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IT'S A BUSY

14 VIVACIT

YEAR FOR ME: BHUMI

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LUCKNOW, THURSDAY MAY 9, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3

In hung House, call us first: Opp front No work culture

Post-poll alliance to impress on Prez not to give BJP-led NDA chance to form Govt if it fails to get majority

PNS NEW DELHI

Opposition parties have scheduled a meeting on May 21, two days ahead of the Lok Sabha results, to prepare a plan to approach the President of India in 2000 the President of India in case the BJP-led NDA is not able to cross halfway mark in the Lok Sabha to impress upon him not to call the single largest party to form a Government.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who has been toiling hard to unite the Opposition, called on Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday and discussed plans to hold the

meeting.

"Naidu and Rahul discussed the post-poll scenario and more or less agreed to call a meeting of Opposition parties on May 21," said AICC leader. In a brief meeting, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief is believed to have also discussed the voter-verified

paper audit trail issue, voting percentage in the five phases, besides the reports about the Andhra Pradesh Assembly election results.

The Rahul-Naidu meeting comes a day after TRS chief K Chandrashekhar Rao met Kerala Chief Minister Vijayan Pinarayi to revive the formation of a non-BJP and non-Congress Federal Front at the Centre. Political sources said Centre. Political sources said though KCR has always been seen "close" to the NDA fold, his meeting with Vijayan opened the possibility of him joining the Congress-led Opposition camp as Left may not support the BJP.

The Lok Sabha has 543 elected members and the

elected members and the majority mark stands at 272. The BJP had won majority in the 2014 general elections with 282 seats and the combined strength of the NDA went up to 336 seats in the Lok Sabha.

The Andhra Pradesh CM was in Delhi to attend the



Supreme Court hearing on a

physical verification of EVMs using VVPATs. The court dispetition filed by the Opposition parties to review its judgment rejecting 50 per cent random which the parties again met the

Election Commission to press their demand.

After meeting Rahul, Naidu headed for West Bengal

Recalling an instance post 1998 elections, then President KR Narayanan had insisted that Atal Bihari Vajpayee produce letters of support before he was called to form the Government and seek a floor of the House.

While the BJP had won 178 seats, the alliance had 252

The Government, however, collapsed after 13 months, when it lost the vote of confidence by a single vote.

to attend public rallies in sup-port of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the next two days. Sources said in case the

May 23 result throws split verdict, 21 Opposition parties are planning to meet the President to impress upon him not to call the single largest party to form a Government.

Continued on Page 6

Large number of VVPAT checks may delay poll

IANS NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha elections results may be delayed by a day due to increased number of VVPAT verifications, sources in the Election Commission said on Wednesday.

results by a day

"As per the previous plan, the results of the elections are scheduled to be declared on May 23. But the results may be delayed and the final results may be declared to May 24 due to increased number of VVPAT verifications," the official said.

Explaining the reason, the EC official said that an increase in the number of VVPAT verification from one to five polling booths in each Assembly segment of a Parliamentary constituency, as directed by the apex court on April 8, could delay the count-

ing by more than five-six hours. In a setback to the Opposition, the Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to increase the count for verification of VVPAT slips with EVMs in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

DM changes timing of schools in city

Lucknow: In view of the hot weather conditions, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma has changed the timing of schools with effect from May 10 (Thursday). All the schools up to Class 12 will open from 7 am to 11 am.

'Desh me aandhi Priyanka Gandhi' echoes in Delhi

Cong leader holds roadshows for Sheila, Vijendra

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Wednesday held two roadshows in support of Sheila Dikshit, the party candidate from North East Delhi constituency and its South Delhi candidate Vijender Singh. Priyanka drew a huge crowd as people lustily cheered

her along the roadshow.

Perched atop a minibus that started from Seelampur, a minority dominated area, Priyanka and Sheila waved at the ebullient hordes of supporters who were raising slo-gans "Desh me aandhi Priyanka Gandhi".

Thousands of people, standing on rooftops, balconies and roadside waved the Congress flags and welcomed Priyanka by raising pro-Congress slogans.

The Congress banners adorned the road. People jostled with each other to catch a glimpse of Priyanka. Some were also showering rose petals on her as the minibus she was travelling on passed by.
Priyanka exhorted the

people of Delhi to throw out the Modi Government which thrives on lies and falsehood to

mislead the people.
"Modi has been telling lies and trying to mislead the people, and India is now at the crossroads, for the first time after Independence, seeking a dynamic change," said Priyanka adding that such a change can happen only if the people elect a



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, along with the party's Northeast Delhi candidate Sheila Dikshit, waves at supporters during a mega roadshow for the Lok Sabha polls in New Delhi on Wednesday

Congress Government to power at the Centre.

Priyanka said how can those people who do not understand Delhi can serve the people of Delhi.

She said she is the daughter of Delhi and knows the lanes and by-lanes of Delhi like the lines on her palms, and knows the problems, pains and dilemmas of the people of Delhi, their daily struggles to

eke out a living.

Priyanka, coming down heavily on Modi's notebandi

(demonetisation) GST, said it is one of biggest financial scandals the country had ever

witnessed. "Prime Minister Modi, without any forethought and planning, with his arrogance, inflicted a heavy blow to the country with these financial scams. India, which was competing with the developed countries in all spheres, has now been sidelined as the growth of the country has been stalled, and India is on the verge of being out of even among the category of developing countries," said Privanka.

Priyanka started her roadshow in favour of Sheila Dikshit in the North East Delhi Lok Sabha seat from the Bhrampuri Pulia, Bhrampuri Road in the Seelampur Assembly con-

The roadshow travelled through the Seelampur, Ghonda and Babarpur Assembly constituencies and the route was such that people

in the neighbouring Assembly constituencies also could participate in the roadshow.

In the second roadshow in favour of Congress candidate from the South Delhi Parliamentary constituency Vijender Singh, Priyanka Gandhi started her journey from Virat Cinema in the Devli Assembly constituency, and passed through Dakshinpuri Extension, Maharshi Balmiki Marg, covering the Devli and Ambedkar Nagar Assembly constituencies.

is AAP's model for Delhi: Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being garlanded during an election ca

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent attack on the AAP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said they supported the "tukde-tukde" gang and brought the "nakampanthi" model of gravanaga to and brought the nakampan-thi" model of governance to the national Capital. "Till now, we have witne-ssed four models of political traditions in the country

'Nampanthi, Daampanthi, Vaampanthi, Vikaspanthi'. But only in Delhi, there is a fifth model called Nakampanthi. This means the one who rejects work related to Delhi's development and fail when development and fall when they try to work. People of Delhi have been fooled by a bunch of 'nakampanthis' who had come on the promise of bringing new kind of politics but they have become synonymous with anarchy and obstructionism. Foul language and taking U-turns have become their identity. It means "not allowing Centre's Ayushmaan Bharat in Delhi hospitals," said Modi while addressing his first 2019 poll rally in Delhi at the Ramlila Maidan without naming the

The PM was accompanied by the BJP's seven Lok Sabha candidates for the national Capital. "We have focused on making the lives of the middle class in Delhi easier. Be it ensuring easier & cheaper housing, cheaper bills for mobile phones & medicines or exempting the income up to ₹5 lakh per year from tax net, they have been at the core of our governance," Modi said while addressing the mam-

moth crowd. He said the BJP has reduced pollution and traffic jam in Delhi by building east-ern and western peripherals. Enumerating steps taken out to reduce level of pollution in the national Capital, the PM said, "After the construction of

the eastern and western peripheral, the trucks reach their destination without taking the road from within Delhi, thus reducing pollution and traffic jam. Inflation was always an important poll issue, but now Opposition is not able to corner Government on this."

Training his guns on the Congress, Modi said, "I want to tell the people of our country about those who actually treated our Armed forces as their personal property. Former PM Rajiv Gandhi took his in-laws and their family members from Italy to a personal holiday on Naval

warship INS Vikrant."

"They gave strength to those who are against Punjab and supports Khalistan. They even went abroad and contacted the anti-national forces," he said.

"For the first time, the accused of 1984 anti-Sikh riots have been brought behind bars and given punishment for their crimes. After more than 30 years, the law has reached the perpetrators of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. For the first time, they have reached the bars, they have reached the gallows, the PM

Thanking the people of the city, Modi said, "I am for-tunate that you provided me with the opportunity to serve you. Before I give you an account of my work, I would like to extend my gratitude to every person in Delhi."

"In the past five years, I have criss-crossed the city several times. My security contingent was always with me and I saw people waiting for me to pass. Each time I used to think about how people are running late because of me. This is not my habit and was never my intention," he said amidst thunderous applause of the

Rahul apologises to SC for chor misquote

PNS NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday tendered unconditional apology in the Supreme Court for wrongfully attributing his "chowkidar chor hai" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the apex court in the Rafale

Rahul, who filed an additional affidavit, said he holds the Supreme Court in the "highest esteem and respect" and any attributions to it were "entirely unintentional, nonwilful and inadvertent".

He also urged the top court to close the criminal contempt proceedings initiated on a petition filed by BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi, who alleged that Rahul attributed the personal remarks to the apex court and tried to create prejudice. The Congress leader has

repeatedly hurled "chowkidar chor hai" (the watchman is a thief) jibe at Modi to target him over the Rafale deal.

Later in the day at a public rally in Madhya Pradesh, Rahul said the "chowkidar chor hai" slogan has not been coined by the Congress or him but by the youths and labourers of the country. "This slogan was not coined by the Congress, or by Rahul Gandhi, but it is a slogan of the youth, farmers and labourers of India," he said in Bhind.

The three-page affidavit was filed by the Congress president after he had drawn rebuke from the Supreme court on April 30 over his earlier affidavit in which he had not directly admitted his mistake for incorrectly attributing the allegedly contemptuous remark

to the top court.

Continued on Page 6

'Oust Modi' our Quit India drive: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The Modi-Mamata battle kept pace with the rising mid-May mercury as the Bengal Chief Minister on Wednesday packed more punch to her anti-saffron campaign equating her "oust-Modi" call to Mahatma Gandhi's "quit India" campaign against the British in 1942.

Addressing a huge rally at Purulia, Mamata Banerjee said, "As in 1942 our leaders had launched the Quit India movement against the British Government finally driving them out of India, we have now given a call to oust Modi who is running a fascist Govt."

She went on to add,

"Someone has to bell the cat, and it was me who has taken the responsibility to do so."

The BJP is "dangerous"

and Modi is "dangerous" too which is why he has no right to remain in power in Delhi, Mamata said replying to an ear-

lier jibe from the Prime Minister who had accused her of non-performance and perpetrating goonda raj in Bengal. She said the Modi Government has done nothing,

except creating division in the society and inciting riots.

The people of the country had read through the Prime Minister's "evil designs of giving false promises and when the day of reckoning came he would hide behind the securi-

ty forces", said Mamata. "Last time he came and told you that he was the son of a chaiwala (tea vendor) which he is not. This time he has exhausted all the tea leaf, sugar and milk and has reappeared before you as a chowkidar.

But the people have seen through his tricks and are calling the chowkidar by a different name. My opinion about him is apart from everything, he is a liar too as he has not kept his promises of transfer-ring ₹15 lakh in each bank

accounts or creating 2 crore jobs per year," Mamata said. "Instead of creating jobs, he

slapped GST and demonetisation on the country in the name of unearthing black money which he could not and ended up destroying 3 crore jobs," she said adding India has decided to do away with a "liar Prime Minister."

Attacking Modi and the BJP for creating an "emergency-like situation in the country," Mamata said,
"Nobody can speak out in public against him as they are afraid of Modi," adding there was a need to "stop this fascism and environment of terror."

Meanwhile, post poll vio-lence continued in the districts of Bengal as TMC, BJP and Left cadre clashed in North 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Howrah and other places.

At Khandghosh in Burdwan, a CPI(M) polling agent was killed by alleged TMC miscreants for refusing to



West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee addresses an election campaign rally in favour of the party candidate from Ghatal constituency actor Dipak Adhikary, popularly known as Dev, for the Lok Sabha polls, at Debra in West Midnapore district on Wednesday

leave the polling booth and

challenging bogus votes. At Bhatpara, the TMC workers attacked houses of BJP members. At Uttarpara and Dhaniakhali, the houses of

CPI(M) supporters were ransacked by alleged TMC men as they reportedly defied their orders and went to cast their votes, sources said. FIRs has been lodged in all the cases.

CAPSULE

VICTIMISED FOR TAKING UP CHARGE AGAINST CJI New Delhi: Senior Advocates Indira Jaising and Anand Grover have taken objection to victimisation for taking up the issue of sexual harassment charge against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. A SC notice has been served on them and their NGO on a plea alleging FCRA violation by them. They said they are "deeply disturbed by the turn of events".

WILL THROW YOU OUT, SC TELLS AMRAPALI New Delhi: The SC has warned the Amrapali Group they can be thrown out and their residential properties transfered to Noida, Greater Noida Authorities.

CONG COINED TERM 'HINDU TERROR': MODI Kurukshetra/Fatehabad: PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday

accused the Congress of coining 'Hindu terror' and keeping the 'innocent in iail'.

'DON'T FALL PREY TO MODI DESIGN'

SP-BSP-RLD alliance's prospects to improve further: Maya

PNS/PTI LUCKNOW

ubbishing the Bharatiya Janata Party's claim that it was doing well in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, leaders of the BSP-SP-RLD combine in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday said that on the contrary, the prospects of their alliance were improving day by

day.
"The prospects of the opposition alliance will further improve in the remaining two phases of the Lok Sabha polls," Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said at joint rally with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Azamgarh.

Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Ajit Singh also addressed the rally held at the Azamgarh Muslim Education and Welfare Trust grounds.

The BSP supremo said ever since the 'mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance) was formed, "BJP leaders have lost their

Mayawati appealed to the voters to ensure a historic win for Yaday, who is the joint opposition candidate from the seat held by the Samajwadi Party in the outgoing Lok

After SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav's appeal to voters to back his son, Mayawati said, 'You all should ensure victory of Akhilesh in such a way that the BJP candidate (Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua) does not muster courage to contest

Hitting out at the BJP, the BSP chief said, "We are not 'mahamilawati', it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is 'mahamilawati' (highly adul-



Samaiwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samai Party chief Mayawati, RLD chief Ajit Singh, SP general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav, Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand, BSP leader Satish Chandra Mishra at an election rally in Azamgarh on Wednesday

opposition alliance "mahami-

Dubbing the Congress and the BIP two sides of the same coin, she said, "Dono kaa chaal charan ek hai (both have same nature and character)."

Mayawati said Modi would try to create more confusion in the days to come and appealed to the voters not to fall prey to his designs.

"Unkey achhe din ladd gaye (Modi's good days are over) and bad days are staring at his face," she said.

"The BJP got hold of some Modi has often labelled the selfish people belonging to the

backward community after the BSP government of social brotherhood was formed in 2007 and helped them form parties. Whenever elections arrive the BJP gives them money to withdraw their candidature or gives them one or

two seats for their votes," the

BSP chief said. Commenting on formation of a new party by Akhilesh Yadav's uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav, Mayawati said, "Now the BJP has committed dacoity at Akhilesh's house and got his uncle form a new party. Wherever are there BJP candi-

dates, Shivpal's nominees are fielded to cut into the SP's vote share."

"Small organisations of Dalit communities are being propped up by the BJP to divide votes. You all should shun them," she told party cadre and the voters.

In a similar refrain, the SP chief claimed it was "raining votes" for the "mahagathbandhan" in the last five phases of polling and the scenario would be the same in the remaining two phases.

Making fun of Modi, Akhilesh Yadav said he came as a tea vendor and became 'chowkidar', and asked the voters to snatch away his 'chowki'

Hitting out at the attempts being made by the Bharatiya Janata Party to drive a wedge between the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Śamaj Party, former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav said the alliance of his party with the BSP would last till UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was sent back to Gorakhpur as mahant of (Gorakhnath) temple.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said the alliance would oust

alliance only to oust Narendra Modi from the Centre... we will not keep quiet until he and his disciple Yogi are unseated from power," Yadav said. "Our alliance will not fall apart until we send Yogi back to his math (temple) in

both Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Yogi Adityanath from

power. "No matter how much

you try, this alliance is not going

to break. The alliance will go a

long way. We have not forged this

Gorakhpur," he said. Akhilesh Yadav, who is contesting against BJP's Dinesh

Lal Yadav alias Nirahua, a Bhojpuri star, in Azamgarh, claimed that the SP-BSP-RLD alliance would get the maximum number of seats in UP.

"I honoured Dinesh Lal Yadav during my regime. Now

PGV to resume campaign in **UP** today



PNS LUCKNOW

favour their chief.

Pradesh as compared to 2014

when it bagged a whopping 71 seats out of 80, besides its ally

Apna Dal winning two.
Sharing stage with the BSP

and the SP bosses, RLD chief

Ajit Singh said Modi's days as

prime minister were over. He

appealed to the people to vote

The Samajwadi Chief's

out the "government of liars".

decision to contest from his

father Mulayam Singh Yadav's constituency is being read as a

move to consolidate the Yadav,

Dalit and Muslim voters in the

eastern UP. The three commu-

nities form the crux of the SP-

and Yadavs have won the

Azamgarh Lok Sabha seat.

Ramakant Yadav won the seat

as SP candidate in 1996 and

1999. He won the seat again as

BSP candidate in 2004 and on

Also, in the 2017 Uttar

Pradesh assembly election, the

SP bagged three of the five

Assembly segments in Azamgarh and the BSP won

two. Azamgarh is one of the 14

Lok Sabha seats that will vote

on Sunday, May 12, in the sixth

round of the parliamentary

Since 1989, only Muslims

BSP-RLD alliance.

ongress general secretary **○**Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will resume her campaign in Uttar Pradesh with two rallies and a roadshow on Thursday.

She will addresses two rallies and take out a roadshow in Sultanpur, where her aunt Maneka Gandhi is pitted against Congress leader Sanjay

In 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Priyanka's cousin Varun Gandhi, had contested from Sultanpur and won the seat by a huge margin. This time, Varun has swap his parliamentary seat with his mother Maneka, who had contested from Pilibhit in 2014.

According to Congress MLA Aradhana Mishra, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will campaign for Congress candidates in Pratapgarh and Jaunpur along with Sultanpur. Mishra claimed that

BJP ticket in 2009. The seat was held by Akbar Ahmed Dumpy Priyanka would start with a public meeting in Pratapgarh at as a BSP candidate in 1998. In 2014, the combined vote 1:30 pm in support of party of SP and BSP in Azamgarh candidate Ratna Singh. Ratna was over 63 per cent, a factor that favours Akhilesh Yadav. Singh won the seat in 2009 but lost it in 2014.

Thereafter, Priyanka will fly to Jaunpur to address her second rally of the day in support of party candidate Devvrat

The Congress general secretary will then reach Sultanpur and participate in a roadshow from 4:30 pm in support party candidate Sanjay Singh.

Modi, Shah to address rallies in UP today

PNS LUCKNOW

With the Lok Sabha elections reaching the penultimate phase, senior leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party have intensified electioneering with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the lead. Modi will address three rallies in Uttar Pradech on Thursday w president Amit Shah will address four public meeting the same day.

BJP spokesman Manish Dixit said the Prime Minister would address election meetings at Azamgarh, Jaunpur and Prayagraj on Thursday between 1300 hours and 1700 hours.

The Prime Minister's rally in Azamgarh assumes importance because Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav is in the fray from there. Akhilesh's father Mulayam Singh Yadav had won the Azamgarh seat in the 2014 election.

The BJP has fielded Bhojpuri superstar Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' from Azamgarh, replacing Ramakant Yaday, who left the party after being denied ticket and has joined the Congress. "There is no doubt



that Akhilesh Yadav being former chief minister and national president of Samajwadi Party is a heavyweight. But the BJP candidate is giving a tough fight. He is a craze among youths and after the Prime Minister's rally, the scenario will change," Dixit said.

The SP-BSP-RLD alliance partners held a joint rally in Azamgarh on Wednesday that was addressed by Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav.

After his public meeting in Jaunpur, the last rally of the Prime Minister will be in Allahabad from where the BJP has fielded Rita Bahuguna Joshi



who is Tourism minister in Yogi Adityanath government. On the other hand, BJP president Amit Shah will address election rallies at Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Sant Kabir Nagar and Sultanpur on Thursday between 1000 hours and 1500 hours. BJP's prestige is at stake in Sultanpur from where Union Minister Menaka Gandhi is contesting election. She has swapped the seat with her son Feroze Varun Gandhi who is contesting from Pilibhit. Sanjay Singh of Congress and Sonu Singh of SP are the main opposition candidates from this con-

BJP leader assaults couple in Meerut

PNS LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident reported from Meerut, a ruling party leader and his cohorts created a scene in the busy Civil Lines area on Tuesday evening when they not only assaulted a couple but also tore the clothes of the lady.

Surprisingly, the local residents and the policemen as well sided with the BIP leader out. However, on the intervention of senior officers, a case was registered but no further action was taken.

Prashant Singh, a native of Jagriti Vihar in Meerut, whose father Raj Bahadur Singh is a police sub-inspector, was going to the doctor's clinic on PL Sharma road on Tuesday evening to get his sick wife examined. When the couple was crossing Meghdoot Puliya crossing under Civil Lines police station, a speeding Scorpio hit their motorcycle.

When the couple objected to rash driving, Digvijay Singh, a local BJP leader, two of his henchmen and a woman wearing burqa stepped out the Scorpio and first thrashed the

Singh and his goons allegedly tore the clothes of Prahant's wife. She had to take her husband's T-shirt to save her modesty.

