

LANDMARK 5
MODI GETS CLEAN CHIT
FOR GUJARAT SPEECH

WORLD 7
DOZENS OF ROCKETS FIRED AT
ISRAEL FROM GAZA

SPORT 11
DELHI BEAT RR
BY 5 WICKETS

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

LUCKNOW, SUNDAY MAY 5, 2019; PAGES 12+4 ₹3



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Issued by: Bharatiya Janata Party, 6 A, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi



USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

India needs to address hostile Western media

In the summer of 2014, the influential British weekly *The Economist* — also read by a section of India's decision-makers — created a minor flutter by endorsing the Congress. Actually, more than being enthusiastic about the UPA-II that had completed an uninspiring five years, the magazine was outrightly disapproving of the challenger, Narendra Modi. Its argument was less focused on the future of Indian capitalism under Modi but principally centred on the BJP's alleged programme of social divisiveness.

In any case, *The Economist's* advice to Indian voters was greeted with indulgent smirks and attributed to the ignorance of distance. At the same time, there was some unease in India at the sheer presumption of a British publication advising Indians on voting preferences.

Last week, *The Economist* did it again. Once again it called for a vote for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress. It approved the idea of India undergoing a spell of coalition uncertainty because it was preferable to the supposed anti-democratic tendencies of the Modi Government. Of course, this time the charge of trying to influence voting behaviour was less marked because more than half of India had already voted. More to the point, the publication's main target audience in Bengaluru and Mumbai had already voted or, given the abysmal turnout, not voted.

This week, however, the outrage over *The Economist* editorial has been more marked. Part of this is because the publication is a repeat offender. The convention in India is that the media, while entirely free to parade their political and ideological bias, stop short of actually telling people how to vote. Maybe this is hypocritical and it would be more honest if, like publications in the United States and, increasingly, the UK, openly endorse parties or leaders. However, for good or bad this is the convention. It would also be helpful if global publications — *The Economist* no longer thinks of itself as merely a British publication but a magazine that is published from London — stop extending the spirit of globalisation to other countries. In some quarters, national sovereignty is an outdated concept — which is why Brexit is so utterly despised by them — but here in India, cutting across the political divide, it is cherished. The Congress may have been flattered that its leader has secured an influential international endorsement. At the same time, the more sober in that party must have recognised the ominous implications of the gratuitous advice from editorial writers in London. In the days to come, *The Economist* editorial will become what we in India call 'timepass'. It is unlikely to influence the verdict in even a single constituency. At best it will encourage a few political upstarts in the Congress to claim credit for this searing indictment of Modi.

However, there is a larger issue at stake here. A few weeks ago, the head of the Overseas Congress questioned the veracity of the air strikes in Balakot. When quizzed, Sam Pitroda said that his doubts arose from reading about the issue in the *New York Times*, a publication he had faithfully read for the past 50 years. In Kolkata, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee raised similar doubts and even questioned the wisdom of the anti-satellite systems India has developed. She too said she had based her opinion on foreign publications.

Neither Pitroda nor Mamata were being disingenuous. Those accustomed to reading the mainstream publications in the English-speaking countries of the West will have noticed the strong disapproval of the Modi Government. This does not stop at their outrage over beef lynchings and the supposed marginalisation of India's Muslims. The hatred of Modi has gone so far that it stretches to a denial of the economic progress made in the past five years. The Western pundits have traditionally carped against corruption but when the Government has acted to curb cronyism and corruption, it has chosen to focus on the collateral tremors. There is a single message: Modi can do nothing right.

This unending negativity may, on the surface, have not had the desired results. Over the past five years, Foreign Direct Investment has increased substantially and the progressing of the Ease of Doing Business has been recognised. Likewise, India's sovereign ratings have not witnessed any slide. Corporations interested in finding non-Western locations for capital investment don't seem to have been influenced by this negativity, not least because they have alternative sources of information. These assessments are based on realism, not liberal ideology. Yet, for every \$10 invested in India there is probably another \$2 that failed to find its way because smaller companies may have felt that India lacks a wholesome social environment.

Most of the assessments by Western publications are based on their pre-existing familiarity with India's liberal ecosystem. The same people who sign the petitions against Modi and wail over the supposed erosion of Indian democracy are the ones who influence the foreign journalists and their editorial masters. Compared to their overriding influence in Western intellectual circles, the Modi Government hasn't been able as yet to create a nationalist counter-establishment that has influence in such circles. The Government has been tremendously successful in influencing Governments and even the strategic establishments all over the globe, but it has met with unbudging hostility in media and academia. This is a lacunae that has to be attended by Modi if he secures a renewed mandate on May 23.

What is needed by the next Government is a focused outreach aimed at sensitising civil society — beyond the diaspora — to the excitement of crafting a New India. The strategic worth of such a project should not be underestimated.

Ph-V campaign ends, bigwigs in fray

Voters to decide Rajnath, Sonia, Rahul, Smriti's fate; polling on 51 seats tomorrow

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The high-pitched campaigning for the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha polls in 51 seats spread across seven States ended on Saturday with the BJP trying hard to keep the steam on and repeat 2014 magic and the rival Congress seeking to retrieve ground it had lost in the last general elections.

In 2014, the BJP had consolidated its position from the fifth phase onwards to single-handedly cross the majority mark. For the Congress, its president Rahul Gandhi is in the fray against BJP's Smriti Irani from his pocket-borough Amethi. However, the contest seems to be tougher this time given the BJP's focus on the seat for the last five years. Rae Bareilly, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's constituency, is one of the 12 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh which will go to polls on Monday.

The other seats in the electorally important UP are Dhaurahra, Sitapur, Mohanlalganj (SC), Lucknow, Banda, Fatehpur, Kaushambi (SC), Barabanki (SC), Faizabad, Bahraich (SC), Kaiserganj and Gonda. SP-BSP-RLD has emerged in UP as the main rival of the BJP and banking on its combined vote bank share which was divided in the last



Rajasthani artist Gopal Biss during an election awareness campaign for Lok Sabha polls in Bikaner on Saturday PTI

Lok Sabha poll, yielding a duck for the BSP and only six seats for the SP.

In this phase, the BSP is contesting on five seats — Dhaurahra, Sitapur, Mohanlalganj, Fatehpur and Kaiserganj. While Samajwadi Party is fighting on seven seats — Lucknow, Banda, Kaushambi, Barabanki, Faizabad, Bahraich and Gonda. Union Home Minister

Rajnath Singh is seeking re-election from Lucknow constituency, which has been represented in the past by the BJP patriarch Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Rajnath Singh is facing Samajwadi Party's nominee Poonam Sinha, wife of actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha.

Former Union Minister and Congress candidate Jitin Prasad is contesting from Dhaurahra against former

Chambal dacoit Malkhan Singh of Pragati Sheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia). In the Faizabad parliamentary constituency, under which the temple town of Ayodhya falls, sitting BJP MP Lallu Singh is taking on Nirmal Khatri of the Congress. Khatri is a former Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee chief.

In 2014 elections, 12 of 14 seats of this phase in UP were

2019 Elections Battleground LOK SABHA

won by the BJP while National Democratic Alliance (NDA) had swept all five seats of Bihar. The Congress could win only the Rae Bareilly and Amethi — out of the 80 seats in the entire State.

State-wise distribution of Lok Sabha seats in this poll round is: UP (14 constituencies), Rajasthan (12), Madhya Pradesh (7), West Bengal (7), Bihar (5), Jharkhand (4) and Jammu & Kashmir (2). The phase would see conclusion of voting in all 29 seats of Rajasthan, which were won by the BJP in 2014.

In contrast to previous rounds, poll campaigning in this phase has been peaceful even as electioneering during the last couple of days was

marred by the panic over Fani, which caused large-scale destruction in Odisha.

A high-decibel campaign for seven Lok Sabha constituencies in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh ended at 5 pm on Saturday.

Polling for Tikamgarh, Damoh, Khajuraho, Satna, Rewa, Hoshangabad and Betul seats, all held by the BJP currently, will take place on May 6. This will be the second phase of polling in MP, the first phase having been held on April 29. Union Minister Virendra Kumar Khattik is the BJP candidate from Tikamgarh while former Union Minister and sitting MP Prahlad Patel is the party's Damoh candidate.

Turn to Page 4

Catfight has Amethi prick up its ears



Congress president Rahul Gandhi with party general secretary and sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during the mahila workers meeting, ahead of the fifth phase of Lok Sabha poll in Amethi on Saturday PTI

AGENCIES ■ AMETHI

The last day of the Lok Sabha poll campaigning in Amethi turned interesting with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Smriti Irani locking horns on several issues.

Sitting MP and Congress chief Rahul Gandhi is seeking to defend his turf for the fourth time against Union Minister Smriti Irani, who had brought down Rahul's victory margin to just over a lakh in 2014.

Charges have been flying thick and fast with the Congress accusing the BJP of trying to bribe voters and the

BJP slamming the Congress for taking the segment for granted by dynasty politics.

Campaigning for her brother, Priyanka said, "Smriti Irani comes here and distributes shoes and sarees. She should come and beg for votes rather than distribute you shoes. I also want to ask if the BJP is so concerned about Amethi, why did they wind up projects which Rahul Gandhi initiated?"

On the other hand, Smriti mocked Rahul in a rally, saying, "Absentee MP has already given up on you and run away to Kerala."

Turn to Page 4

42 passengers injured as bus overturns after hit by truck

PTI ■ NOIDA

A bus ferrying 42 female employees of a private company overturned after it was hit by a speeding truck, resulting in injuries to passengers in Noida Sector 93 on Saturday around 6 am.

"The bus had 42 passengers, all women employees of a private firm, who were on their way to work when their vehicle overturned after being hit by a truck," Phase 2 SHO Farmod Ali Pundir said.

The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital, while those critically wounded were taken to Kailash Hospital, he said.

"The truck involved in the incident has been impounded and its driver detained," the SHO said.

He scotched rumour of the law and order situation at the accident site, and said probe is underway.



Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn is transported on the royal palanquin by royal bearers during his visit to the Temple of the Emerald Buddhism just before his coronation on Saturday AP

Fani peters out in Bengal, bites Bangladesh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People of West Bengal heaved a sigh of relief as severe cyclonic storm Fani weakened on Saturday morning which wreaked havoc in Odisha leaving 12 persons dead. However, Fani killed at least 14 people in Bangladesh as it barreled into the nation on Saturday.

North-East States — Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura — have witnessed intermittent rain since Friday due to the impact of Fani. As many as 79 flights were cancelled

different airports in the Northeast region due to bad weather.

According to the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), headed by Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha, the cyclone has caused extensive damage to telecommunications and power infrastructure in Puri, Bhubaneswar and some other areas of Odisha while the West Bengal Government has reported mild impact of the cyclone.

The Andhra Pradesh Government informed about heavy rainfall and some damage to crops and roads in Srikakulam district.

In Bengal, the storm lashed



Digha, Haldia, Tajpur, Mandarmani, Sandeshkhali, Contai, Diamond Harbour, Bankura, Sriniketan, Asansol, Dum Dum and Alipore, Kharagpur, Kolkata, and Burdwan. Trees were uprooted, power and telecom lines snapped, metal hoardings blown away as the storm swept through Bengal. However, no

loss of life was reported from the State. According to Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the entire administration was awake the whole night. "We were very worried about the cyclone Fani. There were not much damage in the State. At least 850 mud houses in the districts were partially dam-

aged while 12 were completely destroyed," she said.

The Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT) also resumed its routine operation on Saturday morning at both Haldia and Kolkata docks. As Fani has moved away, flight operations resumed at Kolkata and Bhubaneswar airports on Saturday. "Flight operations to and from Bhubaneswar airport has resumed. Alliance Air flight from Ranchi is the first flight to land," tweeted the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The Eastern Naval Command has launched a massive rescue and rehabilitation effort in Odisha.

Turn to Page 4

PM Modi to visit Odisha tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday discussed the situation with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and assured all support from the Central Government. Modi will visit Odisha on Monday to take stock of the situation.

UN agency lauds IMD accuracy

The UN agency for disaster reduction has commended the India Meteorological Department's "almost pinpoint accuracy" of early warnings that helped authorities conduct a well-targeted evacuation plan and minimise the loss of life.

SP going soft on Cong: Modi

PTI ■ PRATAPGARH/BASTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday accused the Samajwadi Party of going soft on the Congress, saying the two parties were playing a "big game" against Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati.

Addressing Bharatiya Janata Party rallies in Pratapgarh and Basti, Modi said the SP-BSP alliance partners would be at each other's throats when the results were out on May 23.

He said while Mayawati was openly targeting the Congress and its policies, a Congress leader was sharing the stage with the Samajwadi Party.

The apparent reference was to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's presence at an SP meeting in Rae Bareilly on Thursday.

"The SP is going soft on the Congress, but its alliance partner BSP chief Mayawati is attacking the Congress," Modi said in Pratapgarh.

He claimed the SP had derived advantage out of the alliance, talking about "respect" towards her.

"It was said you (Mayawati) will be made the prime minister, but now 'Behenji' has understood that the SP and the Congress are playing a big game with her," he said.

Modi said the Congress has been reduced to the status of a 'vote karta' party, suggesting its only relevance now is to queer the pitch for other parties.

Accusing the Congress and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a rally in Pratapgarh on Saturday

its president Rahul Gandhi of harping on the acquisition of Rafale aircraft only to tarnish his image, Modi took a swipe at former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"Your father was termed 'Mr Clean' by his courtiers, but his life ended as 'Bhrashhtachari No. 1' (corrupt number 1)," Modi said.

He claimed that the Congress chief had admitted in an interview that his only aim is to tarnish Modi's image.

"By hurling abuses, you cannot turn the 50 long years of Modi's tapasya (struggle) into dust," the prime minister said.

"By tarnishing my image and by making me look small, these people want to form an unstable and a weak govern-

ment in the country," he said. "The *naamdaar* must clearly listen that this Modi was not born with a golden spoon, nor was he born in any royal family," he said, referring to Gandhi.

Modi claimed that the Congress was known for dividing the country, and charged it with bringing down coalition governments in the past.

Referring to the UN listing of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, Modi said it was a "major victory in India's fight against terror."

He attacked the Congress over its own record in tackling terrorism. "These people had created the hype of Hindu terrorism. Today, the terrorists and their masters are praying

that Modi should not come to power, but the country is saying *Phir ek baar, Modi sarkaar*," he said.

In Basti, Modi accused the opposition of playing vote bank politics.

"The SP, BSP and Congress are the biggest example of how principles are trampled upon for power. They are so affected by the bad habit of getting their vote bank arithmetic right that they consider people just numbers," Modi said.

The PM said the NDA work culture was different from that of the *mahamilawati* (adulterated) alliance.

"We want to decentralise the government. But the 'mahamilawati' are eager to come to Delhi in their lust for power," he said.

Jawwad extends support to Rajnath Singh

LUCKNOW (PNS):

Prominent Shia cleric and Imam-e-Juma of Lucknow, Maulana Kalbe Jawwad, has announced his support to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate from Lucknow.

"I have not extended my support to any political party but a particular person, Rajnath Singh, as everybody desires good people to be elected to the highest legislature institution of the country," Maulana Jawwad said in a press conference here on Saturday. "Rajnath Singh is a person with impeccable credentials who will never do any wrong with anybody and will never do anything which is divisive and against the larger interests of society, so I have decided to issue an appeal to the people to support the Union Home Minister," Maulana Jawwad said. He, however, added that it was the discretion of an individual to decide his/her support for any party and candidate.

The cleric said, "The decision to support Rajnath Singh has been taken with the consent of the Rashtriya Shia Sufi Sangh, which does not support any particular political party but a particular person who is always available to the common man in the hour of crisis." He said "for the welfare of the country and the communities, people should support a candidate who is oriented towards serving people and the nation and has a broad outlook and personality." He maintained that he had never supported any political party neither would do so in future.

NDA to form next govt under Modi: Amit Shah

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party president Amit Shah on Saturday reiterated his claim that the National Democratic Alliance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi would form the next government at the Centre.

Addressing an election meeting in Fatehpur on Saturday, the BJP president, who also held a roadshow in Amethi, said there was a groundswell of support for the BJP and Narendra Modi as wherever he went he found that people had already made up their minds to vote for the BJP.

"I have come here after travelling all over the country during the last four-and-half months. From east to west and north to south, wherever I went I heard chants of Modi, Modi. This is not just a chant but the blessings of 125 crore people of the country. People have already decided that the next PM will be Modiji," the BJP president said.

Shah lashed out at the gathbandhan (alliance) of Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party, accusing both parties of indulging in divisive politics by pursuing narrow caste-based politics.

"The previous governments of SP and BSP would divide people on caste lines and not focus on development. The Yogi Adityanath government and the Narendra Modi government at the Centre have shifted the focus entirely to



BJP president Amit Shah during an election roadshow in support of party's candidate Smriti Irani on Saturday

development, without discriminating on caste lines," Shah said.

Hitting out at the opposition, Shah said "they cannot keep the country safe." He said the country was safe only in the hands of Modi, whose immediate response against terrorists earned new respect for India and its people.

"The biggest achievement of the Modi government is of securing the nation against terrorism. During Sonia-Mamohan rule, terrorists used to enter India at will and even behead our soldiers," he said.

Listing the achievements of the Modi government, Shah said it had worked hard for all sections of society, especially the poor and the distressed.

The BJP chief held a roadshow in Amethi, the home turf of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday in which he said that in Uttar Pradesh

the choice was between dynasty and development.

Shah was accompanied by the party's candidate and Union minister Smriti Irani.

"In UP, the choice is between dynasty and development. And people will choose development over dynast," he said. Shah also asserted that the BJP would win the Amethi Lok Sabha seat by one lakh votes.

"Our overall seats in UP will also increase," he said.

Irani said the people of Amethi wanted change and they would vote for development.

Smriti Irani had lost the election to Rahul Gandhi in 2014, but was able to substantially reduce his victory margin from more than three lakhs in 2009 to just above one lakh in 2014.

The BJP had won 71 seats out of 80 in Uttar Pradesh in 2014, while two seats were bagged by its ally Apna Dal.

CPI-M backs SP-BSP-RLD alliance

LUCKNOW (PNS): The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Saturday announced its support to Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal alliance in Lucknow and other constituencies going to polls in the fifth phase of Lok Sabha elections on May 6. CPI-M secretary Heera Lal Yadav said the party had decided to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party in the election as the ruling party's faulty policies had destroyed the country's economy.

Modi lacks courage to speak about his poll promises: RaGa

SULTANPUR (PTI): Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi lacks courage to speak even a word about the poll promises, including on jobs, that he had made in 2014 and said a strong leader should be able to apologise for failing to keep his word.

Addressing a poll meeting here, Gandhi repeated the claim that six surgical strikes were conducted during the tenure of the UPA and said his party never used it for political benefit. He said the prime minister must tell as to how the youngsters will be given employment after 2019. "Modi is unable to speak even a word about his earlier promises. If Modi had the guts, then he would have said that I had spoken about giving two crore jobs every year in a rush of blood but I have made a mistake. But, this man lacks courage...."

"A strong leader is the one who accepts the truth. A strong leader is the one who would tender an apology for failing to provide two crore jobs to youngsters and ₹15 lakh, and then talk about rectification (of the mistake)," Gandhi told voters in the constituency from where the BJP has fielded Maneka Gandhi, the estranged sister-in-law of Congress Sonia Gandhi. The



Congress has given ticket to Sanjay Singh, while the BSP has nominated Chandrabhadra Singh. He said the entire country had understood that the "chowkidaar is doing chowkidaari of Ambani, Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya and Mehul Choksi. This chowkidaar has spoken lies before the country."

"The lion-like Congress workers have burst Modi's balloon which was inflated by the media," he said.

A day after Modi mocked the Congress saying the party, which first ignored the surgical strikes carried out under his government across the Line of Control and then opposed them, was now crying "me too, me too," Gandhi reiterated his party's stand. "There were six surgical strikes during the tenure of the UPA. The Congress never used it for political purpose and neither wants to say anything now. It gives the credit to the Army," he said.

Lucknow will be 'cakewalk' for Rajnath: BJP

LUCKNOW (PTI): Winning the Lucknow Lok Sabha seat, which the BJP has held since 1991, will be a "cakewalk" for Union minister Rajnath Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma claimed, even as Samajwadi Party's Poonam Sinha seeks to give a tough fight to the saffron party.

The seat was won by late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee five consecutive times between 1991 and 2004, and Sharma believes that Singh will win as he has carried forward the BJP stalwart's "vision for development."

While the SP-BSP-RLD alliance's Poonam Sinha, who is backed by her actor husband and former BJP leader Shatrughan Sinha, is making her political debut, the Congress has fielded self-styled spiritual guru Pramod Krishnam, who had unsuccessfully contested Sambhal in 2014 and got just 1.52 per cent of the votes. Krishnam is seeking votes invoking Vajpayee's legacy and has promised that if he wins, he will build a grand statue of Vajpayee in the UP capital on the lines of the Statue of Unity in Gujarat.

In the midst of his hectic campaigning, Sharma told PTI: "The (Lucknow) seat will be a cakewalk for Rajnathji, who has carried forward the vision for development of Atalji in this constituency." Singh was a minister in the Vajpayee Cabinet between 2003 and 2004, and also the president of the BJP from 2013 to 2014 before Amit Shah took over.

Singh during his campaign tried to portray a balanced image by visiting temples and Muslim clerics, including Lucknow Eidgah Imam Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali.

Akhilesh brings 'baba' in caustic tweet

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president and former chief minister of UP, Akhilesh Yadav, on Saturday shared pictures on social media in which a saffron-clad, tansured man is seen accompanying him as he walks towards a helicopter at the Lucknow airport.

The pictures, both taken from behind, are accompanied with a seemingly caustic tweet whose import is not quite clear. "We cannot conjure up a false god, but we have brought a . Leaving Gorakhpur with us, he is telling the truth of the government across the entire state (Uttar Pradesh)," Yadav wrote.

The words "naqli bhagwan"

(false gods) and "Gorakhpur" are notable in the tweet. While the former could be a jibe against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the latter referred to Yogi Adityanath's Lok Sabha constituency that he represented for four consecutive terms as a BJP candidate before becoming the Chief Minister in March 2017. The Samajwadi Party won the bypoll in the Gorakhpur Lok Sabha seat in March 2018 with the support of Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party.

The 'baba' in the pictures is seen walking a few steps behind Yadav, who looks like the 'boss' from his demeanour. The picture was apparently taken when Akhilesh Yadav was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from

2012 to 2017.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday had attacked the SP president, saying Akhilesh Yadav was "frustrated" as he was being treated as a second fiddle in the alliance with the BSP. "This is the frustration of Akhilesh Yadav. He is frustrated because the Samajwadi Party once won 37 Lok Sabha seats from Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Mulayam Singh Yadav. Now he is contesting only on 37 seats," Yogi said.

"When he sits with Mayawati on the dais, he is seated on a smaller chair while Mayawati herself sits on a bigger one. When he goes to meet Mayawati, he is asked to keep his footwear out of the room. This is his position," he added.

Arms supplier held in Chandauli

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An arms supplier was arrested in a joint operation of Anti-Terrorists Squad and Chandauli police and four pistols besides other ammunition were recovered from him.

The arrested person, who hails from Munger in Bihar, disclosed during interrogation that he supplied arms and ammunition to some hardened criminals in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Senior police officers were grilling him to extract information whether weapons have been also supplied to anyone to create trouble in the sixth and seventh phases of parliamentary elections in eastern Uttar Pradesh. A case has been registered in this regard.

The arrest was confirmed by IG (Anti-Terrorists Squad) Aseem Arun but he said the Chandauli police would

give details of the breakthrough. Sources said that the ATS was getting information about someone supplying arms and ammunition in large quantities in eastern UP for the last few months. The arrested person reportedly brought weapons manufactured in Munger and later sold them to eastern UP ganglors to make quick money.

The ATS sleuths were trailing the suspect and on Saturday morning, they were tipped-off that the arms supplier was coming to Chakiya crossing in Alinagar police station area of Chandauli. The ATS team laid a trap with the help of local police and nabbed him. On taking search, they recovered four pistols and ammunition from his possession.

The accused was taken to local police station where he revealed his identity as Mohamed Danish, a resident

of Sujawalpur area in Sankarpur under Mufsil police station of Munger in Bihar.

SPEEDING CAR KILLS FOUR

Meanwhile, four persons, including two minors, resting under a tree alongside the Lucknow-Varanasi road in Pratapgarh, were killed after being run over by a speeding car.

The accident took place in Mahkani village and the deceased were identified as Mamta Devi (30), Gudhiya Devi (32), Neeraj (5) and Suman (4), ASP Avneesh Mishra said.

The four were rushed to a local hospital, where doctors pronounced them brought dead, he said.

The car also overturned and fell into a ditch. The driver of the car was taken into custody and the bodies were sent for post-mortem.



NOTICE

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main, Secondary, Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2014 and Roll No. 5710710 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate Aastha Gupta, Address B-99, Sector-C Mahanagar, Lucknow.

सूचना

सर्वविदित हो कि जे सी 804474A सूबेदार आन. रेरी लेपटीनेट सीताराम ग्राड पोड डोगीली जिओ मऊ, उओडो के पुत्र का नाम सर्विस रिकार्ड में त्रुटिवश रविनन्दन कुमार भाद्रद्वज दर्ज हो गया है। जबकि वास्तविक नाम रवि नन्दन (Ravi Nandan) है। भविष्य में इसे इसी नाम से जाना पहचाना जायें।

सूचना

सर्वविदित हो कि मैं श्रीमती फूलमती देवी (Poomlali Devi) पत्नी जे सी 804474A सूबेदार आनरेरी लेपटीनेट सीताराम ग्राड पोड डोगीली जिओ मऊ, उओडो का नाम मेरे पति के सर्विस रिकार्ड में त्रुटिवश पूलमती देवी (Poomlali Devi) दर्ज हो गया है। भविष्य में मुझे फूलमती देवी (Poomlali Devi) के नाम से जाना पहचाना जायें।

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं प्रार्थी संजय सिंह पुत्र सदा रामेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह के द्वारा भवन स्वामी / क्रेता नीना सक्सेना पत्नी श्री आरकेश्वर सक्सेना, मकान नं० के-1026, आशियाना, लखनऊ बड़ी संख्या-1 खण्ड 1896 के पुत्र सं०-177 से 200 क्रमांक 9271 दिनांक 30.08.1997 को पंजीकृत है। जिसका मूल बेनामा एवं उसके साथ मैं अन्य आवश्यक कागजात प्रार्थी से गोसाईगंज बाजार में गिर गया है।

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It is notified for all concerned that the below mentioned Movable Asset is secured in favour of Allahabad Bank Lucknow, and as secured creditor has taken the possession as empowered under since the borrower has failed to re-pay the dues of the Bank. The Movable Asset seized will be sold by public auction on date 15.06.2019 on "as is where is and as is what is basis" for recovery of Bank dues. This is a notice to the borrower/s and to the Guarantor/s of the below said loan about the holding of Auction sale on the said date, if their outstanding dues plus other expenses are not repaid in full within 7(seven) days from the date of publication this notice. e-auction platform provided by Service Provider M/s. e-Procurement technologies Ltd (Auction Tiger) at the website : <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>.

