went wrong. Since I knew I had the match I was more upset. I will go home and then leave for the French Open, so looking forward to that," said Ankita. Her effort, earned Ankita, ranked 175, a total of 29 ranking points.

### PUNE-HARYANA CLASH START IIPKL

**PUNE:** Haryana Heroes will lock horns with Pune Pride to kick off the inaugural Indo International Premier Kabaddi League here on Monday. The Pune Leg which is going to be held at the Balewadi stadium will have a star-studded opening ceremony. The first match of the tournament is going to feature the home side and Haryana Heroes. The city will play host to another 20 games before proceeding to Mysore and then Bengaluru for the final leg. Eight franchisees will be battling it out for the championship title along with a total prize purse of ₹ 4 crore over a period of 23 days.

### WI MAKE RECORD CHASE VS IRELAND

**DUBLIN:** Sunil Ambris's maiden One-Day International hundred saw the West Indies complete their highest successful ODI run chase as they beat Ireland by five wickets in Dublin. Ambris made 148, off just 126 balls including 19 fours and a six, as the West Indies surpassed Ireland's total of 327 for five with 13 deliveries remaining on Saturday. The West Indies, who unlike Ireland have qualified for the upcoming World Cup in England and Wales, were behind the run-rate at 112 for two in the 20th over. But a third-wicket stand of 128 between Ambris, playing only his fourth ODI, and Roston Chase (46) helped get the tourists back on track. Not even a three-wicket haul from Ireland's former England fast bowler Boyd Rankin was sufficient to deny the two-time World Cup-winners, with Jonathan Carter (43 not out) and captain Jason Holder (36) seeing the West Indies to their second triangular series win over the tournament hosts.

### HAKAN KEEPS AC MILAN IN CL CHASE

**MILAN:** Unheralded Atalanta moved third in Serie A on Saturday with a 2-1 win over Genoa edging the Bergamo side closer to a first-ever Champions League qualification with two games left this season. Musa Barrow and Timothy Castagne's second-half goals sent Atalanta two points clear of Inter Milan, who play already-relegated Chievo on Sunday. But AC Milan responded with Hakan Calhanoglu heading in the only goal against Fiorentina to boost Gennaro Gattuso's team's hopes of a return to elite European football for the first time since 2013-2014. AC Milan are fifth, one point behind Inter, with Roma a further three points adrift in sixth before they host champions Juventus on Sunday.

### BHULLAR FINISHES T-25 AT BRITAIN

**SOUTHPORT:** Gaganjeet Bhullar once again played fairly solid golf for two-under 70 in the final round, ending Tied-25th at the British Masters, his second best finish of the season, here on Sunday. He totalled seven-under 281 as he sunk in four birdies and two bogeys from 11th to 18th. While he did not drop a bogey on first as he had done first three days, he did drop a bogey on a Par-5 at 11th, but birdied the Par-5s at second and fifth and parred 17th.

Agencies

## Bertens halts Halep push for top spot

AFP ■ MADRID

The Netherlands' Kiki Bertens pulled off a surprise 6-4, 6-4 victory over Simona Halep to win the Madrid Open on Saturday, denying the Romanian a return to the top of the world rankings.

Halep could have knocked Naomi Osaka off the number-one spot with a triumph in the Spanish capital but instead it was Bertens who made history, becoming the highest-ranked Dutchwoman ever by climbing to world number four.

Bertens secured her ninth WTA singles title, as well as a cheque for 1.2 million euros, while her success should make amends for last year's disappointment in Madrid, when she lost in the final to Petra Kvitova.

Halep was chasing her third success in four years in this tournament but delivered the sort of patchy, disgruntled display that has hindered her before with a trophy in sight.

But Bertens more than played her part, a deserving winner and the



Kiki Bertens poses with the winner trophy AP

first woman ever to win the title without even dropping a set.

On this evidence, she will be a serious contender at the French Open later this month, where Bertens reached the semi-finals in 2016 only to be stopped by Serena Williams.

Halep is the reigning champion at Roland Garros but has struggled at major tournaments since her debut victory last year. The 27-year-old has failed to go past the fourth round in any of the three Grand Slams since.

She was gracious in defeat, high-fiving Bertens as she made her way to collect the trophy.

"I'm really happy to win this trophy," Bertens said. "It means a lot to me after last year getting to the final here."

Halep said: "It's an amazing tournament for me, very special. I'm sad I didn't win but Kiki deserved to win, she played the better tennis and all week the best tennis, so congratulations."