Agitated over the molestation, the woman lay down before the Scorpio and stopped the accused from fleeing. Later, over 100 local residents gathered but they all sided with the BIP leader. Éven the local cops took the side of the BJP leader and threatened the couple to leave the place.

officers reached the spot and found that the entire incident was already recorded, they got a case registered against Digvijay Singh and other accused to save themselves from embarrassment.

However, when the senior

Interestingly, the cops made no arrest in this regard and claimed that investigation was still on and whosoever was found guilty would be arrested.

Meanwhile, the body of a 28-year-old woman with bullet wounds was found near a highway in Satheri village of Muzaffarnagar. The body was recovered by a team of the Ratenpuri police station and sent for post-mortem on Tuesday.

Woman, daughter killed as gas cylinder explodes

Lucknow: A woman and her 16-year-old daughter were killed when a gas cylinder exploded in their house in Salarpur village of Bahraich.

The incident occurred on Tuesday night in the house of Juresh killing his wife Munn Devi (40) and their daughter Karishma while their son Neeraj suffered serious burn injuries, camp in-charge of SSB Abhishek Kumar said.

The fire engulfed at least 20 houses in the vicinity, officials said. The explosion took place in the thatched house of Suresh when a programme was going on there. Following the incident, the villagers rushed to the SSB

camp for help, Kumar said. On the request of SSB, a fire tender from Gulariya in Nepal came and extinguished fire," the SSB camp in-charge said. Gulariya is a municipality and headquarters of Bardiya district in the Bheri zone of southwestern Nepal in the plains of the Terai region near the southern border with the Bahraich.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE-OT-03-2019 Dv. Chief Electrical Engineer/Con./N.E.Railway/Lucknow for and or behalf of President of India invites "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work: S. Tender Description of Work Approx. Earnest **Description of Work** Design, supply, Erection, ₹ 15,23,27,533.09 ₹ 9,11,600/ OT/ Testing & Commissioning Cost of Tender form: ₹ 10,000/of 25 KV, 50 Hz, Single Completion Period: 09 Months Phase, AC Electrification OHE works for proposed second line in Burhwal-Munda Gopal Ashram(H) Section in connection to Burhwal-Sitapur Cantt Doubling Project. Date & Time of Closing of E-Tender- 29-05-2019 at 14:30 hrs.

Note:- • Mannual offers are not accepted against this tender and any such manual offer received, shall be ignored. For full details and submission of bid, Kindly visit the official website of Indian Railways i.e. http:// version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed CPRO/Vidyut-13 **Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Con/Lucknow** CPRO/Vidyut-13

Do not travel with inflammable article in train.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Administrative Officer/Con., North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following

E-Works lenders:

E-Tender No. & Name of Work | Approximate value | Earnest Money

S.No-1 :- DY CE-CON-HQ-GKP ₹ 16,12,77,003.34 | ₹ 9,55,400.00/
-14-2019 Dated 07.05.2019 | Cost of Tender Form : ₹ 10,000.00

Construction of substructure of Completion Period :12(Twelve) Months P1 & P2 for the bridge No. 16 across river Ghaghra between Manjhi and Bakulha stations on Varanasi-Chhapra rail section using floating

caisson method. Bidding Start date - 16.05.2019

Last date of Submission of above E-Tender up to 15.00 hrs on 30.05.2019
 Date of opening of above E-Tender 15.00 hrs on 30.05.2019.

 Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions is available on website https://ireps.gov.in • In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.

Shri Jitender Kumar Singh, Dy.CE/Con/HQ Mobile No. 9794844266 PRO/W-64 Dy Chief Engineer/Con/HQ, Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955
"Never travel on roof and foot boards" CPRO/W-64

One BJP & Yuva Vahini worker should be present at each booth: Adityanath

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR

Tttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday asked for the presence of at least one worker of the BJP and fringe group Hindu Yuva Vahini at every electoral booth on polling day. In a joint meeting of the BJP and Hindu Yuva Vahini workers here, Adityanath told them to bring people to the booth and make

During the meet, in which 15 out of 115 booth presidents were absent, the BJP leader asked the party workers to become active instead of the formality of merely working on

The Chief Minister told them to do doorto-door campaigning, have voter lists and resolve poll-related issues. "Booth is the primary unit for winning election and PM Modi says when each worker and booth president wins his booth, election would be won," Adityanath said.

'One BJP and one HYV worker each should remain present at every booth, he said. "If you



could ensure 70 per cent polling, the city (Gorakhpur) could give a lead of at least 1.5-2 lakh to the party nominee."

"When the Election Commission restricted me after the Bajrangbali statement, I decided to visit Bajrangbali temple wherever I found," Adityanath said.

He told them to make the voters aware of the development work.

Amethi youths letter in blood to EC

Lucknow (PNS): Upset at the use of abusive language by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a youth from Amethi has sent a letter written in blood to the Election Commission seeking directive for the Prime Minister to abstain from making objectionable comments that hurt the sentiments of the people.

Manoj Kashyap of Shahgarh locality in Amethi has allegedly written that he was "traumatised" by the statement of the Prime Minister against late Rajiv Gandhi. Praising the work done by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the youth claimed that Rajivji was known for his contribution to the country, including lowering of the voting age to 18 years, implementation of panchayati raj system, bringing computer revolution in the country. He said late Rajiv Gandhi was also the architect of modern

"Former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee had also praised Rajiv Gandhi in an article," he pointed out.

Kashyap further wrote that for the people of Amethi, anyone who insulted Rajiv Gandhi was akin to those who assassi-

The reference was obviously to Modi referring to late Rajiv Gandhi as 'Bhrashtachari No. I' in a recent election rally. The letter has been shared on the Twitter handle of Congress MLC Deepak Singh.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CUSTOMS, INDIRECT **TAXES & NARCOTICS, FARIDABAD**

EXAMINATION FOR CONFIRMATION OF ENROLLMENT OF GST PRACTITIONERS

The National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) has been authorized to conduct an examination for confirmation of enrollment of Goods and Services Tax Practitioners (GSTPs) in terms of the sub-rule (3) of Rule 83 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017, vide Notification No. 24/2018-Central Tax dated 28.5.2018.

The GSTPs enrolled on the GST Network under sub-rule (2) of Rule 83 and covered by clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 83, i.e. those meeting the eligibility criteria of having enrolled as sales tax practitioners or tax return preparer under the existing law for a period not less than five years, are required to pass the said examination before 31.12.2019 in terms of Notification no. 03/2019-Central Tax dated 29.01.2019. Two such examinations for such GSTPs have already been conducted on 31.10.2018 and 17.12.2018. The next examination for them shall be conducted on 14.06.2019 from 1100 hrs to 1330 hrs at designated examination centers across India.

It will be a Computer Based Exam. The registration for the exam can be done by the eligible GSTPs on a registration portal, link of which will be provided on NACIN and CBIC websites. The registration portal for exam scheduled on 14.06.2019 will be activated on 21st May, 2019 and will remain open up to 4th June, 2019. For convenience of candidates, a help desk will also be set up, details of which will be made available on the registration portal. The applicants are required to make online payment of examination fee of Rs. 500/- at the time of registration for this exam.

> **Principal Director General** NACIN, Faridabad

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<u>he pioneer</u> LUCKNOW | THURSDAY | MAY 9, 2019

Love-lorn couple end lives after | Training of poll personnel for parents' refusal to marriage

Ayouth and a girl were found hanging from a tree in a mango grove in Malihabad on Wednesday morning, fuelling speculations of honour killing. However, police said the love-lorn couple ended their life as their respective families were against their marriage.

The youth was identified as Ranjeet Rawat (20) and the girl as Seema (name changed), both residents of Sahijanwa village. As per reports, some villagers pass by the mango grove, owned by Gyanendra Singh, and spotted the bodies hanging from a tree. The girl's feet were touching the ground and there were bruises on both the bodies. It appeared that the two were beaten up.

As the news spread, villagers reached the scene in large numbers. On being informed, a police team also reached the place. It surfaced during investigation that the couple were in love.

The girl's marriage was fixed with another person by her family. However, Ranjeet talked to that person and disclosed his affair with the girl. After that, the girl's marriage was cancelled," villagers told

The father of the girl told the police that Seema left home

Man found hanging in boutique, act captured by CCTV camera

A 44-year-old man was found hanging inside his boutique in Ganeshganj under Naka police station area on

Wednesday morning.
According to SHO, Naka,
Upendra Agrawal of Takiya
Ganeshganj locality had his boutique in the area. "Upendra opened the shop around 10 am on Wednesday. Around 11 am, his employee reached the shop and found him hanging from the ceiling with a *dupatta* tied around his neck. His act was captured in the CCTV camera installed at the shop and there is no doubt that he ended his life," the Naka SHO said.

around 8 am, saying she was going to relieve herself. "But she did not come back. A little later, we were informed that she and Ranjeet had committed suicide," Seema's father told

The Malihabad SHO discounted the theory of honour



He said the body was sent for autopsy and further investigations were underway. "Upendra probably took the

killing, saying no such evidence or inputs were obtained during probe. "There were no injury marks on the body barring the ligature marks around the necks of both. In light of the circumstantial evidence, it seems that they met in the mango grove and decided to

step due to some family issue or financial crisis. As the family members are grief-stricken at the moment, we could not quiz them," the SHO said.

Meanwhile, in another incident, a labourer, identified as Anuj of Atrauli (Hardoi), ended his life at his rented house in Bargadi village of Bakshi-Ka-Talab on Wednesday. Reports said Anuj was found hanging form the ceiling with a gamchha tied around his neck. A police team took the body off the noose and sent it for autopsy. "He was found hanging in a room on the second floor. The police did not recover suicide note," a spokesman said.

end their lives as their families were not ready for their marriage," the SHO said.

He said the bodies were sent for autopsy and further investigations were on. "We will talk to the villagers to reach a conclusion as to why the two ended their lives," he added.

counting of votes from May 14

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

The 4-day training of 600 polling personnel for counting of votes will begin on May 14. The counting of votes is scheduled for May 23. The counting will take place at Rama Bai Sthal for the nine constituencies of Lucknow, including five Vidhan Sabha constituencies of Lucknow and four of Mohanlalganj.

Chief development officer (CDO) Manish Bansal said arrangements included setting up of 14 tables in each room allotted for each constituency. "Fourteen tables will be set up for each constituency in nine rooms and postal ballot will be counted separately in a separate room," he said. He added that only in case of the Sidhauli constituency of Mohanlalganj, the counting would take place in Sitapur because the EVMs had been kept there.

'The results from Sidhauli will be taken via e-mail and fax and will be compiled and announced along with results of other constituencies," he said. He added that the last randomisation of polling personnel would take place either on the eve of the counting or iust before counting. "In this randomisation, they are allotted the tables where they have to count the votes polled," he



SSP Kalanidhi Naithani reviewing the security of strong room, where EVMs are kept, at Ramabai Rally Sthal

the CDO said.

Asked about the number

Asked about the number of VVPAT slips to be count-cy will be counted, which

ed, he said: "A total of five means a total of 45 VVPAT slips will be counted during

onslaught continues

Lucknow (PNS): The inexorable onslaught of hot weather conditions continued on Wednesday as the maximum temperature was settled at 43.7 degree Celsius, which was five notches above normal.

There is no relief in store as the weatherman has forecast heat wave and dry weather conditions in isolated parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

In Lucknow, the maximum temperature is expected to be around 44 degree Celsius.

In the state, Banda was the hottest at 46.2 degree Celsius, followed by Allahabad 45.8 degree Celsius, Sultanpur 45.4 degree Celsius, Hamirpur 45.2 degree Celsius, and Varanasi

Heatwave | Elderly women duped of jewellery by imposters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

Two miscreants posing as cops duped an elderly woman of her gold ornaments in Vikas Nagar on As per reports, the 70-

year-old woman, identified as Sujata Verma of Vikas Nagar (sector 2) was going to a bank to withdraw cash from her bank account. When she reached Church Road, the imposters pretending to be policemen intercepted her. They howled at the woman for wearing jewellery and moving on a deserted road. "They asked me to put off the gold ring, eartops and two

gold bangles in a harsh and authoritative tone. They told me that a crime incident had taken place in the locality and they were conducting a king drive in the lo

ty. They gave me a piece of and Sarvesh (28) of Jhansi, paper in which they put my ornaments and returned it to me. They asked me to open it after reaching home. I opened the sachet when I reached the bank and found a glass bangle inside," she told the police. "The elderly woman did not suspect the imposters as they asked her several questions. She was terribly nervous," sources said. A police spokesman said a case

"The police have been asked to scan CCTV footages in the area to trace the miscreants. The footages will be shown to the woman and the police will trace the suspects once the woman identifies them," the spokesman said.

had been registered in this

connection.

Meanwhile, two security guards, identified as rishanker (24) of Hardoi

were killed in a road mishap in Gudamba on Tuesday afternoon. Reports said both the guards worked at a private company and lived at a quarter provided to them. On Tuesday afternoon, a speeding loader hit them when they were going for some work near their office. They were rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where they succumbed late Tuesday night.

A woman accused her tenants of forcing her to register her house in Madiaon in their names by threatening to kill her husband. She alleged that the accused also forced her to sell off her ornaments.

In her complaint, the Shukla of Preeti Nagar, stated that she had rented

portion of her house to Mehdi Abbas, Shoeb Ahmad and Imran Hasan. Abbas and Shoeb claimed to be practitioners of law while Imran told her that he was a busi-

"My husband Sandeep is a private employee. In Sandeep's absence, they used to force me to sell the house to them and threaten to kill my husband. Due to fear, I did not tell anything to Sandeep. On October 28 last year, they took me to registry office where they forced me to sign a sale deed. They later forced me to sell the ornaments to pay for the registration," she alleged.

She said she did not disclose the incident to anyone due to fear. "In due course of time, they sold the land to woman, identified as Javanti another woman Sanjana who came to my house, asking me to vacate the land

NAAC assessment

The third meeting of the **L** administrative staff of Lucknow University regarding preparation for NAAC assessment was convened on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor SP Singh. The meeting was attended by Pro Vice-Chancellor Rajkumar Singh, DSW NK Khare, Human Resource Development Centre director Padamkant, IPPR director NK Pandey, dean of College Development Council RR Yadav among others.

LU media incharge NK Pandey said the NAAC proforma was being sent to the officials to fill up their information and return to IQAC within 15 days. A meeting was also held on Tuesday which discussed the preparations regarding the NAAC accreditation process. In the last meeting, the HoDs were given 15 days to fill up the

proforma of NAAC. Thereafter, they were allowed 12 additional days to submit the filled-up proforma. LU authorities said that in spite of that, 17 departments didn't submit the filled-up proforma. During the meeting they were asked to submit the same within next three days.

"After all the data by departments, institutes and centres is submitted with IQAC director Rajiv Manohar, it will be analysed and the self-study report prepared. This will be uploaded on the NAAC accreditation website," the authorities said. It may be noted that 70 per cent marking of the University for NAAC will be based on these quantitative data. The visiting peer team will assess the university later for the remainder 30 per cent marking only. NAAC will verify all these data being presented by the departments through institutional data, website or various other e-sources through its own hired agency.

Meeting at LU for | Himachal, Goa, Rajasthan among favourite tourist destinations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

The tourists this summer season have a wide variety of choices as far as destinations are concerned. According to tour and travel agents, the most preferred destinations this year are Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Rajasthan in the domestic circuit and Europe in the international circuit. The tour and travel agents said it was not necessary that people visited only cool destinations to enjoy their vacations.

President of Indian Association of Tour Operators Prateek Hira said cool destinations were not the only places that people were considering for the summer vacations beginning later this

"Himachal Pradesh is preferred for its cool weather conditions but Goa is also a much preferred destination

"Himachal Pradesh is preferred for its cool weather conditions but Goa is also among the favourites. With tourists choosing Rajasthan, it is clear that heat is not the factor"

and have a good time," he said. He pointed out that most of the domestic groups step-ping out were of families or

this summer. With tourists preferring Rajasthan, it is clear that heat is not the factor. Besides, with AC rooms available in hotels, the main purpose of tourists is to step out

corporate teams. He said that with Lucknow having a direct connectivity with Singapore and

Thailand, several tourists were

also preferring these two destinations as well. "Direct connectivity from Lucknow makes a lot of difference for the tourists and hence the flow is to Singapore and Thailand is high," he said.

He further pointed out that in the international circuit, Europe was the most preferred destination. "People are opting for several places in including Europe, Switzerland," he said.

He added that the new trend which they had noticed this season was that sportspersons from small places were travelling to destinations like Japan. Regional manager of Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) PK Bose said that tourists up after Akshaya Tritiya when the wedding season begins. "Most of the travelers opt for Haridwar and Uttarakhand during this season," he said.



A woman buying dates, consumed at iftar during Ramzan, in Lucknow on Wednesday

agrees to help GGL in laying gas pipelines

The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has agreed to help the Green Gas Limited (GGL) in laying gas pipelines to set up five compressed natural gas (CNG) stations in the city. The GGL has an expansion plan to establish such stations due to the growing demand for CNG. This was decided at a meeting which was represented by LDA Vice-Chairman PN Singh and senior

The LDA administration had imposed fines on the GGL in the past for violating the rules by cutting the roads and bylanes in an arbitrary manner and also cautioned its officer to are coming up at different still in progress.

execute any civil work after seeking permission from its competent officer. The contractors engaged in the job were also penalised and blacklisted.

The LDA administration has clearly told the CNG authorities that the road-cutting work would be done under the private partner participation (PPL) model. The work would be supervised by a group of experts leaving no scope of any violation of rules and arbitrary cutting of roads. It is said that the LDA administration would suffer financial losses if the cutting of roads was

unplanned. Interestingly, all the pumps



places in Gomti Nagar. It is said that several lakhs of rupees were spent on the repairs of existing roads and bylanes and their maintenance work was

Chief engineer IS Singh said the LDA administration would help the CNG authorities in expanding their network and added that all precautions would be taken to ensure that

roads or any properties following their beautification. Gomtinagar is being beautified to give it the status of a smart

residential colony.

The expansion of the CNG network is a part of the national programme to promote environment which is deteriorating following the increase in pollution. The CNG can help check the increase in the per-

centage of pollution.

LDA's officer on special duty (OSD) RK Shukla said that the work to lay pipelines and repair roads would go on simultaneously and added that it would help in reducing the costs. In the past the repair

work was executed once the entire project was completed which was said to be a costly affair, he further said. The pipe-laying project

would start by June and was

likely to be completed within three months. The experts under whose supervision the project was likely to be completed would have to ensure that the road-cutting procedure did not damage the water pipelines and the drainage system. The commoners have to suffer a lot in case the water pipe lines and drainage get damaged. Besides, the LDA would have to spend a huge sum of money on their repairs.

KANPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

EMPANELMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANTS Kanpur Development Authority invites application for **Empanelment of Consultants in Architectural Planning** & Designing of Multi Storied Residential / Commercial building / layouts. specially with expertise in Multilevel Parking, planning & Designing of recreational Park, Landscaping and community facilities and for

beautification of important traffic junction in Kanpur city. Detailed offers enclosing a bank draft for Rs. 25000/in favour of Kanpur Development Authority as non refundable processing fees and showing profile along with projects undertaken with details of place, cost, year and time of completion and also showing their terms for undertaking such projects in Kanpur may reach Town Planner, Kanpur Development Authority upto dated 15.06.2019

Kinjal Singh

Vice Chairman



the unreached'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

Tndira Gandhi National Open **L**University has started 'Reaching to the Unreached' programme in the villages of Lucknow. Under this programme, an educational awareness camp was organised in Budhpurwa village near IIM-Lucknow on Wednesday with the help of Society for Advancement of Resourceless by Training and Handholding (ŚAMARTH).