Sl. no.	(A)Name of the Borrower Account with address & PIN Code (B)Name of Borrower Proprietor/ Partner/Director. (C)Name of Guarantors With father's husband's name	Description of the Movable Asset	Dt. of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Notice Amount of Secured Debt.	a) Reserve Price b) Earnest Money c) Incremental Bid Amount
Branch : Jankipuram, Lucknow – 226023, Contact No- Ph No:0522 – 2731976,2730614.				
1.	(A) Mr Hemant Chauhan S/o Tilak ram R/o 40/48 Mirjapurwa Narhi Hazratganj Lucknow Pin 226001 (B) Mr Hemant Chauhan S/o Tilak ram R/o 40/48 Mirjapurwa Narhi Hazratganj Lucknow Pin 226001 (C) Smt Sanju W/o hemant Chauhan R/o 40/48 Mirjapurwa Narhi Hazratganj Lucknow Pin 226001 (D) Prashant Kumar s/o Tilak Ram R/o 40/48 Mirjapurwa Narhi Hazratganj Lucknow Pin 22601	Delivery Van TATA Ace Commercial Vehicle No : UP32EN1490 Engine No : 275DI07EWMYS5031 Chassis No : MAT445075DVE40896	A) 19.9.2018 B) 10.01.2019 Rs 4,20,056/- + interest w.e.f. from 19.09.2018 & Other Charges	Rs. 79,000/- Rs. 7900/- Rs. 5000/-
2.	(A) Mr Vinod Gupta S/o D S Gupta 346/30GA Mehndi Ganj Khalabazar Lucknow PIN226003 (B) Mr Vinod Gupta S/o D S Gupta 346/30GA Mehndi Ganj Khalabazar Lucknow PIN226003 (C) Mr Ajay Kumar Gupta 346/30GA Mehndi Ganj Khalabazar Lucknow PIN226003 (D) Mr Deepak Kumar Gupta Plot No 24 Khasra No 1490 Ganga Khera Kanousi Kanpur Road Lucknow Pin 226023	Delivery Van TATA Ace Commercial Vehicle No : UP32EN1430 Engine No : 275DI07BWMYS50303 Chassis No : MAT445057DVB18051	A) 19.9.2018 B) 10.01.2019 Rs 1,34,366/- + interest w.e.f. from 19.09.2018 & Other Charges	Rs. 71,000/- Rs. 7100/- Rs. 5000/-
Branch : Banglabazar, Lucknow – 226002, Contact No- Ph No: 0522 – 2421060				
3.	(A) M/s Monika Gupta W/o Rahul Gupta, R/o House- L-2/204, Sector-G, LDA Colony Kanpur Road, Lucknow (B) Mr. Rahul Gupta S/o Gauri Shanker Gupta, R/o House- L-2/204, Sector-G, LDA Colony Kanpur Road, Lucknow (A) Mr. Rahul Gupta S/o Gauri Shanker Gupta, R/o House- L-2/204, Sector-G, LDA Colony Kanpur Road, Lucknow	Delivery Van Scorpio S-4 Car / Vehicle No : UP32FU9246 Engine No : MXE4F22848 Chassis No : MA1TH2MXNE2G49347	A) 04.07.2018 B) 07.12.2018 Rs 13,49,541/- + interest & Other Charges	Rs. 4,32,000/- Rs. 43,200/- Rs. 10,000/-

Last Date & Time for EMD submission of process compliance Form with EMD amount : 12.06.2019
Date and Time of E-Auction : 15.06.2019, at 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.

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This is also a notice to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date and other details.
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Place : Lucknow, Date : 05.05.2019 Authorised Officer, Allahabad Bank

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Hectic day for Lok Sabha poll candidates

Time to catch up with sleep for some; for others, its business as usual



(Left) Rajnath Singh's supporters led by Neeraj Bora, Acharya Pramod Krishnam, and Poonam Sinha (below) taking part in poll campaigning in city on Saturday



Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The last day of the campaigning in Lucknow on Saturday saw Lok Sabha poll candidates putting in every ounce of energy trying to convince the electorate to vote for them. Even after the campaigning ended at 6 pm, majority of the candidates said they would continue meeting people and organisations while some said they would take rest and catch up with families and friends.

Samajwadi Party candidate Poonam Sinha, who had a hectic day, met the members of Kayastha Sabha. She said she would catch up with her family. "I will also try out the famous cuisine of Lucknow as I am fond of cooking and eating. There are some friends who have been bringing delicious home-cooked food," she pointed out.

Asked whether the heat bothered her in Lucknow, she said she was used to similar

weather in Bihar. She said she would leave for Mumbai after the polling day (May 6).

Congress candidate Acharya Pramod Krishnam took part in a motorcycle rally, which was flagged off by party leader Rajeev Shukla from Begum Hazrat Mahal Park. The rally moved towards Parivartan crossing, Hanuman Setu, Nishatganj, IT crossing, Hazratganj crossing, and Mahatma Gandhi Marg.

Krishnam said he would not rest till he was declared the winner and the incumbent government was out of power.

I will be continuing my meetings with various organisations and people at large. I am used to working till late night and then starting early in the morning. On May 7, I will be leaving for Madhya Pradesh since I am the star campaigner of the Congress," he said. Home Minister Rajnath Singh's sons Pankaj Singh and Neeraj Singh kept up the hectic pace of cam-



paigning on the last day with *padyatras* and held a meeting with Bharatiya Kisan Union.

Among other candidates, Kapil Mohan Chowdhary from Mera Adhikar Dal Party said they distributed the campaigning material which they had in abundance and held door-to-door meetings. He said he would be catching up

with family and friends.

"I am not worried about the results. If we win, nothing like it. However, if we don't, we will work harder," he said.

Mohammed Faheem from Indian National League said he visited areas where there were a lot of girls. "I do not intend to rest even as the campaigning has ended. I will

Traffic diversions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Traffic department announced diversions in view of the movement of polling parties to Mohanlalganj from Smriti Upvan on Sunday and the movement of polling parties towards Rama Bai Sthal for safe deposit of EVMs.

The vehicles going from Rae Bareilly road will come out of Gate No. 3 and then turn towards Bijli Pasi Qila crossing, Sector N crossing and then BBAU trisection towards Shaheed Path. The vehicles will not be allowed to move in front of the rally sthal and will be diverted from BBAU Gate No. 3

continue meeting people and reach out to as many as possible," he added.

Ramesh Kashyap from

towards Mansarovar project. The vehicles will not be allowed to move from Rain Basera Rally Sthal towards Aurangabad and will be diverted towards BBAU underpass and then towards the service road. Vehicles will also not be allowed to move from Ramabai Rally Sthal police station trisection to Rain Basera trisection or Aurangabad Shaheed Path underpass and will be diverted towards Shaheed Path.

Traffic will not be allowed to move from Aurangabad Shaheed Path underpass to the rally sthal and will be diverted towards Parag Dairy road, Bijli Pasi Qila and Sportsganj.

Indian Forward Bloc Party said he continued with hectic campaigning in trans-Gomti areas on the last day.

DM directives to sector, zonal magistrates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma directed all the sector and zonal magistrates to be present at Kanshiram Smriti Upvan at 6 am on Sunday for departure of the polling parties and report the proceedings with details. Presiding over a review meeting at Scientific Convention Centre where the sector and zonal magistrates were trained, the DM said on the polling day (May 6), they had to reach their respective booths and carry out a mock poll and also make regular visits during the polling. He also issued directives for the safe movement of EVMs after the polling is over.

The DM said voters could take their vehicles uptill 100 metres of polling booths but there should be no campaigning material for any party. He said the political parties must keep their desks at least 200 metres from polling booths or else action would be taken. The DM said the voters could not carry their mobiles inside the polling booths and there would be no provision to keep the mobiles there. "The voters will not be allowed to have gutka, tobacco, cigarette and similar items at the polling booths. They will also not be allowed to take arms, matchboxes, sharp-edged weapons or lighters inside the polling booths. The voters who reach the polling booth at 6 pm will be given a token and allowed to vote but those who reach after 6 pm won't. People won't be allowed to assemble near the polling booths after casting their votes," Sharma said. The DM said any person or organisation could make arrangements of drinking water for the voters in view of the hot weather prevailing in the city, but any



kiosk should be at least 200 metres away from the polling booths. He also appealed to the people to constitute 'bulawa toli' in their respective colonies so that people could be encouraged to go out and vote. He said people who had not got their voting slips were required to dial 1950 to get the same. As the campaigning concluded at 6 pm, the DM said no candidate would be allowed to organise rallies or roadshows any further. However, door-to-door meetings were allowed, he said, adding that loud speakers would be banned from 6 pm on Saturday (May 4) to 6 pm on May 6.

NINE PINK BOOTHS IN LUCKNOW

District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma, who is also the district election officer, said there would be nine pink booths in Lucknow with female staff and only women voters would be casting their votes there. For the security of the fairer sex, female cops would also be deployed at these booths.

The DM was speaking during the training of the staff to be deployed at the pink polling booths. He also gave the staff pink sarees and pink caps to wear on the polling day. The training was carried out for presiding women officers and polling officers. The women were informed about the functioning of EVMs and also given

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4 cars reduced to ashes in parking lot fire; locals suspect foul play

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A massive fire broke out in a parking lot close to Dargah Hazrat Abbas in Saadatganj police station area on Saturday afternoon. While locals suspected foul play, police sought to allay their apprehensions and claimed that the fire broke out due to short circuit and four cars were damaged in the incident. Police spokesman AK Dwivedi said the fire broke out around 2:30 pm.

"The land belongs to Dargah Hazrat Abbas and the parking lot is managed by the mutawalli, identified as Rafiqul, who had appointed Sajid of Kashmiri Mohalla to look after the affairs. Those parking their vehicles there pay Rs 600 per month to avail of the facility. The parking lot is adjacent to the boundary wall of the Dargah. The fire was intense and it damaged four cars before the flames were doused by the firefighters. Two fire tenders were pressed into service," he said. People whose cars were gutted were identified as Arvind Kumar, Parvez Mirza, RP Sihna and Raju Gupta (all of Saadatganj).

Discounting any foul play, Dwivedi said there was no reason why someone would set fire to the cars. "The locality is dense and it is difficult for residents to take their cars to their houses situated in narrow bylanes. However, the case is under investigation on that line too," he said.

The incident came as a big



surprise to several locals. After the fire broke out, a huge number of residents assembled at the scene. By the time, the firemen reached the spot, the residents had taken measures on to douse the fire.

"The fire was intense and flames were leaping so high that it had the local residents and shop-owners scared. Initially, the fire broke out in the back side of the parking lot but soon, the flames reached the gate. We dialled police control room but the cops reached late. By that time, the

fire had engulfed the cars which were reduced to ashes," a local resident said.

Meanwhile, a fire broke out in the residential premises of Gudamba police station on Saturday noon under mysterious circumstances, damaging several impounded vehicles. The fire was contained by cops present at the police station before it could spread further.

As per reports, some cops present in the office saw smokes emanating from a vehicle dumping yard in type-II quarters. The cops rushed to

the scene and started throwing water on the vehicles on fire. The policemen also used pipes to sprinkle water to douse the flames.

The police said a school bus and two bikes were burnt in the mishap. They said the fire broke out after someone threw a bidi on a heap of garbage. It was not the first fire incident at Gudamba police station, which is one among the model police stations in the city. Several vehicles were damaged in fire incidents on July 2 in 2017 and on May 19 in 2018.

Bus hit biker, driver thrashed by mob

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A bus driver was thrashed after he knocked a biker in Ashiyana on Saturday. He was rushed to Lokbandhu Hospital where the mishap victim was also admitted.

As per reports, Rishi Tripathi of Hasanganj was going towards Power House crossing when his bike was knocked by a bus from behind. "The victim who was moving slowly on the roadside went flying into the air before falling. The bus driver tried to flee the scene but some commuters nabbed him," eyewitnesses said.

They said the commuters caught hold of the errant bus driver and called the police. "Initially, the people were not

irate but cops reaching the scene late made them lose their cool and they started beating up the driver," they said. A police spokesman said Rishi was admitted to hospital by cops. "The bus driver, identified as Hausla Prasad of Barabanki, suffered injuries in the attack and he was also hospitalised," he said, adding since no complaint had been lodged in this connection, no FIR had been registered. Denying reports that the police took time in reaching the scene, he said the allegation was unfounded. "The mob chased the bus driver and thrashed him before the police could reach the scene. The men who created ruckus fled the scene after the police reached there," he said.

Chain-snatchers made to eat humble pie by gritty woman

Lucknow (PNS): Two bike-borne unidentified miscreants attempted to deprive a corporator of her gold chain when she was distributing voter slips in Madaion on Saturday. In a bid to confront the miscreants, she fell on ground and suffered injuries.

The victim, identified as Rupali Gupta, is a BJP coporator from Bhartendu Harishchandra ward. She was distributing voter slips near a parking lot around 11:30 am when targeted by the chain-snatchers. "The pillion-rider laid his hand on my gold chain

but I caught hold of his hand and also clung on to her chain. He tried to snatch it and later pushed me down. But as I did not let go of the chain, the miscreants could not take it away. However, it broke into two pieces. Geeta, a resident of the locality, raised an alarm after which the miscreants sped off the scene," she told the police.

Police said they got some CCTV footage and the victim identified the miscreants when shown the same. "The bike was seen moving towards Paltan Chhavi via bylanes," SHO, Madaion said.

KGMU sets up breast cancer support group

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Breast Cancer Support Group was launched at the Endocrine Surgery department of King George's Medical University (KGMU) on Saturday.

"Breast cancer is the most common and deadliest cancer among women. Breast cancer was one of the two most common cancers in 2018, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) with 20.9 lakh cases and 627,000 deaths. Early detection, screening and diagnosis saves more lives, improves quality of life and reduces cost and complexity of treatment," said Dr Anand K Mishra, head of Endocrine Surgery department, KGMU.

"The group is being formed with over 25 female and two male breast cancer survivors to help support not only patients who are going through diagnosis, treatment and care but also their attendants and family members. Survivors themselves will connect via Facebook and WhatsApp groups besides meeting in person as they decide upon," Dr Mishra said.

KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr MLB Bhatt thanked the breast cancer survivors who not only defeated the deadly cancer but also demonstrated courage, compassion and solidarity to step forward to help and comfort other patients needing support.



"Patients do not only need physical health but also require support for mental health, where this group can play a pivotal role. There are over 350 patients who have successfully received breast cancer treatment and care by the Endocrine Surgery department of KGMU. With over 1.5 lakh breast cancer patients every year in India, KGMU's Endocrine Surgery department has stepped up its services for breast cancer patients with 70-80% cure rate. Early diagnosis is vital for improving survival," Dr Bhatt said.

"Breast cancer patient support groups play a key role in helping complement healthcare as well as give moral boost to patients and families. Breast cancer care includes dignity, respect, support and love and considers not just the physical impact of cancer but respects the emotional, and

social wellbeing of each individual and their carer," Dr Rama Kant, former head of Surgery department and ex-chief medical superintendent of KGMU. Dr Rama Kant donated Rs one lakh for the cause.

"There are risk factors for breast cancer that are modifiable, such as obesity, unhealthy diet and sedentary lifestyles. Tobacco and alcohol in any amount is also responsible for carcinogenic mutations. Exposure to certain environmental compounds such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) also increase breast cancer risk. Non-modifiable risk factors are like genetic (5-10%) and early menarche and late menopause but majority of 90% risk factors for breast cancer are modifiable. We all must act upon reducing cancer risks and addressing the risk factors that

are modifiable," Dr Pooja Ramakant of Endocrine Surgery department (KGMU) said.

Dr Kul Ranjan Singh pointed out that breast cancer incidence was occurring more in younger women in India. "Breast cancer is very aggressive in biology when it happens in younger women. Women present late to us unfortunately as 50-70% of patients who reach us are already in advanced stage or metastatic when they are first diagnosed. Late diagnosis of breast cancer is directly proportional to survival rate. Educating women, men and transgenders about healthy lifestyles to reduce cancer risk is important. We have to raise awareness about breast self-examination and if any change or inconsistency is found, people should check with the doctor," Dr Singh said.

Catfight has Amethi prick up...

From Page 1
I am sending the Congress manifesto in an envelope to the people. They are sending you ₹20,000 each. They think they can buy you with votes. They are mistaken. I have learnt so much from you."

Earlier Priyanka said, "The way my father was dedicated to the welfare of people of Amethi, my brother too is committed."

Priyanka's canvassing for her brother centred on emotion as she went around greeting locals, addressing them as "family members" and recalling the old days when her father, the late Rajiv Gandhi, used to represent Amethi.

"I used to come here with my father as a 12 year old. I have seen this arid land turn green after my father came here. The way my father was dedicated to the people of Amethi, my brother is also committed," Priyanka told the people. The BJP, on the other hand, flagged Congress's dynastic politics as the bane of Amethi and sought to woo

locals with development. "Where was the absentee MP when 10 Amethi villages caught fire recently? He abandoned you even after winning the seat in 2014 whereas I stood by you even after losing," Irani told people as she exuded confidence that they will "teach the absentee MP a lesson for ignoring his constituency for 15 years."

To the women of Amethi, Smriti has promised sugar at ₹13 a kg and to voters she has pledged development calling out the slogan 'Phir ek baar Modi sarkar'.

As titans clash in this largely underdeveloped area, some locals see Amethi and the Gandhis as inseparable, while others are willing to shun old loyalties and seek new horizons. Amethi is still awaiting fruits of development so much so that a cluster of local villages is considering to boycott elections over an old unfulfilled promise of a rail under bridge in the Amethi town.

"We have been demanding a rail under bridge at an

unmanned rail crossing for decades. Even in the last election we had threatened a boycott but Rahul Gandhi told us he will help. Nothing has moved. We feel betrayed," said Surinder Singh of village Birahampur, where locals have resolved to boycott the May 6 poll. According to Mumtaz Khan, an ex-village head of Raydepur, the fight for an under bridge started in 1987 and people are dejected enough to consider a boycott.

"We are a VIP segment yes but we are fed up now," he rued as the segment wears a desolate look bereft of finesse that should have been attached with such a seat.

That said, generational loyalty for the Gandhis remains a factor here with some locals indicating that despite lack of development, Rahul Gandhi was likely to be voted back.

For Uma Shankar Pathak, an old timer, "The Nehru family gave this place its identity though there has not been adequate development."

According to another local

Bhola Nath, "For the sake of the Gandhi family's legacy, people may still vote for Rahul Gandhi here." A vote of people disagree and feel the competition this year is cut throat and anything can happen.

"It is a very close contest and nothing can be said. This time the Gandhis are campaigning much harder than before and their anxiety is visible," said Mahesh Jaiswal of Amethi. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and OBC leader Tamradhwaj Sahu, besides Gulam Nabi Azad and others also campaigned for Rahul.

The BJP also gave a final push to its campaign with Amit Shah holding a road show for Smriti on Saturday and Yogi Adityanath holding rallies earlier.

Another local Shiv Kumar said, "Earlier, the Gandhis would only come to file the nomination. This time they are spending much more time in Amethi because they know Smriti Irani is a tough challenger."

CANTTWATCH



OPERATIONAL CONFERENCE

The second joint Army-Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Operational Conference was held at the Central Command Headquarters in Lucknow Cantonment on Saturday. The conference was chaired by Brig Vikram Singh, General Staff (Operations), Central Command, and was attended by senior officers of Army and ITBP. The ITBP contingent was headed by IG Nilabh Kishore. Various strategies ranging from sharing of operational intelligence, improving coordination and enhancing synergy between the two forces were discussed at the conference to maintaining better vigilance along the Line of Actual Control.

SCHOOLSCAN

FUN OUTING

Tiny-tots of The Hermitage School, Aliganj, enjoyed a Metro ride as part of an educational trip on Friday. The children had a delightful time as they kept looking out through the windows. During their visit, they were also briefed about the ticket vending machines and special feature inside the trains.

YOGA COMPETITION

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) organised an inter-school yoga competition at Seth MR Jaipuria School in Gomti Nagar on Friday. Students of SKD Academy (Rajajipuram) won various contests. Some of the winners included Archit Shukla, Deependra Yadav, Yuvraj Singh, Akshat Verma, and Asmit Patel. Director of SKD group Manish Singh and

principal Kusum Batra congratulated all students.

OPEN DAY

City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus II, organised Open Day celebrations on Saturday. The parents admired the artistic talents of their children as they showcased their skills in English speaking, mental maths, science experiments, moral values, etiquettes & manners, self-

expression, recitation, health & hygiene, yoga, taekwondo, drawing, songs & music. Besides, a puppet show, play zone, dental check-up for kids and cooking, drawing, computer and other interesting contests were also organised for mothers of the students. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi said they were able to achieve their target because they got parents' support and they they shared the school's vision.



Ph-V campaign ends, bigwigs...

From Page 1
In 2014, the BJP had won 27 of 29 seats in the State. The Congress later increased its tally to three after wresting Ratlam seat from the BJP in a bypoll. The Congress, which came to power in the State in December last year after 15 years, hopes to carry forward the winning momentum while the BJP hopes to repeat its 2014 magic.

The five seats of Bihar which would go to poll are Muzaffarpur, Saran, Sitamarhi, Vaishali and Hajipur. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the campaigning from the front, holding a rally at Muzaffarpur where he canvassed in favour of the local BJP candidate as also nominees fielded by alliance partners the JD(U) and the LJP.

Congress president whose party is not contesting any of the five seats going to the polls on Monday, did not hold an election meeting in these constituencies which are, however, being contested by alliance partners in the Mahagathbandhan.

BJP chief Amit Shah addressed rallies at Saran and Sitamarhi and spoke about the

Prime Minister's commitment to his work which is evident from his having not taken a day off in 20 years.

Bollywood actor and BJP MP Hema Malini held a rally at Sitamarhi where she expressed delight over the improved infrastructure in Bihar and recalled with amusement the 1990s when then Chief Minister Lalu Prasad reported promise of making the potholed roads of the State as smooth as her cheeks had made headlines.

BJP MPs Ajay Nishad and Rajiv Pratap Rudy are seeking re-election from their respective seats of Muzaffarpur and Saran respectively. Rudy faces Chandrika Rai of RJD, father-in-law of Lalu Prasad's elder son, Tej Pratap Yadav.

LJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan, who has announced that he would no longer contest direct elections, has fielded his younger brother and State Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras from his pocket borough of Hajipur.

In Bengal, the fear over Fani cyclone led all political parties to cancel their election meetings in last two days. On the last day of campaigning the BJP candidate of Bongaon

(SC) seat, Shantanu Thakur was injured in a road accident.

Seats in which elections will be held on Monday are Bongaon (SC), Barrackpur, Howrah, Uluberia, Serampore, Hooghly and Arambagh (SC) where 1,16,91,889 electorate will decide the fate of 83 candidates, the Election Commission said.

The EC will deploy a total 578 companies of Central forces, which will cover almost 100 per cent polling booths in the seven constituencies to ensure free and fair polling, officials in the poll body said.

The campaign saw poll meetings by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Amit Shah and West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supreme Mamata Banerjee. Mamata also participated in a number of roadshows.

In Bongaon (SC) seat, which is on the Indo-Bangla border and has a large number of voters from the Matua community, TMC has fielded Mamata Thakur against the BJP candidate Shantanu Thakur. The Left Front constituent CPI(M) has nominated Alakesh Das, while the

Congress has nominated Sourav Prosad.

In Barrackpore, the TMC has fielded its sitting MP Dinesh Trivedi against BJP's Arjun Singh, who had defected from Mamata Banerjee's party ahead of the poll. The Congress has nominated Md Alam and CPI(M) Gargi Chatterjee.

Howrah Lok Sabha seat will see TMC's Prasun Banerjee, a footballer-turned politician locking horns with BJP's Rantived Sengupta. Congress has nominated Suvara Ghosh and the CPI(M) Sumitro Adhikary.

Kalyan Banerjee is the TMC candidate from Sreerampur seat against BJP's Debjit Sarkar. The Congress has nominated Debabrata Biswas and CPI(M) has fielded Tirthankar Ray for the seat.

In Hooghly seat Ratna De Nag of TMC will contest against BJP's celebrity candidate Locket Chatterjee. The CPI(M) has nominated Pradip Saha and the Congress Pratul Chandra Saha for the seat.

Braving inclement weather due to Cyclone Fani, the polling personnel have already left for the 13,290 booths in the seven constituencies.

Fani peters out in Bengal...

From Page 1
"The cyclonic storm crossed Kharagpur and is likely to continue further in north-east direction with a wind speed of 90 kilometres per hour. The extremely severe cyclonic storm relatively weakened after entering coastal Odisha and transformed into "very severe" as it approached West Bengal. Analysis and numerical model guidance suggested widespread rainfall activity across Northeastern States and widespread rainfall activity over Arunachal on May 4 and 5," the IMD said. Heavy rain along with a wind speed of 175 kilometres per hour battered Odisha as cyclone Fani made

landfall close to the temple town of Puri on Friday morning, leaving a trail of destruction in the State. Life remained paralysed on Saturday, a day after the 'extremely severe' cyclonic storm in Odisha.

As communication networks are not in place, the extent of damage could not be ascertained. Energy infrastructure has suffered a massive damage in the region. Failure of mobile connectivity has added to the chaos. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has moved 16 additional teams, comprising about 45 personnel in each, for rescue and relief work in Odisha and has removed fallen trees and

other obstacles on most of the roads. In Andhra Pradesh, Fani triggered heavy rain in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh besides uprooting 10,000 coconut trees and destroying agriculture and horticulture crops. The Jharkhand Government issued an advisory on May 3, asking all district deputy commissioners to set up control rooms to meet any exigency in the wake of Fani.