## Serena looking to turn the clock back in Rome

AFP ■ ROME

Serena Williams returns from injury in Rome next week looking to get back to winning ways as she prepares her bid to match Margaret Court's record of major singles titles at the French Open later this month.

Rome will be Williams's fourth tournament of the season and the first since being forced to withdraw from the Miami Open in April due to a knee injury.

The 37-year-old American — now ranked 11th — has completed just seven matches this year, also withdrawing from Indian Wells in March with illness.

There are now doubts that the veteran can add to her tally of 23 Grand Slams, something which has so far proved beyond her since returning last year after taking time out following the birth of her first child.

Her last Grand Slam singles title was won at the Australian Open in 2017, where she was pregnant, breaking a tie with Steffi Graf for the most in the professional era.

Her win in Melbourne moved



her one behind Australian Court's record of 24 major singles titles.

After giving birth to her daughter Olympia in September 2017, Serena made her return to Grand

Slam tennis at last year's French Open, where she reached the fourth round.

She reached the finals of Wimbledon and the US Open, suffering a meltdown in Flushing Meadows.

More drama followed in the quarter-finals of this year's Australian Open, when she suffered a spectacular collapse in a three-sets defeat by Karolina Pliskova.

She has admitted that it has been tougher than expected to get back winning after her maternity leave.

"From day one, I expect to go out and, quite frankly, to win. That hasn't happened. But I do like my attitude," she said.

"I like that I don't want to go out there and say: 'I expect to lose because I had a year off. I've been playing for 10 months. I'm not supposed to win.' I don't have that attitude."

A four-time Rome winner Williams last won at the Foro Italico in 2016 defeating her compatriot Madison Keys in a straight-set final.

She also won the Rome title in 2002, 2013 and 2014.



## Hamilton wins in Spain to take c'ship lead

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Lewis Hamilton beat Valtteri Bottas in the Spanish Grand Prix on Sunday to replace his team-mate as world championship leader as Mercedes' extended their record start to the season with a fifth 1-2 finish.

The defending five-time world champion seized the initiative at the start in Barcelona and led from lights to flag with a consummate demonstration of his speed and race-craft at the Circuit de Catalunya.

It was his third win this year, the 76th of his career and his fourth in Spain following victories in 2014, 2017 and 2018.

Responding to being outpaced by Bottas in qualifying, Hamilton came home 4.074 seconds ahead of the Finn who was second ahead of Max Verstappen of Red Bull, four-time champion Sebastian Vettel and his Ferrari team-mate Charles Leclerc.

Pierre Gasly was a solid

sixth in the second Red Bull ahead of Kevin Magnussen of Haas, home hero Carlos Sainz of McLaren, Daniil Kvyat of Toro Rosso and Romain Grosjean in the second Haas.

It was the 16th time that Hamilton won a Grand Prix after leading every lap of race. Hamilton's triumph hoisted him back to the top of the standings with 112 points, including one for fastest lap, ahead of Bottas on 105.

"I have to put it down to this incredible team," said Hamilton. "This is history in the making to have five 1-2's. I am very proud of that!"

"It's definitely been a bit of a hard first four races. Naturally we have a great car, but we don't always get along. I'm grateful in the race that we managed to settle our differences."

Bottas said: "I lost it there, at the start. The clutch was strange — bite and release, bite and release. I've never had that before."

## Djokovic triumphs Madrid final



**MADRID:** Novak Djokovic joined Rafael Nadal as a 33-time Masters champion on Sunday when he swept to a 6-3, 6-4 win over Stefanos Tsitsipas to claim a third Madrid Open title.

The world number one dominated a clearly exhausted opponent less than 24 hours after the 20-year-old Greek had stunned five-time champion Nadal in a semi-final which ended around midnight on Saturday.

Djokovic and Nadal will now attempt to claim a 34th Masters Title in Rome this week in a key indicator ahead of Roland Garros which gets under way on May 26.

Djokovic never let Tsitsipas get into gear in a final which lasted just over 90 minutes.

"This is a very important win for me, especially for my confidence," 15-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic said.

"I was not playing my best after winning the Australia Open but I started this week well, not dropping a set all through. I've played some of my best tennis here."

AFP

## Juventus lose their stripes in new kit

AFP ■ TURIN

Serie A champions Juventus on Sunday unveiled their new home kit for the 2019-20 season, which for the first time in over a century removes the iconic black-and-white stripes traditionally worn by players.