The programme was organ-



U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED ment Rs. 590/- (including GST) Tender documents may be uploaded up to 05:00 two separate parts on rescribed tender form are hereby vited from the experienced contractors two separate parts on PM on 06.06.2019. Opening of Tender Bid Part-I at 11:30AM on 07.06.2019. eTender No. 15/ETCS/2019-20: Work: Grass cutting on U.P. Govt. etendering website at 132KV S/s Tanda, Ambedkar Nagar under "www.etender.up.nic.in" for execution of jurisdiction of Electricity Transmission following works / supply of items up to the Division Ayodhya. Earnest Money Rs date and time mentioned against each. 1,500/-. Cost of Tender document Rs The tender Part-I/ Technical Bid will contain tender fee and earnest money deposited through RTGS/NEFT (PNB, Sultanpur 06.06.2019. Opening of Tender Bid Part-I/ 06.06.2019. Opening Opening Bid Part-I/ 06.06.2019. Opening Opening Bid Part-I/ 06.06.2019. 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Opening o No., scanned copy of duly countersigned Tender Bid Part-1 at 12:30 PM or Pay-in-Slip and in case of EMD deposited 07.06.2019. eTender No.17/ETCS/2019-20 n form of Bank Guarantee, scanned Supply of 36KV male moving contactopies of Bank Guarantee and email copy blades and female fixed jaw assemblies of confirmation issued by the concerning suitable for 1250Amp. Rama make Isolators pank should be got uploaded by the con- (as per sample) at 132KV S/s Salon under tractor along with tender documents on the above etendering portal. The original Bank Guarantee shall be submitted within 2000/-. Cost of Tender document Rs a week after opening of Part I/ Technic! 236/-(including GST), Tender Documents may be uploaded up to 05:00 PM or 06.06.2019. Opening of Tender Bid Part earlier. Tenders without having proper earnest money will not be accepted. In case the office remains closed or undersigned remains out of headquarters on Rama make isolators under jurisdiction of the notified tender opening date, tenders Electricity Transmission Division Ayodhya will be opened on the next working day at Earnest Money Rs. 2000/-. Cost of Tender scheduled time only. The undersigned document Rs. 236/- (including GST) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any to 05:0011M on 06.06.2019. Opening or eason thereof Intimation regarding open ing of Tender Bid Part-II i.e. Price Bid will 07.06.2019. eTender No.19/ETCS/2019 be given on above website in due course 20 - Supply of fiber glass ladder extension of time. Please visit U.P. Govt. etendering and fiber glass ladder platform at 132K vebsite "www.etender.up.nic.in"for details / S/S Milkipur & 132KV S/S Bikapur under lownload and for any correction/amend-nent/modification/extension till the date of Division Ayodhya. Earnest Money Rs ubmission of tender. 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Tender Documents may be uploaded Tender Bid Part -1 at 04:30PM on up to 05:00PM on 06.06.2019. Opening of 14.05.2019. eTender No.14/ETCS/2019- Tender Bid Part-1 at 03:30 PM on 20: Providing and installation of Fire and 07.06.2019. Superintending Engineer

Electricity Transmission Division Ayodhya jurisdiction of Electricity Transmissio Division Raebareli. Ea*rnest Money R at 01:30PM on 07.06.2019. eTender No 18/ETCS/2019-20:- Supply of 33KV isola tor jaw assemblies and blades for 33K Tender Bid Part-1 at 02:00PM or smoke detection system at 220KV Sub-station Sultanpur under Electricity 400KV Sultanpur. No. 666, Date 07.05.2019, Sub-station Division Sultanpur. Earnest "SAVE ENERGY IN NATIONAL INTEREST"

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क (नान नेम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीलबन्द निविदायें बैंक, खाता सं0 — 0181002100120697 दो भागों में दिनांक 21.05.2019 को 14.00 आईएफएससी कोड – PUNB0018100) बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है। आर0टी0जी0एस/एनईएफटी के माध्यम से (1) **ई-निविदा संख्या 21/ई०टी०सी०** निविदा की अंतिम अपलोड तिथि से एक (गोण्डा)/2019-20: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, दिन पूर्व तक जमा की जायेगी तथा बैक में बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योज्य भिनगा पर 02 अदद 33 के निर्माण सम्बन्धी यु0टी0आर0 सं0, खाते का नाम निर्गतकर्ता कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू० २०००.०० निविदा बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता भाग–1 खुलने की तिथि 22.05.2019 को द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षरित पे इन स्लिप की स्कैन्ड 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मुल्य रू० 236.00 प्रति, ईएमडी के लिए बैंक गारण्टी की (कर सहित)। **(2) ई–निविदा संख्या** स्कैण्ड कापी, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कन्फरमेशन <u>22 **/ ई0टी0सी0(गोण्डा) / 2019–20:**</u> विद्युत मेल की प्रति भी निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत इलेक्ट्रानिकली साफ व पठनीय अपलोड की प्रस्तावित 132 के0वी0 भिनगा-बलरामपुर जायेगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता लाइन के डिस्क इन्सुलेटर के स्थान पर द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा पॉलीमर इंसुलेटर लगाने सम्बन्धी कार्य। जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के भाग–1 में धरोहर राशि रू० 17000.00 निविदा भाग-1 तकनीकी बिड (पैन कार्ड, इन्कमटैक्स रिटर्न, खुलने की तिथि 22.05.2019 को 12:00 बजे, जी०एस०टी० पंजीकरण की स्वयं प्रमाणित निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० २००६.०० (कर छायाप्रति एंव तकनीकी अनुभव इत्यादि), सहित)। **(3) ई—निविदा संख्या 23/** संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर राशि/ **ई०टी०सी०(गोण्डा) / 2019–20**: विद्युत पारेषण निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 प्रकार की त्रृटि होनें पर निविदा का भाग–2 उपकेन्द्र बहराइच पर 132 के0वी0 गोण्डा— जिसमें दरें दी जानी है. नही खोली जायेगी। बहराइच लाइन के लीलो हेतु टावर पार्ट्स भाग-2 में दरें एवं वाणिज्यक नियम व शर्ते की ढुलाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रूo होनी चाहिये। तथा हार्ड कापी कार्यालय में 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। तिथि 22.05.2019 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा किसी भी स्थिति में निविदा के Retende प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर सहित)। होने पर निविदा की निविदा शुल्क (नान (4) ई—निविदा संख्या 24/ई०टी०सी० रिफन्डेबिल) एवं धरोहर धनराशि पुनः जमा (गोण्डा) / 2019–20: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, की जानी अनिवार्य होगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र, में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः गोण्डा पर ए०सी० क्यबिकल बॉक्स की निरस्त समझा जायेगा। निविदा का भाग आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू० प्रथम एंव द्वितीय : (प्राइजबिड दरें एंव शर्ते) 2000.00 निविदा भाग—1 खुलने की तिथि दिनांक 21.05.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक 22.05.2019 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर सहित)। जा सकती हैं। निविदा का प्रथम भाग **(5) ई—निविदा संख्या 25∕ई०टी०सी०** दिनांक 22.05.2019 को 12.00 बजे एवं (गोण्डा)/2019—20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, भाग—2 (प्राइज पार्ट) निविदा शुल्क एवं धरो. बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 बहराइच हर धनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात पर 132 के0वी0 मेन बस बार के सुदृढ़ीकरण सर्वाजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू० 2000.00 खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति निविदा भाग–1 खुलने की तिथि 22.05.2019 में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना (कर सहित)। **(6) ई—निविदा संख्या 26/** कोई कारण बताये निविदा/निविदाओं को **ई०टी०सी०(गोण्डा) / 2019–20:** विद्युत पारेषण अस्वीकार / विभाजित करने का अधिकार खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। उपकेन्द्र बहराइच पर अग्नि शमन संयत्रों की धरोहर / निविदा राशि रहित व सशर्त रिफिलिंग सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू० निविदायें रवीकार नही की जायेगी। कृपया 2000.00 निविदा भाग–1 खुलने की तिथि विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों 22.05.2019 को 12:00 बजे. निविदा प्रपत्र मुल्य एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक रू० २३६.०० (कर सहित)। (7) अल्पकालिक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया **ई—निविदा संख्या 27 / ई0टी0सी0(गोण्डा) /** www.etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाईट पर लॉग 2019—20: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के आन करें। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण** अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० भिनगा—बलरामपुर **मण्डल उ०प्र० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन** लाइन की पैट्रोलिंग सम्बन्धी एवं अन्य **लि० 220 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र परिसर जेल रोड,** सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू० २०००.०० **गोण्डा।** संख्या—३४३ / वि०पा०मं० / गोण्डा /

विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल गोण्डा रिफन्डेबिल) एवं ई०एम०डी० अधिशासी अनुभवी फर्मों / ठेकेदारों से बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम - पंजाब नैषनल निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.05.2019 ई-टेण्डर नं0-21 से 27/2019-20 दिनांक हो 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 07.05.2019 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें"

ised with a view to informing the girls and boys about the methodology of open and distance learning and the programmes offered by IGNOU. Regional director Manorama Singh said the programme

> filling higher education aspirations of people. "The gathering was also explained how they can attain quality education at their doorsteps at affordable cost. The courses discussed during the programme include Rural Development, Management, Extension and Development Studies, Food and Nutrition, and Environmental Studies. A very warm response has been received and people interacted with IGNOU officials frankly on issues like their career and entrepreneurship prospects," she said.

would be another step for ful-

Fire breaks out at furniture shop

Lucknow (PNS): A fire broke out at a furniture shop in Baraura locality of Thakurganj on Wednesday night. No casualty was reported in the incident while losses were being estimated. As per reports, some residents saw smokes billowing out from the shop and alerted the police. By the time cops reached the scene, the fire had engulfed neighbouring shops. As many as eight fire tenders were sent to the spot. Police said it took serious efforts to douse the flames. They said the fire broke out due to a short

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड-प्रथम, 132 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र कैण्ट, छावनी परिषद कार्यालय के निकट, कैण्ट, वाराणसी (उ०प्र०) 221002 अति आवश्यक सूचना सर्व साधारण के सुलभ संदर्भ हेतु सूचित किया जाता है कि 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र कैन्ट पर 33 कें0वी0 बस बार—।। हेतु उक्त उपकेन्द्र से जुड़े निम्नलिखित 33 के0वी0 पोषकों से पोषित उपकेन्द्रों /क्षेत्रों की विद्युत आपूर्ति दिनांक- 09.05.2019 को 16:00 बजे से 17:00 बजे तक बाधित रहेगी। दिनांक 09.05.2019 प्रभावित फीडर का नाम 33 के०वी० वरूणा गार्डेन, एन०के०वी०पी०, अर्दली बाजार सिगरा-प्रथम एवं द्वितीय **बाधित अवधि** 16:00 बजे से 17:00 बजे तक (इन्द्रभान सिंह) अधिशासी अभियन्ता पत्रांक-1306 दिनांक 8.5.2019 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें।

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता जायेगी तथा बैक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल गोण्डा यथा योज्य यू०टी०आर० सं०, खाते का नाम **ई-टेन्डरिंग निविदा सूचना** निर्गतकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एव एवं ई०एम०डी० अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत आदि के सम्बन्ध में PUNB0018100) आर0टी०जी०एस / वि०पा०म० / गोण्डा / ई-टेण्डर नं0-28 रं

अनुभवी फर्मों / ठेकेदारों से निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षरित पे इन स्लिप निम्नलिखित कार्य हेत सीलबन्द निविदायें दो की स्कैन्ड प्रति, ईएमडी के लिए बैंक गारण्टी भागों में दिनांक 29.05.2019 को 14.00 बजे की स्कैण्ड कापी. जारीकर्ता बैंक व तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है। (1) ई-निविदा कन्फरमेशन मेल की प्रति भी निविदा प्रपत्रों <u>संख्या 28 / ई०टी०सी०(गोण्डा) / 2019–20:</u> के साथ इलेक्ट्रानिकली साफ व पठनीय विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 132 अपलोड की जायेगी, अन्यथा कि रिथति र के०वी० उपकेन्द्र नानपारा पर ३३ के०वी० जैक निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तत निविदा को स्वत बस की ऊंचाई बढाने सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के राशि रू० 2000.00 निविदा भाग–1 खुलने की भाग–1 में तकनीकी बिड (पैन कार्ड, तिथि 30.05.2019 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र इन्कमटैक्स रिटर्न, जी०एस०टी० पंजीकरण की मूल्य रू० २३६.०० (कर सहित)। <u>(२) ई—निविदा</u> स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एंव तकनीकी अनुभव <u>संख्या २९ / ई०टी०सी०(गोण्डा) / २०१९–२०:</u> इत्यादि), संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 220 राशि / निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी केoवीo बहराइच पर 160 एमवीए ट्रान्स्फार्मर प्रकार की त्रृटि होनें पर निविदा का भाग-2 हेतु हार्डवेयर फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी जिसमें दरें दी जानी है, नही खोली जायेगी। कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू० २०००.०० निविदा भाग–२ में दरें एंव वाणिज्यक नियम व शर्ते भाग–1 खुलने की तिथि 30.05.2019 को 12:00 होनी चाहिये। तथा हार्ड कापी कार्यालय मे बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। किसी सहित)। (3) ई-निविदा संख्या भी स्थिति में निविदा के Retender होने पर <u>30 / ई0टी0सी0(गोण्डा) / 2019–20:</u> विद्युत निविदा की निविदा शुल्क(नान रिफन्डेबिल पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 220 एवं धरोहर धनराशि पुनः जमा की जानी के0वी0 बहराइच पर 160 एमवीए ट्रान्स्फार्मर अनिवार्य होगी. अन्यथा कि स्थिति मे हेतु हार्डवेयर फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू० २०००.०० निविदा निरस्त समझा जायेगा। निविदा का भाग प्रथम भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 30.05.2019 को 12:00 एंव द्वितीय:-(प्राइजबिड दरें एंव शर्ते) दिन. बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर ंक 29.05.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक सहित)। <u>(४) ई—निविदा संख्या</u> <u>www.etender.up.nic.in</u> पर अपलोड की जा <u>31 / ई0टी0सी0(गोण्डा) / 2019–20:</u> विद्युत सकती हैं। निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी० 30.05.2019 को 12.00 बजे एवं भाग—2 उपकेन्द्र, तुलसीपुर एवं उतरौला पर कैपेसिटर (प्राइज पार्ट) निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर बैंक के हार्डवेयर फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी धनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू० २०००.०० निविदा सर्वाजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 30.05.2019 को खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित (कर सहित)। (<u>5) ई-निविदा संख्या</u> समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना 32 / ई0टी0सी0(गोण्डा) / 2019-20: विद्युत कोई कारण बताये निविदा / निविदाओं को सामग्रियों एवं उपकरणों की ढुलाई सम्बन्धी अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरो कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू० २०००.०० निविदा हर/निविदा राशि रहित व सशर्त निविदाये भाग-1 खलने की तिथि 30.05.2019 को 12:00 स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कपया विस्तत बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एं सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क (नान रिफन्डेबिल) निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक www.etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाईट पर का नाम– पंजाब नैशनल बैंक, खाता सं– लॉग आन करें। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत** 0181002100120697, आईएफएससी कोड- **पारेषण मण्डल गोण्डा** संख्या-344/

एनईएफटी के माध्यम से निविदा की अंतिम 32/2019-20 Dt: 07.05.2019 'राष्ट्र हिर

IGNOU bid to 'reach | 'City of Dreams' has a Lucknow connect

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE I LUCKNOW

There is a Lucknow connect I to the show, City of Dreams. Eijaz Khan, the actor who plays the role of a police official, said that "he has drawn inspiration from a Lucknow cop who is a friend for playing his part." Priya Bapat, who plays the lead protagonist, Poornima Gaikwad, along with Eijaz Khan, who essays the role of sub-inspector Wasim Khan in the show visited Lucknow on Wednesday for the promotion of 'City of Dreams.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, Eijaz Khan said that the show was set at the right time when the General Elections were happening.

This is a political thriller and is based on the assassination of a political leader and weaved around the families which have been connected with him. Directed by the critically acclaimed and national award-winning Nagesh Kukunoor, the show is set in Mumbai against the backdrop of Indian politics and elections and traces the journey of two siblings - Poornima and Ashish Gaikwad - and their lust for power. The brother-sister duo will stop at nothing in their allout battle to become the one true heir to their father's legacy," he said.



Eijaz Khan interacts with mediapersons as Priya Bhapat looks on, in Lucknow on Wednesday

Eijaz Khan, who plays the key role of an encounter specialist cop in the show, says, "My role is one which has a lot of complexities personally and professionally. He is strong, calculative and is willing to bend the rules to win a case. From understanding the scenario of Mumbai Police, to the life of an encounter specialist, every detail was important," he

He said that he has drawn lot of inspiration from a Lucknow cop who is a friend. 'I have met him several times and have learnt about various

some which I cannot even share. In this character which I play I have borrowed from my friends' experiences," he said.

On being asked if finally the audience for intelligent shows was happening, he said that one cannot paint the country in one stroke. "Even today there are

shows like Nagin which are making rich TRPs because they have caught the pulse of the general audience but there has always been an intelligent audience and we can remember this with the shows we had

experiences which he had and in the past such as 'Hum Log' and 'Buniyaad,' he said. He said that the show was not based on any real story.

Eijaz admitted that the entertainment world was changing and there was a large focus on personalised kind of entertainment. "People have entertainment in the grip of their hand which they watch at times which are suitable for them which is at the time of travelling or when caught in traffic jams or during their own free time," he said.

Talking about Lucknow he said he loved the tehzeeb of the

people are fighting they are actually speaking so nicely. There is an inherent tehzeeb in the city which I like," he said.

Priya Bapat, who plays a lead protagonist, said, 'City of Dreams' has been a very inspiring and rousing journey for me. I play the role of a humble and docile housewife who rises to power to defend her father's legacy and to prove herself in the patriarchal set-up," she

'City of Dreams' is built on Ameya Rao Gaikwad's political legacy which is torn between his daughter, Poornima, and his son, Ashish, after his sudden incapacitation. Each character has its own distinctive features which will surprise the viewers as the plot thickens," it was further said.

A person from the channel said, "The real-life nexus among politics, crime and industry makes for fertile ground to tell a compelling multi-season drama series. With 'City of Dreams,' we wanted to explore this genre. Triggered by an assassination attempt of a powerful political leader, a chain of events unfold threatening to engulf the entire city in a firestorm of ambition, deceit and revenge. It deals with dynastic politics and the ramifications it has on the entire

CITYBRIEFS

GREEN METRO RAIL SYSTEM



The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) has certified LMRC a 'Green Metro Rail System, thereby awarding platinum certificate to all its 21 stations on the North-South corridor from CCS Airport to Munshipulia. On Wednesday, certificates and plaques for 13 Metro stations was handed over to LMRC managing director Kumar Keshav by Ankit Gupta and Anupam Mittal from CII-IGBC at the LMRC administrative office. Before this, eight stations from Transport Nagar to Charbagh had already been awarded platinum certificates in 2017. Keshav said the achievement of LMRC would encourage other metro rail systems in the country go green. He also laid emphasis on exploring more options to use solar energy and

water conservation.

CIMAP MEETINGS

The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) is holding meetings with Research Institute of Fragrant Material (RIFM), USA, and Bureau of Indian Standards for determining standards in aroma industry, said media spokesperson Manoj Semwal said. Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants had signed an MoU with Research Institute for Fragrant Materials for chemical characterisation and development of quality standards for essential oils. RIFM signed the MoU with CIMAP in Paris in November last year.



Encroachment near Balrampur Hospital being removed during a drive by LMC on

SCHOOLSCAN



CMS TOPPERS FELICITATED City Montessori School

felicitated its 2,940 meritorious ISC and ICSE Board students who secured 90% Jagar Campus II auditorium on Wednesday. The chief guest on the occasion was Additional Chief Kumar Tiwari. Earlier, the CMS toppers took out a victory march to inspire other Chowki in Gomti Nagar shawls of honour.

Extension and culminated into a huge gathering at the Gomti Nagar Campus II auditorium. The meritorious students were honoured by the chief guest. He to 99.75% marks, at Gomti congratulated the students on their success meritorious students will lay the foundation of a bright and prosperous Secretary, Secondary and future," he said. The main Higher Education, Rajendra attraction was the felicitation of meritorious students' mothers who were weighed in fruits and flowstudents. The march began ers while their fathers and from Maqdoompur Police teachers were presented

A battle of turncoats in Phulpur, Allahabad Lok Sabha seats

The prestigious twin Lok Sabha constituencies of Phulpur and Allahabad in the district, represented in the past by three prime ministers, is seeing a battle of political turncoats this election as majority of the main candidates are fighting polls after having switched party allegiance.

In Phulpur, wherefrom Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru won the first three Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has fielded former zila panchayat chief Keshri Devi Patel while Pankaj Niranjan is fighting from the Congress with Pandhari Yadav forming the third corner of this triangular contest. The Patel community is an important electoral base and the Congress and the SP-BSP alliance is also seeking to corner an important vote share from it. Senior Congress leader from Allahabad, Abhay Awasthi, says, the 2019 general elections in Allahabad this year is essentially a "battle of political turncoats". The twin Lok Sabha seats

of Phulpur and Allahabad have seen titans fighting the poll in the past. From Nehru winning three times from Phulpur to Lal Bahadur Shastri and VP Singh from Allahabad, and then senior BJP leader MM Joshi, winning three times from Allahabad, these two have been very prestigious seats, but big players are not in the fray this

Dist admn all set for polling

Allahabad (PNS): The district administration is all set for polling in Allahabad and Phulpur constituencies in the sixth phase on May 12. Closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras are being checked in different areas. It is also being ensured that all the polling booths had proper lighting and drinking water arrangements. On Wednesday, District Magistrate and District Election Officer Bhanu Chandra Goswami reviewed the status of the bus acquired for election duty. Additional Regional Transport Officer (Enforcement) Ravikant Shukla said till date only 350 bus owners had taken fuel (diesel) slips and log books ensuring that their vehicles would remain available for poll duty. He said despite repeated instructions the owners of 1,200 buses were yet to take fuel slips and log books. ARTO Bhupesh Gupta said it was mainly the owner of some buses had not sent them for election duty. Annoyed over it, the DM directed ADM (City) Ashok Kumar Kanojia to ensure that the owner of these buses provided the required number of them for poll duty and colected the fuel slips and log books latest by Thursday.

time," he told PTI.

Awasthi said Keshri Devi Patel is a strong leader of Patels, and having served multiple time as zila panchayat president in Allahabad, has a strong hold over voters at the grass-roots level. "She is fighting for BJP, but she was earlier with the BSP. Patel fought the Lok Sabha elections in 2004 on a BSP ticket but had lost to SP candidate Atiq Ahmed (by over 64,000 votes)," he said.

Pankaj Niranjan, a Patel leader from Apna Dal, is fighting on a Congress ticket. He is a son-in-law of Apna Dal founder late Sonelal Patel, and the grand old party is seeking to woo Patel voters with him as the candidate.