Two maritime reconnaissance sorties were undertaken by the Dornier aircraft of the Navy revealing widespread destruction localised around the temple town of Puri, according to an official statement. Based on the aerial sur-

veys, the Eastern Naval Command is undertaking a three-pronged rescue and rehabilitation effort centred around Puri and its suburbs in coordination with the State Government and the district administration. Meanwhile, the examination authority, National Testing Agency (NTA) has cancelled NEET UG 2019 for candidates appearing in Odisha in wake of Fani. The notification has been issued a day before the scheduled exam date on May 5. According to the notification, "NEET exam scheduled for May 5 in Odisha has been postponed as per the request of the State Government working on relief and rehabilitation work in the wake of Fani. Revised dates for the exam in Odisha will be announced soon."

Election Commission biased against Opposition: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday minced no words in accusing the Election Commission (EC) of being "completely biased" when it comes to matters related to the Opposition. His remarks come in the wake of clean chits given by the EC to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah on various complaints of Model Code of Conduct violations.

Rahul also said Congress's internal assessment after four phases of polling shows that the BJP will lose in the Lok Sabha elections and he sees a "scared Prime Minister" unable to face the onslaught of the Opposition. At the same time, the Congress president lashed out at Modi saying the Indian Army is not the Prime Minister's "personal property". And seeking to counter the BJP's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism, he said the Congress will deal with it "more sternly" than Modi.

On the EC, Rahul said, "When it comes to issues of the BJP, the EC is absolutely on the straight line, when it comes to the Opposition's issues, it is completely biased."

"The working style of Modi, the ruling BJP and the RSS is to put pressure on institutions. This is evident everywhere — SC, EC, Planning Commission, RBI. That is their approach. We do not expect that the EC will not be affected by that pressure," Rahul said. However, he asserted that the EC has to commit to



Congress president Rahul Gandhi addresses a press conference ahead of the fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls at AIICC HQ in New Delhi on Saturday

its responsibility and carry it out. "All this institutional capture that is taking place and all the negative effects of it will have consequences in the future. We are not going to allow Indian institutions to be disturbed, controlled, crushed and anybody who colludes, anybody who falls to this pressure, is committing a crime," the Congress chief said.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters in Delhi, he launched another attack on Modi for "insulting" India's armed forces. The Congress does not politicise the army, Rahul said, and it is not anyone's property as PM Modi questioned the Congress' claims that the UPA government had carried out six surgical strikes during its tenure. "The army, air force or navy are not the personal property of Narendra Modi ji like he thinks," he said.

Referring to the six surgical strikes the Congress had listed

as carried out under the UPA rule, he said those were not conducted by his party, but by the Army. "When he (Modi) says the Indian Army's surgical strikes were video games, he does not insult the Congress, but the Indian Army. The Army had done this (surgical strikes). It is their job. We do not politicise the Army," Rahul said.

He also took a swipe at the BJP on the release of Pakistan-based terrorist Masood Azhar back in 1999. "Who sent Masood Azhar to Pakistan? Did Congress send him to Pakistan? Which Government negotiated with terrorism? Congress didn't send him there. The reality is that BJP compromises with terrorism," Rahul said.

The Congress chief also declared that it was clear the BJP was losing the Lok Sabha polls. He said it was the "assessment" of the Congress that the BJP was losing. Rahul also said he will stand by his "Chowkidar Chor Hai" jibe as it is a reality and continue using the slogan again Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rahul said he apologised to the Supreme Court as he felt he had made a mistake.

"There is a process is going on in the Supreme Court and I made a comment attributed to SC so I apologise. I did not apologise to the BJP or Modi ji. 'Chowkidar Chor Hai' will remain our slogan," he said. "More than half of the elections are over and there is clear cut feeling that Modiji is losing. ... Our general assessment is clearly saying that BJP is losing the elections," Rahul said.

"The reality is that Modiji is losing the elections and it's visible on his face," he said. The main issues facing the country, he said, were unemployment and the crisis facing the farmers of the country but the Prime Minister said nothing about the concerns of the common people.

Hitting out at the Prime Minister, Rahul said: "Modiji's entire strategy is to distract. We have fought four to five elections with him. We have fought against him in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. As soon as he realises that he is not going to win then he brings something new like he brought seaplane in Gujarat." The Congress chief's remarks come a day after the PM said during a public meeting in Rajasthan's Sikar that the party which questioned the surgical strikes is now saying "me too, me too".

Rahul Gandhi's partner got offset contracts of Scorpene deal: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Virtually describing Congress President Rahul Gandhi a defence deal pusher or facilitator of defence offset contracts, BJP on Saturday sought to counter Congress on the Rafale controversy by alleging that Rahul was instrumental in getting an Scorpene submarine offset contracts to his company's partner in a deal which India had with France during the UPA regime.

In a counter-offensive on the eve of the 5th phase of polling, BJP rejected Rahul's claim that BJP was losing as per Congress party's "internal assessment" and stated that even Congress president was set to lose Amethi, his home constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

Senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley sought to draw Rahul's attention to the charges against him that his American associate who was a partner in his now-defunct London-based company had got an offset submarine contract and demanded an "structured response" from him and his party.

"How come the company through vicarious ways get the offset contract?", he asked addressing a press conference and posed a counter to what he called Congress President's wild and baseless allegation on a private Indian company getting Rafale offset contract signed between the BJP and the French Government. He said it was a serious charge.

Finance Minister cited a media report and gave more information that he said he

had found out to take a swipe at Gandhi, saying it is story of a man who aspired to be a defence deal pusher and is now aspiring to be prime minister.

Detailing the allegations Jaitley said Rahul and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were directors in Backops Services Pvt. Ltd. Registered in India in 2002 and then a firm of a similar name was registered in the UK in which Rahul Gandhi and Ulrik Mcknight were directors.

It was an "influence for cash" company, Jaitley alleged, adding that Mcknight was married to a Congress leader's daughter and was part of Rahul Gandhi's "social gang".

Rahul and Mcknight registered the same London address, which Jaitley said was owned by Ajababh Bachchan, brother of actor Amitabh Bachchan. In 2009 Rahul Gandhi left the UK firm and the Indian company wound up in 2010 but his partner remained associated with different firms, he said. Mcknight won an offset contract with a French firm awarded an Indian Navy deal to build submarines, he said.

Jaitley asked, "The question is how will you like now to be judged. You are judging others when there is no evidence. You distance yourself from a shady company launched by you and then your partner gets an offset contract."

"What was his (Rahul) own role? Did he want to start off as a defence dealer. It is a very serious subject and we will want

top Congress leadership to respond at the earliest," he said. Taking a dig at the Congress president, he wondered if it would have been better had he remain in the defence business and not joined politics.

In another pincer attack by BJP spokesperson G V L Narasimha Rao termed Congress president's attacks on Prime Minister, outcome of frustration as the party is not only losing elections across the country in a big way but its "so-called bastion Amethi is also crumbling".

Addressing a press conference, Rao said the remarks by the Congress chief indicate "desperation because the party is seeing not only its fortunes crumble all over India but also seeing its so called bastions in Amethi and Rae Bareilly crumbling". "People of the country want Modiji back. Rahul Gandhi knows the reality and is scared of losing Amethi, and out of desperation is making such claims which are factually incorrect," he added.

"Congress is facing extinction in this election. Despite a series of lies uttered by Gandhi over the last several months, he simply has not been able to bring the party back to life and is literally on the deathbed in this election," Rao said.

Responding to questions by the Congress leaders as to why national security was an issue, he said it is the top issue for the BJP and dominant issue for the country unlike the Congress, during whose regime there have been several terror attacks.

'I don't remember', says Akbar to queries from Ramani's counsel

New Delhi: Former Union Minister MJ Akbar, who recorded his statement before a Delhi court on Saturday in a defamation case filed by him against journalist Priya Ramani, replied that he does not remember their meeting and other details after he was cross-examined by Ramani's counsel.

Appearing before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal, Akbar said that his defamation complaint against Ramani, who has accused him of sexual misconduct 20 years ago, was "correct" as his public life has been "adversely affected" and "lifetime's good reputation" damaged by her "offensive words".

After EC notice, Kirron Kher apologises for campaign video featuring children

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following the Election Commission's notice, BJP candidate Kirron Kher on Saturday apologised and said that it was done "unintentionally", acknowledging that it was "wrong". "Some party worker sent it and my social media team shared it... Sometimes because of rush of work and enthusiasm, people do it and which is wrong. Children should not be used for this at all. I agree with that and it was not done unintentionally... So it was very bad, but good and it should not have been done," Kher said in her reply to Election Commission (EC).

Earlier, the EC issued a notice, seeking reply of BJP's Chandigarh candidate Kirron



Kher after she shared a video on twitter in which children were seen campaigning for her. The poll panel has asked the actor-turned-politician to reply within 24 hours.

"You have shared a video on your twitter account which shows that children are being used for election campaign in your favour through slogan 'Vote for Kirron Kher' and 'Ab Ki Baar Modi Sarkar'," the notice, issued on May 3, said.

In the notice, it was mentioned that the National

Commission for Protection of Child Rights in January 2017 had requested the EC to ensure that children are not involved in any form with election-related activities, by either elections officials or political parties.

The EC had subsequently instructed that it should be ensured by all political parties and election officials that children are not involved in any election-related activity, as per the notice.

Kher is seeking re-election from the Chandigarh Lok Sabha seat and is pitted against four-time MP and Congress candidate Pawan Kumar Bansal and AAP's Harmohan Dhawan.

Chandigarh will vote in the last phase of Lok Sabha elections on May 19.

Modi gets clean chit for Guj speech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In another clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday said PM did not violate the model code of conduct at his speech in which he said he had kept Pak on toes for safe release of IAF pilot

Commander Abhinandan at Patan in Gujarat on April 21.

"The matter has been examined in detail in accordance with the extant advisories, provisions of the Model Code of Conduct. After examination, the Commission is of the view that in this matter no

such violation of the extant advisories/provisions is attracted," EC says.

Sources in EC said that Chief Electoral Officer of Gujarat had sent a detailed report on the alleged violations of advisories of the Commission and Model Code of Conduct in a speech deliv-

ered by PM Narendra Modi at Patan.

PM Modi had in his Patan speech took on Pakistan and described how his government had kept the Pakistan government on its toes to ensure the safety of Wing Commander Abhinandan in the aftermath of Balakot air strikes.

Scindia, Gambhir richest candidates in 6th phase

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With assets worth over ₹374 crores, Congress candidate from Guna Jyotiraditya Scindia is the richest candidate contesting in Lok Sabha sixth phase elections while BJP's cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir is the second in the list with assets over ₹147 crore. Indian National Lok Dals (INLD) candidate Virender Rana is the third richest candidate with assets worth over ₹102 crore.

In its latest report on candidates contesting 6th phase of the Lok Sabha polls, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said Scindia, who is also in-charge of the Congress in western Uttar Pradesh, topped the list of 967 candidates. The Harvard and Stanford alumnus declared movable assets of ₹45,58,00,245 and immovable assets of ₹3,28,98,18,500.

The ADR has analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 967 out of 979 candidates, who are contesting in the sixth phase that goes to polls on May 12. Second on the list is Gambhir with assets over ₹147 crore, including ₹1,19,15,87,789 movable assets and ₹28,00,00,000 immovable assets. The former national-level cricketer also has the highest liabilities of over ₹34 crore and highest annual income of over ₹12 crore for financial year 2017-18 as declared in the ITR among candidates contesting in Lok Sabha sixth phase elections.

With total assets worth over ₹102 crore, Indian National Lok Dals (INLDs) Virender Rana is the third richest candidate in sixth phase



Lok Sabha poll. There are 12 candidates who have not been analysed due to unavailability of their properly scanned and complete affidavits, at the time of making this report," it said. Among the major parties 46 out of 54 candidates from BJP, 37 out of 46 candidates from Congress, 31 out of 49 candidates from BSP, six out of 12 candidates from AAP and 71 out of 307 Independents have declared assets worth more than Rs 1 crore. The average asset per candidate contesting in sixth phase is ₹3.41 crores," it said.

It also said Shiv Sena's candidate Rajib Mahato from West Bengal's Purulia constituency has declared zero assets. The ADR said 395 candidates have declared their educational qualification to be between Class 5 and 12, while 509 candidates have declared they are graduate or hold a better degree. A total of 35 candidates have declared just that they are literate while 10 said they are illiterate. In the sixth phase there are 83 female candidates when 59 constituencies from seven States.

In the 6th phase polls, as



many as 189(20%) out of 967 candidates analysed have declared criminal cases against themselves. Nearly 146(15%) out of 967 candidates analysed have declared serious criminal cases against themselves. Among the major parties, 18(33%) out of 54 candidates from BJP, 12(26%) out of 46 candidates from INC, 17(35%) out of 49 candidates from BSP, 5(31%) out of 16 candidates analysed from SHS, and 27(9%) out of 307 independent candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

SC's Rafale verdict has no apparent error warranting its review: Centre

New Delhi: The Centre has told the Supreme Court that "categorical and emphatic" findings recorded by the top court in its December 14 last year verdict in the Rafale deal case has no apparent error warranting its review.

It said the petitioners, in the garb of seeking review of the verdict and placing reliance on some press reports and some incomplete internal file notings procured unauthorisedly and illegally, cannot seek to re-open the whole matter since the scope of review petition is "extremely limited".

The Centre's reply came on pleas filed by former Union Ministers Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and activist-advocate Prashant Bhusan seeking review of the December 14 verdict by which their plea seeking probe into alleged irregularities in the multi-crore Rafale fighter jet deal was dismissed.

Two other review petitions have been filed by AAP leader Sanjay Singh and advocate Vineet Dhandha. All the review petitions are scheduled to be taken up for hearing next week by a bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

"The review petition... is an attempt to get a fishing and roving inquiry ordered, which this court has specifically declined to go into based on perception of individuals. A non-existent distinction is sought to be created between an inquiry by the CBI and the court by playing on words," the Centre's affidavit said. PTI



BJP National president Amit Shah, along with party candidates Hans Raj Hans and Harshvardhan being garlanded during an election rally for the Lok Sabha polls in Rohini, New Delhi on Saturday

Cyclone Fani: IAF sends 3 Super Hercules aircraft to Bhubaneswar for relief ops

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force on Saturday sent three C-130J Super Hercules aircraft to Bhubaneswar from Hindan Air Base for humanitarian aid and disaster relief, an IAF spokesperson said.

The aircraft are carrying approximate 45 tonnes of relief material including medicines for the locations affected by Cyclone Fani. "The IAF had remained on hot standby for a launch ever since the first warning about the cyclone was received. The aircraft were positioned at Hindan for a short notice take off, waiting for the restoration of landing facilities at cyclone affected airfields," he said.

The Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopter landed at Bhubaneswar for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The helicopter, launched from Guwahati airbase, is one of many IAF aircraft being deployed to the cyclone affected areas, he said.

"Air operations began after the restoration of landing facilities at cyclone affected airfields and are going to continue with full force in the coming days. "The Indian Air Force is committed to providing dedicated efforts to bring succour and relief to the affected populace and help in restoring normalcy in the region," the spokesperson said. PTI

Sunanda Pushkar death case: Court reserves order for May 13 on Swamy's plea

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday reserved its order for May 13 on Subramanian Swamy's plea seeking to be part of the trial in the death of Sunanda Pushkar, wife of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor. Special judge Arun Bhardwaj passed the order after hearing all the parties. Swamy's plea has also sought to bring on record the Delhi Police's vigilance report on tampering of evidence in the case and claimed that it might lead to

framing of additional charges. Pushkar was found dead in a suite of a luxury hotel in the city on the night of January 17, 2014. The couple were staying in the hotel as the official bungalow of Tharoor was being renovated at that time. The former Union minister has been charged under sections 498-A (husband or his relative subjecting a woman to cruelty) and 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC. PTI

Wife of chopper scam accused Gautam Khaitan gets bail in black money case

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday granted bail to Ritu Khaitan, wife of AgustaWestland chopper scam accused Gautam Khaitan, in a black money and laundering case. Special Judge Arvind Kumar granted relief to Ritu Khaitan after she appeared before the court in pursuance to summons issued after filing of charge sheet.

In the same case, the court had on April 16 granted bail to Gautam Khaitan and had put various conditions on him, including that he will

not tamper with the evidence or try to contact or influence the witnesses and join the investigation as and when called.

The fresh criminal case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was filed by the Enforcement Directorate against Gautam Khaitan and his wife on the basis of a case lodged by the Income Tax Department against him under the provisions of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015. PTI

STATES	SEATS
Bihar (5)	Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Hajipur
Jammu & Kashmir (2)	Ladakh, Anantnag (Pulwama, Shopian)
Jharkhand (4)	Kodarma, Ranchi, Khunti, Hazaribagh
Madhya Pradesh (7)	Tikamgarh, Damoh, Khajuraho, Satna, Rewa, Hoshangabad, Betul
Rajasthan (12)	Ganganagar, Bikaner, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Jaipur Rural, Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur, Karauli-Dholpur, Dausa, Nagaur
Uttar Pradesh (14)	Dhaurahra, Sitapur, Mohanlalganj, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly, Amethi, Banda, Fatehpur, Kaushambi, Barabanki, Faizabad, Bahraich, Kaiserganj, Gonda
West Bengal (7)	Bangaon, Barrackpore, Howrah, Uluberia, Srerampur, Hooghly, Arambagh

QUOTE-UNQUOTE



He (Narendra Modi) demonetised the economy, we will remonetise it through (minimum income guarantee scheme) NYAY...I can debate him anywhere apart from Anil Ambani's home

RAHUL GANDHI



Your father was termed 'Mr Clean' by his courtiers, but his life ended as 'Bhrashtachari No 1...The naamdaar must clearly listen that this Modi was not born with a golden spoon, nor was he born in any royal family

NARENDRA MODI

INDIA VOTES 2019

Lok Sabha Polls 2019 Phase-V

Profile of Candidates

- Seats in Phase-V: 51
- Total candidates: 674
- Candidates analysed: 668
- Date of poll: May 6

Age Group

25-30 years	54
31-40 years	154
41-50 years	199
51-60 years	144
61-70 years	97
71-80 years	16
Unknown	4

Educational Background

Illiterate	6
Literate	43
5th Pass	16
8th Pass	65
10th Pass	75
12th Pass	108
Graduate	154
Graduate Professional	67
Postgraduate	116
Doctorate	11
Others	7

Source: Association for Democratic Reforms KBK Pollgraphics

High-pitch WB campaign recedes

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The high-pitched campaigning by different political parties for seven Lok Sabha constituencies going to the polls in the fifth phase on May 6 came to an end Saturday evening. The campaigning during the last couple of days was marred by the panic over Cyclone Fani, which caused large scale destruction in neighbouring Odisha.

The fear over the calamity led all political parties to cancel their election meetings.

On the last day of campaigning the BJP candidate of Bongaon(SC) seat, Shantanu Thakur was injured in a road accident.

Seats in which elections will be held on Monday are Bongaon(SC), Barrackpur, Howrah, Uluberia, Serampore, Hooghly and Arambagh (SC)

where an electorate of 1,16,91,889 will decide the fate of 83 candidates, the Election Commission said.

The EC will deploy a total 578 companies of central forces, which will cover almost 100 per cent polling booths in the seven constituencies to ensure free and fair polling, officials in the poll body said.

All the seven seats, which are spread across North 24 Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly districts and parts of Nadia district, will see a four-cornered contest between Trinamool Congress, BJP, Congress and the Left Front major CPI(M).

The campaign saw poll meetings by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Amit Shah and West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supreme Mamata Banerjee. Banerjee also partic-

ipated in a number of roadshows.

In Bongaon(SC) seat, which is on the Indo-Bangla border and has a large number of voters from the Matua community, TMC has fielded Mamata Thakur against the BJP candidate Shantanu Thakur. The Left Front constituent CPI(M) has nominated Alakesh Das, while the Congress has nominated Sourav Prosad.

The Matuas (Namasudras) are a closely-knit scheduled caste group with presence in five parliamentary seats in North and South 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal, making them one of the biggest vote banks in the state. Shantanu Thakur is the grandson of the late Matua matriarch Binapani Devi, while Mamata Bala Thakur is her daughter-in-law.

In Barrackpore, the TMC has fielded its sitting MP Dinesh

Trivedi against BJP's Arjun Singh, who had defected from Mamata Banerjee's party ahead of the poll. The Congress has nominated Md Alam and CPI(M) Gargi Chatterjee.

Howrah Lok Sabha seat will see TMC's Prasun Banerjee, a footballer-turned politician locking horns with BJP's Rantidev Sengupta. Congress has nominated Suvra Ghosh and the CPI(M) Sumitro Adhikary.

In Uluberia seat TMC's Sajda Ahmed will contest against Joy Banerjee of BJP. The Congress has fielded Shoma Ranisree Roy and CPI(M) Maksudha Khatun.

Kalyan Banerjee is the TMC candidate from Serampore seat against BJP's Debjit Sarkar. The Congress has nominated Debabrata Biswas and CPI(M) has fielded Tirthankar Ray for the seat.

In Hooghly seat Ratna De Nag of TMC will contest against BJP's celebrity candidate Locket Chatterjee. The CPI(M) has nominated Pradip Saha and the Congress Pratul Chandra Saha for the seat.

In Arambagh(SC) seat, TMC's Aparupa Poddar will contest against Tapan Kumar Ray of BJP. The CPI(M) has fielded Sakti Mohan Malik and Congress Jyoti Kumari Das.

Braving inclement weather due to Cyclone Fani, the polling personnel have already left for the 13,290 booths in the seven constituencies.

Besides general election observers and expenditure observers, the poll panel has for the first time deployed a special police observer and a special observer. In another first, VVPAT will be used in all polling booths along with the EVMs, EC sources said.

PTI ■ PATNA

Campaign ended on Saturday for five Lok Sabha seats in Bihar which go to the polls in the fifth phase of general elections on May 6.

The five seats are Muzaffarpur, Saran, Sitamarhi, Vaishali and Hajipur.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the campaigning from the front, holding a rally at Muzaffarpur where he canvassed in favor of the local BJP candidate as also nominees fielded by alliance partners the JD(U) and the LJP.

He described the ruling NDA in the state as a cohesive three in one entity and the oppo-

High stakes for BJP in Bihar

sition weak, loosely knit and helpless against menaces of black money, corruption and threats to national security.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi, whose party is not contesting any of the five seats going to the polls on Monday, did not hold an election meeting in these constituencies which are, however, being contested by alliance partners in the 'Mahagathbandhan'.

BJP chief Amit Shah addressed rallies at Saran and Sitamarhi and spoke about the prime ministers commitment to

his work which is evident from his having not taken a day off in 20 years.

In his speeches Shah sought to present a contrast with Gandhi whom he accused of going on a holiday every three to four months.

Bollywood actor and BJP MP Hema Malini held a rally at Sitamarhi where she expressed delight over the improved infrastructure in Bihar and recalled with amusement the 1990s when the then chief minister Lalu Prasad reported promise of making the potholed roads of the

state as smooth as her cheeks had made headlines.

All the five seats going to polls in the fifth phase were won in 2014 by the NDA two each by BJP and LJP and one by Upendra Kushwaha RLSP, which quit the coalition last year and joined the 'Mahagathbandhan'.

Sitamarhi MP Ram Kumar Sharma, who had supported Kushwaha when he severed ties with the NDA, revolted after he was denied a ticket by RLSP, which is contesting five seats as against three five years ago.

He shared the stage with

Amit Shah at the latter's Sitamarhi rally dropping ample hints about his future political move. The seat has now gone to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which has fielded former MLA Sunil Kumar alias Pintu.

The party had earlier nominated Varun Kumar, but he declined to contest. Pintu faces Arjun Rai of RJD, who had won in 2009 on JD-U ticket.

BJP MPs Ajay Nishad and Rajiv Pratap Rudy are seeking re-election from their respective seats of Muzaffarpur and Saran, respectively. Ajay faces another Nishad, Raj Bhushan Chaudhary fielded by the Mukesh Sahni-led VIP, which is seeking to assume leadership of the Nishads.

Pulwama, Shopian may witness poor voter turnout

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Epitome of home grown militancy — Pulwama and Shopian — two South Kashmir districts are set to witness low voter turnout, in the last leg of three phase polling for the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat during fifth phase of polling in Jammu & Kashmir on May 6.

In the run up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, dastardly attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama, leading to martyrdom of 44 jawans, had changed the political discourse across the country. But on ground zero, as the entire Government machinery is gearing up to hold peaceful polls, the common voter remains elusive.

In the absence of high-octave electioneering in the area even the 'passionate' voters are showing little or no interest in reaching out to the polling booths to cast their votes. Despite huge presence of security forces, fear is still lurking in the minds of common people over the outcome of participating in the ongoing poll process.

It is the young brigade of 'home grown' militants who are still ruling the roost and setting the agenda. They had pasted posters and issued diktats against participation in the ongoing poll process.

At last count, around 100 local militants were still active in the area. The current crop of top militant commanders, active in Kashmir Valley, all come from Pulwama district.

Hizbul Mujahideen's poster boy Burhan Wani, followed by his successor Sabzar Bhat both were natives of Tral area in Pulwama. Riyaz Naikoo and Zakir Musa, active militant commanders, also hail from Pulwama.

Compared to first two rounds of polling in Anantnag and Kulgam, which witnessed 13.6 and 10.42 per cent polling, Pulwama, Shopian — hot beds of militancy — are set to witness sharp decline in the voter turnout. Pulwama district comprises four Assembly segments of Tral, Pampore, Pulwama and Rajpora, while Shopian district has two Assembly segments of Shopian and Wachi.

These two districts always played a pivotal role in electing PDP representatives during Assembly polls as it remained PDP's strong hold.

Mehbooba Mufti's fate too is hanging in balance due to poor voter turnout in first two phases. Poor turnout in these two pockets does not augur well for her political survival in the State politics.

In the aftermath of killing of HM Commander Burhan Wani in July 2016, the equation changed on ground zero drastically. Unrest in the area prevented the Election commission of India from holding by-polls to the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat after the same was vacated by Mehbooba Mufti before occupying Chief Ministers chair in the state.