The club was founded in 1897, but players have worn black and white stripes of various types since 1903.

Next season Cristiano



Ronaldo and his teammates will wear a half-and-half jersey with white on the right and

black on the left. The team will debut the new jersey against Roma in Serie A on Sunday in the Stadio Olimpico.

"The daring new design evokes the past, whilst igniting the future of the club through the evolution of the iconic black and white stripes," the team said.

"An unexpected flash of pink sits at the heart of the design and honours the first colour the club ever played in."



**LEADERBOARD**

<b>RUNS</b>	<b>692</b>	David Warner (SRH)
<b>WICKETS</b>	<b>26</b>	Imran Tahir (CSK)
<b>6S</b>	<b>784</b>	IT WAS QUITE A FUNNY GAME, WE WERE PASSING THE TROPHY TO EACH OTHER
<b>4S</b>	<b>1651</b>	— MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI



# ONE & ONLY MUMBAI

To the bone thriller goes both ways before granting a stunning final to Rohit's boys as Dhoni brigade loses best bet by 1 run despite Watson's blasting 80

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

## 5 head turners that face Mumbai the crown

### MALINGA'S LAST BALL CHARISMA

Coming to bowl the final over of the game, Lasith Malinga proved why still he's one of the most dangerous bowlers in limited overs cricket. The all-time leading wicket-taker of the tournament history produced one of the most memorable delivery of his illustrious career in the final ball of the match to send Shardul Thakur back to the pavilion and seal a dramatic win for Mumbai.

In what was a forgetful outing for the Sri Lankan legend, where he was smashed for 42 runs in the first three overs, Malinga's slower off-cutter not just vanish the bitter memories of the otherwise below par spell but also made a huge difference in the tournament's result.

### MS DHONI'S RUN OUT

Chennai's highest run scorer (416) in this season and arguably one of the best finishers of the game, Mahendra Singh Dhoni's controversial run out in the 13th over by Ishan Kishan probably was one of the biggest game-changing moment of the final. The three-time winning captain came to bat at number five after out of form Ambati Rayudu's dismissal but before he could play his part, a brilliant throw by Ishan



Mumbai Indians players celebrate with the IPL trophy after beating Chennai Super Kings by 1 run in the final game in Hyderabad on Sunday IPL T20.

Kishan left the crowd stunned. A lot of onus was on Mahi's experienced shoulders to take Chennai to another successive IPL double but he failed when it was supposed to matter the most.

### BUMRAH'S DEATH OVER BOWLING

While MS Dhoni failed to live up to the expectations in the final, Mumbai Indians' iconic pacer Jasprit

**'Today was one game we should've done slightly better. It was quite a funny game, we were passing the trophy to each other. Both committed mistakes, and eventually winning team was the one that committed one mistake less'**  
— MS DHONI

Bumrah delivered what was expected of him. The world number one ODI bowler's economic spell of 2/14 in four overs not just kept Chennai at bay during run chase but also this intelligent bowling in the last overs of the match keep Mumbai still alive in the competition even after his other teammates give away 20 runs each in 16th and 18th over of the match. He was also selected as the Man of the Match for his impres-

sive outing in the summit clash.

### OPENING STAND BY ROHIT AND DE KOCK

Opting to bat first after winning the toss in the final, Mumbai was in need of strong opening start to provide a platform for its hard-hitting tail to turn the gears in the last overs and take the target beyond Chennai's reach even before the run chase. And this is what exactly what Rohit and De Kock did at the start of the innings. The left-hander South African was more aggressive of the two, making maximum use of field restrictions to smash Deepak Chahar for 20 runs in the third over of the match to provide that lighting spark after skipper Rohit started the proceedings by hitting six to Shardul. The duo added 45 runs in just 29 balls before De Kock was caught behind by Dhoni off Shardul Thakur's over.

### POLLARD'S HARD-HITTING

Failing to make the most of the good start provided by their openers, Mumbai was in serious trouble during the middle overs after Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan and Krunal Pandya went back in quick succession and when it was looking like Mumbai will suffer late collapse just then Pollard came in the picture. The birthday boy had some other plans and his 25-ball unbeaten 41 which includes three boundaries and as many sixes lifts Mumbai, in the end, to take them close to 150 mark, which in the end turned out to be decisive.

## 'Dhoni is an era of cricket, almost like leader of a nation'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Australia's former star batsman Matthew Hayden has used a variety of superlatives to describe Mahendra Singh Dhoni, calling him an "era of cricket" and "almost like a leader of a nation".