But, parties are betting on

turncoats not just in Phulpur but also in Állahabad constituency, where former Congress leader Rita Bahuguna Joshi is trying her luck, pitted against Congress' Yogesh Shukla, who earlier belonged to the BJP. While Joshi had unsuccessfully fought Lok Sabha elections in 1999, losing to BJP stalwart M M Joshi and finished third, Shukla was fielded by the BJP in 2009 but faced defeat at the hands of SP's Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh and managed to get only the third position. Shukla had

joined the Congress late April

just ahead of filing his nomina-

tion, Awasthi said. 'More so, SP's Rajendra Singh Patel fielded from Allahabad this time, was earliserved as its vice-president. So, it is indeed a battle of turncoats of sorts this time for the two seats," he said.

Lok Sabha seats of Phulpur and Allahabad fall in the Allahabad district. As many as 14 candidates each are testing their fortunes from the two constituencies in the election

here due on May 12. Phulpur Lok Sabha seat, which Nehru had won in 1952, 1957 and 1962 consists of five assembly segments -Phaphamau, Soraon, Phulpur, Allahabad West and Allahabad North. Allahabad Lok Sabha seat also consists of five assembly segments - Mesa, Karachhana, Bara, Koraon and Allahabad South.

Lal Bahadur Shastri, who served as the second prime minister from 1964-66, had won Allahabad seat in 1957 and 1962, while VP Singh had won it in 1988.

Akshat Lal, a resident of old Allahabad, which falls in Allahabad constituency, said, From childhood days, we have heard stories of Nehru, Shastri and how the two seats have been considered bellwether constituencies. But, now caste and community equations are major factors in politics." Lal, a graduate of Allahabad University, says, Allahabad is a city of Sangam, and, with many turncoats in the fray, it seems "politics is getting mixed up here in unusual ways".

BJP lists abuses hurled at Modi Re-polling at 168 booths in Tripura ordered

Ridicules Cong's Supreme Court. Congress is a claim of forming **Govt at Centre** as good dream

PNS NEW DELHI

Listing abuses that were hurled at Narendra Modi by Congress and other Opposition parties during the ongoing poll campaign, the BJP on Wednesday ridiculed the Congress' claim of forming the Congress' claim of forming the Government at the Centre as a "good dream" and insisted that "kamal" would bloom in full glory as more insults are

thrown at the Prime Minister. The BJP also took a dig at Congress after its president Rahul Gandhi tendered an unconditional apology for attributing "chowkidar chor hai" remarks to the Supreme Court, saying it showed the opposition party's "political

"Rahul Gandhi had to

habitual liar. This is political bankruptcy. This is desperation," BJP leader and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar told a press conference here.

The Minister listed out over 50 "abuses" which he alleged were hurled by the Congress and other Opposition parties at Modi, and claimed that the more they do so, the more seats BJP will win.

"Congress has hurled 52 abusive words at us. It is doing so as it has run out of issues. Congress stands for loot and lies. We are raising relevant issues but the Congress is exhibiting its political bankruptcy. The more they hurl abuses at us, more seats we will win," Javadekar said.

"Jitna keechad uchaloge, utna kamal khilega", said the

Congress and Opposition parties have sought to describe Modi as "Dushashan", "Gandi naali ka keeda", "Namard", "mad dog", "Bhasmasur", "Hitler and Mussolini". BJP apologise to the Supreme Court also recalled Congress leader for attributing lies to the Sonia Gandhi calling Modi " also recalled Congress leader

Maut ka Saudagar" in Gujarat poll in 2007.

Addressing public rallies in Haryana, the Prime Minister too spoke about abuses used against him by Congress and wondered why the rest of the opposition was silent and refused to condemn it. Javadekar said the Congress was "desperate" as it stands no chance to win people's confidence.

The Union Minister ridiculed Rahul's claim that the Congress was forming Government at the Centre saying "sapne dekhna achcha hai".
"I am unable to understand the worst kind of behaviour by

various political parties including the Congress. They are day in and day out cursing the PM, hurling abuses at him. "Gaaliyo ki loot machi hui hai. Kaun kitni badi gaali dega

iski hor lagi hai (There is a com-

petition among the opposition on who can mouth the worst kind of abuse)," he said. "They are doing this out of sheer desperation and hatred for their leader because they understand that in front of

Modi, they stand no chance to

win public confidence. They are hurling casteist abuses.

This is Congress culture. It is happening because we are discussing scams," the minister

Javadekar accused the Congress of institutionalising corruption and said there were a number of charges against former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"When we started asking questions on Bofors, they said why are you talking about Rajiv Gandhi? He was our PM. During his time he justified the genocide of Sikhs, he made the worse kind of communal compromise, politics under Shah Bano's decision, Quattrocchi was allowed to flee and money went from his account to three undisclosed accounts. 'Wikileaks has also men-

tioned Rajiv Gandhi as the main negotiator in a fighter aircraft deal. This is what is happening on ground," he claimed.

The Minister said his party has leadership and development as main planks in the ongoing elections while "all Congress has is abuses".

Congress, CPI(M) complained to EC of massive poll rigging and booth capturing in State

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday declared polling across 168 booths of Tripura West parliamentary constituency as void and ordered a re-polling on May 12 along with the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections 2019. The CPI (M), however, wasn't too happy with the EC's decision and said it was too little, too late. According to EC, that the

Union Home Ministry has already deployed 15 companies of Central Para-Military Forces (CPMF) for re-polling in the Tripura West Lok Sabha seat where voting took place on the first phase of polling on April 11. While the CPI (M) voiced its "deep sense of disappointment" over EC's order to hold polling void in 168 booths of the Tripura West seat saying a repoll should be held in the entire constituency. CPI(M) claimed that a substantial number of voters has been denied their right

to vote due to rigging.
"After taking all material circumstances into account, the Election Commission declared under Sub-Sections (2) of Section 58 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 that the polling on April 11, 2019, at 168 polling stations in 1-Tripura West parliamentary constituency against the assembly segments to be void and appoints May 12 as the date and fix hours from 7 am to 5 pm for fix hours from 7 am to 5 pm for taking a fresh poll," an EC letter to Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sriram Taranikanti said after getting ground reports from the CEO, Special Observer, General Observers and the Returning Officer and the Returning Officer.

While polling was held in the concerned Tripura booths on April 11, the Congress and CPI(M) had lodged complaints of misconduct and rigging in the elections held in West Tripura constituency. The repolling will be held from 7am-5pm on May 12.

Tripura West parliamentary seat had recorded over 81 per cent of voter turnout when the constituency went to polls on April 11.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the CPI (M) said, "There had been widespread rigging and prevention of voters from exercising their franchise by the ruling BJP during the polls held on April 12. We firmly hold that this order is not in consonance with the ground reality and obviously too little and too late in ensuring a free and fair poll where more than half the electorate was actually unable to exercise their right to vote..."Nothing short of a re-poll for the entire Tripura West parliamentary constituency will serve the purpose of a free and fair poll and protecting the rights of the voters," it said.

On April 19, Congress and CPI(M) in Tripura approached the poll panel and complained of massive poll rigging and booth capturing in Tripura West constituency. CPI-M general secretary, Sitaram Yechuri had alleged that more than 460 booths out of the total 1679 in West Tripura were 'rigged, voters were intimidated and forced to leave the booths and the

agents of Left political parties were not allowed to enter inside the booths by the BJP workers'.

Congress candidate Subal Bhowmick accused BJP workers of intimidating and threat-ening voters. "We have demanded the immediate resignation of DGP, A K Shukla and Chief Electoral Officer Sriram Taranikanti because police acted as silent spectators when booths were rigged before their eyes by BJP workers," he said in a press conference.

Leader of the Opposition in Tripura Assembly Manik Sarkar said, "BJP workers intimidated voters. We could not field polling agents in many booths. We have a strong organisation in the entire state and if we cannot field polling agents, then you can understand the situation."

However, BJP candidate and party general secretary of Tripura Pratima Bhowmick denied the allegations of Congress and CPI-M. Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said "people exercised their franchise in a festive mood and voting was completely peaceful.

SC refuses to hear Cong MP's plea for action against PM, Shah for poll code violations

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court
Wednesday refused to further hear the plea of Congress MP Sushmita Dev seeking action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President Amit Shah for alleged poll code violations, the Election Commission has already decided the complaints.

The apex court said it cannot examine the merits of the EC orders, giving clean chits to the BJP leaders, as they gave rise to fresh cause of action for which another petition has to

Since the EC has decided "rightly" or "wrongly" the pending complaints against the Prime Minister and the BJP President, the merits of the orders can be challenged only by filing a fresh petition, said

a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta.

'The petition has become infructuous as the Election Commission has taken decisions on the complaints," the bench said.

Senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for Dev, said the additional affidavit has been filed as the apex court had asked her to bring on record EC's orders giving clean chit to Modi and Shah on complaints of MCC violations over their alleged hate speeches and using armed forces for "political propaganda".

Referring to various judgements, he said that the EC, being a constitutional body, is obliged to pass reasoned orders. But unreasoned orders, summarily rejecting the complaints, have been passed.

"Dr Singhvi, you challenge

the orders (of EC). Instead of filing the affidavit, you should have filed the petition. In half a day, you can file a fresh petition and that is the choice you have," the bench said while refusing to hear Dev's plea

> The plea had said: "Since March 10, that is the date on which General Elections, were notified, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and BJP President Amit Shah, specifically in sensitive areas and states, have ex-facie violated the Representation of People's Act and the Conduct of Election Rules and the process, thereof,"

the plea claimed.
"It is in public domain that they have indulged in hate speeches, repeatedly used the armed forces for political propaganda, despite a clear prohibition on the same by the EC."

SC asks EC to look into Tej grievances

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Election Commission to examine grievances raised by sacked BSF jawan Tej Bahadur Yadav, whose nomination against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varansai was cancelled. A bench headed by Chief

Justice Ranjan Gogoi asked the counsel for EC to seek instructions and apprise it by tomorrow.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Yadav, referred to an earlier verdict to the court and said election petitions can be filed during the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

Yadav had moved the top court challenging the decision of Returning Officer (RO) to reject his nomination papers from Varanasi Lok Sabha seat, saying it was intended to "give walkover" to PM Modi.

The RO on May 1 had

nomination papers of Yadav, Samajwadi Party candidate, who was dismissed from BSF in 2017 after he posted a video online complaining about

the food served to the troops. The poll panel official held that Yadav failed to furnish a certificate as mandated under the Representation of Peoples (RP) Act to the effect that he has not been "dismissed for corruption or disloyalty to the

Yadav has sought setting aside of RO's decision and the apex court's nod to contest elections from high-profile Varanasi seat where poll is slated to taken place on May 19. The Samajwadi Party had initially fielded Shalini Yadav as its candidate to contest against later nominated sacked BSF iawan. While rejecting the

nomination papers Yadav, the RO had observed that "the nomination paper is

neither accompanied by certificate issued in the prescribed manner by the Election Commission to the effect that he has not been dismissed for corruption or disloyalty to the "While passing the

impugned order...The RO completely failed to appreciate that the Petitioner (Yadav) had produced his dismissal letter along with his nomination paper which clearly shows that he was dismissed from service for alleged indiscipline and not for corruption or disloyalty to state, as is provided under Section 9 and Section 33 (3) of the (RP) Act," the plea had said.

Yadav, in his reply to RO's first notice of April 29, had submitted that he was dismissed from BSF due to "indiscipline" which is not covered under the election law and hence, a certificate from EC to that effect was not required, the plea said.

The RO issued second notice on April 30 asking the Petitioner (Yadav) to submit required certificate to the effect that he has not been dismissed for corruption or disloyalty to the state by 11 am on May 01.

'First of all...In the present facts of the case, there was no need to produce any certificate as Section 9 is not attracted at all. Secondly, this second notice asking for the certificate was served upon the Petitioner on April 30 at 6 pm. Thus, no sufficient time was given to produce the certificate," the plea

Centre moves SC against Madras HC verdict on Puducherry LG New Delhi: The Centre

Wednesday approached the Supreme Court challenging the verdict of Madras High Court which held that Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi "cannot interfere" in the day-today affairs of the Government of the Union Territory.

The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

"There is a standstill in the governance (Puducherry)," Mehta told the bench while seeking urgent listing of the matter.

The bench, however, declined the request and said it had earlier made it clear that advocates seeking urgent listing of their matters can give the

listing memos to the registrar.
On April 30, the Madras High Court had allowed a plea filed by K Laksminarayanan, a Congress MLA, and set aside in January and June 2017 by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs "elevating" the power of

the administrator Referring to the Supreme Court judgement on the tussle between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lt Governor Anil Baijal, the high court had said that restrictions imposed on Government of Delhi are not applicable to the Government of Puducherry.

'The Administrator cannot interfere in the day-to-day affairs of the government. The decision taken by the Council of Ministers and the Chief Minister is binding on the Secretaries and other officials," the high court had said.

Laksminarayanan had claimed in his petition before the high court that the administrator was interfering in the day-to-day administration of the territorial government, its policies and programmes.PTI

Clarify suspicious movements of EVMs in TN: DMK to EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The DMK has asked the L Election Commission (EC) for clarification on the "suspicious movements" of electronic voting machines (EVMs) from Coimbatore. Shifting of EVMs from Coimbatore had stirred controversy on Tuesday night after the Opposition alleged foul play.

In a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner and Tamil Nadu chief electoral officer, DMK MP RS Bharathi on Wednesday asked the EC about the sudden movement of EVMs and VVPATs to Theni and Erode. According to Bharathi, about 50 EVMs were brought to the office of Thesildar at Theni from Coimbatore without any intimation to the candidates who had contested in the Theni Lok Sabha constituency and in the by-elections for Periakulam and Andipatti Assembly seats.

He said even the District Collector, being the District Electoral Officer, or the officials



available in the Thesildar's office were not able to clarify on the EVMs' movements, raising mistrust on the Election Commission's activity during the late hours on Tuesday.

Bharathi said the Chief Electoral Officer told the media that the EVMs were shifted on the orders of the Election Commission, expecting re-poll in certain polling centres, and 20 VVPATs have also been moved to Erode. "It is not known on whose

request pe-polling is being processed. In fact, no affirmative order is communicated by the Election Commission on the

request made our DMK party for re-polling in 10 polling booths in Pappireddypatti within Dharmapuri constituency,"

"While so, moving EVMs and VVPATs to the places, where re-poll is not asked for, creates strong doubts on the activities of the Election Commission. What is the modus operandi behind these suspicious moves of EVMs and VVPAT shall be clearly and transparently explained by the Election Commission. Otherwise, the trust on the Election Commission would further diminish," Bharathi said.

n another development, the Goa Government has requested the EC to relax the model code of conduct in South Goa district. where voting for the Lok Sabha polls has concluded, to take up pre-monsoon works. Goa's Chief Secretary Parimal Rai wrote a letter to the state chief electoral office last Friday, urging that the poll code be relaxed in the South Goa district, where voting took place on April 23. Goa CEO Kunal on Wednesday said they have received the letter and premonsoon works are allowed in the South Goa district on a case-to-

He also asked the poll body to furnish details of EVMs and VVPATs now shifted to Theni and Erode and not to shift any more such machines from any place to any place in Tamil Nadu without prior intimation to political parties.

SC says won't extend deadline for GOA GOVT SEEKS MODEL finalising Assam NRC beyond July 31

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court ■ Wednesday made it clear that it will not extend the July 31 deadline for finalisation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice RF Nariman also gave a "free hand" to Prateek Hajela, the Assam NRC coordinator dealing with claims and objections of persons against wrong exclusion or inclusion of citizens in the NRC.

The direction came after Hajela informed the bench that many persons, who had objected to inclusion of certain individuals in the draft NRC are not coming forward before panels which are dealing with such complaints.

The apex court had on April 10 asked Hajela to take steps to minimise the "inconvenience" of

Judges also gave a free hand" to Prateek **Hajela, the Assam NRC** coordinator dealing with claims and objections of persons against wrong

exclusion or inclusion of citizens in the NRC the people who have filed claims before authorities after being left

out in the draft NRC. Hajela had submitted before the court that the citizenship claims of left out persons were being verified on the basis of

"family tree" and land records. Verification of claims on the basis of family tree was being conducted near the place where most of the relatives of the claimant are residing, he

had said. On February 5, the apex court had observed that the Centre is "hell bent" on stalling the Assam NRC work while rapping it for seeking suspension of the process during the polls citing non-availability of security forces.

The draft Assam NRC was published on July 30, 2018 in which the names of 2.89 crore of the 3.29 crore people were included. The names of 40,70,707 people did not figure in the list. Of these, 37,59,630 names have been rejected and the remaining 2,48,077 are on

The first draft of Assam NRC was published on the intervening night of December 31, 2017 and January 1 in accordance with the top court's direction. Names of 1.9 crore people out of the 3.29 crore applicants were incorporated then.

Assam, which had faced influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state to have an NRC, first prepared in 1951.

Fani: CSIR-IHBT prepares ready to eat food Vice-President Naidu on

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

s Fani cyclone-hit Odisha Astruggles with one of the worst tragedies the State has seen so far, a CSIR lab Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (IHBT) in Palampur is all set to do its bit by providing hygienically prepared nutritious "ready to eat

food" to the affected families. Said Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director of CSIR-IHBT, "our institute is in the process of supplying one lakh units of ready to eat canned food (Dal ChawalAloo mix) and high energy and protein bars, total weighing around 20 tonnes for distribution."

The ready to eat foods will be dispatched to the affected areas by this weekend.

Dr Sanjay Kumar further informed that the institute has technologies for preparation of ready to eat foods of global standards and in such tragic circumstances it is the duty of



national institutes to come forward and support the affected population with their need based

technologies and products. He further stated that similar support of ready to eat food products was extended to the Odisha, and around one mil-

victims of during Kerala floods in August 2018

It's almost five days the severe cyclonic storm had made a landfall impact on May 3, 2019 in coastal areas of lion people have been evacuated there. "Therefore, there is urgent need for hygienically prepared nutritious and ready to eat foods for such people,"

said Kumar The CSIR-IHBT is a premier

institute known for its state of art research in various areas such as agrotechnology, biotechnology,natural product chemistry, food & nutraceutical technology, high altitude biology.

The institute as part of R&D program has developed technologies for commercial production of several ready to eat traditional food products and functional foods targeting malnutrition and life-style related disorders such as energy bars, high protein drink mixes, Spirulina and Shiitake based food and value added Tea products, crispy fruits etcthat are commercialized and available for interested entrepreneurs.

Talking about the technology, the scientist said that the products are prepared using a special manufacturing process that retainstraditional taste and

"The prepared products are preserved by sealing them hermetically in tin cans followed by thermal processing to attain longer shelf life," he said.

Vietnam visit from today PNS NEW DELHI Starting Thursday, Vice-President M Venkaiah from Thursday.

Naidu will undertake a threeday official trip to Vietnam

The External Affairs Ministry on Wednesday said in official statement that Naidu will hold meetings with Vice-President of Vietnam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Chairperson of National Assembly of Vietnam Nguyen

Thi Kim Ngan. Naidu will deliver the keynote address at the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration at Tam Chuc Pagoda in Ha Nam Province. He will also meet the

Indian community and Vietnamese beneficiaries of the Jaipur Foot Artificial Limb Fitment Camp organized in



Humanity' initiative launched to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the statement said.

It said India-Vietnam relations have been built on a firm foundation of close cultural, historical and civilisational links and are marked by mutual trust and understanding as well as strong cooperation in regional and international fora.

During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Vietnam in September 2016, the relationship between the two countries was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the statement said. The Vice President's visit to

Vietnam follows a series of

high-level exchanges that have

taken place in 2018, including visits to India by the prime minister of Vietnam (January 2018) and by the president of Vietnam (March 2018).. These exchanges have

resulted in robust cooperation in several areas, have expanded defence and security ties, forged new economic and commercial linkages and deepened people-to-people engagement. The two sides share a common desire to promote peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, the statement

IAF aircraft overshoots runway at Mumbai, flights affected

TN RAGUNATHA MUMBAI

An Indian Air Force (IAF) transport aircraft overshot the main runway of the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) here on Tuesday night, result-ing in a minor disruption in

flight operations.

The incident took place at 11.39 pm, when the twinengine military aircraft Antonov AN-32 was preparing to take off from the main runway at CSIA here for IAF base at Yelhanka located on the

outskirts of Bengaluru. Both the IAF and CSIA confirmed the incident. "We confirm that the departing IAF aircraft had runway excursion at 2339 hours at RWY 27," a CSIA official said.

'The aircraft had abandoned take-off view a technical issue and overshot the runway. The aircraft and crew are safe. A recovery team has arrived Mumbai and the aircraft will be cleared shortly, "a



defence ministry spokesperson

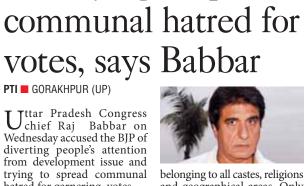
Following the mishap, at least a dozen flights were delayed as the authorities shifted the operations from runway 0927 to the secondary 14/32 runway. "There was 15-20 minute delay in the departures of flights from Mumbai," an airport official said.

Îhe runway 27 was cleared and handed over for operations at 4.50 pm today,"

the IAF spokesperson said. With a unique layout, the Mumbai airport which is the second busiest in the country, has two runways — the main runway 09/27 and a secondary one 14/32 — intersecting each

The primary runway has the capacity to handle up to 48 arrivals and departures per hour, while the secondary runway can handle 35 movements per hour. On an average, there are 970 flight arrivals and departures at the Mumbai airport every day.

capable of carrying out development works for people A large part of the operations is carried out from the main runway.