Political observers in Kashmir claimed the voting may not touch double digit figure in these pockets. They attribute large-scale militancy related violence and crack down by the security forces in the aftermath of killing of Hizbul Mujahideen poster boy, Burhan Wani as the main rea-

son behind disenchantment with the poll process.

Meanwhile, in order to repose faith of the voter in the election process, the Election commission of India had recently rushed around 300 additional companies of para military forces to ensure incident free polling in the area.

Barring few election meetings, organised in the party offices or residences of supporters/officer bearers of these political parties no other significant political assembly has been reported in the area.

The local politicians in the area too have failed to change the narrative. This is evident from the participation of supporters during campaign meetings of rival political parties.

PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti, stayed away from these areas fearing backlash from common people, angry with her over her decision to align with the BJP after the death of PDP Patron Mufti Mohd Sayeed. She had joined protest demonstration in support of Jamat-e-Islami in Pulwama. NC top brass, including Farooq

Abdullah and former CM Omar Abdullah held closed door meetings in secure zones to ensure safety of political workers. Similarly Congress candidate GA Mir focused on door-to-door campaign and avoided big election meetings due to presence of foot prints of local militants in the area.

Omar: PM harping on Pulwama, Balakot to hide failures on economic front

Pulwama: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was harping on the Pulwama terror attack and subsequent air strikes in Pakistan's Balakot to hide his failures on economic front, job creation and alleviating agrarian distress.

The former CM said while Kashmir was no more an election issue in Pakistan, it was Prime Minister Modi who focussed his election campaign on the situation in the Valley.

"There was a time when J&K used to dominate elections in Pakistan but now it is PM Modi who is going to town with J&K in the election campaign. The PM is raking up Balakot and Pulwama terror attack to hide his Government's failures on economic front, employment generation and the agrarian distress in the country," Abdullah said. PTI

INDIA VOTES 2019

Lok Sabha Polls 2019: Phase-V

May 6

States: 7

Lok Sabha seats: 51*

Total voters: 8.76 crore

Male voters: 4.63 crore

Female voters: 4.13 crore

Third gender voters: 2,214

Polling stations: 96,088

Total candidates: 674

511

48 BJP, 46 Cong, 33 BSP, 11 CPM, 9 SP, 8 AITC, 5 Shiv Sena, 3 CPI, Ind & Others

*Polling in Anantnag seat in J&K spread over Phase III, IV and V.

Source: PIB KBK Pollgraphics

INDIA VOTES 2019

Lok Sabha Polls 2019: Phase-V

Candidates with Criminal Records

Seats polling: 51 • Date of poll: May 6 • Total candidates: 674

- Candidates analysed: 668
- Candidates with declared criminal cases: 126
- Of which
- Candidates with declared serious criminal cases: 95

BJP	22	19	48
Cong	14	13	45
BSP	9	7	33
CPM	5	2	11
SP	7	9	7
AITC	3	8	1
Shiv Sena	1	1	5
CPI	1	3	0
Ind & Others	64	45	506

Source: Association for Democratic Reforms KBK Pollgraphics



The SVEEP Kargil official passes from the Penzi La Pass (14,000 ft) just after the opening of the pass for movement. Ladakh goes to poll on Monday

Twitter

Dozens of rockets fired at Israel from Gaza

Israeli response kills 1

AFP ■ GAZA CITY (PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES)

Gaza terrorists on Saturday fired dozens of rockets at Israel, which responded with strikes that killed a Palestinian, officials said, as another escalation between them threatened a fragile ceasefire.

The latest flare-up came with Hamas, the Islamist movement that rules the blockaded Gaza Strip, seeking further concessions from Israel under the ceasefire.

Israel said around 150 rockets were fired from the Palestinian enclave by late Saturday afternoon and its air defences intercepted dozens of them. One woman was seriously injured in a rocket strike on the Israeli city of Kiryat Gat, some 20 kilometres from the Gaza border, police said.

Police said a man was also hospitalised in the city of

Ashkelon and spoke of other injuries without providing details.

A house near Ashkelon was damaged, while other rockets hit open areas.

The Israeli army said it had targeted two rocket launchers in Gaza with an air strike in an immediate response and its tanks and planes later hit some 30 military targets for Hamas and its ally Islamic Jihad.

A Gazan security source said a series of Israeli strikes targeted at least three separate areas of the Gaza Strip and that three "resistance fighters" were wounded. The Gaza health ministry reported one person killed and seven wounded.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was holding consultations with security chiefs. A statement from Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for at least some of the rocket fire and said it was pre-



Smoke rise from explosions caused by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City on Saturday

pared for more if necessary.

Its armed wing distributed a video showing militants han-

dling rockets and threatening key Israeli sites, including Ben-Gurion international airport

near Tel Aviv.

A source in the group said Egypt was engaged in discus-

sions to calm the situation, as it has done repeatedly in the past. Israel announced on Saturday afternoon that it was closing its people and goods crossings with Gaza as well as the zone it allows for fishermen off the enclave until further notice due to the rocket fire.

The escalation follows the most violent clashes along the Gaza border in weeks on Friday.

Four Palestinians, including two Hamas militants, were killed after two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a shooting during weekly protests on the border.

Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip have fought three wars since 2008 and fears remain of a fourth.

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas brokered by Egypt and the United Nations had led to relative calm around Israel's April 9 general election.

rocket was fired from the territory. Israel's Army blamed Islamic Jihad for the rocket, which fell into the Mediterranean.

On Thursday, Israel said its aircraft struck a Hamas military compound after balloons carrying firebombs and explosives were launched across the border.

Palestinians in Gaza have frequently fitted balloons with firebombs in a bid to damage Israeli property and have in the past succeeded in setting fire to large areas of farmland. Following that air strike, Israel said two rockets were launched from Gaza.

With the ceasefire at risk, a Hamas delegation led by its Gaza head Yahya Sinwar left the enclave for Cairo on Thursday for talks with Egyptian officials.

The ceasefire has seen Israel allow Qatar to provide millions of dollars in aid to Gaza to pay salaries and to finance fuel purchases to ease a severe electricity shortage.

GLOBE TROTTER

PAKISTANI AMONG 4 HELD IN SRI LANKA

Colombo: Four foreign nationals including one from Pakistan who violated immigration and emigration regulations were arrested by the police in Sri Lanka during search operations. The arrested persons include two Nigerians and one each from Pakistan and Bangladesh, *News 7st* reported. The 25-year-old Pakistani and the 24-year-old Bangladeshi nationals were arrested in Grandpass for residing in the country without a valid visa.

'9 DEAD IN ISIS ATTACK' IN SOUTH LIBYA

Tripoli: At least nine people were killed on Saturday in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group targeting forces loyal to strongman Khalifa Haftar in southern Libya, officials said. ISIS fighters, "backed by criminal groups and mercenaries", launched a dawn assault on a military training camp in the southern city of Sebha, which is controlled by Haftar's forces, the city's mayor Hamed al-Khayali told AFP.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn crowned Rama X of Thailand

AFP ■ BANGKOK

King Maha Vajiralongkorn, Rama X of Thailand, was crowned on Saturday in a dazzling show of pageantry, laced with Hindu and Buddhist ritual, vowing to reign "with righteousness" on behalf of the Thai people.

Starting at the auspicious time of 10:09 am (0309 GMT), the public was granted a rare window into the cloistered halls of Thai power as the key rituals of the three-day coronation began. King Vajiralongkorn is the tenth monarch of the Chakri dynasty, which has reigned since 1782.

He ascended the throne over two years ago following the death of his beloved father, but waited until after a long mourning period before setting his coronation date.

Saturday's sombre ceremony opened with the white-gowned king — the folds of his robe leaving one shoulder bare — receiving sacred water from across Thailand and dabbing it gently across his face at a shrine inside the Grand Palace complex.

A cannon salute marked the moment as pipes played and Buddhist monks chanted. Several grey-haired Hindu



In this photo released by Bureau of the Royal Household, Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn sits on the throne in front of an audience of diplomats and dignitaries after being officially crowned king at the Grand Palace on Saturday

Brahmins were also in attendance at the syncretic ceremony, which symbolises Rama X's transformation from a human to divine figure.

He later took his seat under the umbrella of state and was handed the Great Crown of

Victory, a tiered gold 7.3-kilogram (16-pound) headpiece topped by a diamond from India.

Uttering his first, brief royal command he vowed to reign "with righteousness" for the benefit of the Thai people.

King Vajiralongkorn is the tenth monarch of the Chakri dynasty, which has reigned since 1782

His fourth wife, Suthida — married in a surprise ceremony days before the coronation — was invested as Queen, kneeling in respect in front of her husband who sat on a throne.

For most Thais, it is the first time they have witnessed the pomp and grandeur of a coronation — the last was in 1950 for the king's beloved father Bhumibol Adulyadej.

"I'm excited to have a chance to be a part of this... I'm here to capture people's emotions," said Jakarin Kerdkhok, 16, a volunteer student taking photos near the palace.

Hundreds of state officials in immaculate white uniforms lined the streets around the Grand Palace. But only a modest number of civilians braved the hot sun for the royal convey.

"I'm really happy and proud because as citizens, we have the best king and queen in Thailand or even the world," said Pornthip Pongsai, a resident of Ang Thong province who travelled hours to catch a glimpse.

The king held a grand audience with members of the royal family, the privy council and senior officials later in the afternoon at the Grand Palace.

Erdogan calls for Istanbul vote to be re-run

AFP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday called for the opposition's local election victory in Istanbul to be declared invalid and the vote re-run, increasing the pressure on the country's electoral authorities.

"Clearly, there were irregularities and corruption," Erdogan said in a speech at a business leaders' meeting. "If the Supreme Electoral Council could dissipate all this, that would ease the conscience of our fellow citizens," he added.

The electoral body, the YSK, is due to meet on Monday to examine a request by Erdogan's AKP party to cancel the result of the March 31 local elections which the party lost in Istanbul, where the main opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu won the mayoral



race by a tight margin.

Several partial recounts have so far supported the initial results in both Ankara and Istanbul, with the main opposition CHP party calling Erdogan a "bad loser" willing to do anything to hold on to power in the country's eco-

nomical capital.

Observers attribute the electoral setbacks to the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) to voter discontent over Turkey's ongoing economic troubles.

Refusing to concede the Istanbul result, Erdogan

denounced "massive irregularities", and his party accused voting officials of under-reporting votes cast in favour of its candidate.

"My fellow citizens say to me: 'My president, there must be a re-run of this election,'" Erdogan said. "Come and let's go before the people and we will accept what the people's wish dictates."

Istanbul prosecutors on Thursday said they had opened around 30 probes into the vote, and over 100 voting booth managers had been summoned for questioning.

In comments later Saturday Imamoglu urged the electoral council to "take a decision based on the law and justice."

CHP spokesman Faik Oztrak told Erdogan to "stop putting pressure on the YSK."

"There were no irregularities, no abuse," he insisted.

North Korea fires several short-range projectiles into sea

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea fired several unidentified short-range projectiles into the sea off its eastern coast on Saturday, the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said, a likely sign of Pyongyang's growing frustration at stalled diplomatic talks with Washington meant to provide coveted sanctions relief in return for nuclear disarmament.

South Korea's military has bolstered its surveillance in case there are additional weapons launches, and South Korean and U.S. Authorities are analysing the details.

Handover swords, large knives, Army uniforms to police: Lankan police to public

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Police in Sri Lanka on Saturday asked members of the public to hand over swords or other large knives to the nearest police station after a haul of such blades were recovered from mosques and homes during searches following the Easter Sunday suicide bomb attacks.

Announcing the amnesty scheme, police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara that the knives which are used for day-to-day "domestic" and "justifiable" purposes were not required to be handed over to police.

Apart from large blades,

Gunasekara said that police and army uniforms or such camouflaged materials, which are in possession with the common people should also be handed over to the police.

"This will be in effect from today until tomorrow," he said, adding, "If you are having police or camouflaged military uniforms, please hand them over to the nearest police station."

The move came after police recovered a large haul of weapons, including swords, and camouflaged materials during searches of mosques and houses following the Easter Sunday's suicide attacks, which claimed 250 lives.

14 dead, 63 injured as cyclone 'Fani' hits Bangladesh

Dhaka: At least 14 people were killed and 63 others injured as cyclonic storm 'Fani' barreled into Bangladesh on Saturday, a day after leaving a trail of destruction in eastern Indian coastlines, media reports said.

However, Bangladesh Disaster Management Ministry officially confirmed four deaths — two in Barguna and one each in Bhola and Noakhali — on the basis of "initial reports" from the three coastal districts and said it was yet to compile the details of the casualties and damages caused by the cyclone. "The detailed information from all the affected districts is yet to reach us," State Minister said.

PTI

'Miracle': Plane crashes into Florida river, but no deaths

AP ■ JACKSONVILLE (US)

A charter plane carrying 143 people and travelling from Cuba to north Florida ended up in a river at the end of a runway Friday night, though no critical injuries or deaths were reported, officials said.

A Boeing 737 arriving at Naval Air Station Jacksonville from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with 136 passengers and seven aircrew slid off the runway into the St. Johns River, a NAS Jacksonville news release said.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office posted on Twitter that a marine unit responded to assist. The plane was in shallow water and not submerged. Everyone on the plane was alive and accounted for, the agency posted, with 21 adults trans-



In this photo released by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, authorities work at the scene of a plane in the water in Jacksonville, Fla. on Friday

ported to local hospitals in good condition.

A photo posted by deputies shows a Miami Air International logo on the plane.

The company didn't immediately respond to messages

from The Associated Press.

Capt. Michael Connor, the commanding officer of NAS Jacksonville, said during a news conference that passengers were a mix of civilian and military personnel.

Taliban say gap narrowing in talks with US

Islamabad: The Taliban on Saturday said the gap is narrowing in talks with Washington's special peace envoy over a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. Troops from Afghanistan. The two sides are continuing to meet in Qatar, where the insurgent movement maintains a political office.

In a voice message to AP, the Taliban spokesman in Doha, Suhail Shaheen, said both sides have offered new proposals for drawing down U.S. And NATO forces.

This would be a significant initial step toward a deal to end nearly 18 years of war and America's longest military engagement.

"There are proposals to lower the gap between the two sides, but (it) still needs negotiation to reach a final agreement," he said.

AP

Japan's emperor greets public for 1st time since succession

Tokyo: Japan's Emperor Naruhito greeted the public Saturday for the first time since his succession, expressing hope for Japan to keep pursuing peace.

Naruhito ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne on Wednesday, a day after his 85-year-old father, Akihito, abdicated. From a balcony overlooking the palace ground, Naruhito thanked throngs of well-wishers for congratulating him.

"I am deeply grateful and pleased that I am receiving celebration from you all today," said Naruhito, wearing a formal suit and standing next to his wife, Empress Masako. "I wish for your health and

happiness, and sincerely hope that our country pursues world peace hand in hand with other countries and will develop further."

As he waved from the balcony, where he was accompanied by other members of his royal family, the spectators cheered, took photos and waved Japanese flags.

Akihito, who became the emperor emeritus, and his wife Michiko, were not present to avoid concerns about interference with the serving emperor.

Naruhito was scheduled to make balcony appearances several more times through the evening to greet many more people still waiting in long lines outside the palace.

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer / General, Hazratganj, DRM office, Lucknow for & on behalf of President of India, invites open Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work:

Sr.	e-tender N.I.T. No.	991-Sr.DEE-NR-LKO Dated 05.03.2019
1	Name of work	Provision of AC coach attendants in AC coaches of train No. 14511/12 Nauchandi Exp. and 54404/05 MTC-KRJ passenger originating from Prayag Ghat station for a period of two years
2	Approximate Cost	Rs. 15,59,545/- (Rs. Fifteen Lacs fifty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Forty Five only)
3	Earnest Money	Rs. 31,200/- (Rs. Thirty one Thousand Two Hundred only)
4	Completion period	Two Years.
5	Last Date & Time of Submission & opening of e-Tender	30.05.2019 upto 15:00 & opening on the same day at 15:30 Hrs in Office of Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Northern Railway, Hazratganj, Lucknow.
6	Validity of offer	45 Days from the date of opening of the Tender.
7	Northern Railway Website	Additional relevant information may be checked on the website www.nreps.gov.in
8	Tender Cost	Rs. 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only)
9	Eligibility Criteria	The tenderer(s) shall be eligible only if he / they fulfill eligibility criteria
10	Minimum eligibility criteria	The tenderer should be registered with labour commissioner's office and shall have valid license to engage labour on contractual basis.

Note :- Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bid upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored/rejected.
No. 991-Sr.DEE-NR-LKO Dated 05.03.2019 1332/2019
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SHOW TIME

Lacks pace and thrill quotient



BLANK
*ing: Sunny Deol, Karan Kapadia, Karanvir Sharma, Ishita Dutta
Rated: 5/10

Over the years there have been so many movies made on terrorism and sleeper cells and how to end it all. *Blank* just gets added to the list of the many.

What we have is a man — an accident victim — brought to a hospital where they find a bomb ticking that too that is linked to his heart beat no less. He dies, the bomb explodes. The situation is explosive the film is not.

This is where the problem lies. *Blank* which is Behzad Khambata's directorial venture is unable to cash in on the pace at which the story should

progress. Given the urgency of the situation, the pace is slow. The characters move as if they have tons of time at their hands, it is just the opposite. There are 25 live bombs that are about to go off in various parts of the country.

The reasons for creating terror are the same. Words like *jannat*, *Inshaallah* and it is just business are thrown around. Money makes the world go round is the *mantra*.

Yelling and screaming no longer works and nor does beating the terrorist to a pulp. There are far more advanced ways to get them talking. Bollywood appears to have forgotten that.

References to the RAW and IB are cliched, if all the work has to be done by these Intelligence Agencies, the police might as well shut

shop and put up their uniforms.

Newbie Karan Kapadia (brother-in-law of Akshay Kumar) does manage to leave his mark even though there are many instances where he just appears to amble along. But he is tall and fights well. This should go in his favour. Sunny Deol has yet to lose the perpetual frown as is the fact that shouting no longer gets the work done. The parts where he yells grate on nerves. Good that these are few.

The 111-minute film should have been fraught with tension and speed unfortunately time is spent in showing sleeper cells checking their text and walking. But not all is lost here. It is good to see close-ups of hand-to-hand punches — Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Day

90's nostalgia at Punjab Grills

Venue: Punjab Grills, Connaught Place, New Delhi

Date: Till May 31, 2019

Timings: 11 am to 10 pm

Punjab Grill, has come up with a special 90's summer drinks menu for all its guests to indulge into a mindfully curated cooler and shakes that will surely take you down the memory lane.

The new menu will keep you hydrated at all times. It will be your icy escape to the world of happy wonderland with all things cool with these Fresh Summer Coolers. From Chत्मola Electric Soda to their amazing Pan Pasand Chutki Martini, you will get it all to beat the heat. Their Swad Cranberry Margarita is your way to get refreshed with a blast of berry and will make your day instantly better. They also have Rim Jhim Mojito that will make you fall in love with mojito all the more. But one thing that you cannot miss is their Fruity poppins lassi with phantom sweet cigarette, with yummy bits of candy, which is a class apart!



Tiki Fest

Venue: Smaaash Outlets in Noida, New Delhi and Gurugram

Cost: ₹399 plus taxes

The Tiki Fest is here to take you on a drinking voyage to the laid back, tropical atmosphere.

It will be a marvelous blend of culture, drinks and sporty atmosphere. The tropical cocktails will describe the colorful Tiki culture served with exotic fruits and flowers that exemplify beach and summer fun. Get high at Smaaash with newly introduced Tiki cocktails that will redefine the way you drink your cocktails. The freshly introduced cocktails are The Rooster Skull, Dominican Republic, Rum Swizzle, The Bahamas and others.



'Playing Angoori has changed my life'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain fame SHUBHANGI ATRE who talks about her journey and experience doing Kitchen Champion



How have things changed after playing Angoori Bhabhi?

A lot has changed. I took a break of two years in my career and was waiting for a good project where I get to play a good character. Playing Angoori was the right choice. It is important for an actor to get to play a good role after coming back from a break. Angoori has become the biggest role of my life. Playing her is a treat for me and I have enjoyed playing it. This role has offered me a lot of fame, Angoori has now become a household name and it feels good. I have also won many awards for the role.

Did you ever think that this character will become so popular?

I never imagined it. When I got to play this character, I was replacing someone else for the role. It came with a lot of responsibility. I decided to give my 100 per cent to the character. I didn't think that

I will get this much love and appreciation from the audience. I believe in one thing *agar hum poori imandari ke sath koi kaam karte hain toh uska result zaroor milta hai*.

Does it mean that you have to work harder?

Yes. I would not call it challenging but it came as a huge responsibility on me at that time. I knew that I was replacing a big character. It was important that I was able to do justice to the character. It wasn't easy. I had to work on my language and accent. I come from Madhya Pradesh, so Bhojpuri was alien to me. Initially, I faced a lot of difficulties to get into the skin of the character and get everything right. Eventually, it all worked out well for me.

What is that one thing that

you like and dislike about your character?

I like the innocence of the character. It is a beautiful character to play. I get to experiment a lot with the character. The thing that I dislike about my character is wearing a heavy wig and heavy sarees. I get a lot of headache after wearing it for a long time.

Did you want to be an actor?

Yes. Being an actor was my childhood dream. *Jab se mujhe hosh hai, tab se mujhe actor hi banna tha*. I became an actor a long time ago — a bathroom actor. Then gradually, with everyone's blessing and because *maine itni shiddat se yeh maanga ki* I got into this field. It was a long journey, full of ups and downs but I made it here somehow.

What kind of roles would you like to experiment with?

There are so many. I love earthy characters and would also love to be a part of art films. After *Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain*, I would love to play those characters which no one will ever imagine me playing. I am looking forward to some bold stuff too.

Where did you get your inspiration from?

There are so many actors that inspire me in a way or other. Whenever I see someone doing a brilliant job and I get inspired by them and I think that why can't I do my work in such a way that inspires others. There is so much of talent around us that I believe in getting inspired from everything and everyone around me.

Apart from acting what else keeps you busy?

I love travelling. And very soon I will come up with my own travel show for the audience.

What does fame mean to you?

Fame is momentary. It is for a short duration. If you are hit then people remember you *aur phir kuch time baad bhool bhi jatey hain*. One should not take fame too seriously. I believe in doing good work, *imadari ke sath*. This is what matters at the end.

How was the experience being a part of Kitchen Champion?

It was an amazing and fun-filled experience. The whole team is brilliant. This is the first time that I have worked with my husband (Piyush Poorey) in any show, so I enjoyed it a lot. I got to cook, dance and do mimicry too. It was a wonderful experience. I got to spend some time out from my usual routine. I would like to thank Arjun Bijlani (host of the show) and the makers for having me there. I hope that this association will be there in future too.

TELLYTALE

ARJUN GETS EMOTIONAL

A mother's love is the purest form of love which never falls short even after the child grows up to become an adult. To celebrate this unconditional love, Colors' Kitchen Champion celebrates Mother's Day with a special episode dedicated to the mothers. Being a part of the celebration were the special guests Jayati Bhatia and Nimisha Vakharria along with their mother and daughter.

Host Arjun Bijlani and the guests got nostalgic as they shared anecdotes and memories with their mothers. Amidst the conversation Jayati Bhatia asked Arjun how much he loves his mom and what he feels for her. The moment Arjun started to express, as a surprise, a video from his mother was played for him. His mother expressed how much she loves him and she is proud to have a son like him.

Overwhelmed to see the video Arjun got emotional and expressed, "My mother has been the pillar of my life. I lost my father when I was 19 and was very disheartened with this loss. While struggling with hardships, I lost my path and got into bad influences. One day I saw my mother sitting alone and crying, I realised she was feeling very lonely. That day I decided that I will not let her shed a tear and reach to the peak of success to give her all the happiness she deserves. She has sacrificed a lot and stood by my side at every step of my career. She



has motivated me in all my struggles and yet gave me the freedom to pursue my dream hence whatever I am today is because of her."

SHAA RECREATES LOVE-OLGY

Zee TV's *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs* contestants have been winning the audiences' and judges hearts while making the entire nation groove to their powerful voices and brilliant performances. The upcoming episode will witness loads of Indie pop songs entertainment as the singing goddesses Alisha Chinai and Shilpa Rao gracing the show as special guests.

To add to the gala evening, the naughty Li'l Champs boys—Hritik Gupta, Pritam Acharya, Mohammad Faiz, Ayush KC and



Bhavesh Mattu gave a tribute to Shaan in a very special way, by performing to his song *Love-ology* while wearing wigs recreating Shaan's hairstyle from the late 90's. Shaan was surprised and touched by their performance. Right after the performance Richa Sharma requested Shaan to wear the wig and sing along with the boys. Shaan being the star of the evening and a complete sport, obliged and performed with the Li'l Champs.

LOTS OF FUN AND KHATRA

It seems as if Bharti Singh has found a new way of entertaining the audience - assigning fun, fierce and crazy tasks to celebrities on Colors' *Khatra khatra Khatra*. In the upcoming episode, Bharti Singh had a field day when it came to assigning tasks. Aftab Shivdasani was made to be paired with his companion Harsh Limbachiya and Punit Pathak. The task involved them to dress up like females and gossip for a few minutes. To add to the fun task, and bringing alive the punjabi-ness, Bharti Singh selected bright and colorful sarees for them. The entire cast and crew were on the floor with laughter, Harsh like a typical gossip monger started



talking about his wife, Bharti Singh and how she overpowers him all the time or tries her

hand at it in any case. Punit and Aftab later added to it and appreciated Harsh's patience and perseverance in being with Bharti.

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Zee TV's *Dance India Dance* has revolutionised the landscape of dance in India, making it a mainstream career choice for millions. The biggest dance legends who helm the industry as top-of-the-league choreographers, reality show judges and performers have all risen from DID. Be it Dharmesh, Shakti Mohan, Punit J Pathak, Salman Yusuf, Raghav Juyal, Prince or the winner of the previous season Sanket Gaonkar. Now, *Dance India Dance* is all set to return with an all-new, never-seen-before season with a revamped format — *Dance India Dance: Battle of the Champions*. This year, the show will introduce an exciting, hyper-competitive format wherein contestants will be divided into four zonal teams and pitted against each other in weekly dance-offs.

Recently Bollywood choreographer



Bosco Martis was roped in as the first judge and joining him on the panel will be popular rapper Raftaar. Well, what many might not know is that Raftaar first appeared as a contestant of *DID Doubles* eight years ago and will now be seen as the judge on the show.