The big-hitting ex-opener eulogised the two-time World Cup winning skipper hours ahead of the IPL final between Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians, both eyeing a record fourth title.

"You know Dhoni, he is not just a player, he is an era of cricket. In many ways, I think MS is like the captain of the gully cricket team, he is one of us, he will do anything," Hayden said on *Star Sports'* special programme for CSK — *'The Super Kings Show'*.

The Australian added, "You see how he warms up, he bowls his leg spinners, he catches, he asks players and people around the squad on how they are doing and he is so relaxed, I think we can all relate to him because we all have busy lives working around with friends and families and that's a big commitment."

"So, someone like that at



the helm will make you feel calm, will make you feel relaxed and that's why Thala Dhoni that word 'Thala', obviously meaning the leader of Chennai, but you it's almost like leader of a nation."

Both Hayden and Dhoni had faced off while representing their respective national teams, with the Australian playing under the seasoned keeper-batsman at CSK.

With an average of 103.5, the Chennai skipper is far the leading run-scorer for his side after accumulating 414 runs from 11 innings in the ongoing Indian Premier League.



## With 26 wickets, Tahir grabs Purple Cap

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Chennai Super Kings' leg-spinner Imran Tahir Sunday pipped compatriot Kagiso Rabada to emerge as the highest wicket-taker winning the coveted 'Purple Cap' in the Indian Premier League.

Incidentally, Tahir also became the oldest player at 40 to win the 'Purple Cap' in the league.

The ace wrist spinner edged past Rabada, who turned out for Delhi Capitals before injury curtailed his campaign, when he flummoxed Mumbai Indians' Ishan Kishan in the final of the cash-rich league for his 26th wicket.

Tahir picked up 26 wickets in 17 matches at a measly economy rate of 6.66.

Prior to the summit showdown of the 12th edition, pacer Rabada led the charts with 25 wickets in 12 matches before back injury ended his campaign.

Tahir returned with figures of 2/23 in three overs, also picking up the wicket of Suryakumar Yadav, besides Kishan.

Kishan went for a slog sweep but top edged it, and Suresh Raina took an easy catch at point. His first wicket of the game came in his first over itself when Suryakumar inside edged the ball on to the stumps.

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

## 'Peripheral awareness makes Dhoni & Rohit special'

Being "switched on" from the first ball coupled with situational awareness has made Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit Sharma the two most successful IPL skippers, reckons the iconic Sachin Tendulkar.

While Dhoni's game awareness is well-documented, Rohit, who has also led the national team as stand-in skipper, has been incredibly successful. He has won all the three IPL finals he has captained till date.

"I think they (Rohit and Dhoni) are pretty sharp. MS has been leading for a number of years and Rohit has also been incredibly successful. So the ability to read the game and having that peripheral (situa-

tional) awareness makes them special captain," Tendulkar told *Star Sports'* on Sunday.

"With MS we have seen his ability to read match situations and even Rohit is proving that (he has that awareness). Both captains are on toes and switched on from ball one," said the Mumbai Indians' 'Icon'.

Tendulkar also lauded the young talent that has come through along the years, growing up on the pace and frenzy of T20 cricket.

"Everyone is enjoying the



**TENDULKAR ALSO LAUDED THE YOUNG TALENT THAT HAS COME THROUGH ALONG THE YEARS, GROWING UP ON THE PACE AND FRENZY OF T20 CRICKET**

skills of the new generation and their ability to clear the field. Amazing talent on display and the younger generation growing on IPL, it's contagious," said Tendulkar, who played six seasons of IPL till 2013.

Twenty20 is a format where catching the opposition off-guard is more important than just trying to play correct cricket, he said.

"It's about adaptability at the given moment in this format. How could you make the most of the six balls that you face or which you are going to bowl. It's not always about being correct but catching your opposition off-guard and being a step ahead of opposition as far as planning is concerned," said the legendary batsman.



## Rabada fit for WC opener; Steyn, Ngidi still doubtful

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada is expected to be fully fit for country's World Cup opener against India in Southampton on June 5, according to team doctor Mohammed Moosajee.

Rabada, became IPL's highest wicket-taker with 25 scalps for Delhi Capitals before Cricket South Africa pulled him out as a precautionary measure after he complained of stiff back.

"With KG (Rabada), we are extra cautious because of two reasons," Moosajee was quoted as saying by Cricket South Africa's website.