BJP trying to spread

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR (UP)

trying to spread communal hatred for garnering votes.

Canvassing for party candidate Supriya Shrinate in Maharajganj seat, he said most of the development works were done during the Congress rule and his party is the real voice of the poor backward.

voice of the poor, backward and the downtrodden sections

people's attention from devel-

opment issue and are trying to

spread communal hatred and

seeking votes," Babbar said at

an election meeting in

"Only the Congress is

Maharjganj district.

"The BJP is trying to divert

of the society

belonging to all castes, religions belonging to all castes, religions and geographical areas. Only the Congress can take the country ahead on the path of development," Babbar said.

Shrinate said she entered politics to fulfil the dreams of

his late father Harshvardhan Singh who had been elected MP from Mahrajganj twice.

The district is facing massive problems, sugar mills are closed and there is no industry to provide jobs to the youth. Here, the struggle is between rich and poor.

"Since the BJP came to ower, our country has gone back many steps and there is no one to listen to the poor and

SC lawyers: Victimised for taking up case against CJI

Senior lawyers Indira Jaising and Anand Grover on Wednesday cried foul over a Supreme Court notice to them and their NGO, Lawyers Collective, on a 2016 plea alleging FCRA violation by them,

ing FCRA violation by them, and said they are "deeply disturbed by the turn of events".

They said they are being "victimised" as Jaising took up the cause of a sacked woman employee of the apex court who had levelled allegations of sexual barassment against Chief sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi which were rejected by an In-House Inquiry Committee on

The notice was issued to them on a plea seeking investi-gation and lodging of FIR under various provisions of law for allegedly violating rules relating to receipt and utilisation of for-

Jaising and Grover, founders of Lawyers Collective,

et airways employees hold placards during a protest at the Chhatrapati

ivaji Maharaj International Airport Mumbai, India on Wednesday



clean chit to CJI in sexual harassment case in New Delhi on Wednesday

have been asked by a bench headed by the CJI to respond to a plea by an NGO, Lawyers Voice. "It is obvious to us that this is victimisation on account of Ms Jaising taking up the issue of the procedure adopted in relation to the allegations of sexual harassment against the Chief Justice of India by a former employee of the Supreme Court which Ms Jaising has done so in her capacity as a concerned citizen, a senior member of the bar

and a women's rights advocate, without commenting on the merits of the allegations," Jaising, Grover and Lawvers Collective said in a press statement.

They said that since Jaising, a former Additional Solicitor General, has been "publicly vocal" on the due process with regard to the conduct of the In-House Inquiry Committee headed by Justice S A Bobde, the CJI should have recused himself from hearing the matter.

We have brought peace in Jungalmahal: Mamata

PTI ■ KOTSHILA/HURA

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that her Government has been able to usher in peace in tribal Jungalmahal area.

The people of Jungalmahal, the forested tribal area of the State, were afraid of both CPI(M) and the naxals during Left Front rule,

But the scenario has changed in the area, which comrpise Jhargram, West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia districts, Banerjee said at an election rally at Kotshila in Purulia district.

'We have been able to establish peace in Purulia and Junglemahal area and many developmental works have been undertaken — mainly water-related projects," she

Criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said he has done nothing in the last five



Banerjee, who had spearheaded the anti-land acquisition movements at Singur and Nandigram, said that her government would protect the rights of adivasis including their claim over land.

At another rally at Hura in the same district, she said the government is planning an airport at Charra to connect the district with Kolkata and other places. She urged the electorate "Do not vote for BJP. They to help TMC wrest all the 42 in the State

out lies and make people fight against each other", the fiesty MC leader said.

> A fter the first day of the holy month of Ramzan passed off peacefully in Kashmir valley, 'unidentified' terrorists on Wednesday opened fire in Zainapora area of South Kashmir's Shopian district in which two pharmacists received critical injuries.

The firing incident was reported in the area close to the Sub-district hospital Zainapora at around 3 pm.

2 pharmacists injured in firing on Ramzan day 2 in Shopian **MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU chemist shops in the area and were local residents of Zainapora.

Local reports suggested the duo were politically con-nected with the People's Democratic Party. Official sources said,

"unidentified terrorists picked up Irfan Lone and Muzafar Ahmad Bhat from their medical shops and fired upon them from a close range. They both were critically injured in the fir-

Rleeding profusely the due

Earlier, on March 31, another chemist **Arjumand Majid Bhat was** targeted by terrorists in **Baramulla town**

were rushed to the local hospital from where one of them

was shifted to Srinagar. Soon after the firing incithe spot and cordoned off the entire area to track down the foot prints of terrorists.

Soon after, security forces rushed to the spot and cordoned off the entire area to track down the foot prints of terrorists.

Earlier, on March 31, another chemist Arjumand Majid Bhat was targeted by terrorists in Baramulla town and later he succumbed to his iniuries. He was also running a drug de-addiction centre in

any medicines," Dr Shah said.

recovery from morbid obesity,

Amita said: "Once I had fallen

from bed. It had taken my fam-

ily three hours to put me back

onto the bed safely. Recently, I fell from the bed. I managed

to stand up in just two minutes.

I am independent now.. I am

fully independent and can

Expressing her happiness over her once-overweight

Talking about miraculous

BJP hits back at Congress after Nirupam's Aurangzeb jibe at PM

PTI ■ VARANASI

Hitting back at Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam for likening Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "moderndra water of Aurangab" the day avatar of Aurangzeb", the BJP on Wednesday said the opposition party always finds it "useful" to remember what "invaders" did to India and accused it of politicising the ongoing development works

Protesting the demolition work under the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project in Varanasi, Modi's parliamentary constituency from where he is fighting the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, Nirupam likened the Prime Minister to 'modern-day avatar of Aurangzeb".

BJP spokesperson Nalin Kohli said, "Nirupam is known to give controversial statements more out of compulsion than conviction. For some strange reasons, Congress finds it always useful to highlight what the invaders did but never recognise the builders of India."

UPA Government had 'opposed" the existence of Lord Ram in an affidavit given to the Supreme Court and why it had sought to demolish Ram setu or Adam's Bridge, he When in power, the Congress never served the interests of Kashi Vishwanath

the development work being done by the PM, the Congress

should first explain why the

temple all these years and when the Modi Government is doing so, then it is playing politics and offering such controstatements, versial Kohli said. The BIP leader asserted

that the people of Varanasi and the country will give a resounding reply to the Congress on May 23 when the are counted

Asia's heavist women sheds 214 kg in four years

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Two years after the once world's heaviest woman from Egypt Eman Ahmed Abdelaty lost as much as 324 kilograms of weight during her treatment at a Mumbai hospital, a 42-year-old woman from neighbouring Palghar district has shed a staggering 214 kilograms during the last four years.

Á resident of Vasai town in Palghar district, Amita Rajani who with a weight of more than 300 kilograms had earned the distinction of being Asia's heaviest woman-currently weighs 86 kilograms.

"A staggering weight loss of 214 kgs —from 300 kilograms to 86 kgs in four years is something unimaginable," renowned bariatric surgeon Dr. Shashank Shah of LaparaObeso Centre at Lilivati Hospital at Bandra in north-west Mumbai said on

began putting on weight at the age of six years. "By the time she turned 16, her weight had shot up to 126 kgs," Dr Shah

dard, I weighed 126 kgs and in the final year of college, I was between 160 and 170 kgs...At one stage, my parents took me to London, where endocri-nologists could not provide a solution to my problem," Amita

a long time and visited Dr. Shah in 2015 that Amita began to nurse hopes of shedding her weight in a big way.

family "After her approached me for treatment, we had to prepare for almost two months before the surgery. A special ambulance with its doors removed was arranged, a huge six-and-half-feet sofa was fitted inside it to transport Born as a healthy baby her to hospital. There she had

"When I was in 10th stan-

recalled. It was only after she stepped out of her home after





(Left) Amita Rajani, a resident of Vasai town in Maharashtra's Palghar district, weighted 300 kilograms four years ago. (Right) After having shed 214 kilograms during the last four years ago, Amita now weighs 86 kilograms. She is with Dr Shashank Shah of LaparaObeso Centre at Lilivati Hospital in Mumbai

a special heavy duty bed, special clothes, a weighing machine and of course, a strict tailor-made diet," Dr Shah said.

"After her admission to the hospital in 2015, Amita underwent 1st stage metabolic surgery which was a laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy. Later, her condition started

improving and she lost oodles of weight and could walk on her own. In 2017, a second surgery—gastric bypass was performed on Amita, who weighed 140 kgs then. So with these two metabolic treatments and her efforts, she lost weight," Dr Shah said.

"After these two surgeries

and determined efforts from her side, she kept losing weight and is now at a manageable 86 kgs," Dr Shah said.

treatment, Amita was diagnosed not just with super morbid obesity but also deranged cholesterol, kidney dysfunction, type II diabetes and

daughter losing 214 kgs of weight, Amita's mother Mamta Rajani said: "I had to help her with all her chores, eating, dressing, controlling fluid retention with towels and bed-

move alone".

sheets that soaked the excess fluid discharged from her thighs. But, if she is how in good shape, full credit goes to 'When she came to me for Dr. Shah'

Amita's is the second major instance where an overweight woman has shed a sizeable

breathing problem. Today she chunk of weight. It may be is perfectly fine and without recalled that 36-year-old Eman Ahmed Abdelaty from Egypt Eman Ahmed Abdelaty had shed as much as 324 kilograms of weight during the treatment that she underwent for 83 days at the Saifee Hospital here. After her discharge from the Saifee hospital on May 4,

2017, Eman left for Abu Dhabi

for further treatment. Eman, whose weight was an estimated 500 kilograms when she arrived in Mumbai by an Egypt Air fully-equipped cargo flight from Alexandria on February 11 2017 to undergo weight-reduction procedure at the Saifee hospital here, weighed 176 kgs when she boarded a special charted flight to head to Abu Dhabi, where she will be admitted to VPS Healthcare's Burjeel Hospital for further weight loss treatment and rehabilitation.

Eman had undergone bariatric surgery on March 7, 2017 after losing an initial 100 rich liquid diet.

However, nearly five months after she left for Abu Dhabi having lost as much as 324 kilograms of weight during her 83-day treatment at the Saifee Hospital in Mumbai, Eman died at the VPS Healthcare's Burjeel Hospital on September 25, 2017. At the Burjeel Hospital, she was undergoing treatment.

Doctors attending on her at the Burjeel Hospital had attributed Eman's death to "complications from the underlying comorbid conditions, including heart disease and kidney dysfunction". "Eman Abdul Atti. the heaviest woman in the world, passed away on Monday 25 September 2017 at 04.35 am due to complications from the underlying comorbid conditions, including heart disease and kidney dysfunction," the hospital management had said in a statement issued then.

Guv reviews J&K security after killing of BJP leader

over the issue of withdrawal of security to politicians in Jammu & Kashmir, Governor Satya Pal Malik on Wednesday held a meeting to review the matter and decided to hand over an inquiry into attacks on leaders from the chief secretary to the additional director general of

Following the killing of BJP leader Gul Mohammed Mir by militants in South Kashmir on Saturday, various political parties flayed Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam and Home Secretary Shaleen Kabra for what they termed as "lack of vision" on security issues.

said the governor reviewed the security scenario and directed the administration to ensure safety of protected persons and give due consideration to the genuine apprehensions of political activists working at the grassroots level. The spokesman said the governor also assigned the probe into the attacks on political leaders to Additional Director General of Police Muneer Khan. Khan has been accused of favouritism while granting security to political persons.

The spokesman said the governor directed that Khan would conduct the inquiry into all such attacks since October 2018. He

said Khan would submit his report, covering all the relevant aspects, along with appropriate recommendations, within 15 days. In view of threats from militant groups to members of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayats, it was decided that elected Sarpanches, Municipal Councillors and Mayors/presidents, may be provided safe accommodation for their stay either at the state or district level. 'This will come into effect immediately and the Divisional Commissioners and IGs (inspectors general of police) will operationalise this after contacting the Sarpanches and ULB members," the spokesman said.

IN HUNG HOUSE... "The parties will sign a let-

ter before the results of May 23 and convey their viewpoint in support of an alternative Government. The reason for this preemptive move is to ensure that the President does not give the single largest party an opportunity to attempt and break regional parties and alliances," sources said. Recalling an instance post

the 1998 elections, President KR Narayanan had insisted that Atal Bihari Vajpayee produce letters of support before he was called to form the Government and seek a vote of confidence on the floor of the House. While BJP had won 178 seats, the alliance had 252 members. The Government, however, collapsed after 13 months, when it lost the vote of confidence by a single vote.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RAHUL APOLOGISES... 'The deponent (Rahul)

unconditionally apologises for the wrongful attributions to this court. The deponent further states that any such attributions were entirely unintentional, non-wilful and inadvertent," Rahul said in his fresh affidavit filed. "The deponent (Rahul) most respectfully prays that this court may be graciously pleased to accept the instant affidavit and close the present contempt proceedings," he stated in the affidavit.

In his fresh affidavit, Rahul said that he has never intended to, directly or indirectly, commit any act which interferes with the process of the outset, the deponent herein most respectfully submits that he holds this court in the highest esteem, and respect. The deponent has never sought or intended to, directly or indirectly, commit any act that it interferes with the process of administration of justice," he said.

He also said the affidavit is

made "bona fide and in the interest of justice, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom". A bench headed by Chief Iustice Ranjan Gogoi is scheduled to hear Lekhi's contempt plea against Rahul on May 10 along with the review petitions in the Rafale deal case. The Gandhi scion had earlier filed two affidavits in administration of justice. "At the Supreme court in the mat-

ter and had written the word "regret" in bracket in both of them. Rahul had made the remarks on April 10, the day the apex court had dismissed the Centre's preliminary objections over admissibility of certain documents for supporting the review petitions against the December 14 last year verdict in the Rafale case.

The Supreme court on April 15 had given a categorical clarification that in its Rafale verdict there was no occasion for it to make a mention of the contemptuous observation that "chowkidar Narendra Modi chor hain" as has been attributed to it by Rahul Gandhi. On April 30, the top court had given another opportunity to Rahul to file

a better affidavit relating to his

Alleging Prime Minister Narendra Modi carried out parallel negotiations with France for the Rafale fighter jet deal, Rahul in the rally accused him of insulting the martyrs by "committing a theft" in the multi-crore defence contract. Officials of the Indian Air Force wrote that Narendra Modi held parallel negations with France. Chowkidar was holding direct dialogue with the manufacturer of Rafale Dassault...Chowkidar now explain to the country why you committed a theft?" he said at the election rally in MP.

The Congress chief said, "The Rafale deal would have given jobs to the country's youths but Narendra Modi did not give contract to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd

Feel bad when they say won't vote for lotus: Maneka

On her remarks on Muslims

PTI ■ SULTANPUR (UP)

I Inion Minister Maneka Gandhi, who had stirred a controversy by asking Muslims to vote for her as they will need her once the Lok Sabha elections are over, on Wednesday said her remarks were taken out of context.

Busy electioneering here for the May 12 polling, the BJP leader said she had only stressed that while working she never gives any importance to caste and religion but feels bad when people say that they

will not vote for her as they do not want to vote for "lotus".

"Wherever I've gone, I've thought of all religions and castes. When we work, we work for all and that time nobody is concerned about lotus, but when it is time to vote and people tell us that they will not vote for me because they don't want to vote for the lotus symbol, it feels very bad," she

Maneka Gandhi was banned by the Election Commission from campaigning for 48 hours last month for



"It was totally out of con-You have heard my speeches," she said.

Asked as to why she has swapped constituency with son Varun Gandhi, who is now contesting from Pilibhit, she

'We are not Mahatma Gandhi's children that we keep giving and not get anything in return," she said in Muslim-dominated Turabkhani area during campaigning'

said it was the party's decision and she will continue to take

the development works ahead. Last month, Maneka Gandhi had a rally told Muslims to vote for her as they will need her once the Lok Sabha elections are over.

"We are not Mahatma Gandhi's children that we keep giving and not get anything in return," she said in Muslim-dominated Turabkhani area during campaigning.
Gandhi, the BJP candidate

from Sultanpur Lok Sabha constituency, claimed she is all set to win and told the Muslim audience that "you might need me tomorrow'

BJP will come to power with majority: Hema

Basti (UP): Bharatiya Janata become global leader," the Malini on Wednesday said the Opposition were bent upon stopping Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Congress and other Opposition parties are unitedly trying to stop Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but he is working wholeheartedly to check corruption," Malini said at an election meeting in Kaptanganj, Uttar Pradesh.

"Under the able leadership of the prime minister, the country is moving ahead to actor-turned-politician said. "The caste system is giving away and the country is achieving new heights in develop-

Malini said Modi "feels" the pain of the poor and backwards, adding that the prime minister is dedicated to the implementation of development work and welfare schemes.

The Mathura MP from Mathura claimed that the BJP would achieve historical win in the Lok Sabha election with a

People planning to oust PM Modi: Reddy

Congress general secretary Apsara Reddy on Wednesday claimed that people were planning to oust Prime Minister Narendra Modi from power as his NDA government "completely failed" on several fronts.

Reddy also criticised Modi over his recent remarks against former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"People are clearly designing the Pradhamantri Hatao Yojana' (remove PM scheme), as the NDA Government has completely failed on several fronts," she told reporters here in Goa.

"The way a woman like (Congress general secretary) Priyanka Gandhi is attacked, it should not be encouraged in a democratic set up. Also, what Modi said about late PM Rajiv Gandhi shows India in poor light in front of the entire world," the Congress leader

Modi in a rally on Saturday targeted Congress president Rahul Gandhi on the Rafale issue and said "your father was termed 'Mr Clean' by his the interests of Goans.

People are clearly designing the **Pradhamantri Hatao** Yojana (remove PM scheme), as the NDA **Government has** completely failed on several fronts, she told reporters here in Goa

courtiers, but his life ended as 'Bhrashtachari No 1' (corrupt number 1)".

Taking a jibe at a recent 'non-political' interview of Prime Minister Modi taken by actor Akshay Kumar, Reddy said, "When the country is facing issues like poverty and unemployment, our PM speaks about eating mangoes, that too with a Canadian citizen (Kumar).

She also demanded an apology from Goa Deputy Chief Minister Vijai Sardesai's statement that his Goa Forward Party will "weaponise" the youth if clauses like domicile in government jobs are diluted.

Responding to a question on dilution of domicile clause by the Goa University, Sardesai on Tuesday said, "We are willing to go anywhere to protect

EC orders repolling in 13 polling stations in Tamil Nadu

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Election Commission of India on ■ Wednesday announced conducting repolling in 13 polling stations in Tamil Nadu, where the Lok Sabha elections were held on

The repolling in Dharmapuri, Tiruvallur, Theni and Erode will be held on May 19, state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Satyabrata

Sahoo told reporters. "ECI has informed about repoll in 13 polling stations in Tamil Nadu. It will be conducted on May 19," he said.

The repolling will be held in eight polling stations in Dharmapuri, two in Theni and one each in Cuddalore, Tiruvallur and Erode, he

Earlier, the CEO had recommended repolling in Dharmapuri following alleged irregularities. He said on Wednesday that clearances had been done 'incorrectly' after mock poll for EVM and VVPAT in 46 RPT 46 places which had been reported to the ECI.

The ECI had subsequently taken the deci-

The Commission's move also comes amidst the Opposition objecting to shifting of EVMs from Coimbatore to Theni and Erode last night, though the CEO clarified that it was 'normal', keeping in mind the requirements in case of a

Will fight election in Rajiv Gandhi's name: Cong Varanasi candidate

PTI VARANASI

ongress leader Ajay Rai, who is contesting against Narendra Modi in Varanasi, said on Wednesday he would give a tough fight to the

"I am declaring that I will fight this Lok Sabha election in the name of (former prime minister) Rajiv Gandhi ji and also vow to give a tough fight to Modi from the Varanasi seat," Rai said at a press conference

Rai claimed that former Samajwadi Party leader Shivpal Singh Yadav's Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) had extended its support to the Congress candidates of Varanasi and defeat the Chandauli to communal" forces and stop them from com-

ing to power. The Congress leader said the people would end Modi's "arrogance" this time in the polls. "All his atrocities on the people will end after the elections, as he (Modi) had even demolished temples to pave way for the (Kashi-Vishwanath) corridor," Rai

He accused Modi of imposing a fee of Rs 550 on devotees visiting the Kashi Vishwanath, in an apparent reference to the special darshan

"Íf the Congress comes to power, then this kind of 'jizya' (tax) will go away and also an inquiry will be set up to probe those people involved in building the corridor

FIR filled against BJP leaders

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Hours after BJP leaders had threatened to take legal action against Leh based journalists for maligning the image of the party and levelling baseless allegations of bribing them, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Leh on Wednesday directed the Leh police to register FIR against the BJP leaders and investigate in to the matter under law.

According to official sources, "Station House Officer, Leh Police station had presented an application in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Leh seeking directions in the much hyped incident of offering bribes to local journalists in Leh by the State BJP leaders after the press con-ference at a local hotel in Leh on May 2".

In its order dated May 8, 2019, CJM,Leh noted," perusal and consideration of the matter on record reveals prima facie commission of non-cognizable offences punishable under section 171E AND 171F RPC warranting investigation". CJM order further stated," accordingly, the instant application is allowed and SHO, Police Station Leh is permitted to investigate in to the

On Tuesday, CCTV footage had exposed BJP leaders as it clearly revealed Leh journalists were handed over envelopes by them and they had refused to accept the same

matter under law".