Raftaar has received accolades for his contribution to the music industry and with his innate sense of rhythm, his inimitable musicality and killer moves up his sleeve, we are excited to watch him step into the shoes of a dance-guru.

Commenting on his new role as a judge, Raftaar said: "Dance and music run in my blood and judging *Dance India Dance* is a huge deal for me as I was once a contestant on the show. I have so many fond memories of dancing on this stage and I can't wait to watch many others like me sizzle on the dance floor. I started off as a dance instructor which helped me save money for musical career so I am overjoyed and thankful to have got this venture. I have an emotional connect with this stage. Moreover, this year there is a complete change in the format of the show and I am really looking forward to witnessing some amazing dancing talent battle it out in a hyper-competitive space of dance-offs."

Shaan spills out secrets

People are often heard saying that love keeps growing after marriage and judge Shaan proved the fact on the sets of Zee TV's popular non-fiction show *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs*. In the upcoming episode of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs*, host Ravi Dubey asked Shaan if it's an easy life for him at home when his wife is not around. A man of few words ace singer and Judge Shaan who doesn't talk much about his personal life, revealed that life is easy when his wife is not around at home. Hearing this, Ravi instantly told Shaan that we should hear this from the horse's mouth and invited Shaan's wife Radhika on stage. Which left Shaan harrowed.

Talking about her beloved husband, Radhika revealed rare facts about Shaan and her relationship. Furthermore she spilled the beans about her first date with him,



wherein she had to pay the bill and he didn't feel shy about it.

After which Shaan was left speechless and in a very coy manner said, "aap toh meri pol khol rahe ho." Radhika further embarrassed Shaan and revealed that once he recycled the same letter that he had received from his ex-girlfriend to which Radhika replied 'you have guts'.

While reliving all the old memories, Shaan also revealed about his wedding day madness, "On the day of our wedding, I went shopping for my sherwani two hours before the mandap mahurat. It wasn't because of any superstition, I had initially thought of wearing a *dhotti*, but a friend of mine told me that I'll not be able to get on the *ghodi* in a *dhotti*, so we had to drop the idea last minute and rush to shop for the *sherwani* in an emergency."

Hotstar Premium makes way for MasterChef Australia

MasterChef Australia has been one of the most loved international shows in India since it first aired over 10 years ago. Australia's favourite judges Gary Mehigan, George Calombaris, and Matt Preston have become household names in our country too. *MasterChef* is no longer just a TV show, it's a cultural phenomenon and this time, with Hotstar Premium, you will not need to wait for months to watch the latest season of one of the biggest reality shows in India. Season 11 of *MasterChef Australia* will be available in India exclusively on Hotstar Premium from the May 4 2019, soon after the show's premiere in Australia.

Twenty-four talented and passionate home cooks have earned the privilege of wearing the coveted white apron. With different backgrounds, different experiences, skills and cultural influences, there is one thing that unites our Top 24 — their passion for food. Will Jess Hall, a New South Wales travel agent who wears her heart on her sleeve, succeed in winning the hearts of the judges? Will Tim Bone, who shares an uncanny resemblance to Prince Harry, find his crowning achievement in the kitchen? Will Sandeep Pandit, a Victorian IT project manager from Kashmir, tip the judges spice meter over the edge with his traditional feast? The stakes are high as aspiring *MasterChef*'s contend for culinary glory with shocks, surprises and bundles of fun at every step of the way.

Last year, Sashi Cheliah, an Indian-Singaporean origin Australian cook stood victorious. With more talented home cooks competing this year, who will the next *MasterChef* be? Only time will tell! Hotstar Premium is the first and only destination for you to watch this show just days after the international premiere.

Sashi Cheliah, Indian-Singaporean born Australian television cook, prison officer and winner of *MasterChef Australia* 2018 said: "It's been a year now



and I am still enjoying the euphoria that surrounds *MasterChef Australia*. It is truly an incredible experience laced with both delight and excitement. *MasterChef Australia* enjoys a massive fan following in India and the fact that Indian audiences do not have to wait for months to catch up on the latest happenings of the show is quite wonderful. With India being such a culturally vibrant country, food plays a very central role among Indian families and with this show, they now have yet another reason to connect with what they love most — food. I wish all the new contestants for season 11 the best of luck as the competition progresses."

Bharti's romantic dance

Colors' *Khatra Khatra Khatra* has been providing viewers with rib-tickling laughter and pranks that can make one's stomach hurt. Recently, in an evening filled non-stop entertainment, Bollywood's renowned actor, Aftab Shivdasani and very beautiful, Sonnalli Seygall decided to visit the sets of *Khatra Khatra Khatra*.

Keeping in mind the show's nature which is full of challenges, the duo participated with all enthusiasm and performed every task thrown at them. The highlight of the show was when Bharti caught Aftab off-guard and she forced him to dance on a romantic song *Kitni Baichain Hoke* and led the dance floor with hilarious moves. A surprised Aftab, was sporting enough to play on and got into the romantic character rather easy. The whimsical act was well appreciated thus making it one of the most attractive moments of the evening.





IN CAPITAL LETTERS

With the perfect blend of youth and experience in the squad and result coming in its favour, reshaped Delhi look set to end the wait of more than a decade for its maiden IPL trophy. What makes it a serious contender for the title this time under the leadership of Shreyas Iyer, HARSHIT BISHT has a say about as he analyses the factors which worked in the Capitals' favour

After failing to make single final appearance in the cash rich, high profile and glamorous Indian Premier League (IPL) even after being the regular participant in the tournament since its inception in 2008, Capital-based side Delhi Capitals (formerly Daredevils) made a string of changes this year (highlight of which was changing the name) before the start of this year's tournament. They retained the core this time in hope that the retention of three of India's brightest upcoming talents may lead to the change of fate for the side.

Till now the kind of performance the young Shreyas Iyer's side has delivered, it looks like the change has really worked for the new looking Delhi Capitals (DC).

After 13 games, the side is at the third spot in the points table with eight wins and has not just only secured its first playoffs berth since 2012 but also became the first team to do so in this year's league.

What's special about this time was the fact that despite not getting enough home advantage from the Feroz Shah Kotla pitch, Delhi won matches and that too against the high profile fancy opponents like Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders, which have a perfect blend of an all-round balance in its ranks in their own backyard.

However securing a playoffs berth is just the first step in the path of success for any other team playing in the competition but for Delhi's side that has finished at the bottom half of the table for half a dozen year (three times at the last spot in the past six years) this is certainly a moment to cheer for.

The side is always considered as an underachiever in this big cash-rich league primarily because of the fact that they failed to make use of the best possible resources available to them.

Many of the former players performed exceptionally well in the tournament after moving out of Delhi, time and again leaving Delhi with the guilt of not keeping enough faith in its squad's abilities to perform and win tournaments for it.

For example, arguably one of the most successful skipper Gautam Gambhir, who won two IPL trophies with the Kolkata Knight Riders in his seven-year stay at the City of Joy was part of the Delhi side for four seasons (2008-10 and 2018) but the local Delhi lad who is often referred to as the master planner couldn't help Delhi win the title.

And it's not just about Gambhir or Sehwa, but even the two most consistent and impactful overseas players of the IPL over the years — David Warner and Andre Russell were also a part of Delhi's side before relocating to Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders, where they become the biggest match winner of their respective sides.

The leading run scorer of this year's tournament and two time orange cap winner in the past, Warner (692 runs in 12 innings) started his IPL journey with Delhi in 2009 and stayed here till 2013. During his five-year stay, the New South Wales opener smashed 1456 runs in 56 innings at an average of 28.54 and with two hundreds and 10 fifties. While after relocating he managed 3271 runs in 71 innings an average of 55.44 with 2 centuries and 34 fifties. Also, he suc-

cessfully lead Sunrisers to the winner's trophy in 2016.

While, Warner stint was satisfactory with Delhi, Caribbean powerhouse Andre Russell failed to make much an impact during his stay. He featured in seven games for Delhi wherein four innings he could only manage 58 runs and only one wicket. But after moving to Eden, he managed 1318 runs in 46 innings with a strike rate over 185. He has also crowned the most valuable player of the 2015 edition.

And the way these two performed this season, making an impact in every game by their presence in the line-up, just imagine what Delhi could have done with these two in its ranks.

However the way, Delhi played this season with all young guys coming together and performing consistently well throughout has made an impact for Delhi. Especially skipper Shreyas Iyer, the way DC's 12th skipper took the responsibility of leading from the front.

The 24-year old *Mumbaikar* is much disciplined with his shot selection and has kept his nerve calm in precious situations and time and again allowed his bat to make an impact more than his words.

In the batting front, where explosive wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant and seasoned campaigner Shikhar Dhawan is catching the eyeballs because of the flamboyance, it is Iyer's sensible cricket that has helped Delhi to cross the finishing line on many a times.

His three fifty-plus scores (67 vs Royal Challengers Bangalore in Bangalore, 52 at Kotla) and 58 not out vs Kings XI Punjab, along with 45 against Sunrisers, 43 in the tied game against Kolkata Knight Riders in Delhi, which was decided after super over finish came in winning the cause.

And to his support in the middle order, there is Dhoni's Indian team deputy Rishabh Pant. Delhi's leading run-getter in the last season (684 runs in 14 games), Pant started this season with a bang, thrashing World's Number 1 bowler Jasprit Bumrah during his 27-ball, 78 run innings at Wankhede in the first game of this year's edition.

And after the World Cup snub, he smashed 36-ball against Rajasthan Royals, which earned him praise from Indian former skipper and Delhi Capitals advisor Sourav Ganguly, who took to social media to praise the young batsman and wrote: "Rishabh Pant, you deserve this. You are wow."

Also adding to the list of consistent performers for the Delhi side, Shikhar Dhawan is the most experienced player in the line-up. After being traded from Sunrisers to Delhi in return for Vijay Shankar, Shahbaz Nadeem, and Abhishek Sharma, Shikhar found his mojo back and became the leading run-scorer for Delhi in the tournament. The

DD CAPTAINS						
Name	Mat	Won	Lost	Tie	NR	Win%
Virender Sehwag	52	28	24	0	0	53.84
Gautam Gambhir	25	12	13	0	0	48.00
Dinesh Karthik	6	2	4	0	0	33.33
James Hopes	3	0	2	0	1	0.00
Mahela Jayawardene	18	6	11	1	0	36.11
Ross Taylor	2	0	1	0	1	0.00
David Warner	2	0	2	0	0	0.00
Kevin Pietersen	11	1	10	0	0	9.09
JP Duminy	16	6	9	0	1	40.00
Zaheer Khan	23	10	13	0	0	43.47
Karun Nair	3	2	1	0	0	66.66

local Delhi boy is in the fourth place for Orange Cap race and has already scored 470 runs in 13 innings.

While, his opening partner Prithvi Shaw, who made sensational Test debut against West Indies in October 2018 by scoring 134 runs in his maiden innings in International cricket, has also played some vital knocks at the top.

But, apart his 99 against Kolkata Knight Riders at Kotla, he has not played any other impactful innings, but is complementing Shikhar well at the top by adding quick runs in the first power play to provide Delhi a solid start at the top of the order.

Delhi's success this time is much because of the impact innings from the top four Indian batsmen and to complement them, the side has Kagiso Rabada in its rank, who after missing majority part of the last season due to injury, is back into business and is currently the leading wicket-taker in the tournament (25 wickets), miles ahead of his closest contender and countrymen Imran Tahir (21 wickets).

His excellent death bowling, perfect yorker, and wicket-taking ability makes him stand out of the rest. The South African also defended 11 runs against big-hitting Andre Russell during the Kolkata game in the seasons first super over. He sent Russell packing on his 147 km/h yorker, which Ganguly referred to as the "ball of the IPL."

However, by the end of the tournament, Delhi suffered a massive setback when Cricket South Africa called back Kagiso Rabada as a precautionary step keeping in mind the ICC World Cup starting in less than a month time.

The pacer was suffering from a stiff back issue and was sidelined against Chennai game on May 1, which Delhi went on to lose by 80 runs — its biggest defeat of this year's

HEAD		
Year	League table standing	Final standing
2008	4th out of 8	Semifinalists (4th)
2009	1st out of 8	Semifinalists (3rd)
2010	5th out of 8	5th
2011	10th out of 10	10th
2012	1st out of 9	Playoffs (3rd)
2013	9th out of 9	9th
2014	8th out of 8	8th
2015	7th out of 8	7th
2016	6th out of 8	6th
2017	6th out of 8	6th
2018	8th out of 8	8th
2019	3rd out of 8	TBA

campaign.

Though the side will miss its ace pacer during the most important phase of the tournament, they still have enough players who can step up and deliver in the big game.

It is beyond any doubt that Delhi always had some great names in its ranks, be it from the Indian subcontinent — the players who are traditionally the best players against spin bowling or the fancy overseas players — ones more comfortable against the seam.

But what didn't even happen in presence of seasoned campaigners like Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh, Zaheer Khan, Kevin Pietersen, Ab de Villiers, David Warner, and Dilshan was the result in Delhi's favour. So what different happened with time. Is it because of the presence of Ricky Ponting and Sourav Ganguly in the dugout?

Certainly, the presence of two of the biggest leaders have a great impact but what not to forget is the combination with which Delhi played this time. The franchise backed its players to perform even after few disappointing innings. This was something which was missing in the last 11 years.

Unlike previous times, where they constantly used to tussle combinations for the favourable outcomes. This time, the top four Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant played every game of this year's campaign even though at times it felt like Delhi could have tried Colin Munro up

the order in place of young Prithvi, who looked a slight off colour and hasn't played any such impactful innings so far apart his 99 against Kolkata.

Or could have asked Rishabh Pant to adjust his game plan according to the team situation. Because at times the Delhi lad threw his wicket at crunch situation by playing irrelevant short which could have been avoided at that point.

But, neither of this happened and the coaches and captain gave full freedom to everyone in the squad, to express themselves as per they want and that blossomed confidence in the players which was clearly evident in the field through their body-language.

The team looks fresher this time and the players are giving their best to contribute in the game not only with the bat and ball, but also in the fielding.

The other significant change that is visible this time includes the team's strong bench strength which provides the management to try out various combinations in games based upon the nature of the wicket. Often, it is seen that teams don't try to alter winning combination even though it mismatched with the on-field conditions but DC has not hesitated with change and chopping.

In the slow track of Kotla, at times they played with three spinners — Amit Mishra, Axar Patel, and Sandeep Lamichhane while in high scoring venues of Mumbai and Kolkata, they believed in the pace battery of Kagiso Rabada, Ishant Sharma, Chris Morris, and Keemo Paul.

The kind of combinations with which Delhi played shows the amount of game-changing talent present in the dugout. And that's what's the primary element of a successful team.

Over the years, Delhi tried to bring impactful players for a big price and tried to influence the result via them but every time it turned out to be a blunder. The franchise spent ₹16 crores to land Yuvraj Singh in Delhi but the left-handed batting all-rounder could only manage 248 runs in 14 games and just took one wicket. In 2018, they went with Glenn Maxwell for ₹9 crores but the Aussie too failed badly and just managed 169 runs in 12 games.

The problem with Delhi was not just that their big picks failed to perform but also the management's lack of trust in its key players. Constant changing and chopping of the squad and the change of the support staff always have a bad impact.

This time neither of this happened and the result of which is evident in the points table where Delhi became the first team to qualify for playoffs.

The belief in abilities is such high among the players that when Shikhar Dhawan was asked about what team is expecting from now, the Gabbar said: "We are very confident of winning the title and time and again we have proved that in this season that we are ready to do so. The belief is such high that we will not only play the final but will also win it and end the barren run of trophy-less tenure."

Delhi started this year's campaign with a convincing 37 runs win against Mumbai Indians at Wankhede in a high scoring affair. Rishabh Pant was the star performer in Mumbai, where the World Cup hopeful scored 27-ball unbeaten 78 (7 fours and 7

sixes) to help Delhi post-213-6 and then a combined bowling performance sent MI back to pavilion for 176 runs in 19.2 overs. This was the only game in the entire tournament when Mumbai was sent all packing.

But the brilliant start couldn't last long as in the first home game at Feroz Shah Kotla, defending champion Chennai Super Kings beat Delhi by 6 wickets.

However the side quickly bounced back and halt Kolkata Knight Riders two-match winning run in the third game (second at home) after a tense super over finish. Prithvi Shaw missed a well-deserved maiden century by a run but it was Kagiso Rabada's brilliant Yorkers in the one over decider that steal the limelight. The South African pacer defended 11 runs against Andre Russell and lead Delhi home.

The fourth game Delhi played at Mohali was the reality check for them where Sam Curran exposed loopholes in the batting line up as Capitals saw shocking collapse and lose seven wickets for just 8 runs in 167 runs chase and thus losing the game by 14 runs.

In the fifth game, Sunrisers keep the juggernaut rolling and won comfortably by five wickets after restricting the hosts for 129 for 8.

With three defeats in first five games, the ghost of yesteryears started to haunt Delhi, but before it could make an effect the team bounced back in an amazing fashion and won the next three games on the trot.

The first was against Virat Kohli's led Royal Challengers Bangalore at M Chinnaswamy. Kagiso Rabada's 21/4 first restrict RCB under 150 and then Shreyas Iyer's first fifty of the season, 67 runs help DC win by four wickets.

Next stop was at Eden Gardens where Shikhar Dhawan's 97 not out anchors seven-wicket triumph. In the third successive away game, Delhi faced Sunrisers and after posting 155 runs on the board, Delhi fought back against the likes of in-form David Warner and Jonny Bairstow and dismissed last eight opposition batsmen for just 15 runs to pull out result in its favour.

This was probably the game which changed the perception about Delhi going ahead this season. The comeback was just out of the box against Sunrisers.

However, coming back to Kotla, doesn't worked for Delhi initially and they lost the third home game by 40 runs against Mumbai Indians.

But, they finally manage to break the Kotla code in the fifth and sixth game against KXIP and RCB respectively with Shreyas Iyer and Shikhar Dhawan leading from the front by scoring half-centuries in both the games. DC won by five-wickets against Punjab and 16 runs against Bangalore.

In between both these games, they played against Rajasthan Royals at Jaipur, where Rishabh Pant's 36-ball 78* outshines Ajinkya Rahane's second IPL hundred (105 not out) to help Delhi win by six-wickets.

But, in the penultimate game of the league phase, without the likes of Rabada and Ishant, Delhi first failed to understand the nature of Chennai's wicket and failed to restrict MS Dhoni to take CSK close to 180 runs mark. The side suffered its heaviest defeat of the campaign at Chepauk by 80 runs where Imran Tahir and Ravindra Jadeja shared seven-wickets to sweep Delhi out for 99 runs.

'I have made my place in the industry'

How did acting happen?

I knew that I wanted to be an actor when I was two-and-a-half years old. I did my first stage performance back then. My parents worked as teachers in a school and they wanted somebody to play Lord Krishna, in his younger years. That's how I went on stage for the first time. Now, I feel fortunate enough to have spent two decades working in the industry, doing some of my best work.

Is it hard to survive in the industry?

I am in a comfortable place now where people would not like to compromise with wanting somebody else instead of me. I have had made my place in the industry where people show that belief in me that you can do this and you should do this.

The best of opportunities are coming my way. I have produced a short film — *Chutney*, which was loved by all. So things have been work-

ing out well. Competition *jisko lagta ho, woh uskey bare me sochey mere dimag me aisa koi khyaal nahin aata hai*.

From Platform to Bioscopewala, how has your journey been?

I still feel the same excitement while going on the sets. I still feel delighted to have signed a new film. I feel happy when people read out a certain kind of script to me. I feel joyful. I like playing different kinds of people, that's the thrill for me.

Do you have any regrets?

Not really. Eventually, all my decisions have turned out right because I am still here in the industry.

You have shared the screenspace with some of the prominent actors in the industry. What is that one thing that you learned from them?

I have learnt something or the other from all of them. I have recently worked with Akshay Kumar for a film and he has a unique, razor-sharp focus. He is doing about 75-80 things at any given time — listening to the songs of some upcoming film, listening to the narration of some scripts, meeting someone and working on the promotions of something. He can do

I STILL FEEL EXCITED TO GO ON THE SETS. I FEEL DELIGHTED TO HAVE SIGNED A NEW FILM. I FEEL HAPPY WHEN PEOPLE READ OUT CERTAIN KIND OF SCRIPTS TO ME. I FEEL JOYFUL. I LIKE PLAYING DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE AND THAT'S THE THRILL FOR ME

multiple things at the same time. He manages everything so well that it doesn't make any difference while he is shooting. So this concentration is something that I learnt from him. When it comes to Aamir Khan, then of course he does a few things but he goes deep into them, so this is what I learnt from him. Then, Kareena Kapoor Khan was another great artist to work with. She is lovely, generous, happy, friendly and relaxed about being on sets. It feels like she was born on the sets and it's a part of her life.

You have worked on different media — stage, TV, films and web. What is the one difference you felt in all of them?

Films are director-oriented. He is the one who sees the whole thing in his head and he will shoot you and put only those parts in the film that he likes. He will change and modify things according to him to make the performance work. Also everything is shot in bits and pieces. Television is writer driven. Stage is solely an actor's medium and there is no retake. I enjoy films and TV for their reach.

You are now a part of *Savdhaan India* so what made you say yes to it?

This is the first time that I am hosting a crime-based show. *Savdhaan India* is an iconic show and I feel it will probably go on for many more years. It is a talked-about show where everyone has either seen it or heard about it. It has completed its seven years which is a big thing. Also, it is not just an overnight thing, it is a classic. I liked the idea of the show and the premise that it sets out — to be alert. In our country, where there is such a vast populace, there is an important need for alertness.

Furthermore, in these seven years of the show, they have kept up with the changing nature of the crimes. Also it is a medium where I get to play myself. It is my direct connect with the audience where I can communicate to them *ki maksad aapko darana nahin, aap ko samjhana hai*.

What next?

There is a web series coming out in May — *Hostages*. It is a dream role for me. I am doing a film — *Good News* with Dharma Productions. It is my first project with them and I am excited about it. I am writing and directing a feature, so that will be next.

Talktime

TISCA CHOPRA

She is known for giving stellar performances in films like *Taare Zameen Par* and *Dil Toh Bachcha Hai Ji*. She speaks with Musba Hashmi about her journey in the industry, hosting a crime show and upcoming projects

It's a kids world

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with directors BUBBLES SABHARWAL and LUSHIN DUBEY about their latest workshop theatrical — *Sleeping Beauty* — an all children's stage show

What would your reaction be if someone were to tell you that the Capital witnessed a stage show that had an all kids star cast. Incredible, would be the first thought to come to mind. But believe it or not the retelling of the classical — *Sleeping Beauty* — enthralled the audience recently because its stars ranged between the ages of four to 13 with the 13-year-old playing the lead in *Sleeping Beauty*.

The musical is a brainchild of Bubbles Sabharwal (Swara Bhaskar's mother in *Veere Di Wedding*) and Lushin Dubey. With over 30 years experience, the duo, who started Kids World back in 1990, are also the creators of *Wizwits* that performed at Kingdom of Dreams.

Sleeping Beauty that began as a theatrical workshop soon took the shape of a full-fledged stage as the kids wanted to see themselves grow.

"Entertainment should be wholesome and healthy not only movies. There should be other avenues. Children's personality grows with leaps and bounds having gone through theatre. We teach confidence and communication where there has to be clarity of thought and speech. This empowers you," Sabharwal says.

A majority of the inspiration and elements for the musical came from the fairytale. The rest was from everyday life. "There are some fictional elements to the play as well. There are a couple of characters who are not there in the original like Ficklehead. They are like two jokers. This is to introduce humour into the play. Maleficent is an eight-headed monster whose power is in a purple flower. The reason for this dramatisation is to let the kids' imagination a flight of fancy," Sabharwal tells you. Though 80 per cent of the *Sleeping Beauty* is in English, there rest is in Hindi.

She doesn't agree that theatre has come of age today.

"There has always been viewership for theatre. Back in 1992, *Peter Pan* was staged. We did 30 shows. But Kingdom of Dreams gave a pan India podium to theatre. This has helped. School groups were coming in to watch *Wizwits*," Sabharwal tells you.

According to her what brings down theatre is the prohibitive cost that comes if one wants to showcase it in Delhi, not so in the case of Mumbai where there are places where one can get basic infrastructure.

Fourteen-year-old Tahira Solomon from Sanskriti School who played Aurora says: "I have been working with Kids World since I was about 6. With each play I've not only created many new friends but I've also learned many new things and have grown into a much more confident person under the guidance of Lushin and Bubbles ma'am and I hope to continue my journey with them."

Her sister Amyra who is in Class IV tells you that she used to watch her sister do plays in Kids World since she was a toddler and was fascinated and that got her interested in workshops. "Now, I got to be on stage and perform in front of many people. I have lots of fun and I make a lot of new friends," the eight-year-old student of Sanskriti Schools shares. She played the witch, Gorgon.

Anya Rastogi, a nine-year-old Class V student of Modern School, Vasant Vihar who played Maleficent says: "I have had lots of fun performing as Maleficent in *Sleeping Beauty*. At Kids World, they don't push you but make it interesting and make you take part in the decisions about the play also. I have also made a lot of new friends. I love the music and the costumes as well."

Laura Santana who gave the music tells you that she has been part of the Kids World since she was a kid herself. Her inspiration for the musical comes from the fact that her father and uncle gave music to

Starcast of *Sleeping Beauty* take a bow



each and every stage play that Kidsworld has given — from *Annie to Oye Matilda! Tu Hai Ustaad!*

"My inspiration has always been the kids. I started working with my uncle the minute I passed out of college. Whenever we do a production, we make singing a little contemporary so that the kids can enjoy and have fun while learning," Santana explains.

The challenge is that kids today are not exposed to jazz, western classical and or even Indian classical. "The minute they are exposed to music, it is pop not that there is anything wrong here. But we should be aware of our roots as well. *Sleeping Beauty* is western classical by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The minute they hear it, they say: 'Oh my God! What is this? We can't sing this.' To get them to change their style of singing is challenging. But then they go back and explore it and enjoy Tchaikovsky which is satisfying for me," Santana says.

Each of the artists have to know the lines of other performers. If any artist is unable to perform, the other one can step in. This way each kid feels important and knows that nobody is a lead

— Lushin Dubey

since the youngest star is just 4.