Moosajee said Rabada will be fully fit within three weeks as his rehabilitation is on track. "The anticipated recovery period for KG's injury is two to

three weeks and we are hopeful he'll make a full recovery to be part of the World Cup squad," said Moosajee.

"He had a back issue that kept him out of the game for a protracted amount of time. Secondly, there's his importance in the squad, so we're managing his rehab and his return to play very carefully," the doctor said.

Moosajee, though, is yet to put a comeback date for the injured pace duo of Dale Steyn and Lungi Ngidi, who are out with shoulder and side strain respectively.

While there was no clarity on when Steyn and Ngidi would get fit, both are expected to travel with the squad to England.

If they don't get fit in time, there are enough players on stand by, said Moosajee.

## We need more teams in WT20: Harman

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The inaugural Women's T20 League was a great concept but it was too short and the tournament needs to have more teams and matches going forward, said Supernovas' skipper Harmanpreet Kaur after clinching the maiden title.

Supernovas defeated Velocity by four wickets to win the inaugural Women's T20 Challenge, a T20 league involving three teams.

But Harmanpreet, who has hit a vital 51 in Supernovas last-ball win here

on Saturday night, has called for more participation from teams after the success of the tournament.

"Firstly it was great tournament for me, I learnt a lot from it and the same goes for other players also. We learned a lot from this tournament and that's what we were expecting," she said after the victory.

"We wanted to play a T20 league in India and I am really happy the way it went. We are looking for more matches and more teams in the next Women's T20 League," added Harmanpreet, who was sur-



prised to witness a strong crowd of 15,000 cheering both the teams. Harmanpreet said even

the foreign players want the tournament to be held in a large-scale next year.

"It shows how important this league is for the foreign players too. They were always asking when the women's league was to be played in India where they can come and play. You can see how important these games were for everyone. How keen they were to play here," she said.

"I think everybody was so excited for these games."

Speaking about her own performance, the Indian women's T20 captain said she was delighted to finish off the

job for her side on Saturday night.

"I learnt how to finish because depending all the time for sixes is not going to work and sometime you can play along the ground and win the games. I did half the job and Radha Yadav came and finished the game," Harmanpreet said.

"A lot of youngsters like Radha Yadav, Jemimah (Rodrigues), Deepti (Sharma) have great future and perhaps they would get an opportunity to play in other leagues and that would help us in building our national team."

## Don't know how to bowl to Buttler: Arthur

IANS ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur has praised Jos Buttler who played a match-winning knock of 110\* which came off just 55 balls in the second ODI of the five-match series which England won here in Southampton.

On Saturday, Buttler smashed six fours and nine sixes in the span of just 66 minutes, and helped England post gigantic 373/3 in their 50 overs. In reply, Pakistan's batsmen responded encouragingly. However, they could not cross the finishing line and fell short by 12 runs.

"I don't know how you bowl to him," Arthur said after the match. "I've just asked the bowlers the same thing and they didn't have an



answer either. But I don't think we're going to stop him, so we've got to

try to get him out," he added.

Buttler has five of the 10 fastest ODI centuries by an England batsman, having struck a 60-ball ton on his way to 150 against West Indies in Grenada in February.

England skipper Eoin Morgan, who shared an unbeaten 162-run stand with Buttler, was all praise for the latter and said he was the difference between the two sides.

"He seems to have a gear that not many of us have. I certainly don't have it, but it's great to watch," Morgan said.

"He always seems to time his run really well, regardless of what time he comes in, he always seems to have enough balls to go on and bang a 50-ball hundred. He was brilliant and the difference in the two teams," he added.

## ABD pulls out of Big Bash

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

South African legend A B de Villiers has decided to pull out of the next edition of Big Bash League (BBL) after initially committing to play during the final phase of the tournament.

While Cricket Australia has decided to make it a 14-match league affair on a home-and-away basis, there is a possibility that a lot of big names will not be available for the better part of the tournament due to cramped international calendar.

According to a report in *'ESPNCricinfo'*, De Villiers was willing to play for a "limited stretch towards its concluding stages" but has now turned his back after realising that both Cricket Australia and Big Bash League wanted maximum leverage from the Proteas legend's participation and lift the dwindling TV ratings.

De Villiers' presence is a necessity for BBL and CA because in January, some of the biggest Australian names will first be busy playing Test series against New Zealand and then travel to India for the ODI series.