On Tuesday, footage had exposed BJP leaders as it clearly revealed Leh ournalists were handed over envelopes by them and they had refused to accept the same. According to the instant

application moved in the court of CJM,Leh Rigzin Spalbar, contesting candidate of the congress party from Ladakh Parliamentary seat and members of Press club,Leh had lodged a complaint with the Returning officer, Leh in writing alleging that on May 2, 2019 some leaders of Bharatiya Janta Party offered packets containing cash to the media persons in a press conference at Hotel Singe Palace,Leh.

District Election Officer,Leh through Additional District Magistrate,Leh conducted an enquiry in to the

District Election Officer, Leh then brought the matter of violation of Model code of

conduct to the knowledge of SSP, Leh for action under law. SSP,Leh then directed SHO, Police station, Leh for further necessary action under law on May 6,2019.

Earlier, in the day, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders had denied allegations of bribing the journalists during a press conference in Leh

"All allegations of Leh journalists are baseless and misleading. It was supported by 'anti-BJP elements in Kashmir' and Congress to malign the image of the party," BJP's Ladakh incharge Vikram Randhawa had stated while addressing a press conference in Jammu

Randhawa, who has also been accused of bribing the journalists, said the CCTV footage of the incident being circulated doesn't show the BJP leaders bribing the jour-

"The CCTV grab being circulated on the social media is of the invitation envelopes being given to reporters for the coverage of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to Leh on May 4. This is being shown as if money is being

J&K panchayats' body seeks NIA probe into BJP leader's killing

Carpanches from parts of and register an FIR against him Wednesday demanded a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the killing of BJP's Anantnag vice-president Gul Mohammed Mir.

Led by their president Anil Sharma during a protest at the exhibition ground here, members of the All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) demanded that a case be registered against the officer ordered the withdrawal of security to the slain BJP leader.

Mir was shot dead by terrorists inside his house in Anantnag district on May 4.

"We strongly condemn the killing of an elected panchayat member who was working for the welfare of his people at

the grassroots level. The Government should

identify the officer who ordered the withdrawal of his security

Criticising the state administration for putting the lives of elected panchayat members at "risk" by withdrawing their security cover, he said it was the need of the hour to hold a high-level NIA inquiry into killings of panchayat members to expose the conspiracy.

der by the faulty system,"

Sharma told reporters.

"From 2011 to 2016, at least 18 panchayat members were killed while the fresh incident has again created fear among panchayat members who contested the elections last year to strengthen the grassroots-level democracy in the State.

The NIA should be entrusted with the task of conducting a detailed inquiry into killings of panchayat members," he said

Parties demand rollback of toll tax on Srinagar-Jammu highway

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

 $P_{\text{on Wednesday demanded}}^{\text{olitical parties in Kashmir}}$ an immediate rollback of the toll tax being levied on vehicles on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, saying the move would put the people of

A newly constructed toll plaza on the four-lane highway at Sangam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district was recently made operational to collect toll tax from vehicles passing through it.

In a statement, NC pokesperson Imran Dar urged the governor's administration to suspend the tax levied at the Charsoo toll plaza near

"The highway is still incomplete with some bridges still under construction. The economic activity in Kashmir has hit its lowest ebb in the last four years and the decision of levying an exorbitant toll tax will inadvertently put the peo-ple under duress," Dar said.

Expressing dismay over the decision, the NC spokesperson said it was



"unjust and unfair" to levy taxes on people when the highway was not yet fully func-

"The State Government must do an immediate review of the rates that are being levied on different vehicles at the newly inaugurated toll plaza. We therefore urge the governor administration to defer imposing the toll tax," Dar said.

The PDP also pitched for the exemption of toll tax being levied on the vehicles in south Kashmir, stating that such a measure would hit the already economically downtrodden people hard. The party's vice-president

Abdul Rahman Veeri said people from south Kashmir in general, and from Kulgam and Anantnag districts in particular, were bearing the brunt of such a measure as private as well as the Government employees have to pass through the toll plaza at Charsoo and they were being asked to pay

every day.

"TheGovernment must exempt the people of south Kashmir and those employees who will have to report everyday to their duties and for that reason have to pass through the toll plaza. This is nothing but an octroi being levied on the people's movement. The government has to roll it back,"

Veeri said.

Former legislator from north Kashmir's Langate con-stituency Sheikh Abdul Rashid also sought a rollback of the

"The move is an indirect attack on the special status of state and also a brazen attempt economy. Paying taxes is no doubt duty of every citizen but first Government needs to introspect the fact that J-K is passing through turmoil since long and government has itself failed miserably to provide better roads to the people of state," Rashid said.

He said before giving the NHAI permission to collect the toll tax, the Government should have taken the consent of the state legislature and "by not doing so, the Centre is trying to impose its writ on the state in violation to the special status J-K enjoys," he said. Former IAS officer Shah

Feasal, who quit his job and recently floated his political outfit Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement, also sought a deferment of the

LDF Govt 'soft' on terrorism, says BJP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

lleging that the CPI(M) led Kerala was "soft" on terrorism, a delegation of BJP leaders on Wednesday met Governor P Sathasivam and submitted a memorandum.

The saffron party leaders, including V Muraleedharan MP and BJP state president P Sreedharan Pillai met Sathasivam at Raj Bhavan here and sought a probe against the state government, alleging that it has not taken any action into certain reports on terrorism.

In a release, BJP said the Government failed to follow the directions on human trafficking to Yemen and some other reports on weapons trading in the backdrop of sand

mining.
"The Special Branch had given a report in relation to a matter of around 10 people travelling to Yemen. The

Mamata to play major role in forming

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mining

Centre had even given special instructions to stop travel to that country and even suggested that action be taken against the recruitment agencies. However, the state government failed to follow any of the instructions," it said.

The party also alleged that there were reports of weapon trading under the disguise of

sand mining.

The BJP alleged that the state government had not taken any steps to investigate the matter or take action, based on these reports.

Guv reviews J&K security after killing of BJP leader

 $F^{
m acing}$ criticism over the issue of withdrawal of security to politicians in Jammu and Kashmir, Governor Satya Pal Malik on Wednesday held a meeting to review the matter and decided to hand over an inquiry into attacks on leaders from the chief secretary to the additional director general of

Following the killing of BJP leader Gul Mohammed Mir by militants in South Kashmir on Saturday, various political parties flayed Chief Secretary Subrahmanyam and Home Secretary Shaleen Kabra for what they termed as "lack of

vision" on security issues. A Raj Bhavan spokesman said the governor reviewed the security scenario and directed the administration to ensure safety of protected persons and give due consideration to the genuine apprehensions of political activists working at the grassroots level. spokesman said the governor also assigned the probe into the attacks on political leaders to Additional Director General of Police Muneer Khan.

Khan has been accused of favouritism while granting security to political persons. The spokesman said the

into all such attacks since October 2018. He said Khan would submit his report, covering all the relevant aspects, along with appropriate recommendations,

governor directed that Khan

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district level. This will come into effect immediately and the Divisional Commissioners and IGs (inspectors general of police) will operationalise this after contacting the Sarpanches and ULB members," the spokesman

The governor undertook a detailed review of the securitythe Raj Bhavan. He was given a sector-wise assessment of the prevailing security situation in the state, he said.

The meeting was attended advisor to the governor, K Vijay Kumar, chief secretary B R Subrahmanyam, DGP Dilbag Singh, principal secretary Home Shaleen Kabra, Principal secretary to governor Umang Narula and other officials from the police and civil

administrations. The spokesman said that while expressing concern over the killings of political functionaries belonging to various political parties in the state in the past few months, the governor stressed the need for ensuring safety of protected persons and advised security agencies to give due consideration to the genuine apprehensions of political activists grassroots level.

The governor reiterated the need to constantly maintain a close watch on the ground situation and underlined the importance of sustained efforts to bring peace and harmony in

related issues at the meeting at the society for the overall benefit of people, the spokesman

> "This is with a view to ensuring that all possible measures, general as well as specific, are taken for security of political workers to enable them to continue their political activities, particularly in view of the terrorist attacks on political workers in the recent past," the spokesman said.

> During the meeting, the overnor stated that leaders of different political parties and other organizations may raise their security concerns with the Security Headquarters of J-K Police and due diligence of threat perception would be carried out by the intelligence agencies before arriving at a decision on the provision of personal security the persons with a perceived threat, the spokesman added.

> He said Malik would also be inviting leaders of different political parties in the state to discuss their security concerns and how to address them so as to create a secure political and governance environment for

J&K Guv tells officials to remain accessible to people

PTI JAMMU

ammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Wednesday directed administrative secretaries of all Government departments to

remain accessible to the public. 'To promote public outreach and speedy grievance redressal, the governor has directed the administrative secretaries to remain accessible to the public," said Girdhari Lal, Deputy Secretary, General Administrative Department in order issued on

Wednesday. Lal said the department had time-to-time directed the administrative secretaries not to fix any meeting during the time allotted for grievance redressal.

"Once again, the department impressed upon the administrative secretaries to keep two hours from 1 pm onwards on a daily basis for the redress of grievances," Lal said

non-BJP Govt at Centre: Naidu

PTI ■ JHARGRAM (WB)

rinamool Congress supre-I mo Mamata Banerjee will play an important role in forming the next non-BJP Government at the Centre, Andra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said on

ident, alleged that BJP is playing the communal card to polarise votes in West Bengal as it failed to fight the state chief minister politically. Naidu came to West Bengal

Naidu, also the TDP pres-

on a two-day visit to address public rallies in support of the TMC. He is also scheduled to hold a meeting with Banerjee at Kharagpur on Thursday.
The Telugu Desam Party chief came to the state straight from New Delhi where he met

Congress president Rahul Gandhi and discussed plans to hold a meeting of opposition parties on May 21, two days ahead of Lok Sabha results, to chalk out a post-poll alliance. Two other prominent

opposition leaders, Telangana Minister Chandrashekar Rao and his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan also met at Thiruvanantapuram on

"Mamata-ji is a fighter. She brought down the 34-year long communist rule with her relentless efforts and then started the much-needed development work in West Bengal. "She will play an important

role in forming the next non-

BJP government in India after

May 23," Naidu said while

speaking at a political rally Starting his speech in Bengali, Naidu described Banerjee as a tigress not only of Bengal but also of the country. Later, he addressed the

gathering in Hindi and English. "Mamata-ji has stood against the atrocities of the Narendra Modi regime and proved to be a challenge to these anti-constitutional forces. The BJP could not challenge Didi and her strength. That's the reason they are resorting to their never ending communal politics to divide the people of Bengal," the TDP chief assert-

He claimed that the federal spirit of the country is in danger now because of the unilateral approach of the BJP. "We are witnessing that institutions and constitutional

bodies are being destroyed," he Alleging that the Election Commission is working at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he claimed that constitutional bodies are being used for willful persecu-

tion of political opponents

across the country.

Naidu urgent the voters in
Jhargram Lok Sabha seat to ensure that the EVMs work properly and their votes go to the TMC candidate during olling on May 12.

Naidu shares a very cordial relationship with the TMC supremo and had joined the mega opposition rally she had organised here in January.

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— PAPER WITH PASSION — **Unfriendly trade winds**

Trump's war on nations with high tariffs had to hit India hard. This is yet another priority issue for the next Government



ilbur Ross is a big believer in the India story and over the past decade has been a huge investor in many companies, most famously SpiceJet, which he effectively kept alive when it was floundering. However, now Ross finds himself in the employ of the United States' taxpayers and his boss, US President Donald Trump, whose agenda, as we heard time and time again on his campaign trail, is to "Make America Great Again." And one way Trump plans to make America great again is by imposing retaliatory tariffs on

nations that have put up high barriers to US-made products. His first major target was famously China and while the US-China trade talks are ongoing, the Chinese are not exactly finding dealing with him and his negotiators easy. India should be happy that China is catching most of the flak from Trump because a few fusillades here, too, have hammered home hard. He has referred to India as the 'tariff king' and his comment on India's import duties on motorcycles hit us so hard that the government promptly cut duties on imported motorcycles although Harley-Davidson, the company it was supposed to benefit really, didn't see much progress in sales. Ross visited India, met all the top members of the Cabinet and expressed his displeasure at all sorts of moves by the Indian government, such as increased local sourcing that has impacted Flipkart, now owned by American retail giant Walmart and a data localisation rule that has MasterCard cribbing to all and sundry. However, as a long-time student of India, Ross knows that despite his meetings with Prime Minister Modi, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu, things can't change at the current time in the middle of elections. That said, by meeting senior members of the Cabinet, Ross also indicated the US belief that the current dispensation is coming back.

If that is the case, Narendra Modi should know that he has a Trump problem on his hands. While the US will enter full election mode for its 2020 presidential election in the next few months, India's trade relations with it should not implode on higher tariffs. Besides, India knows that it has to at some stage return the US favour on the diplomatic front, the latter having prioritised its security concerns over those of Pakistan beside getting China to agree on the UN listing of Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. However, it must not do so at the cost of its national interests in commerce. It stood commendably firm in its caveat on capping prices for medical devices. Also, there should be some semblance of reasonableness in linking paring down tariffs at our end with theirs. Prabhu tactically did not take up the Generalised System of Preferences, which the US is withdrawing, and focussed on other areas of cooperation. Whoever has the hot seat next should also remember that Ross will not continue to hold the post given the revolving door nature of the US administration. Also, with the US-China trade talks stalling, India appears to have found some extra time to plan a better negotiating stance. This time around it must use some of its better assets in industry and think-tanks in addition to bureaucrats to negotiate with Trump.

Federal front regroups

Despite the return of KCR in post-poll negotiations, the anti-BJP coalition has a lot of hurdles



The problem with the concept of *maha*gathbandhan — an alliance of regional parties that are as against the BJP as the Congress — is that its constituents never coalesce together with confidence despite their command over the grassroots. Somewhere they are scared of seizing the national agenda collectively and are reconciled to their limited territorial might, clutching on to prominent national parties as props for a pan-Indian sustenance. Worst, for the best of ambitions, they are more prone to bargaining the best deal for

their respective fiefs and fritter away their tally and common ground all too easily. This uncertainty between intention and execution has prevented the federal front from acquiring critical mass. Besides, the policy paralysis of coalition front governments at the Centre has definitely bred voter fatigue over time. Nobody trusts a pyrrhic leadership race anymore. The same half-hearted co-existence of disparate interests sounded the knell of an anti-BJP front this election, the SP and the BSP being the only exception in Uttar Pradesh. That, too, by the way, is rooted in their need to hold on to their turf and not be swamped by national parties. Now when some pollsters have predicted that both the BJP and Congress may not get the magic numbers on their own and that regional players may put up a determined show, talk of a federal front has gathered momentum in a postpoll scenario. Except this time, all are on the same page about shedding equidistance and choosing the Congress as the much-needed adhesive.

The federal front's one-time architect and Telangana Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao, has spurred into action again, holding meetings with Kerala's Leftist Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and hoping to get Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy and DMK's Stalin on board. He is keen to form a southern bloc in post-poll negotiations and restore the trust among other parties, who were upset about his intransigence on including the Congress and had seen him as a B team of the BJP. Clearly, he doesn't want to be left out of possibilities and is trying to assuage the anxieties of both archrival and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Bengal counterpart and his original ally, Mamata Banerjee. The larger question is whether Didi, who is now helming the federal front, will be comfortable with him or not. She was none too happy when despite going the mile with KCR, the wily leader had left the door ajar for possible negotiations with the BJP and a rewarding largesse for his newly-formed state. Hence the renewed diplomacy now to dispel fears of him being a sellout. KCR himself knows that if there's anybody who can ultimately strike a balance between allies and the Congress in the larger picture, it will be Mamata Banerjee. So has he subsumed his ego or is he playing saboteur once again? Meanwhile Naidu has spoken to Congress chief Rahul Gandhi about an all-Opposition parties meeting on May 21 to discuss the possibilities of a conglomerate government in case of a fractured mandate. The Congress may be ready to take the Karnataka model ahead but would it stay out of the leadership race if it manages to improve its numbers? Rahul Gandhi has after all led the party to victory in three different States and would be amped up with additional gains if any. He could emerge consensus among the colliding heads of aspirant front PMs — NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Naidu, Mamata and BSP's Mayawati. Most importantly, would any of the federal front leaders agree to cede ground to a first among equals? Besides, if everybody is so keen, why didn't they show the same urgency for a pre-poll arrangement knowing full well that a post-poll arithmetic usually doesn't hold ground with the President as a first option? The prospects are still hazy.

opanion

Fading memories

While remembering the events of 1919 and seeking to better integrate the spirit of May 4 into the party's narrative, the student revolt of 1989 has been completely blacked out



CLAUDE ARPI

hina is suffering from a strange disease, a sort of selective amnesia — certain things from the past are clearly remembered, while other events seem to have been completely erased from the nation's collective memory (or at least from the party's annals). Take the May Fourth Movement, which was recently celebrated with much fanfare in every corner of the Middle Kingdom. In this case, the memory of the event, which occurred a hundred years ago, is absolutely clear.

Following the 1911 Revolution in China, the Manchu (Qing) dynasty disintegrated, triggering the fall of imperial rule. Eight years later, the May Fourth Movement took place in the Chinese capital where students started protesting against the nationalist Government's weak response to the Treaty of Versailles, allowing Japan to control the territories surren-

dered by Germany in Shandong.
On the morning of May 4, 1919, student representatives from 13 different local universities met in Beijing and drafted five resolutions, in particular, to oppose the granting of Shandong to the Japanese and the creation of a Beijing student union. Later in the afternoon, some 3,000 students of Beijing University marched to Tiananmen Square, shouting slogans such as "struggle for the sovereignty externally, get rid of the national traitors at home" and don't sign the Versailles Treaty."

Nobody can deny that it was a true revolution. Hundred years later, Chinese President Xi Jinping affirmed that patriotism was the core spirit of the 1919 event. He added that the May Fourth Movement inspired the ambition and confidence of the Chinese people and the nation to realise national rejuvenation. "It was also a great enlightenment and new cultural movement of disseminating new thought, new culture and new knowledge," Xi said.

The President urged Chinese youth "in the new era" to love the country, the party and adhere to the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC)...by the way, where was the party in 1919? Seventy years later, another student revolution took place on Tiananmen Square in Beijing and the Communist Party has no remembrance of it.

The aspiration of the students may have been very similar: A craving for a fairexpress themselves, a more democratic system (termed the 'Fifth Modernisation') and greater transparency and participation in the state's affairs. A power struggle at the top of the party ended with the decision to send tanks on to the Square on June 4, 1989, which resulted in the death of some 3,000 youths.

The Tiananmen papers, prefaced by a Chinese scholar, Andrew Nathan, gave a clear picture of the decision process inside the Politburo, which led to the massacre. Nathan



This has completely been blacked out by Beijing. In May 1968, students in France and elsewhere in Europe also dreamt of a better world, but the twomonth revolution, often violent, did not result in any casualty, neither from the students nor the police side.

quences are still being felt."

Wang Xiangwei, a former editor-in-chief of the South editorial piece for the Hong-Kong newspaper. After mentioning the similarities between the student movement in 1919 and 1989, he commented: "But the Government will disregard the 30th anniversary of another student demonstration in 1989 that preceded its bloody crackdown on June 4. The latter protest may be less seminal in China's mod-



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ern history, but its core spirit should not be obscured." Wang also noted that before RECENTLY, THE

the beginning of the May 4 celebrations, Xi chaired a meeting of the Politburo "to discuss ways to enhance study into the movement's history and significance. The President seeks to better integrate the spirit of May 4 into the party's narrative that only it can lead the country's youth to his goal of national rejuvenation." The sad fact is that today,

China is probably worse off than in 1989. Sycophancy and repression have reached new heights. Recently, the regime reestablished an alliance of nine colleges, called the "Yanhe University Talent Training Alliance," in order to perpetuate what is called the Yan'an Red DNA. Yan'an was the place where the Long March ended; it later became the centre of the Chinese communist revolution. In the early years, nine university institutions were set up to train the next generation of communist cadres. It was called the 'Red DNA college', responsible for spreading the "fire of the Chinese revolution" to the whole country.

Another instance, during the cultural revolution, party committees in universities made the students report on the antiparty faculty members.

After the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, the regime systematically established student informants in key Chinese universities. In 2005, the arrangement was expanded to almost every university and even some high schools explained the wellinformed site Chinascope: "Although on the surface, the purpose is to collect information on academic activities, the student informants are the ears and eyes of the communist party authorities in the universities. One could multiply the examples. One can just guess that China's freedom-loving students will again revolt one day.

Incidentally, in 1989, the Indian Government ordered the state television to pare down the Tiananmen coverage to the barest minimum. Analyst C Raja Mohan explained: "The Government's monopoly over television helped Minister Rajiv Gandhi signal Beijing that India would not revel in China's domestic troubles and offer some political empathy instead.

Rajiv Gandhi had travelled to China barely six months earlier. Sometimes, it is easier to be Alzeimerish

(The writer is an expert on *India-China relations)*



In 1942, Quit India movement was launched against the British, now we are fighting to oust a fascist Modi from power.

West Bengal CM —Mamata Banerjee



I am working now, I am not in the zone to get married. world has to say. I think jumping the gun is silly.