Dubey tells you that her background as a special ed makes her job easier. The fact that she loves children is an added advantage. "You are working with specially-able kids. It can test your patience and tolerance. I am a calm person and love kids. When people ask me how many kids I have I tell them two — biological — but tens of thousands otherwise. The minute you talk to children, you are on par with them. I don't mollycoddle them. There is an intrinsic wisdom in kids," Dubey explains.

There is an exercise that Dubey insists upon. Each of her artists have to know the lines of other performers. If an artist is unable to perform, other one can step in. This way each kid feels important and knows that nobody is a lead.

"Five-year-old Dipshi knows all the lines of the narrator. If today, if the narrator falls ill, Dipshi will step in," Dubey says.

Interestingly, the theatrical workshop found its way on to the stage. "We didn't know what kind of lessons the kids had imbibed. It is easy to perform in front of moms, dads and chachas. The real test is to see them perform in front of an unknown crowd," Dubey shares.

However, to take *Sleeping Beauty* to other cities may not be so easy since the cast is so young — 4 to 13. In the past the team has travelled with five mothers as guardians and a young starcast. At best the directors will take the musical to close by places like Chandigarh or even Sohna. To put out this stage play, it has taken the directors two to three weeks. The kids have been trained for two hours each day with no break.

"Usually we don't want to prolong the time of the workshops. The time that we work with is crucial. So sometimes we work without a break," Dubey says.



'An actor can't be smug'

AMOL PARASHER will soon be seen in *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare* directed by Alankrita Shrivastava. SHALINI SAKSENA chats up the actor about his journey

What is the film about?

The film is directed and written by Alankrita Shrivastava. It is an interesting take on lives of people in our country. All my scenes are with Konkana and the complex relationship they have since they are from different class.

How has your journey been thus far?

I have been in the industry for around 10 years, I would say that my acting journey began only five- six years back as I have been acting seriously in the last five years.

What has been some of the ups and downs?

In the beginning, there were many downs. When I came to Mumbai I didn't know anybody. I didn't have any work. There were many lean periods. There were times of frustration. It was tough to pass time. Things changed in 2016 and luckily I started getting work, a lot more than I expected.

How tough is it to deal with this situation?

To be honest one is angry. It is easy to say have patience. But this is not easy when you see others get work and you have none. One has to be patient in a good way. You don't know how long you will last here. You have to be ready all the time. You have to keep yourself motivated at all times.

Did you always want to be an actor?

No, not at all. I was pursuing my engineering in from IIT-Delhi. I started acting doing plays where I was there — within the campus and outside. I even worked for a year while pursuing theatre. But it was tough because of office hours. I was getting frustrated. I realised that I was missing acting and wanted to go back to the stage. That is when I decided to take a break. I met a few theatre people in Mumbai, quit my job and shifted here. I never went back.

Usually, films is the first step after theatre, you chose TV. Why?

This is not entirely true. I did this one TV show last year because it was different. It was a conscious decision. I was doing theatre because I love being on the stage. Many of us are not very enthusiastic about TV since it doesn't excite as much even though there is a lot of money. It was not about making money. If that I was the case I would have stuck to my job.

Is that why you did web, is offers excitement?

Yes. It offers you so much more. Not that there is any harm in doing TV shows. TV actors are so hardworking. It is just that I don't find any relatability. Web and theatre offers excitement. There is experimentation. This is why a lot of Bollywood filmmakers are doing web shows since they also feel that they have a lot more to do.

Has the change in content made you reinvent yourself?

There have been changes in web content. When I did my first web show things were different since the budget was small and scales have increased. Not the case now. If players are here now. This has opened up doors to do more on a much larger scale. This is great for actors.

What is the lesson that you have learnt?

There are lessons everyday as new things are thrown at you daily. You have to reinvent yourself. You can't be smug. To be flexible and have the ability to learn all the time. Things change you can't say you know all.

SHALINI SAKSENA ■ NEW DELHI

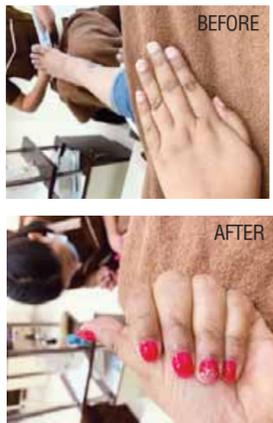
Are you a discerning customer and wouldn't mind paying for services that one may not find anywhere in Delhi-NCR? If the answer is yes, then head to The Mani Padi Spa in Gurugram — the first nail salon which recently opened its second outlet near Galleria Market with 1,800 sq ft state-of-the-art facility.

The reason why a Delhi resident should visit this spa is because they are a 'one of a kind' beauty service business. Mahema Bhardwaj, Managing Director of The Mani Padi Spa tells you that the reason why she started this spa was because she couldn't find the service she wanted.

Bhardwaj says that the second outlet is the result of an overwhelming response from their customers at our first outlet.

"Our vision is to provide our clients with never been experienced services in the mani-pedi industry here in India. Our approach towards providing these services is different

Time to nail this art



from what is prevalent in the market. Everything from our ambience to placement of stations, selection and utmost focus on hygiene sets us apart from others," Bhardwaj tells you.

"Many salons have men. Some women find it uncomfortable. Also, I was not sure about the instruments and whether they were being properly sterilised. We use disposable where possible, rest are put in a steriliser. The products used are complete safe. One can even eat with one's hands and not worry about any chemicals going in the body ensuring hygiene levels that at par with US safety standards. Our staff is regularly trained in the latest techniques used internationally," Bhardwaj says.

The products make a huge difference as one of the therapist gets working on the feet. After the basic cleaning (they use disposable instruments) an egg mask put on the feet and then wrapped in cling foil (for 10 minutes leaves) the feet soft. A gel nail polish completes treatment.

Nail spa is just as thorough. The therapist cleans and buffs away. Don't worry if you don't have natural nails. The spa uses plastic nails by CND Shellac, a US-based company. If plastic is a no-no for you, go for foam based nails. They are just as sturdy and perfectly safe. That done, one has the option of normal nail paint (OPI nail collection with lacquered finish). One can choose from over 250 nail paints. One can even go for nail art. If you don't know what design to choose the therapist will step in to help. The spa offers many designs. One can even give the therapist your own design.

Bhardwaj plans to open 10 more outlets in India and create a preference for this new concept of spas. Will Delhi be first in line? Hopefully, yes.

DC END ROYALS CAMPAIGN

Ishant & Amit pick 3 wickets each to help Delhi win by 5 wickets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals crushed Rajasthan Royals' play-off hopes with a convincing five-wicket victory to finish off the league campaign in the ongoing IPL on a high note here on Saturday.

Already through to the play-offs, Delhi Capitals first rode on veterans Ishant Sharma and Amit Mishra's superb efforts with the bowl to restrict Rajasthan Royals to 115 for nine and then chased down the target in 16.1 overs, with Rishabh Pant remaining unbeaten on a 38-ball 53.

The win lifted Delhi to the second spot in the standings with 18 points from 14 games but to finish as second best side, the Capitals would need Mumbai Indians to lose against Kolkata Knight Riders on Sunday.

A win for Mumbai would automatically drop Delhi to the third spot as they have an inferior net run-rate.

Rajasthan are out of the tournament, finishing with just 11 points from 14 games.

Chasing a modest target, Delhi made a quick start through Shikhar Dhawan (16) and Prithvi Shaw (8) before Ish Sodhi (3/26) removed both the openers in consecutive balls to give himself a hat-trick chance.

Sodhi first got rid of Dhawan, in the second ball of the fourth over, holed out by Riyan Parag and then Shaw



Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer watch the pitch during the first game on Sunday

IPL

played on the next delivery.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (15 off 9) and Rishabh then added 33 runs off 25 balls for the third wicket before the former was holed out by Liam Livingstone off Shreyas Gopal.

While Delhi lost two more wickets in the form of Colin Ingram (12) and Sherfane Rutherford (11), Rishabh carried on his bat and finished off the chase by hitting Sodhi for

a big six over long-leg off and in the process also notched up his fifty.

Rishabh's unbeaten knock was studded with two fours and five hits over the fence.

Earlier, Ishant (3/38) did the early damage before leg-spinner Mishra (3/17) came to the party to rock Rajasthan's innings.

Young Parag (50 off 49, 4x4s, 2x6s) was the lone bright

spot for Rajasthan as he held on to one fort and notched up his maiden IPL fifty to take the visitors close to the 120-run mark.

Rajasthan had a disastrous start to their innings after opting to bat as they were reduced to 30 for four at the end of the first six overs of powerplay with Ishant doing bulk of the damage.

Ishant struck in the second over, removing Rajasthan skip-

per Ajinkya Rahane (2) and then came back an over later to clean up Livingstone (14).

To make matters worse for the visitors, in-form Sanju Samson (5) fell victim to an unnecessary mix up with Mahipal Lomror in the next over.

Lomror (8) didn't help his cause either as he handed Ishant his third wicket of the day, nicking one to Rishabh behind the stumps.

Parag and Gopal tried to stabilise the innings with a 27-run fifth-wicket stand before Mishra scalped two wickets in consecutive deliveries in the 12th over to disturb Rajasthan's resistance.

Mishra first foxed Gopal (12) to be stumped by Rishabh and then induced a faint edge from new man Stuart Binny, which again Rishabh obliged. This gave Mishra a chance for registering a hat-trick.

The leg-spinner was well on course of scalping a hat-trick but Trent Boult dropped a sitter at long-off to hand Krishnappa Gowtham life.

However, Mishra got his man an over later as Gowtham gave a straight forward catch to Ishant at long-off and Rajasthan slumped to 65 for seven.

Parag opened up late and smacked Ishant for two fours to pick up 18 runs off the 17th over and then smashed Boult for two sixes in the final over before perishing in the last ball of the innings.

Hetmyer, Gurkeerat script RCB's win

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A match-winning 120-run partnership by Shimron Hetmyer (75) and Gurkeerat Singh (65) helped Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by four wickets in their IPL game here Saturday.

Earlier, captain Kane Williamson dealt in fours and sixes as Sunrisers Hyderabad plundered 28 runs in the final over to reach a challenging 175 for seven.

SRH were 147 for seven at the end of the 19th over but Williamson cut loose after that, smashing Umesh Yadav for two sixes and as many fours to finish the innings on a high.

Williamson remained not out on 70 off 43 balls, hitting four sixes and five fours at the M Chinnaswami Stadium.

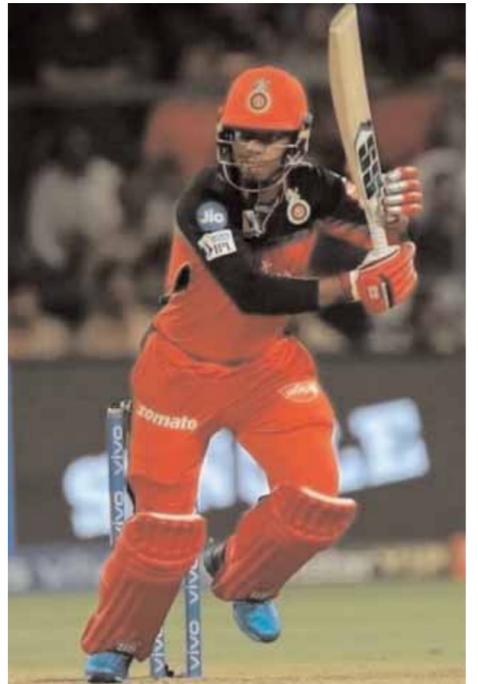
To make matters worse for Yadav, he was wrongly no-balled by umpire Nigel Llong.

Sent into bat, SRH were off to a brisk start with Martin Guptill and Wriddhiman Saha (20) putting on 46 runs for the opening wicket in 4.3 overs, but the keeper-batsman failed to clear pacer Navdeep Saini as the visitors lost their first wicket.

After addition of another 14 runs to the team total, SRH lost their second wicket when Guptill was dismissed by Washington Sundar for a 23-ball 30.

Manish Pandey, who stretched Mumbai Indians with his brave half century in their last game, fell cheaply, for nine, leaving the visitors in some trouble at 61 for three in the eighth over.

Picked in the World Cup bound Indian team for his



'three-dimensional' abilities, Vijay Shankar raced to 27 with the help of three sixes, but again failed to translate the start into a big score.

Shankar was Sundar's third scalp of the evening and Yuzvendra Chahal picked up his 100th wicket in IPL when he lured Yusuf Pathan into playing an irresponsible shot to leave Sunrisers at 127 for five in the final ball of 16th over.

Even as wickets fell at reg-

ular intervals, Williamson looked to rotate the strike and also go for the big hits.

Barring the opening stand, the only partnership that flourished a bit was the one between Williamson and Shankar, who ended up giving a catch while going for a slog sweep.

Williamson brought up his fifty in style, hoicking Yadav over long off for a six and followed that with some more lusty hits.

Up Next

Super Kings look to maintain pole position

PTI ■ MOHALI

Already assured of a playoff berth, table toppers Chennai Super Kings will aim to maintain their pole position with a victory over a struggling Kings XI Punjab in their last IPL group league encounter here on Sunday.

After a defeat against Mumbai Indians in an earlier match, Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK bounced back with a massive 80-run win over Delhi Capitals in their last game, to once again capture the No.1 spot.

Heavy loss against Mumbai Indians saw their net run-rate falling

and now with just a game left in the league stage, the defending champions need a win to maintain their dominance and cement their position at the top.

With 18 points from 13 games, a win will give them 20 points, which is unlikely to be achieved by any other team.

In their previous match against Delhi Capitals, skipper Dhoni and Suresh Raina guided the team to a challenging 179/4 and then restricted the opponent to just 99.

Imran Tahir and Ravindra Jadeja shared seven scalps between them as they wrecked havoc.

Dhoni, Raina, Ambati Rayudu, Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis will look to score big runs in Mohali, while Tahir and Harbhajan will aim to flummox the Kings XI batsmen with their spin magic.

In contrast, Kings XI Punjab, who are already out of the play-offs race, would be playing only for pride. With 10 points from 13 games, they are at seventh spot, a rung above bottom-placed Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Inconsistent KXIP's hopes of making it to the playoffs were dashed in a seven-wicket loss to Kolkata Knight Riders in their last match here. Not being in the reckoning for playoffs will be a disappointment for the home crowd in Sunday's match but they will hope that KXIP finish on a high.

In the previous game against KKR, despite posting a challenging 183/6, visitors' openers Shubman Gill (65 not out) and Chris Lynn (46) took the match away from the KXIP. After the match, KXIP skipper Ravichandran Ashwin admitted that powerplay has been one of his team's 'massive problems'.

Ashwin summed up his team's campaign this season as not up the mark.

Their in-form openers Chris Gayle and K L Rahul, who have been among runs, would be keen to come good against CSK.

The likes of Sam Curran, Mayank Agarwal and Nicholas Pooran will have to shoulder more responsibility in the middle-order.

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2

HEAD TO HEAD

M 20

CSK 12

MOHALI

SUNDAY | 4:00 PM

KXIP VS CSK

Match After

KKR face Mumbai in must win clash

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Their play-off chances hanging in balance, Kolkata Knight Riders will keep no stone unturned as they take on Mumbai Indians with a prayer on their lips in a must-win Indian Premier League game on Sunday.

KKR defeated Kings XI Punjab to keep their play-off hopes alive till the last league game but if Sunrisers Hyderabad manage to sneak past RCB on Saturday, it might take a Herculean effort in terms of improving the net run-rate.

Placed fourth, SRH have a net run-rate of +0.653, which is comparatively better than fifth placed KKR's +0.173. In case, SRH lose to RCB, it will be like a quarter-final for KKR as a win will do the job.

However MI would like to

carry on the winning momentum as 18 points and a better net run-rate than both first placed CSK and third placed Delhi Capitals will give them two shots at qualifying for the final.

With Chris Lynn and Shubman Gill coming good

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2

HEAD TO HEAD

M 24

MI 10

MUMBAI

SUNDAY | 8:00 PM

MI VS KKR



Mumbai Indians players arrive at the pitch before the match

IPL

and the marauding Andre Russell to follow at No 4, skipper Dinesh Karthik would fancy his chances at the batting-friendly Wankhede.

If the likes of seasoned Lasith Malinga, Jasprit Bumrah, Krunal Pandya and leggie Rahul

Chahar have to be taken to task, then KKR batsman will have to put up a special show.

Russell, who has been consistently delivering for his team, will have to showcase his prowess and mettle once again.

For KKR, their bowling has been the biggest concern as their bowlers have been ripped

apart by their opponents both in the Powerplay as well as at the death. Pacers Harry Gurney, Sandeep Warrier, Narine and Piyush Chawla will have to bowl a tight line and length to restrict the famed Mumbai bats-

ters.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Indians, who have already qual-

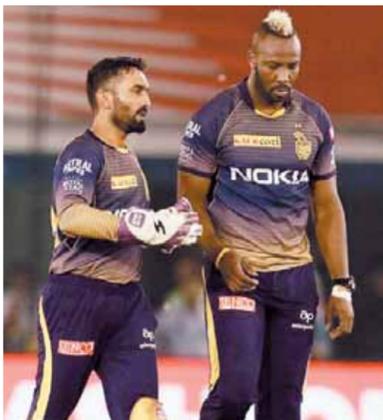
ified for the playoffs will eye revenge after KKR after they had suffered a 34-run defeat in Kolkata.

Also the result of the match which finalise on which position Mumbai finish and who will be their opponent in the play-off.

For the hosts, apart from Hardik (380 runs from 13 matches), South African Quinton De Kock (462 from 13) has been among the runs. But others including Rohit Sharma (331 runs from 12), Suryakumar Yadav (292 runs from 13), Krunal Pandya (176 runs from 13) and Kieron Pollard (240 runs from 13) need to shoulder responsibility.

However an area of concern for head-coach Mahela Jayawardene would be the frequent middle-order collapse and he would like to strengthen before the knockouts.

Won't mind if my anger gets best out of boys: Karthik



PTI ■ MOHALI

Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Dinesh Karthik is not known to lose his cool on on-field lapses but he doesn't mind letting it rip occasionally if it can bring the best out of his players.

During Friday's must-win away match against Kings XI Punjab, Karthik lost his cool at the innings break as his bowlers and fielders didn't execute his plans properly.

When asked about his frayed temper, the KKR skipper admitted that he wasn't happy with his bowlers and fielders.

"It's been a hard few days. I wasn't too happy with what the bowlers and the fielders were doing, so I thought I should let the boys know what I felt at that time.

It is rare, not many people have seen me angry. If I feel I need to be angry to get the best out of the boys, then maybe," Karthik said after his team's seven wicket win over KXIP.

KKR fast bowler Sandeep Warrier said that the skipper was urging his men to be on toes during crunch situations.

"He (Karthik) was telling us to be on our toes as it was a must-win game for us. He was telling us to focus on every ball," said Warrier, who got the wickets of KL Rahul and Chris Gayle. The skipper however was all praise for young Shubman Gill, who scored an unbeaten 65 off 49 balls to anchor the chase of 184.

"It's fair that we have given Gill a chance at the top of the order, and he has grabbed the opportunity

with both hands. It's a big ground, but we did the small things well. We ran well between the wickets, put pressure on the bowler and it was good execution from the batsmen," Karthik said.

Asked what was the gameplan for Rahul and Gayle, Warrier said, "I was looking not to be predictable to them because the wicket was just holding a bit at the start. So, I was trying to be not predictable. My strength is swinging the ball, I was trying to swing it both ways and mix it with slow balls in between."

"Back of the length was a bit hard to hit as the ball was not coming onto the bat pretty easily, so I stuck to this with the new ball and it worked," the 28-year-old bowler from Kerala said.

APPEAL TO VOTERS

This registered NGO has been doing selfless service to the public relentlessly for the last 30 years supported by many social workers, saintly persons, intellectuals and responsible activists. Devoted to yeoman services, the NGO is not affiliated to any of the political parties or leaders, but seriously concerned about the deplorable plight of the country burning at the cruel hands of corrupt, greedy and selfish politicians, who are once again coming together to loot the country. Now it is the right opportunity to teach a lesson to such politicians who have collected sins, openly looting the innocent public through scam after scam followed by immeasurable corruption at all levels. The country has suffered serious wounds owing to the dynastic rule in the past. The Government has made a serious blunder by not punishing numerous culprits/criminals for various scams, draining out huge wealth and cheating the taxpayers and the poor, though not a single scam is visible during the last 5 years of governance.

So dear Voters, make no more mistakes. This is your time to decide the fate of the country. Think and decide whether:

- You again want a family run government (worse than Britishers' 200 years rule) to rule, that too under the guidance of numerous lawyers, who are known for lies, bluffing, exploitation - having already experienced miserable consequences; OR
- Khichdi Government where several political parties have once again come together to form the government to exploit the poor and push the country backward with devastation having already been faced some years ago; OR
- You want a strong, stable and clean (scam free) Government which can give a befitting reply to the enemies of the country not tolerating the terrorists attacks from across the border without any latitude or hesitation or fear, besides taking the country forward with prosperity, speedily like China, a government headed by a bold, honest and dynamic person who can take large/major decisions boldly and thus save the country from total disaster - having experienced in last 5 years.

The ball is in your court.

President, PATRIOT (hardcore Registered NGO). Email: patriotngo@yahoo.com

Advertisement

Ronaldo earns draw for Juve

AP ■ TURIN

Cristiano Ronaldo scored late as Juventus dented Torino's chances of qualifying for the Champions League with a 1-1 draw in Serie A on Friday.

Torino looked set to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Superga air disaster by beating Juventus following Sasa Lukic's first-half goal, but Ronaldo leveled six minutes from time.

Torino remained sixth, two points below fourth-place Atalanta for the final Champions League berth, ahead of the rest of the weekend's games. Juventus has already won its eighth consecutive league title.

"The draw burns. We were thinking of victory," Torino coach Walter Mazzarri said. "Two or three times we could have scored the second goal and maybe brought the win home. There are still three matches left. We have to play them like we did tonight."

The derby was moved ahead a day to avoid clashing with the anniversary of the 1949 plane crash in which 31 people died, including the "Grande Torino" team that had won five straight league



Juventus's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring a goal during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Juventus FC and Torino FC at the Allianz Stadium in Turin on Friday

titles.

"The 'Grande Torino' side represented the history of football," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said.

"Tomorrow we have to commemorate this tragedy, which will always remain in

everyone's memory and heart."

Torino took the lead in the 18th minute after Lukic muscled Miralem Pjanic off the ball on a Juventus throw-in and curled into the far side of the net for his first goal for the club. However, Ronaldo headed

Leonardo Spinazzola's cross into the top right corner in the 84th minute for his 21st league goal, which moved him back into a tie for second behind Sampdoria striker Fabio Quagliarella for the most goals in Serie A this season.

Ghosal, Chinappa storm into final

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

The two stars of Indian squash — the men's top seed Saurav Ghosal and reigning champion Joshna Chinappa — stormed into the final of the Asian Individual Squash Championship with convincing semi-final victories here on Saturday.

Women's second seed Sivasangari Subramaniam of Malaysia 11-7, 12-10, 11-3 while Ghosal ousted the seventh seed Eain Yow Ng of Malaysia 11-2, 11-6, 11-4.

Joshna was the first to appear on the court and according to coach Harinder Pal Sandhu, she could not have made a better start to a match, running away with an early lead against Subramaniam.

There was focus and determination in the Indian to start with and even though Sivasangari caught up with her in the second game and forced her to draw parity at 10 points, Joshna did not lose control.

I will take you to psychiatrist: Gambhir hits back at Afridi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Not known to pull back punches, Gautam Gambhir hit back at Shahid Afridi, offering to take him to a session with "a psychiatrist" after the former Pakistan captain wrote a few uncharitable things about the Indian opener.

Afridi in his just-released autobiography 'Game Changer' had sarcastically referred to Gambhir as someone who "behaves like a cross between Don Bradman and James Bond," and has a "lot of attitude and no great records" Gambhir responded through his official twitter handle tagging Afridi.

"...you are a hilarious man!!! Anyway, we are still granting visas to Pakistanis for medical tourism. I will personally take you to a psychiatrist," Gambhir tweeted.

The duo never shared a great rapport on and off-the-field and it was reflected in Afridi's take on Gambhir.

"Some rivalries were personal, some professional. First the curious case of Gambhir. Oh poor Gautam. He & his attitude problem. He who has no



"...YOU ARE A HILARIOUS MAN!!! ANYWAY, WE ARE STILL GRANTING VISAS TO PAKISTANIS FOR MEDICAL TOURISM. I WILL PERSONALLY TAKE YOU TO A PSYCHIATRIST"

personality. He who is barely a character in the great scheme of cricket. He who has no great records just a lot of attitude," Afridi wrote.

"Gambhir behaves like he's a cross between Don Bradman & James Bond. In Karachi, we call guys like him saryal (grumpy). It's simple, I like happy, positive people. Doesn't matter if they are aggressive or competitive, but you have to be positive & Gambhir wasn't," he further wrote.

The two had an angry bust up during a bilateral series ODI in Kanpur back in 2007

(wrongly referred in Afridi's book as Asia Cup game).

"I remember the run-in with Gambhir during the 2007 Asia Cup, when he completed his single while running straight into me. The umpires had to finish it off or I would have. Clearly we had a frank bilateral discussion about each other's female relatives," Afridi recalled the uncharitable verbal exchange. Afridi has recently agreed that he had indulged in age-fraud and was 21 years old when he scored his hundred debut and not 16 as it was believed for a lot of years.

Everton keep Euro dream alive with Burnley win

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Everton kept their slim hopes of a top-seven finish in the Premier League alive as they recorded a fourth consecutive victory at Goodison Park by defeating Burnley on Friday.

The Toffees have seen off Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United on their patch recently — by an aggregate score of 7-0 — and two goals in three first-half minutes proved decisive against the Clarets.

Burnley defender Ben Mee got a telling final touch to Richarlison's strike while Seamus Coleman headed in on the rebound as Everton ran out 2-0 winners in both sides' penultimate fixture of the campaign.

The win moved Everton up to eighth and to within a single point of Wolves in seventh — a position that will seal a Europa League berth next season if Manchester City beat Watford in the FA Cup final later this month. Wolves could extinguish coach Marco Silva's stated aim of European football with a win over already relegated Fulham on Saturday but this was an impressive way to sign off at home from Everton.

Just as it seemed the visitors had weathered the early onslaught, they fell behind in the 17th minute as their backtrak-

ing defence gave Richarlison an invitation to rifle beyond Tom Heaton.

The Brazilian's left-foot strike from the edge of the area took a slight deflection off the unfortunate Mee, and Burnley's luck worsened as Everton increased their lead moments later.

Lucas Digne's rasping effort from a similar distance was parried back into the danger zone by Heaton, allowing Coleman, just inside, to stoop to head into an empty net.

Everton's second seemed to rouse Burnley, who thought they had pulled one back when Ashley Barnes expertly steered Robbie Brady's ball into the area across Jordan Pickford, only for the assistant referee to flag for offside.

Burnley showed more purpose in the early stages of the second half than they did in the whole of the opening 45 minutes. Chris Wood's low first-time strike was saved by Pickford while Brady's teasing ball into the area caught Johann Berg Gudmundsson unawares, leading to the ball spooning over the bar.

Burnley could not find a way back into the match, with Everton claiming an eighth clean sheet in their past 10 top-flight fixtures.

Leipzig's winning run ends ahead of Bayern showdown

BERLIN: French striker Jean-Philippe Mateta scored a late equaliser for Mainz to end RB Leipzig's six-game winning streak in a thrilling 3-3 draw in the Bundesliga on Friday.

Mateta's 83rd-minute goal snatched a point after Timo Werner had put Leipzig on course for victory with a goal and two assists. The draw is an untimely set back for in-form Leipzig, coming just a week before they host league leaders Bayern Munich.

With Bayern two points ahead of second place Borussia Dortmund, Leipzig could make a potentially title-deciding intervention by beating the leaders. They also face Bayern in the German Cup final later this month, but Rangnick said that his side were not getting distracted by the chance of silverware.

Mainz took the wind out of Leipzig's sails as they came from 3-1 down to earn a well-deserved draw. Werner set up Lukas Klostermann as Leipzig took an early lead on the counter-attack. Klostermann then doubled the lead in controversial circumstances, after team mate Willi Orban appeared to foul Mainz striker Karim Onisiwo in the build-up. Onisiwo got his revenge just before half-time, turning Klostermann in the box to fire Mainz back into the game. Werner, though, showed quick feet and a cool head to restore his side's two-goal lead after the break and notch up his 16th league goal of the season. Moussa Niakhate prodded in another goal for Mainz at a corner on 67 minutes, before Mateta beat the offside trap to slot in a late equaliser. Leipzig's midfield maestro Kevin Kampl will miss next week's clash with Bayern after picking up a yellow card late in the game. Leipzig remain in third after securing Champions League qualification last week.

Lahiri misses cut

CHARLOTTE: Anirban Lahiri's disappointing run continued as he missed the cut at the Wells Fargo Championship here.

He followed up his first round 79 with a 71 to be eight-over for 36 holes and missed action for another weekend.

This is Lahiri's sixth missed cut in 14 starts and he has only one Top-10, at the Mayakoba Championships.

He will now need some quick results to ensure that he keeps his record of making the FedExCup play-offs each year since 2015.

Lahiri hit 13 of 18 greens in regulation during his second round at the Wells Fargo Championship, though it was better than the first day. Yet the first day's 79 did not help his cause as the cut fell at one-over.

Lahiri had four birdies and three bogeys in his one-under 71, but it was little too late to keep him for final two rounds.

Jason Dufner, who has struggled since 2017 moved into the lead at 11-under following a 63 in the second round. It is the first time he has a 36-hole lead since the 2017 Memorial.

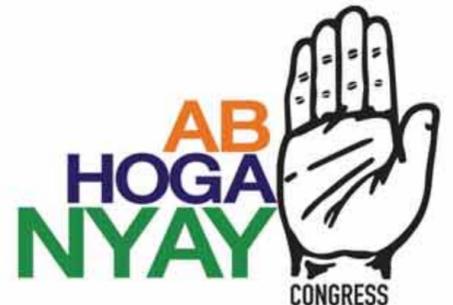
TILL THE 12TH
EDUCATION IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
WILL BE FREE



Good quality education and skill development are critical to our future as a nation. While there is space for private institutions, government funded public institutions must set the benchmark for excellence and innovation. This is not a pipe dream. Congress Governments in the past have created world class institutions of higher learning like the IITs, IIMs and many others. We must do the same with primary, secondary and undergraduate education.

In order to do this, we promise to double the allocation for education to 6% of GDP. This will give us the resources to train high quality teachers, massively increase our public education network and infrastructure and offer our children free public school education till the 12th standard.

We cannot have justice when our children do not have access to quality education.



the pioneer agenda



FROM THE INSIDE

Smashing gender stereotypes

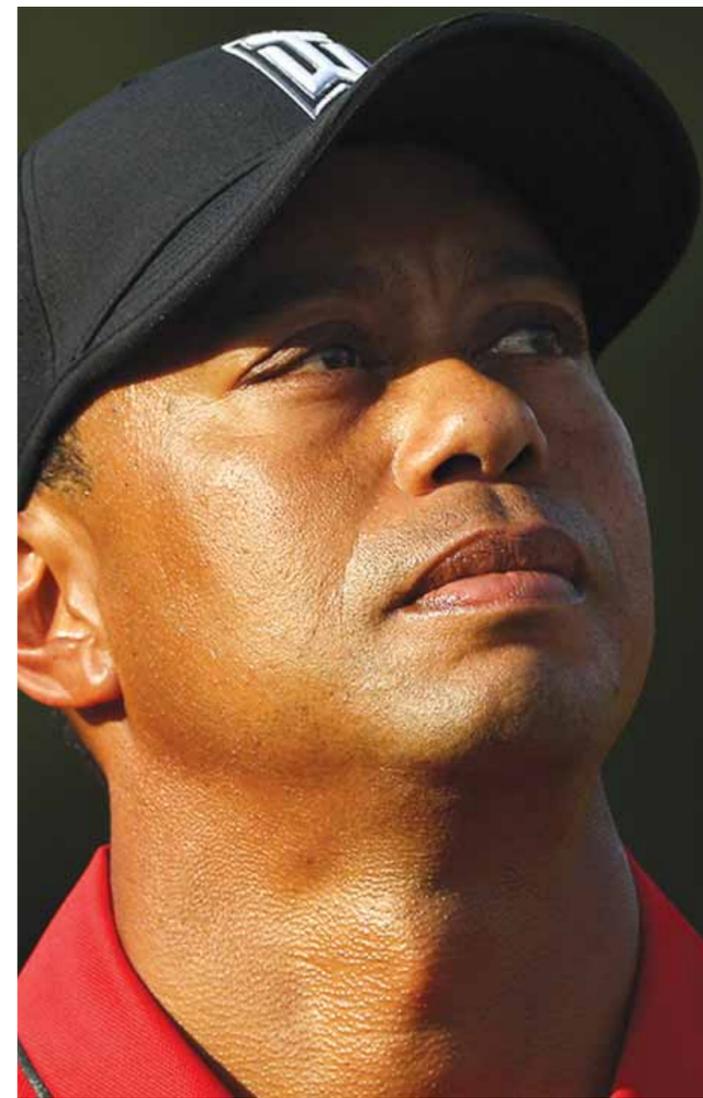
We must provide counter messaging to restrictive gender rules so that our children don't feel forced to conform



Habits and stress correlated

The unique character of a being, such as habits and attitudes, holds the key to how one responds to a situation

What I will not do is continue to perpetuate stereotypes. I'm the daughter of a maid; why do I have to also play a maid?
— Gina Rodriguez



Since 2009, Tiger Woods has seen his reputation severely tarnished amidst a sex scandal that led to divorce, been addicted to painkillers causing his arrest, and dropped out of the world's top 1,000 golfers. Overcoming these obstacles, he recently won his fifth Masters — 14 years after he last put on the Green Jacket — and that makes his comeback all the more awe-inspiring, writes SIDHARTH DANG

OF TIGERS AND OUTLIERS

I used to hate golf. I absolutely despised it being shown on the telly. I couldn't imagine why people take something so boring so seriously and call it a sport. I don't even know why I got clicked with Tiger Woods at Madame Tussauds when I clearly didn't know enough to admire him or the legacy he was creating at that time. Then I grew up. Last month was pivotal in the history of golf, in more ways than one. Tiger Woods winning his fifth Masters, 14 years after he last put on the Green Jacket, 11 years after last winning a Major is nothing short of extraordinary, poetic, superlative, and a touch redemptive. Let's put this into perspective. Since 2009, he has seen his reputation severely tarnished amidst an infidelity scandal followed by divorce with his Swedish wife, Elin Nordegren, had four back and two knee surgeries, been addicted to painkillers causing his arrest for suspected driving under influence, dropped out of the world's top 1,000 golfers, amongst many other obstacles that makes this comeback all the more awe-inspiring. When we talk of huge comebacks in the history of sport — not just golf — this will rank as one of, if not the best.

Peyton Manning is talked about in the great comebacks conversation after he endured multiple neck surgeries and was dumped by the Colts but had a late career revival in Denver; an MVP award in 2013 and a Super Bowl title in 2015. Monica Seles was the youngest French Open champion at 16 years of age and the youngest Number 1 in world rankings at that time. She had already won eight Grand Slams before her 20th birthday. Then when she was at her peak, she was stabbed in a bizarre incident on court by a deranged Steffi Graf fan, narrowly missing her spinal cord and organs. But the damage was done psychologically. Seles had to battle depression and eating disorder before returning to the court after two years. She was never the same player again but to even come that far, winning the Canadian Open in 1995 and the Australian Open in 1996, was a laudable achievement.

Niki Lauda had already won one World Championship Title in Formula One racing in 1975. In his second in 1976, his Ferrari swerved off track, hit an embankment, burst into flames and made contact with Brett Lunger's Ford. Unlike Lunger, Lauda was trapped in the wreckage and suffered severe degree burns to his head and inhaled hot toxic gases, damaging his lungs and blood.

Although he was conscious in the immediate aftermath, he later slipped into a coma. Six weeks later, he was behind the wheel at the Italian Grand Prix. Lauda would go on to win two more championship titles before retiring.

Muhammad Ali, widely regarded as the "greatest of all time", was stripped of his title and suspended for three years after he refused to serve in the US Army during the Vietnam War. His comeback against the undefeated Joe Frazier in a rematch. Then came the much awaited Thrilla in Manila in 1975. Frazier and Ali were both geared up for this, Frazier desperately needing a win for his comeback but Ali would not be denied by him a second time. Ali went on to win that dramatic 14 round fight (the 15th was stopped as Frazier's eyes were swollen shut and he was badly beaten) and Ali kept fighting till 1981.

Woods, though, was reluctant to claim it was even the best comeback in his own sport. He points to Ben Hogan, who won the US Open a year and a half after nearly dying in a car crash. He does have a point. But the comparisons of comebacks in different sports across different eras is not to diminish one's significance or impact from the other. It is only to laud the most recent one keeping the others in mind. What separates the story of Tiger Woods from others is that he not only suffered physically but mentally. Of course, any physical injury has its psychological repercussions. But the grit and determination to come out of so many and emerge a winner yet again cannot be understated.

In a multicultural consumerist society like the US that the whole world still pretty much aspires to model itself on, a win like this is monumental keeping in mind the brand value of Tiger Woods before he was stripped of all endorsements following his promiscuity revelations. A win like this changes everything. It's a literal game changer in every sense of the term. From the way people look at golf to a brand equity itself. In a time when majority of the American intelligentsia is debating and regretting the election results while still reminiscing about the last President, who was incidentally black, Tiger Woods has given them another reason to be proud by coming up "trumps".

A win like this is astronomical because a win like this transcends sport. With all due respect to the other golfers devoid of such ups and downs

in life, a win for any of them would never have generated this kind of hoopla. The fact that we know all about Tiger Woods without knowing the difference between a birdie and a bogey is what makes us sit up and take notice. It's what instantly puts him and the whole of golf right back on the map.

The news of Tiger Woods winning another Masters hit me in three stages. First was that of shock. I was (and I'm sure many of you were too) genuinely surprised to see him not only competing amongst the best but beating everyone again to be the best. After all, that's occurred. After all that's passed. After all that he must've faced. After all those nights he must've spent waiting for this fine day. I cannot even fathom the turmoil that must've gone through that mind of his. Just like I couldn't fathom hearing what all he had done to put himself in that position. But I came to a realisation that people like him aren't mere mortals. And maybe, just maybe, that's the reason they don't have flaws like the rest of us; something akin to a Greek tragedy. Their flaws are tragic and fatal. They're capable of extraordinary things in their field of speciality. They always have that extra mile in them, whatever the circumstances. And like any other Greek tragedy, their story has the element of fate centred around them.

Speaking of fate and the role it has to play in the making or breaking of a genius, Malcolm Gladwell reiterates over and over in his book, *The Outliers*, that there are no geniuses in this world, just people who happened to be in the right place at the right time. In his words, "No one — not rock stars, not professional athletes, not software billionaires, and not even geniuses — ever makes it alone." Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, the Beatles etc all had vision and talent, but they were successful only because of a certain turn of events that went in their favour. Gladwell notes that success "is not exceptional or mysterious. It is grounded in a web of advantages and inheritances, some deserved, some not, some earned, some just plain lucky". But for that rub of the green (the phrase ironically originating from golf) to even work, you have to have the building blocks in place first — namely talent, hard work, and an undying will to succeed.

Tiger Woods had everything as do most champions in any sport. But what makes his story unique is that he was brutally brought down from his pedestal when the scandal broke out. He wasn't the god of golf anymore. He was the proverbial Greek god.



EVERY COMEBACK VICTORY HAS A CERTAIN HUMAN ELEMENT ATTACHED TO IT. EVERYONE LOVES A RAGS TO RICHES STORY, A COME FROM BEHIND VICTORY, AN UNDERDOG TURNAROUND, AN INSPIRING FEAT TO TALK ABOUT. IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, TIGER WOODS WAS ALL OF THEM

Suddenly, he had everything to lose again and had to start from scratch. To do that at this age is what makes his comeback all the more commendable.

At the end, it all comes down to man's inherent drive to be the best. To be better than the rest. And you can't inculcate that drive. Another thing I was shocked about (albeit pleasantly) was the kind of reaction he is receiving. It's almost as if everyone has forgiven him for doing the wrongs he did. He has paid the price. He has spent his time in hell. And now it's his time to shine. But why was I surprised that people reacted so positively in the first place? Which brings me to the second thing that hit me: Happiness.

Everyone wants to identify with your success but never your failure. I've seen that all too well from close quarters. Failure is an integral part of the success equation. By identifying in the phenomenon of a successful comeback, we are in some way relating it to our own journey. His victory is somehow our victory. His win is somehow our hope. And his story is somehow our source of happiness. People want to identify with your story because that makes it more real, more tangible. And there's nothing more relatable than the raw emotion of a comeback. There's a reason why the Manchester United gathered an extraordinary fan following in terms of numbers in the Nineties and Noughties. It's because their golden period of comebacks coincided with the stratospheric rise in TV coverage and Premier League revenues. More the number of exploits from the undisputed "comeback kings" (Liverpool fans would argue otherwise), more the viewers developed an affinity for the club and hence more the fan following. It's not as if comebacks weren't being accomplished before or after that era. It's just that in this case, they happened to be the 'outlier', the club at the right place at the right time.

But all that is okay. The real question is how do these individuals muster up the courage, the determination, the same intensity and mindset to be able to compete at the same level and win against all odds? The answer again lies with the Gladwell school of thought. They always had it. This was always part of the script. The falling down wasn't. Once that was dealt with, coming back up was no doubt difficult but the most natural thing to do. It gave him hope. It gave him purpose. It gave him his *raison d'être*.

In the words of Gladwell himself: "There is something profoundly wrong

with the way we look at success. We cling to the idea that success is a simple function of individual merit and that the world in which we grow up and the rules we choose to write as a society don't matter at all."

Eldrick Tont Woods, nicknamed Tiger, was always the outlier from the very start: A child prodigy who was introduced to golf before the age of two by his athletic father, Earl Woods. He already had the proverbial '10,000 hours' under his belt way before he started competing professionally. And although the 10,000-hour rule is more fiction than fact, it does hold significance. It does give you pointers. It does give you the extra edge before anyone else. He was an outlier not only in terms of being an early starter and having the kind of resources and golf courses only few could afford, he was also the outlier in terms of when he was born. Augusta barred African American players from the Masters until 1975. Augusta National had no black members until 1990. Tiger Woods' birth year? Yep, 1975. He didn't have to deal with the racial barriers, the death threats, the prejudice. He started his career when all of that had been a thing of the past and golf was ready to usher in the era of the greatest African American to ever grace the sport. Was all this a coincidence? Fate. The rub of the green. Outlier.

The third and last emotion that hit me was that of belief and inspiration. His story gave me the motivation to get up from the tangles of misfortune I find myself in. Every comeback victory has a certain human element attached to it. Everyone loves a rags to riches story, a come from behind victory, an underdog turnaround, an inspiring feat to talk about. In more ways than one, Tiger Woods was all of them. His reputation was in tatters, his health was nowhere near the previous standards, he was already being tagged a "former golfer", his comeback attempt was written off before he even started, no one gave him a chance of competing in the Masters again. But did it matter though? And more importantly, should it matter? What the world thinks of you shouldn't come in the way of your "personal legend", as Paulo Coelho calls it. Because if it does, you'll never achieve it. And then the world will have one less inspiring thing to talk about. "You never give up," says Woods. "That's a given. You always fight. Just giving up is never in the equation."

The writer is a doctor by profession and writer by passion



THE STRONGEST GOVERNMENTS
CANNOT CLEAN UP POLLUTION BY
THEMSELVES. THEY MUST RELY
ON EACH ORDINARY PERSON, ON
OUR CHOICES AND ON OUR WILL
—CHAI JING

COUNTERACTING DESTRUCTIVE GENDER RULES

When we do not prioritise providing counter messaging to restrictive gender rules, the silence reinforces the subconscious idea that children must sacrifice their freedom of expression and wholesome development in order to conform, says **ARIANA ABADIAN-HEIFETZ**

As young as age four, children begin policing each other to adhere to strict gender rules — attentive to point out “you can’t wear that, it’s a girl’s colour,” or “you can’t play with that, it’s a boy’s toy.” As social beings dependent on adults, children carefully absorb and attune to social norms given their survival requires continued inclusion within their families. It is this desire to be accepted that causes a boy to suppress his perfectly natural human inclination to cry and be held as he becomes indoctrinated into the idea that these healthy behaviours are unacceptable and weak for boys and men.

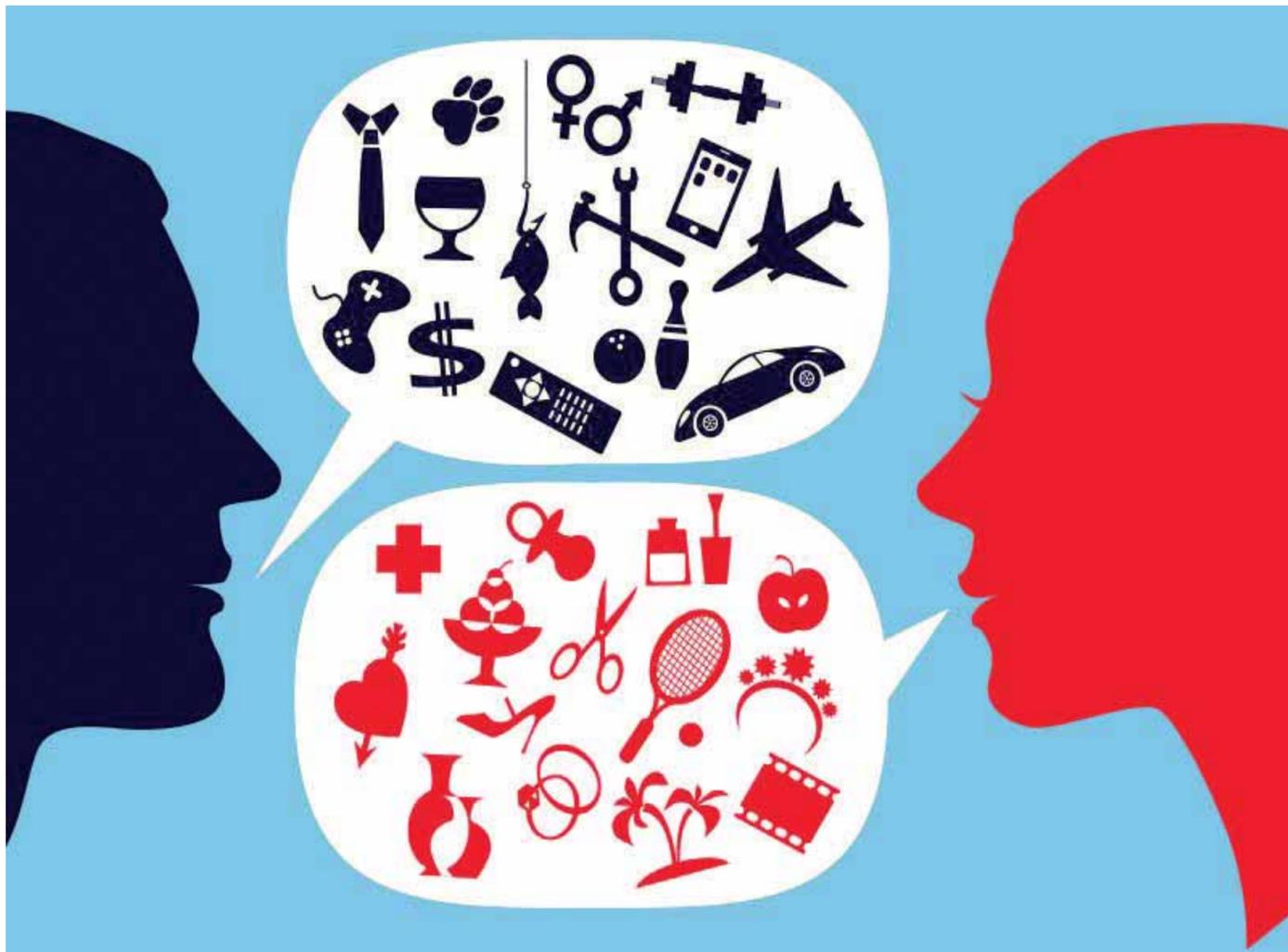
When we do not prioritise providing counter messaging to restrictive gender rules, the silence reinforces the subconscious idea that a child must sacrifice their freedom of expression and wholesome development in order to conform. The absence of thoughtful and consistent dialogue around gender in homes and schools is a vacuum that, luckily, we can work together to fill.

IDENTIFY DOUBLE STANDARDS

Whether at home or in school, the important first step is to become aware of double standards and not accidentally enforce them. Hold girls and boys to the same standards of what it means to be a “good person”, instead of teaching them different values of a “good boy” and “good girl.” For example, it is important that all children learn how to be responsible by helping make food, not just girls. Similarly, it is important for all children to feel empowered that they can fix things by learning to use construction tools, not just boys.

Girls and women are often labelled bossy or a tomboy when they are physically active and assertive. The conservative standard of a “nice girl,” where a girl is not supposed to stand up for herself, can discourage her from the proactive, authentic, and hard-working qualities we value in boys. It’s important to encourage a girl’s curiosity, determination, and grit, not simply her ability to please and serve others.

It’s also crucial to encourage a boy’s empathy and capacity to collaborate and communicate thoughtfully, not simply his ability to command attention and compete. When we celebrate boys from an early age for their capacity to be vulnerable, emotional, and ask for help — that these are signs of strength and courage — we create better people who are less likely to resort to violence when experiencing emotional turmoil and are more likely to thrive in their professional and personal relationships.



OF DIVERSE ROLE MODELS

As adults in their lives, you are a living role model who can purposely look for ways to step outside the typical box of gender expectations. By doing so, you will inspire the children in your life to dream beyond these restrictions and discover what their own authentic expression looks like. As a parent, one place to start is by having conversations with your partner about how your self-expressions and responsibilities divide based on traditional gender roles and where could be opportunities to experiment with new forms of expression and distribution of responsibilities.

For example, maybe Dad makes breakfast and Mom makes dinner, or both Mom and Dad read bedtime stories and snuggle before bed. As a father, you can make a

conscious effort to share your feelings, tell your kids you love them, and make it safe for your kids to do the same. Show your children that responsibilities — whether it’s caring for the house or earning income — are not assigned based on something as arbitrary as what body parts one has, but instead get divided based on thoughtful conversations and mutual understanding.

Schools and families can also be more intentional about providing role models through books and films to help expand children’s imagination for what is possible for them and show a diversity of ways to express themselves. You can provide more female role models for girls who don’t fit the typical box — pioneers in science, chemistry, athletics, diplomats, journalists, philosophers. Provide male role

BECOME AWARE OF DOUBLE STANDARDS AND NOT ENFORCE THEM UNKNOWINGLY. HOLD GIRLS AND BOYS TO THE SAME STANDARDS OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GOOD PERSON, INSTEAD OF TEACHING THEM DIFFERENT VALUES OF A GOOD BOY AND A GOOD GIRL

models who don’t fit the traditional man box — men who speak up as peacemakers, homemakers, nurses, teachers, and feminist activists.

HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

When your kids see music videos, films, commercials, and sexist media, engage in discussions about what they’re seeing and how what they’re watching makes them feel. At home and in your classrooms, show sexist memes and have debates about the difference between free speech and hate speech, objectification and how we are taught to primarily value women for their bodies as lovers or mothers and value men for their capacities to obtain wealth and women. Discuss unrealistic and racist beauty standards and the way marketing uses the female body as

a means to sell products. Help kids be critical thinkers, questioners, and discern for themselves what makes these mindsets problematic.

Even with little children, when you hear of a child labelling something based on gender, “those are boy’s sunglasses,” use it as a learning opportunity to question that idea. Ask them what makes something a boy’s sunglasses and what’s the point of such categories? Why is it that the blue Kinder egg is only meant for boys? Does this make any sense? Then show them counterexamples to these “rules”.

DON’T WAIT TO TEACH THEM

Nursery is a great time to begin teaching children about boundaries and consent. By doing so, parents and schools can take preventative measures against unne-

cessary traumas, embarrassment, body shaming, or bullying rather than simply reacting after the fact.