—Ariun Kapoor



Detecting and disrupting terrorists and other high-risk criminals prior to them carrying out an attack is a high priority for the international community

UN Secretary-General –Antonio Guterres



Rahul Gandhi had to apologise to the Supreme Court for attributing lies to it. Congress i a habitual liar. This is political bankruptcy. This is desperation

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar



LETTERS

Learn from the past

Sir — This refers to the article, "Scrub allegations and come clean" (May 8) by Kalyani Shankar. The writer is right to note that the Election Commission's (EC) autonomy has taken a dip as it failed to ensure that all political actors play by the rules of the game during the ongoing general elections. It took the Supreme Court to awaken the EC from slumber and pull it up for its failure to enforce the law against leaders who violated the Model Code of Conduct.

It is noteworthy that under former Chief Election Commissioners like TN Seshan, RVS Peri Sastri, Sukumar Sen and SY Quraishi, the electoral body had grown in strength. Such officers are known for their creative solutions that adhered not only to the spirit of the Constitution but were also in accordance to the law. The EC must take cue from them and find strength in the mandate given to it by the Constitution than being a lame duck.

Azhar A Khan

Needed, a comprehensive education module his refers to the editorial, "Genuine scores?" (May

4). Parents, students as well as colleges thrive on self and mutual back-patting sprees. Memory and hard work are prioritised over meaningful and active learning. There is an emphasis on mechanical learning or 'rote learning'. The present education system in India emphasises on 'see' and 'tell' and fails to stress on 'how' and 'why.' In the active process of learning, students 'participate' or 'involve' themselves much more than just 'listening.' Knowledge, skill, attitude, analysis, synthesis and evaluation — all these are ingredients of active learning. Discussions, debates and deeper learning are focussed on to pave the way for a thoughtful learning.

From time-to-time, educationists advocate a 'grading system' to bridge the gap between an 'above 95' and 'below 90' student. The varying syllabus in the CBSE and State boards has made life tough for students. Uniformity is the need of the hour. A common education system, which amalgamates work and skills, the-



ory and thoughts and reading and learning must be incorporated across the country. Transformation of children from being dependent to self-reliant is a tough journey. Our education system should aid the process instead of complicating it. Parents must take care and ensure their children blossom into complete individuals.

Ganapathi Bhat

Remembering Tagore

Sir — Rabindranath Tagore was born on May 7, 1861, as per the Gregorian calendar. However, according to the Bengali calendar, he was born on the 25th day of the Boishakh month. His birth anniversary is celebrated as per the Bengali calendar in West Bengal and Bangladesh and this year, it has fallen on May 9. During one of my recent

visit to 'Iorasanko Thakurbari'. Tagore's ancestral house in Bengal, I got the opportunity to see his room where he was born and where he breathed his last. Jorasanko means twin bridges. The name of the place must have got its name because of the material existence of the twin

area. But it has now got a new spiritual connotation. As Tagore had said in one his songs: "This is only about coming and

Tagore had tremendous faith in the spirit of India. He had said, "I do not think that it is the spirit of India to reject anything, reject any race, reject any culture. The spirit of India has bridges over the canal in that always proclaimed the ideal of

unity. This ideal of unity never rejects anything, any race, or any culture. It comprehends.... all things with sympathy and love. This is the spirit of India."

The British used the twin bridges — Jorasanko — when they ruled India. They used the bridge of birth and creation to bring the ideals of liberty. But at the same time, they also used the other bridge — of death — to import the poison of racial hatred, to destroy the religious fraternity and the spirit of India so that they could divide and

Sujit De Kolkata

Model State

Sir — Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his entire team have done a stupendous job in tackling cyclone Fani. Other States must learn from this model and work towards minimising losses when disasters, natural or man-made, strike.

P Arihant Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Voices from Victory Day

It is imperative that the present generation grasps the lessons from Russia's victory over fascism and the German war machinery



SV NAIR

ay 9 is one of the most revered days in Russia. This day brings to human memory the horrendous phase of the World War II, which for the people of Russia, marked the great patriotic war between 1941 and 1945. The terrible excesses still linger in the minds of the older generation. The importance of this day also lies in the fact that the Russians still perceive it as the most important event in the 20th century. According to a State poll, almost half of the Russians have planned to attend the Victory Day military parades. Indeed, Russia has a lot to commemorate and honour: The Soviet people and the Red Army chronicled the great victory over fascism with blood and tears, undertaking the supreme sacrifice of 27 million people, thus setting an all-time global toll of human lives. Without their sacrifice, the outcome would have been very different.

This day also commemorates the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945. It was declared a national holiday and was followed in 15 Republics of the Soviet Union after the signing of the German Instrument of Surrender in the late evening of May 8, 1945. The Soviet Government announced the 'Victory Day' on May 9 after the signing ceremony in Berlin. The occasion became a reason for showing its military might.

With Vladimir Putin assuming power, the Russian Government started promoting the prestige of the governing regime and history. Hence, national holidays and communications became a source of national self-esteem. Victory Day in Russia has increasingly become a celebration in which popular culture plays a central role. On this day, President Putin plays host to Moscow's largest-ever military parade, marking the anniversary of the Great Victory of the Soviet People over Fascism in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945). In an appropriate gesture, the Russian Centre of Science and Culture (RCSC) in New Delhi, jointly with the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus, marked the 74th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945) and the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Belarus (July 3, 1944). On this occasion, a seminar titled, 'Impact and Lessons of the Great Victory of Soviet People over Fascism for Mankind', was held.

World War II was the deadliest conflict in human history, which saw 50 to 85 million fatalities, most of whom were civilians in the USSR and China. It included massacres, genocides, strategic bombing, deaths from forced starvation and disease and the use of atomic weapons. Operation Bagration, a code name for the 1944 Soviet Belorussian Strategic Offensive Operation, a military campaign fought in Soviet Belorussia in the Eastern Front of World War II, deserves special mention here. The USSR inflicted the biggest defeat in German history, totally shattering the latter's front line. World War II changed the political alignment and social structure of nations across the globe. This is why the United Nations was established to foster international cooperation and prevent future conflicts among countries. The victorious great powers became Permanent Members of the UN Security Council. In those painfully terrible days encountered by trials, travails and tribulations, practically every Soviet family was deprived either of a father, a husband or a son in the war-front.

Thousands of families were rendered homeless and the people — young and old, men and women, both dead and wounded — were found strewn all around. These accounts of World War II should remind mankind that without Soviet contribution, the destiny of the world would have been indeed unimaginable. It is a lesson for the present generation to bear in mind that it was the Soviet Red Army, which bore the brunt of Hitler's German war machinery, striking a crushing defeat, and in the process, rescued humanity from the menace of Nazism. Hope mankind has developed the right perspective with sensibility and sensitivity.

(The writer is Media Advisor, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, New Delhi)



POINTCOUNTERPOINT

MONEY DOES NOT MATTER TO ME. THAT IS WHY WHEN MODI ACCUSED MY PARTY OF BEING TOLABAAZ, I WANTED TO GIVE HIM A TIGHT SLAP OF DEMOCRACY.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE





RAGE ALL YOU WANT BUT I JUST HAVE THIS ONE REQUEST FROM YOU, DO NOT FEEL ASHAMED WHEN WE HAVE TO BECOME FRIENDS AGAIN SOME DAY.
—UNION MINISTER
SUSHMA SWARAJ

How to get an umbrella

Financial inclusion in a diverse country like India needs a spectrum of services in order to encapsulate the different dimensions of the diverse populations they reach



MOIN QAZI

Inance is one field where we have witnessed significant innovations in recent decades. Earlier, we could only visualise social change in rural India because villages were so deeply mired in caste conflicts. These issues had engendered local tyrannies and subverted the social order, resulting in bondage and servitude for a significant portion of the population for generations. In the 1970s, the locus of change shifted to other areas, which worked towards levelling caste divisions and neutralising feudal overlords. Finance was the pivot of this process of change.

neutralising feudal overlords. Finance was the pivot of this process of change.

When I began life as a rural banker in the 1970s, outsiders rarely visited the villages. Those who did, other than the occasional anthropologist, Government extension officers, family planning staff of the Government or census worker, were missionaries of various religions. Over the years, I noticed that the balance shifted to agents toting financial schemes. Of course, those who lived in the villages already had both. As an ancient Indian proverb has it

— a village can be formed wherever the three come together: A river, a priest and a moneylender. This gradual change in the profile of visitors and reformers was my first introduction to the then embryonic revolution in development finance, which later grew into the niche of social banking.

Bankers, who began showing up in villages on their bicycles, motorcycles or jeeps in the 1970s and 1980s, were usually employees of local branches of State-owned banks. Their mission, as assigned by their Governments and assorted international donors, was to find trustworthy villagers to whom they could provide credit. This, it was thought, would help villagers start small businesses, thereby increasing rural economic growth while at the same time empowering people to climb out of poverty.

The bankers and missionaries, who shared

The bankers and missionaries, who shared much of the same client pool, were curiously alike in some ways. Usually outsiders to the local community, members of both groups tended to discover their own preconceptions in the villages, rather than the local realities and dynamics. However, many of them genuinely cared about helping poor people increase their incomes and better their lives. Some were even quite successful. They came with powerful ideas, found other similarly powerful plans already present and often became catalysts for the cross-fertilisation of their own ideas of social and economic reforms and wisdom of the locals.

A unique characteristic of bankers visiting villages was the refreshing change in their academic credentials and their willingness to adapt to the harsh realities of rural life. Most of them were from technical backgrounds, endowed with a vision that focussed more on the technical and practical, rather than the financial aspects of the problems of the poor. This was particularly seen in the innovative practices they fostered in agriculture, dairy and small enterprises and artisanry. Their overarching goal was energisation of the rural economy and promotion of entrepreneurial approaches. Development finance was just one of the many sources into which they dipped.



They brought a range of weaponry to combat poverty and agricultural regress: High-yielding varieties of seeds, new techniques for pest management, a modern range of equipment and chemical fertilisers. Veterinary doctors brought exotic breeds of cattle, a range of new drugs and nutritional supplements to combat mortality and improve cattle health. Artificial insemination techniques built superior breeds of cattle.

Financial inclusion or access is a component of financial development, along with depth, stability efficiency and financial development, which is important for economic growth. Financial inclusion in particular has a bearing on equity as well. Access to a transaction account is a first step towards broader financial inclusion as it serves as a gateway to other financial services like credit or insurance; lowers transaction costs for daily economic activities; and enables the creation of a buffer for emergencies. Other potential benefits of financial inclusion include: Improving efficiency and targetting of Government welfare programmes; reducing corruption through better monitoring and regulation of financial transactions through digital technology. Transfers made directly to the citizen's bank accounts can eliminate corrupt and inefficient intermediaries. Digitisation of finance and economy holds the key to myriad problems.

Building inclusive digital economies requires the collective action of Governments, industry, financiers and the civil society. Before speeding ahead, we need to build the infrastructure, align our policies and create the tools that will enable the poor to board the digital train. India has a highly vibrant and innovative high-tech ecosystem in the world. However, along with it, there exist hundreds of millions of people, who live in villages, who are happy with a technology that is hardly more sophisticated than a bullock cart and a plough. Since systems are meant to work for the user, the onus is on the designer to make sure the users can access the system comfort-

ably. There is a need to integrate various modules — savings, credit and insurance among others — into a technology framework for the development of holistic strategies for comprehensive financial inclusion. Low-income groups, women in particular, have the lowest access to formal financial instruments, forcing them to rely on age-old informal mechanisms: Money under the mattress, money guards, relatives, friends and money-lenders. These informal mechanisms are insufficient and unreliable as well as highly expensive. Thus, financial exclusion imposes large opportunity costs on those who suffer from it the most.

While policy and financial regulatory initiatives enabled substantial progress in terms of financial inclusion indicators — branch penetration, account density or deposit and credit figures — there is a need to strengthen enabling deepening in our country. Alternate service channels such as agents or business correspondents have tremendously expanded their outreach. They are better positioned to serve remote pockets as they operate in a limited geographical area, enjoy greater acceptability among the rural poor, have greater understanding of the issues specific to the underprivileged and have flexibility in operations, providing a level of comfort to their clientele. Formal financial services such as savings, loans and money transfers can enable the poor improve resistance to shocks, boost productivity of business, facilitate empowerment of marginalised groups, such as women and rural residents, and help reduce poverty. Life is one long risk for them as they are just a tragic event away from a financial catastrophe.

One way to ensure that the past wrongs are not repeated is to have mandates and subventions in the financial inclusion space so that banks and other financial institutions vigorously expand their outreach to cover even remote populations. The cost involved in the implemen-

tation of these mandates is quite stiff and need serious consideration. Instead of banks recovering these costs by overcharging ordinary customers, or by demanding recapitalisation by the Government, one alternative can be that the Government pays for these mandates. These costs can be determined by an independent agency. Not only will the cost of the mandate become transparent, it will make services accessible. The Government will also have to make a reasoned decision about how long to impose the mandate. Moreover, only efficient service providers will come forward to bid for these mandates.

On the demand side, financial literacy is an important tool for financial inclusion. Consumers have to understand the nature of the products and services they are buying as well as the implications of these purchases. There is also the need for substantial research on how vulnerable groups manage their complex financial lives. This can aid product design and solutions of financial instruments that can be tailored to their needs. Financial inclusion in a diverse country like India needs a spectrum of services in order to encapsulate the different dimensions of the diverse populations they reach.

Financial services need to be tailored to the needs of the disadvantaged groups, especially the women, poor people and first-time users, who may have low literacy and numeracy skills. Fintech is now providing platforms that allow financial institutions to carry on personalised, electronic conversations with customers through text messages using powerful data analytics that tailor messages to customer behaviour. All stakeholders must now realise that financial inclusion can succeed only through the (convenient) marriage of all four paradigms: Digital, finance, literacy and numeracy.

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)

Disaster beyond cyclone Fani

The formation of a tropical cyclone itself is going to be more readily triggered when there is availability of very warm conditions at the ocean surface and when the vertical temperature gradient through the atmosphere is strong



KOTA SRIRAJ

ani wreaked unprecedented havoc in Odisha as it was the second such severe cyclone in the last hundred years to have formed in the Bay of Bengal. In spite of these harsh credentials, it could not exact much human casualties. This storm has had an interesting life since it first formed as a low-pressure area over the equatorial Indian Ocean and southeast Bay of Bengal on April 25, 2019. In short, it has been highly unpredictable for forecasters to pin it down, especially with respect to its track and speed.

After forming and intensifying into a depression, Fani moved towards Sri Lanka and threatened to make landfall somewhere on the coast of Tamil Nadu, according to forecasters. But

Ferocious winds not only claimed 34 lives but have left a trail of destruction with life almost coming to a standstill. In spite of rising sea surface temperatures contributing to the severity of

then, it changed its direction and also decreased its pace to stay in the Bay of Bengal for more than eight days, all the while becoming more intense and ending up becoming an extremely severe cyclonic storm. Such cyclones sniff out warm waters on the sea surface and progressively become more intense. This is where climate change comes in. Scientists and weather experts now firmly believe that enough studies have proven that warmer sea surfaces due to climate change make cyclones not only frequent but also intense in nature.

Towards the end of its journey through the Bay of Bengal, Fani changed its character again. At first, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted that Fani on landfall would carry ferocious winds with speed ranging from 175-185 kilometres per hour (kmph). With a final wind speed of more than 200 kmph, it battered the coastal areas of Odisha. Ferocious winds not only claimed 34 lives but have left a trail of destruction with life almost coming to a standstill. In spite of rising sea surface temperatures



cyclones, mankind has been unable to rein in global warming and consequently, climate change. The coastal areas, which can directly contribute towards lowering sea surface temperatures, are still engaged in activities that are detrimental to a healthy environment.

In the immediate future, climate change is likely to affect tropical cyclone behaviour even more intensely in two ways. First, the formation of a tropical cyclone itself is going to be more readily triggered when there is availability of very warm conditions at the ocean surface and when the vertical temperature gradient through the atmosphere is strong. As the climate

continues to warm up, the difference between the temperature near the surface of the Earth and the temperature higher up in the atmosphere is likely to decrease. Given a rise in greenhouse gas emissions and spiralling global warming, these conditions at the ocean level are going from bad to worse.

In addition to this, an increase in

In addition to this, an increase in temperature of the surface ocean also affects the intensity of cyclones along with changes in upper atmosphere conditions both in terms of maximum wind speeds and in the intensity of rainfall that occurs in association with the cyclone. This because the storms draw energy from the surface waters of the ocean and as more heat/energy is stored

in these upper waters, cyclones have a larger source of energy to draw from. The interconnected nature of cli-

The interconnected nature of climate change with extreme natural events, especially cyclones, needs to be understood in detail. The erstwhile nature of cyclones during the 70s and even the 80s used to be frequent but they came along with a certain degree of predictable intensity with them. But of late, as ocean temperatures warm up rapidly, thanks to climate change, this predictability has been the first casualty. In fact, it is being estimated by the scientific community that in the coming decades, the frequency of cyclones may come down but this can hardly be considered as a harbinger of good news because the cyclones, as and when they occur, will be so fierce and devastating that recovery will take years for affected regions.

The human race is quick at adoption and that is what we are doing. Take the case of Odisha, which evacuated its people and minimised the loss of life really well. This is one State which has set a template. The way Odisha tackled the natural disaster may also mean that human race has now finally cho-

sen to fall in line and adapt to harsh climate change conditions rather than fight with the same and reverse it. This realisation should not just be for India but for the global community as well.

Rightly did Odisha receive acclaim from the UN for for enabling successful evacuation of its people. But it would have been even greater if India had come to global attention for its measures to tackle global warming, especially sea surface temperatures, that eventually contribute to either reducing the frequency of cyclones or at least bringing down their intensity.

All is still not lost as far as the threat of cyclones is concerned. India can still make a difference by showing that coastal communities and cities can tackle global warming and keep their sea temperatures down. The world is bristling with technology that can change the course of how a cyclone can and will behave. Will our leadership and Government make a difference this time? Guess we may have to wait and

watch the next cyclone.

(The writer is an environmental





GENEROSITY IS GOOD The last decade placed

enormous pressure on charities. In the decline in donors, we are seeing the effect. Donors may also have felt discouraged by the sheer scale and difficulty of the problems being addressed. But no one should be under any illusion that we can do without these organisations. A healthy, active democracy requires a vibrant civil society as well as government. Generosity is a healthy impulse. (The Guardian editorial)

Sensex tanks 487 pts as trade jitters take a toll

arkets wilted under selling pressure for the sixth straight day on Wednesday as investor sentiment remained grim amid US-China trade tensions and declining foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 487.50 points, or 1.27 per cent, to end at 37,789.13, while the broader NSE Nifty sank 138.45 points, or 1,20 per cent, to 11,359.45.

According to traders, domestic equities tracked weakness in global markets, which have been rattled ever since US President Donald Trump on Sunday threatened to hike tariffs on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese goods

The recent flare-up in tensions between the world's two top economies has sent investors scurrying to safehaven assets like bonds, gold and the Japanese yen.

A depreciating rupee, mixed corporate earnings and caution ahead of the elections outcome added to the gloom, analysts added.

heavyweight İndex Reliance Industries was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 3.35 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Tata

HDFC twins, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Yes Bank and IndusInd Bank were among the other

Only Asian Paints, HCL Tech and TCS ended in the green, rising up to 0.60 per cent.

The domestic markets have been on the decline for the last two days mainly due to the flare up in the US-China trade war. A lack of an agreement between the two economies could hurt global growth in the near term

'Q4FY19 earnings season so far has mainly been lackluster. Also, the ongoing general elections have kept major market participants cautious. FIIs, which have been supporting the market through their inflows, have turned sellers in the past few days. Expect markets to remain volatile until elections results (May 23)," said Hemang Jani, head of advisory, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

All sectoral indices on BSE ended in the red, led by energy, realty, utilities, oil and gas, finance, bankex, healthcare, telecom and teck, which tumbled up to 2.51 per cent.

The broader BSE smallcap and midcap indices too ended lower by up to 1.21 per cent. Foreign institutional

SUZLON

worth a net ₹645.08 crore on Tuesday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) purchased equities to the tune of ₹818.84 crore, provisional data available with stock exchanges

showed. Other Asian bourses ended significantly lower following weak Chinese trade data. The Shanghai Composite Index declined 1.12 per cent, Hang Seng 1.23 per cent, Nikkei 1.46 per cent and Kospi 0.41 per cent. European stocks were trading on a mixed note in early trade.

The Indian rupee on Wednesday fell further by 28 paise to 69.71 against the US currency, extending its losses for the third straight day. The rupee opened sharply lower at 69.57 as the US-China trade related concerns weighed on investor community. The local currency moved in a range of 69.47 to 69.74 before closing at 69.71, down 28 paise from the previous close. The rupee has weakened by 49 paise or 0.71 per cent since Monday after the US's threat to increase tariffs on USD 200 billion of Chinese imports triggered a global sell-

off in riskier assets. Global benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.41 per cent lower at USD 69.59 per barrel.

LTP

333.30

5.98

5.73 322.45

5.93

SUNTV

Passenger vehicle retail sales dipped 2% in April: FADA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile dealers' body FADA on Wednesday said retail sales of passenger vehicles (PV) in March declined by 2 per cent to 2,42,457 units as compared to the same period last year.

PV sales stood at 2,47,278 units in April 2018, according to Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA). Two-wheeler sales declined by 9 per cent to 12,85,470 units last month compared with 14,09,662 units in the year-ago period. Commercial vehicle sales declined by 16 per cent to 63,360 units against 75,622 units in April last year. Three-wheeler sales saw a dip of 13 per cent

to 47,183 units last month. Total sales, across categories, declined by 8 per cent to 16,38,470 units in April, against 17,86,994 units in the same month last year. "On a year-onyear basis, there was de-growth in all the categories as April 2018 had a very high base," FADA president Áshish Harsharaj Kale said in a statement. The nearterm outlook continues to be negative to neutral with the absence of any immediate positive triggers which could affect retail sales, he added.