Share with children that they get to choose whether someone can touch their bodies and that they are allowed to choose whether or not they want to hug or kiss someone. Saying “no” when someone pinches their cheeks or makes them feel uncomfortable is an important first step to ensure that they feel reassured to speak up if someone does something inappropriate. Teaching children they have a right to their bodies and should always come tell their parents if something happens to them, is an essential part to keeping them safe and empowering them into the future. Equally important is keeping your children informed with the proper vocabulary for their body parts and as they grow, stay ahead of the game by informing them about the changes soon to come with puberty. When adults withhold the scientifically proper names for private parts, children begin to internalise that these body parts are shameful and secretive. This in turn can prevent a child from sharing with a trusted adult if they are touched inappropriately on these private parts.

Especially ensure all children — boys and girls — learn about menstruation in order to diminish the stigma, shame, and bullying that girls experience. When adults keep menstruation a secret, children experience it as a bad thing and can begin believing women’s bodies are dirty or impure. Far too many women think they are dying with the onset of their first period, given they were provided no prior warning that one day blood would start flowing from their bodies. One way we start creating equality is by teaching kids when they are young that the bodies of girls and boys have some differences, lots of similarities, and are all worthy of equal celebration and pride.

UTILISE AVAILABLE BOOKS

The great news is that there are experts from around the world who have developed credible child-friendly books and curriculums for teachers and parents to learn from and use. Some curriculums we draw inspiration from in our school is ‘Live Respect’ by A Call to Men, ‘Very Young Adolescence 2.0’ by Promundo, ‘The Mask You Live In’ by the Representation Project, and Advocacy for Youth’s sexuality education curriculum. These resources provide teachers and parents age appropriate information on relationships, gender, and sexuality that can be altered to meet our cultural context.

The writer is the Head of Social-Emotional Learning, Heritage Experiential Learning School, and author of the info-comic on menstrual hygiene, *Spreading Your Wings*

Toxic air harming our children with every breath

All day every day, even while they sleep, tens of millions of children in South Asia are being seriously harmed by toxic air. South Asia is leading the world and not in a good way. Here, air pollution now kills an estimated 130,000 children under five every single year. It is a staggering fact that 12 million babies in South Asia are breathing air that is six times more polluted than the international limits set by the World Health Organization. This means that South Asia has three-quarters of the global total.

The full impact of breathing harmful air is not visible to the naked eye, but the Air Quality Index measures how toxic the air is. A measurement of 0-50 is ‘good’, 50-100 is ‘moderate’, 100-150 is ‘unhealthy for sensitive groups’ (including children), 151-200 is ‘unhealthy’, 201-300 is ‘very unhealthy’, and 301-500 is ‘hazardous’. In the four-day period between January 8 and 11, the number reached 417 in New Delhi (hazardous), 310 in Kathmandu (hazardous), 328 in Dhaka (hazardous), 510 in Kabul (hazardous), and 234 in Karachi (very unhealthy). These num-

bers mean deaths, and they mean serious, lasting harm.

In India, nearly 1.3 million premature deaths occurred just in 2017 due to indoor and outdoor air pollution. Ten of the world’s top 20 most polluted cities are in India. Around 77 per cent of the country’s population is exposed to outdoor air pollution levels above the National Ambient Air Quality Standards safe limit. The average life expectancy in India would have been 1.7 years higher if the air pollution levels were less than the minimal level.

A cough, sore throat or sore eyes are the common things that we notice. But the real damage is far more serious. The most dangerous air pollutants of all are the smallest particles. They reach deep down into the lungs. From the lungs, they pass into the bloodstream. In the bloodstream, they circulate around the body.

Air pollution is a severe and growing threat to people of all ages, but it is particularly bad for chil-



dren’s health and development. A 2018 World Health Organization study reveals that over one lakh children under the age of five died in 2016 because of air pollution in India. There are three main reasons why children are particularly at risk. First, children breathe faster than adults. A typical adult takes between 12 and 18 breaths a minute. A three-year-old child takes 20 to 30 breaths a minute, and a newborn takes 30 to 40. So young children are breathing in the polluted air two to three times as much as adults.

Second, children’s lungs and other organs are developing. This makes them particularly vulnerable to damage. This can have both immediate effects, such as asthma, and long-term effects, such as reducing their lung volume for life.

Third, the youngest children are also in danger because the barrier between the bloodstream and brain is not yet fully formed. The air pollutants can cross from the lungs to the bloodstream, and

from the bloodstream to the brain. There, they actually cause brain cells to inflame. This damages the brain cells and affects the child’s cognitive and intellectual development. Today’s generation of children will be affected for life and as adults, we have a pressing and serious duty to reverse this horrendous trend.

The high exposure of India’s children and their vulnerability to air pollution make this an issue to be addressed with urgency. We need to see cleaner, renewable sources of energy and we need better waste management to prevent open burning of harmful chemicals, but of course the precise solutions vary across the region. We cannot let children breathe toxic air. Speaking up for one’s children is a first step.

The Government of India’s efforts towards launching a National Clean Air Programme with an aim to cover 104 cities is commendable. However, with a target to reduce air pollution by

only about 30 per cent by 2024, there is need for further urgent and pro-active action to protect the young generation. Stringent law enforcement regarding polluting industries, burning of solid waste/residues, among others, is non-negotiable. Policy shifts, such as the switch from pollution fuel options like diesel or petrol to CNG or electrical cars, increased investment in public transport etc are noteworthy efforts by the Government. However, further investment and incentives to adopt clean energy, especially in smaller towns, are crucial. Incentivising the use of LPG in rural areas as against highly polluting fossil fuel is another critical need.

Reducing indoor and outdoor air pollution must be integrated in all major Government programmes, such as Smart Cities, rather than instituting stand-alone interventions. This could go a long way in promoting positive behaviours, big and small, among all citizens and create a drive towards a pollution-free India for us and for the generations to come.

The writer is Regional Director of UNICEF in South Asia



In this April 21, 2019 file photo, dead bodies of victims lie inside St Sebastian's Church after a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the church in Negombo, north of Colombo. Roughly 250 people died in six coordinated suicide bombings that ripped through Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday

Lankan blasts: Erdogan's Islamist turn

The success of Islamist Caliphal politics of President Erdogan depends upon fulfilment of: First, he must emerge and be recognised as the leader of Muslim world, this demands a de-democratisation of Turkey and freedom from any democratic constraint in his governance; second, a thorough de-legitimisation, rather criminalisation, of Arab state actors, mainly Saudi Arabia and the UAE

The multiple bombings, including suicide blasts, targeting the mass congregation at Catholic churches, hotels and other public places in Sri Lanka have once again drawn the concern of the international community over the danger of Islamist terrorism and radicalisation of a section of Muslim youths across the globe. The civilised world, including the Muslim religious and secular intelligentsia, was swift to condemn the abhorrent attacks, which took more than 250 lives, and expressed concern about the failure of Sri Lankan state to the repeated warnings from India and its local intelligent units as well as the ability of the ISIS and other international Islamist terrorist organisations to wreak havoc.

While such incidents have routinely brought into the question the role of Wahhabi-Salafisation in raising a radicalised generation of Muslim youths with conception of "enemy other" to commit genocide, the contribution of Turkey under Islamist leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the process of radicalisation of a section of global Sunni Muslim youth has hardly been focussed upon. If one aspect of Islamist bombing in Sri Lanka, as claimed by the perpetrators, was to avenge the killing of Muslims in New Zealand by white supremacists, one is constrained to bring into focus the statement of President Erdogan, which may have implication in further motivating the radicalised Islamist elements to commit barbaric acts.

During the campaign of municipal election in Turkey last month, President Erdogan lambasted the politics of Islamophobia in the West, showed a video clipping of the Christchurch mosque shootings, and stated: "Turkey would make the attackers pay for his act if New Zealand did not." Calling upon New Zealand

authority to restore death penalty, Erdogan further stated on March 19 in an election rally, "You (Brenton Tarrant, the Australian attacker in Christchurch) heinously killed 50 of our siblings. You will pay for this. If New Zealand doesn't make you, we know how to make you pay one way or another."

If one looks at the rhetoric and tone of these statements of President Erdogan, one would find that it is not different from the rhetoric and semantic of non-state Islamist radicals and terrorists. It is another matter that statements and terrorist actions of non-state Islamist actors are routinely condemned, but world leaders hardly condemn the statement and action of state actors. It happens because, first, terrorism has been understood essentially as "non-state phenomenon", and second, the state practice of political pragmatism, which tolerates such state figures for the consideration of wider economic and political interest.

Such alarmist Islamist politics on the part of the Erdogan regime is not difficult to understand. It is likely to increase in near future for three important reasons. First, the Islamist politics is centrally linked with Erdogan's personal ambition of resurrecting the institution of Caliphate in 1924 — the 100th year of abolition of Caliphate by the Kemal state of Turkey. Second, the deteriorating condition of Turkish economy is also pushing Erdogan to embrace Islamist politics. Third, Erdogan is losing domestic political ground as evident from his failure to win over mayorship in some of the largest cities like Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and other cities in March 2019 local elections. The AKP defeat in Istanbul is very symbolic for its survival. While the loss of its former Prime Minister and Speaker —

Binali Yildirim — in Istanbul is a severe jolt to AKP's hegemony, rubbing salt to their wounds is that the winner from CHP has a credible Muslim face. This explains why the Erdogan regime has decided to demand the re-election of Istanbul mayoral election despite twice recounting of the ballots and even formally lodged the complaint to Supreme Election Board (SYK) to derecognise approximately 13,500 votes, which belonged to dismissed, imprisoned officials alleged to be FETO (Gülen movement) members. Interestingly the AKP candidate, Yildirim, lost to the CHP candidate in Istanbul with the margin of 13,500 votes. The prosecutors of Turkish state has now launched more than 32 investigations into the alleged irregularities in Istanbul mayoral election held last month and summoned more than 100 polling station officials for questioning as suspects, much after declaration of result!

The success of Islamist, Caliphal politics of President Erdogan depends upon fulfilment of certain conditions. One, President Erdogan must emerge and be recognised as the leader of Muslim world. This has pushed Erdogan to embrace aggressive, authoritarian style of politics with foremost anti-Israel, anti-west Muslim face who is also championing the cause of Muslim minorities living into non-Muslim majority countries. With physical liquidation of Al Qaeda and ISIS and the near absence of other anti-west, anti-Israel Muslim political figure, a good section of Muslim world looks into Erdogan a modern day Saladin. This authoritarian Islamist brand of politics of Erdogan demands a de-democratisation of Turkey and freedom from any democratic constraint in his governance. This brought him into conflict with the Gülen move-

ment internally, which refused to cater to the demand of Erdogan to promote him as global Muslim political leader through its global network of schools and dialogue centres, at domestic level and in the European Union.

Second, the Caliphal politics of Erdogan requires a thorough de-legitimisation, rather criminalisation, of Arab state actors, principally Saudi Arabia and the UAE, with a view to remove them as legitimate leader of global Sunni Muslim community. As a result, the Erdogan regime has closeted itself to Islamist ally, primarily Iran, Qatar and Hamas, and increased its physical intervention in neighbouring Syria and Iraq to bolster its neo-Ottoman image on the one hand and leave no stone unturned in criminalising and diplomatically isolating Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The increase in anti-Saudi, anti-UAE rhetoric on the part of the Erdogan regime has another aspect also: to show to the Muslim world that the recent embrace of pluralism and diversity by the UAE and Saudi Arabia is a weakness of Islamic tradition and project his brand of Islamist authoritarian anti-pluralism politics as real Islamic and in line with Caliphatic tradition.

Two recent examples expose this mischief of the Erdogan regime. The first concerned the Jamal Khashoggi incident, which was badly exploited by Turkish state to expose the Saudi state in bad diplomatic taste and deprive the Kingdom of its Islamic legitimacy to rule and claim the rightful custodian of Mecca and Medina and leadership of Sunni Muslim world. The other is the attempt of Turkish state to criminalise the UAE by arresting two Palestinians for spying for the UAE in Istanbul, one of which is alleged to have committed suicide in jail while

in solitary confinement. There is a strong indication of foul play by the Erdogan regime in this case, which was committed to defame the UAE, for the fact of the matter is that during last three years Turkey has witnessed 51 cases of suicide inside Turkish jails, including the suicide cases in solitary confinement. In none of these cases, the Turkish authority has ever carried out autopsy to ascertain the reason of death.

Today Turkey has become a rogue state, with its hobnobbing with ISIS and other Islamist terrorist elements being widely reported. President Erdogan has emerged as one of the principle sources of radicalisation of the Muslim youth across the world, particularly in Indian subcontinent where the second largest Muslim community of the world is living as religious minority with historical sense of discrimination and legacy of Khilafat movement. There are already reports that publications regarding Kashmir has tremendously increased in Turkey during last three years. The Government of India must be cautious in dealing with the Erdogan regime and must deny him the opportunity to radicalise the Indian Muslims.

(The writer is Senior Fellow with Policy Perspectives Foundations. Views expressed are of the author and in no ways represents the view of PPF)



ANWAR ALAM

PERSPECTIVE Sri Lanka post ISIS caliphate

The Easter Sunday fideyeen attacks in Sri Lanka are unique for three reasons. First, the island nation — unlike its neighbours: India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh — had not seen till then any terror act by proclaimed Islamist forces. Second, the perpetrator ISIS, despite being badly battered and ousted from the land of its Caliphate just a month before, has told the world loud and clear that it still has potential to surprise new territories with its lethal action.

Third, the curious selection of the island nation for the suicide blasts by ISIS, in conjunction with Lankan-based National Thowheeth Jamaath, raises a pertinent question: Whether the erstwhile ethnic divide in Sri Lanka was reborn in religious radicalisation?

However as there has never been any systemic discrimination against Muslims in the Sri Lanka — an essential ingredient for the breeding of religious radicals — this question warrants special attention, also because experience shows that Islamist forces, particularly ISIS, have flourished only in those regions which are afflicted with pre-existing conflicts — sectarian, ethnic, or religious.

Despite local and global intelligence reports suggesting that National Thowheeth Jamaath and its south Indian cohorts have been in touch with ISIS for long, the choice of Sri Lanka for the revolting attacks is more to do with the peaceful island nation being a safe target for ISIS, which is desperate to stay in the reckoning for global Islamist terror leadership. ISIS, which wielded enormous control over huge area stretching from eastern Iraq to western Syria till March this year, is straining every nerve to peddle a global narrative that its loss of 88,000km territory doesn't mean that ISIS has lost its Islamist appeal

for global jihad. And here it needed a solid platform to announce the same.

Seen in this context, the elusive ISIS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi made the first appearance in five years, before the global media in a video message to readily claim the responsibility for the Lankan terror attacks. He used the occasion to outline the crumbling outfit's vision, calling for jihad via war of attrition, and insisting on its propaganda of robust presence in South-east Asia, including the Philippines.

Baghdadi also exhorted the "believers" for hijrah (migration) to the Afghanistan-Pakistan region for recruitment of jihadis. The ramifications can be found in Sri Lanka Army Commander Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake's interview to the BBC in which he claimed that some of the "suicide bombers visited Kashmir and Kerala for some sorts of training or to make some more links with other foreign outfits". Maybe this explains why Sri Lanka became the sure-shot target for homeless Baghdadi, who has lost his last redoubt in Syria.

Although Baghdadi claims caliphate is not bound by the geography, he is raring to gain lost ground in Iraq and Syria. ISIS already has a covert network in Iraq. Therefore, it is essential that the coalition forces should maintain its hold in the areas of ISIS caliphate till it destroys the outfit's raison d'être.

As for Sri Lanka, the island nation needs to ensure ISIS doesn't succeed in having local franchises there. Considering the sophistication of the highly coordinated attacks all by Lankan nationals, the bigger riddle for Colombo is to unravel whether any of its citizen ever fought for ISIS outside the country, and, more specifically, to ensure, if they did, they



SWARN KUMAR ANAND

Lankan Muslims have backed the Government's crackdown methods against the Islamists in the wake of the Easter blasts, but the success of the efforts hinges on the narrative the Lankan Govt is able to construct

land in prison.

Although Sri Lankan Muslims have supported the Government's crackdown methods against the Islamists in the wake of the Easter bombings, the success of the efforts hinges on the narrative the Government is able to construct. Any ostentatious action against religious-cultural symbol is fraught with the danger of spawning more radicals born out of the narrative of the State operation. Therefore, the burqa (face veil) ban may be a pragmatic decision — considering the fact that some of women accomplices of the suicide bombers had fled the scene in burqa — for the time being till the raids and investigation are over, the ban should be lifted as soon as possible before Islamist outfits can exploit the situation with newfound purpose and energy.

(The writer is Associate Editor & News Editor, The Pioneer)



A CROATIAN MAN NAMED FRANE SELAK HAS ESCAPED DEATH SEVEN TIMES. IN 2003, HE ALSO WON A MILLION US DOLLARS IN LOTTERY

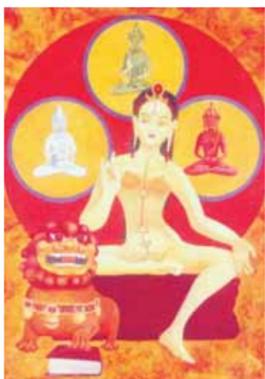
YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You are going to enjoy good health along with high vitality and vigour. This week, you are disciplined and health conscious. It is advisable to start the week with a resolution to live a healthy and enjoyable life. You are capable to regularise your routine, discipline your senses. Your career shows a good indication this week and you will experience a sudden financial gain. The change is positive, the business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or the desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for project work. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special are indicated for you. Married couples may go on a pleasure trip and their bonding will become stronger. **Lucky number 39**
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you will experience immense anxiety and tension. You are extremely worried about the future, and this will give you sleepless nights. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration, and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from sycophants as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. The best part is that you are positive and know how to control the situation and come out as the winner. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into a marriage. **Lucky number 31**
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, you will enjoy good health, vigour, and stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On the career front, you should have a practical approach and need to take some important decisions about your career/business. There are chances of you being emotionally blackmailed at the workplace. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will witness a one-sided love, therefore, you need to have lots of patience and strength. Otherwise you will lose your mental peace. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of some important responsibilities. Married couples will have a mutual understanding. **Lucky number 13**
Lucky colour Navy blue
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Health-wise, this week will be good. You will feel abundant in energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help meet the needs of your health and will also be the motivating factor to maintain a balance between physical and mental level. You may slow down in your career front because you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors. You will feel restricted in life. Your addiction like alcohol, overspending or unhealthy relationship may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from these negativities. In the area of love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. Leave instant temptation of gratification for the higher cause. Singles need to wait before committing to a relationship. **Lucky number 18**
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter mental conflict and nervousness that may cause BP. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In your career, you will prove yourself as trustworthy. It is likely to have genuine affection for someone in the work area and this can be a reason for your success. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. Those in the job, the favour of the senior will boost up their confidence. Your amicable behaviour and communication will work in your favour. In the matter of love, you may feel blessed. People will like you for your affectionate and romantic nature. **Lucky number 17**
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, it is important that you look after your health. You have been avoiding this important issue for a long time now and, therefore, a visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good and will help you have a peaceful personality. You have good news waiting on your career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to the desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship. **Lucky number 28**
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

To maintain good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements — earth, water, air, fire, and sky. You are likely to feel ignited and need a balanced approach to life. Any irregularity in diet and lifestyle will have a bad impact on you. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills and techniques. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is you are committed to make these changes. This week, you will be lucky in love matters and have a high level of emotional contentment. You will see perfection all around you and experience an emotionally fulfilling situation. Joy and happiness are within your reach. **Lucky number 21**
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you are full of energy, creativity, and positive energy. Your health and vitality will be good. You need to utilise the energy in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain balance within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader and people will listen to you. You will win hearts with your kind and honest nature. You are likely to emerge as an efficient participant in meetings and collaborations. Support from opposite sex will help you achieve success. Those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exams, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in a relationship by showing generosity. Presenting a gift to your partner may create magic and strengthen your love. **Lucky number 11**
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You are filled with positive energy this week. Recovery from illness and leading a healthy life are indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Follow a healthy routine like physical exercise and a balanced diet to stay fit and healthy. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your senior authorities and may come in the top list of the boss. Promotion is likely. There could be a new beginning such as a new job or a new residence. In terms of love life, a manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan for a date or romantic trip. Married couples may have a mutual understanding. **Lucky number 14**
Lucky colour Pastel green
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you will be careful in all health related issues. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill. This is the time you need to forge cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors for new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard-earned money will be spent on expenses and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get a good message of love. Romance with your desired partner is on the cards. Your commitment and loyalty will strengthen your relationship. **Lucky number 12**
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

In the matters of health, the change is for good. The mental tension and fatigue due to the fast-moving life will go away and you will feel relaxed. Physical exercise and being one with nature will be best for you. You are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured and they are likely to be called for an interview. Good news in terms of promotion or salary hike is on the cards. Your hard working and goal-oriented attitude will pay off. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In your love life, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and leave you disheartened. You have to leave the old school thinking and form a modern outlook towards your partner. **Lucky number 19**
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week, you will be moody and irritated. You might face health issues like headache, nausea, or BP. You need to control the wild aspect of your mind and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. When it comes to career, you need to take action towards your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life and clear any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed before you see results. This week, your career will face lots of challenges. Give your best efforts, and optimise the strengths. The abundance of happiness is stored for you in terms of a relationship. Balance and stability in love are on the cards. Unmarried people may get marriage proposals. You will be soful, passionate, and romantic and leave no stone unturned to make your partner happy. **Lucky number 29**
Lucky colour Sky blue
Lucky day Tuesday

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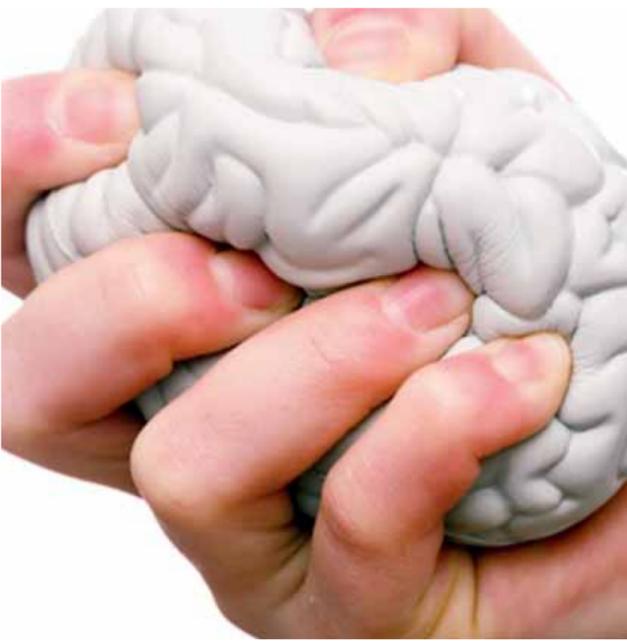
Of habit tendencies and stress

The recent annual Gallup Poll suggests that 55 per cent of Americans are subject to stress, anger, and worry, compared to the global average of 35 per cent, following negative experiences they undergo on various counts. In another study, Cigna, a wellness organisation, suggests that 82 per cent of Indians suffer from stress. These figures, based on a very small sample size, may not present a true picture. Be that as it may, but there is no denying the fact that general stress level is quite high, deserving attention. And this mental malaise is growing day by day. In America, I observed that those suffering from stress and anxiety unhesitatingly seek expert's help. In India, on the contrary, majority of people try to evade any medical help, as if that would be a social stigma. People feel that once mental imbalance in a person, temporary though, becomes public, they will not be taken kindly. Instead, they prefer going for belief-driven puja.

Stress, as it stands, is a mental predicament. Can a pundit's prayers enter the victim's mind for necessary correction? It is really difficult to digest. The fact remains that once a person comes under stress, the first casualty is hormonal

imbalance, which in turn further compounds the stress. This way, a person gets caught up in a circuitous web, when he/she often loses sense of reason and direction. Under such a situation, counselling doesn't work, as any fresh educational input doesn't get registered in their mind. But when hormonal balance gets restored through medication, the person becomes receptive, and therefore, could respond to counselling.

But why stress? Given a situation, real or assumed, when a person is not able to cope up, he/she comes under pressure. It could be because of not being able to meet aspirational urges; when met with unforeseen circumstances and challenges for which one may not be prepared; unpalatable societal atmosphere; or even assumed negative thoughts. For someone with an inflated ego, it becomes difficult to digest things happenings beyond their predefined parameters. Such a situation could lead to tremendous emotional upsurge, in turn leading to acute stress. The question now is: How to lead a stress-free life? That, however, is simply inconceivable. The universe is in continued motion. Human life, too, is always in action. And no movement is possible without being



met with resistance. Even while apparently idling, a person's mind keeps flirting with uninterrupted streams of thoughts (some of them assumed). The mind in itself is potent enough to successively breed contrarian thoughts. Not to mention being confronted with challenges thrown by competing interests and unforeseen circumstantial constraints while pursuing the tasks in hand.

What, however, really matters is how we deal with the challenges. Some of us may take it in our stride and deal with them intelligently. Those unable to cope may stretch the problems beyond their due. Caught up in its melee, such people fail to perceive issues in hand in perspective. They often come under mental, emotional, or physical pressure leading to mental fatigue, exhaustion, and a sense of incapacitation. This may result in a sense of fear and insecurity. If left uncared for long, stress may assume serious proportions, calling for medical intervention. The question now is in a given situation, why do individuals respond in varied ways? The unique character of a being, according to one's mind, is preconditioned — virtues and attributes; likes and dislikes; prejudices and obsessions; habits and attitudes — hold the key to how one responds to a situation. A positively ori-

ented mind can handle the usual trials and tribulations of life logically. A negatively charged person may unthinkingly fall into the stress trap and start playing the victim card. What's the way out?

The answer lies in awareness. First, look within — the core strengths and weaknesses. Identify, acknowledge, and address the fault lines and optimise the strengths. Explore the hard realities of life and accordingly equip oneself through suitable educative inputs. Many a times, one's egotistical mind fails to acknowledge one's fault lines. In such a situation, astrology may prove handy, as it knows no bias. Here is a case study: Lagna and Moon signs are both owned by Mercury, which is conjunct headless Ketu and also opposite Mars. That, in the first place, implies that he wishes to live on his own exclusive terms. Second, if ever faced with contrarian views, he becomes overcritical, and in a state of anger, passes caustic remarks, often offending those around. Stress, thus, has become a regular feature of his life.

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