Kale said that despite negative situation, which is expected to continue over the next 8-

551.00

87.25

252.85

467.95

131.25

1283.00

519.90

111.10

155.00

287.80

474.95

72.80

262.05

635.00

1123.00

480.75

50.70

196.95

600.80

82.70

416.55

1139.85

162.70

426.35

3929.00

1365.15

134.05

1495.45

525.00

1442.20

240.40

443.65

124.60

1243.40

107.30

151.55

460.05

254.65

610.00

468.00

49.00

190.60

585.00

401.00

158.40

95.30

130.55

1123 55 1130 00

3695.05 3712.80

1334.05 1350.50

1150.70 1168.90

1075.85 1083.10

525.00

86.45

1456.00

242.40

450.50

125.40

1271.00

107.55

152.15

271.30

461.80

72.30

82.10

256.55

610.25

479.00

49.15

191.85

588.60

80.05

410.00

160.10

420.65

131.00

95.75

QUESS

HFCL

RECLTE

APLLTD

DRREDDY

SUVEN

MINDTREE

ICICIPRULI

GODREJCP

GMRINFRA

ADANIPORTS

BALKRISIND

ORIENTBANK

INTELLECT

CASTROLIND

CROMPTON

SOUTHBANK

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GMDCLTD

SADBHAV

J&KBANK

GRASIM

SOBHA

IDFC

CAPPL

AUBANI

IPCALAB

GUJALKALI

MAHLOG

APLAPOLLO

BERGEPAINT

BOSCHLTD

KEI

HUDCO

IKTYRE

SHANKARA

ADVENZYMES

GREAVESCOT

SREINFRA

BAJAJCON

147.05

TIMETECHNO

ADANITRANS

ADANIGREEN

MEGH

OMAXE

IDBI

MANAPPURAM

SWANENERGY

550.80

86.50

1475.00

251.00

467.95

131.00

1283.00

510.00

109.15

154.00

284.00

465.25

72.80

82.10

257.00

635.00

1123.00

470.00

50.60

195.40

595.00

401.05

1126.75

162.70

3745.00

1350.00

133.70

99.50 99.60 1169.90 1182.65

12 weeks, the industry still believes that things could become better if there is a stable government in place. Besides, an average to above average monsoon with an even spread and continued easing of liquidity by Reserve Bank of India can also help the sector, he added.

Kale said that inventory levels continue to remain high and requires further correction than done in recent months.

"We believe that high inventory at this time is an extra burden on the auto dealers especially when the current environment is witnessing negative sales growth combined with extremely tight working capital availability," he added.

FADA will be strongly advocating for a leaner inventory of 21 days for its members thus helping them reduce a huge cost burden to stay afloat in these challenging times, Kale said. He added that consumer liquidity in April has seen marginal improvement but continues to be tight and still far away from the normal levels. "FADA is extremely concerned at the dealer liquidity which continues to remain very very tight and access to working capital for dealers has reduced further with the banking system taking a negative view towards auto retail in the current

circumstances," Kale said.

658.10

163.95

22.40

139.00

105.45

566.95

2920.20

1670.00

117.80

256.85

977.60

362.00

116.00

636.55

370.40

854.00

37.25

92.10

239.45

223.05

148.10

220.00

205.80

15.80

1020.05

63.25

73.00

58.55

876.00

465.00

336.35

636.00

39.90

948.90

945.00

544.00

506.30

180.50

1712.25

1515.10 1530.05

21585 65 21920 45

1672.05 1695.00

670.85

140.50

106.15

568.55

2945.00

1709.50

118.05

258.90

984.80

365.40

117.10

639.30

374.80

855.50

37.55

93.60

226,60

150.70

227.10

207.50

15.80

1035.00

63,60

58.55

879.05

465.00

376.00

40.15

962.35

950.65

546.25

512.90

181.85

1714.00

645.20

21.40

137.00

101.55

532.05

1669.00

253.10

972.25

114.10

627.55

367.40

824.05

90.55

221.50

147.00

217.00

204.50

15.20

1006.25

54.00

863.10

445.00

322.90

38.00

940.00

923.00

520.00

472.05

178.10

1691.00

1500.05 1500.05

21315.30 21380.00

1656.05 1666.70

2882.85 2901.00

653.80

21.95

137.50

102.00

551.60

1692.75

113.90

255.95

980.10

360.85

114.60

636.30

369.30

828.20

37.10

91.30

225.00

225.15

205.70

15.45

62.20

230.15 VBI.

54.65

872.00

448.50

339.15

631.20

38.25

948.20

927.90

522.90

474.00

178.90

1695.00

1015.00

Google Pixel 3a, 3a XL to hit India from May 15

rech giant Google's latest generation of $oldsymbol{1}$ smartphones — Pixel 3a and Pixel 3a XL will make their way into the Indian market priced at ₹39,999 onwards from May 15.

These handsets, which are cheaper than their predecessors, compete with devices from the stables of Apple, Samsung and OnePlus in the burgeoning premium smartphone segment in India. The new lineup promises better camera features and battery life.

Speaking at its annual developers meet Google I/O late Tuesday night, its CEO Sundar Pichai said "building for everyone" is a core philosophy for the company

By offering a more affordable lineup, the USbased giant is keen on wooing customers in emerging countries like India.

According to Counterpoint Research Associate Director Tarun Pathak, the "mid-tier variant of Pixel" is expected to provide Google with "a chance to start things from scratch in some of the emerging countries like India where premium market is small but growing fast".

This can help Google to lock in some firsttime users who are looking for premium features at an affordable prices," he told PTI. Given that the premium smartphone market in India is expected to grow by 30 per cent, the segment offers a huge potential for players like Google.

Google had introduced its Pixel 3 and 3XL in India in October last year priced between ₹71,000-92,000. The prices of these devices now hover around ₹57,000-74,000.

In March this year, Samsung had unveiled three devices — Galaxy S10+, S10 and S10e as part of its flagship Galaxy S series that was priced between ₹55,900-₹1.18 lakh in India. The base models of Apple's iPhone XR and XS are priced ₹76,900 and ₹99,900, respectively. Huawei

15.35

120.00

162.00

1021.00

30.50

127.50

261.00

295.00

271.10

130.15

1010.75

88.50

344.80

519.00

237.40

213.35

279.75

268.05

127.05

322.25

41.20

410.90

78.15

2308.10

343.00

405.80

29.00

153.00

977.00

158.90

475.05

217.65

1590.45

343.00

944.05

1705.00 1719.75

15.40

120.00

163.80

30.50

128.65

266.10

272.20

132.45

1014.10

345.70

520.00

244.05

213.35

279.80

268.75

128.90

324.45

41.20

78.15

2308.10

343.00

417.90

29.15

153.00

978.70

159.95

219.90

1600.25

378.00

14.85

3485.80

111.80

158.00

29.50

125.00

251.70

288.70

265.60

128.55

975.00

84.40

338.30

506.40

235.20

209.00

265.40

265.00

122.00

315.55

40.45

75.45

334.00

405.20

28.00

144.50

925.00

153.00

473.35

216.50

343.00

918.00

1570.00 1573.00

2094.00 2142.75

1682.10 1694.80

1011.95 1028.00

115.00

160.60

29.65

125.60

255.05

293.55

266.20

131.05

338.45

507.75

211.20

267.75

265.95

40.75

75.95

407.00

28.15

144.90

951.90

155.00

217.80

362.25

918.00

HEIDELBERG

THYROCARE

ALLCARGO

IKCEMENT

GREENPLY

JBCHEPHARM

WABCOINDIA

SHOPERSTOP

BALMI.AWRII

ENDURANCE

CORPBANK

ASTRAL

FLFL

GEPIL

GET&D

TATAMETALI

GLAXO

SIVN

AIAENG

UFLEX

MAHABANK

CENTURYPLY

GODFRYPHLP

NAVKARCORP

SUNDRMFAST

ITDCEM

EOUITAS

IBULISL

WABAG

WELCORP

GUJFLUORO

PRSMIOHNSN

GODREIAGRO

VGUARD

GESHIP

HINDZINC

SUDARSCHEM

FCONSUMER

LAKSHVILAS

ASTRAZEN

SONATSOFTW

TORNTPHARM

JAMNAAUTO

CENTRALBK

CHAMBLFERT

CARERATING

PNCINFRA

AARTIIND

INDOSTAR

BHARATFIN

TVTODAY

TEJASNET

BBTC

ALKEM

DBCORP

CUB

KRBI.

ASHOKA

EIDPARRY

PIIND

RALLIS

TAKE

PFIZER

OFSS

ISGEC

NAUKRI

ISEC

GODREJIND

FRETAIL

MAGMA

HEXAWARE

Google Pixel 3a phones on display d at the Google I/O conference in Mountain View, California, on Tuesday

has also upped its ante in the segment with the introduction of P30 for ₹71,990.

China's OnePlus —- which has been gaining popularity among Indian buyers — is slat-

ed to unveil its latest 'OnePlus 7' later this month. According to the research firm, Samsung had 44 per cent share of the premium smartphone (₹30,000 and above) market in India in the

January-March 2019 quarter. OnePlus had 26 per cent share, while Apple had 19 per cent share in the said quarter. Other players — including Google — accounted for the remaining 11 per cent share of the premium segment. Pixel 3a features 5.6-inch display, 4GB

RAM, 64GB internal storage, 12.2MP rear and 8MP front camera, and 3,000 mAh battery. Pixel 3a XL — priced at ₹44,999 — features a larger six-inch display and 3,700 mAh battery. The eSIM on Pixel 3a and Pixel 3a XL will now be supported by Airtel and Reliance Jio, the com-

Google has also announced the upcoming version of its operating system — Android Q – that will natively support foldable displays and focuses on key areas like security and well-being.

NIFTY 50

<u>SCRIP</u>	<u>OPEN</u>	<u>HIgh</u>	LOW	<u>LTP</u>	CHANG
NIFTY 50	11478.70	11479.10	11346.95	11359.45	-138.45
HINDALCO	200.00	202.90	196.65	202.75	2.30
UPL	953.00	968.40	945.40	962.00	10.85
TITAN	1090.00	1100.00	1067.85	1096.80	10.30
ASIANPAINT	1382.00	1395.00	1362.60	1395.00	7.20
CIPLA	556.00	561.40	549.00	560.00	2.05
BRITANNIA	2656.60	2667.10	2615.85	2657.00	6.45
TCS	2151.00	2168.00	2130.40	2156.00	4.05
JSWSTEEL	286.45	292.80	285.00	288.65	0.55
COALINDIA	249.60	252.10	248.55	248.90	0.10
BHARTIARTL	324.85	327.45	320.10	325.00	0.05
EICHERMOT	20280.00	20470.00	20250.00	20350.00	-3.20
INFRATEL	268.00	270.30	263.65	267.55	-0.45
GRASIM	874.80	879.80	862.00	870.10	-2.25
LT	1363.90	1371.00	1355.00	1362.00	-4.60
POWERGRID	191.95	193.75	188.90	190.80	-0.75
KOTAKBANK	1404.00	1414.90	1388.70	1402.25	-5.90
HINDUNILVR	1697.50	1697.50	1675.00	1690.15	-7.35
ITC	300.00	303.40	298.65	300.60	-1.30
HDFCBANK	2322.55	2323.80	2288.00	2309.00	-13.35
ULTRACEMCO	4530.00	4550.00	4488.00	4505.00	-26.25
HCLTECH	1132.00	1140.00	1122.40	1125.05	-6.70
BPCL	378.05	383.40	373.10	376.40	-2.45
ADANIPORTS	370.05	374.90	367.70	369.50	-2.40
INFY	721.00	726.00	716.50	718.95	-5.60
MARUTI	6679.00	6693.00	6616.00	6650.00	-52.00
IOC	154.00	155.20	151.70	152.15	-1.30
AXISBANK	741.90	744.75	733.35	735.10	-6.75
WIPRO	294.25	294.25	290.05	291.15	-2.70
GAIL	341.00	345.15	336.40	337.50	-3.25
IBULHSGFIN	674.00	681.60	666.05	671.90	-6.70
ICICIBANK	386.30	390.00	380.10	382.40	-4.10
HEROMOTOCO	2525.80	2540.85	2481.60	2496.00	-31.35
TATASTEEL	531.25	532.40	521.60	523.00	-7.60
TECHM	813.00	814.10	799.60	803.00	-11.65
DRREDDY	2943.00	2947.80	2882.60	2897.15	-45.30
ONGC	171.40	171.40	167.75	168.95	-2.75
M&M	635.55	637.00	619.00	624.60	-11.40
HDFC	1964.50	1964.50	1925.05	1930.10	-36.20
VEDL	160.50	163.45	156.00	160.30	-3.20
INDUSINDBK	1515.80	1525.95	1482.10	1485.60	-30.20
YESBANK	165.00	166.50	160.00	161.40	-3.35
SBIN	303.95	305.30	296.75	298.45	-7.00
NTPC	133.85	134.00	130.20	130.75	-3.35
BAJAJ-AUTO	3032.00	3033.00	2951.80	2956.25	-76.80
SUNPHARMA	447.75	449.85	433.45	436.00	-12.20
BAIAIFINSV	7550.00	7551.00	7312.30	7345.00	-216.95

372.00 372.50 321.65 NIFTY NEXT 50

1340.00 1340.00 1292.20

3012.00 3017.00

183.80

2900.00

332.05

IINDALSTEL

KTKBANK

BLUESTARCO

INDIACEM

TV18BRDCS

ASIANPAINT

IBVENTURES

FEDERALBNK

UJJIVAN

HDFCLIFE

M&M

PERSISTENT

HINDUNILVR

GODREIPROP

TVSMOTOR

HINDALCO

TATAMTRDVR

WOCKPHARMA

MOTHERSUMI

CADILAHC

PETRONET

LICHSGFIN

BHARTIARTL

HEROMOTOCO

ADANIPOWER

BANDHANBNK

EVEREADY

INOXLEISUR

PIDILITIND

AUROPHARMA

M&MFIN

INDIGO

770.25

200.20

91.00

400.05

130.00

294.20

390.00

795.95

132.40

301.30

390.00

488.00

42.00

967.80

104.05

1180.00 1182.00

2525.00 2535.00

2266.00 2267.00

41.20

100.00

DMART

TATAMOTORS

BAJFINANCE

CADILAHC

298.90 300.00

284.65

285.95

-13.25

				00	
SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANG
NIFTY NEXT 50	26983.05	26994.25	26655.75	26707.75	-312.6
MRF	53049.00	54500.00	53000.00	54400.00	1455.3
MCDOWELL-N	521.70	537.20	521.00	528.00	5.7
ICICIGI	1056.00	1075.00	1046.20	1065.00	8.1
SHREECEM	19800.20	19900.00	19488.00	19900.00	133.4
OFSS	3453.05	3467.95	3397.05	3467.95	16.7
PGHH	10325.00	10540.00	10299.90	10388.00	41.2
DMART	1255.90	1263.00	1226.00	1260.00	4.9
HDFCLIFE	407.70	413.40	406.10	410.50	1.2
ASHOKLEY	85.35	86.40	84.95	86.15	0.2
SRTRANSFIN	1017.00	1052.05	1012.45	1025.05	2.0
GODREJCP	636.50	639.80	627.10	636.15	0.1
INDIGO	1575.05	1585.00	1545.30	1575.75	-1.0
SAIL	52.60	53.95	52.30	52.90	-0.1
ACC	1601.00	1606.95	1563.55	1590.10	-6.8
HDFCAMC	1639.00	1664.00	1622.00	1631.30	-8.3
HAVELLS	739.75	739.90	724.80	734.00	-5.1
LUPIN	850.00	858.80	844.00	848.55	-6.1
DLF	169.50	170.15	165.60	168.20	-1.4
GICRE	238.10	244.15	235.85	236.30	-2.1
HINDZINC	268.05	268.95	264.00	265.60	-2.4
PETRONET	237.10	240.35	234.25	235.80	-2.2
BIOCON	555.00	560.00	543.30	545.70	-5.2
NMDC	96.15	97.45	95.40	95.70	-0.9
AUROPHARMA	770.00	776.00	754.55	763.05	-7.6
COLPAL	1155.15	1160.35	1140.35	1147.00	-11.6
MARICO	359.40	359.90	346.10	355.75	-3.6
MOTHERSUMI	130.60	132.50	129.65	130.30	-1.3
PIDILITIND	1178.30	1183.20	1157.70	1163.60	-15.1
HINDPETRO	287.30	287.30	280.60	281.10	-3.9
NHPC	23.25	23.25	22.75	22.90	-0.3
BANKBARODA	112.60	113.85	110.25	110.80	-1.7
DIVISLAB	1686.60	1695.90	1654.10	1661.00	-28.1
ABB	1480.25	1497.00	1448.00	1453.60	-25.2
SBILIFE	655.05	661.40	649.95	650.60	-11.5
NIACL	176.15	177.10	174.00	174.00	-3.1
ICICIPRULI	361.25	365.35	354.65	358.20	-6.8
UBL	1375.25	1379.70	1350.05	1352.55	-27.8
PAGEIND	21800.00	21937.95	21251.50	21342.80	-456.5
AMBUJACEM	218.25	219.10	212.40	213.40	-4.8
DABUR	375.50	375.75	365.00	367.00	-8.5
BAJAJHLDNG	3151.00	3178.55	3080.10	3098.10	-79.9
BOSCHLTD	17701.20	17830.00	17017.60	17306.00	-478.7
CONCOR	493.30	493.30	475.10	475.50	-14.3
L&TFH	122.35	123.05	118.50	118.75	-3.7
BHEL	63.90	63.90	61.55	61.85	-1.9
SIEMENS	1111.10	1116.80	1075.55	1085.75	-36.2
BANDHANBNK	591.00	591.75	566.10	569.80	-21.0
PEL	2279.00	2279.00	2180.00	2181.00	-86.9

BSE 500

371.00

372.50

6.31

SUZLON	6.31	6.31	5.93	5.98	ABB
JPASSOCIAT	5.05	5.10	4.90	4.94	CHENNPETRO
DHFL	115.50	120.45	110.25	116.55	SUNTECK
RELIANCE	1340.00	1340.00	1291.05	1299.45	HINDPETRO
YESBANK	165.00	166.55	160.05	160.75	NOCIL
RELCAPITAL	120.95	120.95	112.50	115.05	JUBLFOOD
JETAIRWAYS	125.10	135.90	124.10	131.45	OBEROIRLTY
PCJEWELLER	122.00	126.40	119.00	122.20	PFC
VEDL	159.00	163.30	156.20	159.30	GLENMARK
TATAMOTORS	190.50	190.90	184.25	185.55	IOC
RAIN	110.10	118.50	106.75	113.25	NCC
IDEA	15.45	15.45	13.65	14.35	DEEPAKNI
ICICIBANK	386.00	390.10	380.05	381.85	BHARATFORG
CGPOWER	36.00	41.55	35.30	39.35	INDIANB
SPICEJET	128.25	129.30	125.60	126.05	LEMONTREE
IBREALEST	104.45	105.35	96.60	97.95	UNIONBANK
RELINFRA	99.35	102.30	96.75	99.50	CANBK
KOTAKBANK	1409.90	1414.00	1391.55	1403.55	JUBILANT
SBIN	305.45	305.45	297.00	298.10	ABCAPITAL
SRTRANSFIN	1023.00	1051.40	1011.50	1027.90	APOLLOHOSP
INFY*	724.00	725.95	716.00	718.10	SIEMENS
WIPRO	293.00	293.80	290.20	290.80	DCMSHRIRAM
IBULHSGFIN	674.00	681.35	667.00	672.05	JISLJALEQS
MARUTI	6697.95	6697.95	6615.35	6631.75	ONGC
WESTLIFE	380.00	380.00	342.30	347.55	APOLLOTYRE
DISHTV	31.45	32.30	29.15	31.30	TATACHEM
BHEL	63.65	64.00	61.60	61.80	JSLHISAR
TATASTEEL	532.00	532.65	521.10	523.50	MFSL
EDELWEISS	140.40	150.25	138.80	146.75	CONCOR
STRTECH	190.25	195.80	183.85	184.75	HCLTECH
NATIONALUM	50.85	50.85	49.40	49.55	GUJGAS
GPPL	83.90	86.40	81.05	83.20	VIPIND
L&TFH	123.00	123.05	118.20	118.70	NMDC
BANKBARODA	113.15	113.90	110.30	110.90	MCX
HDFCBANK	2324.00	2325.00	2288.00	2308.65	MERCK
BOMDYEING	122.70	124.15	117.00	119.65	BATAINDIA
TITAN	1086.00	1097.90	1069.25	1088.35	RAYMOND
PNB	83.90	85.35	83.00	83.90	NTPC
TCS	2158.00	2167.75	2130.20	2152.65	SBILIFE
ASHOKLEY	85.65	86.30	85.00	85.80	RADICO
BIOCON	556.00	560.00	543.50	546.00	BIRLACORPN
DLF	169.70	170.15	165.80	169.00	TATAELXSI
MARICO	360.90	360.90	346.20	355.45	PHILIPCARB
AXISBANK	744.90	744.90	733.70	735.50	KAJARIACER
IDFCFIRSTB	48.10	49.95	48.10	49.30	FSL
BAJFINANCE	3017.70	3017.70	2895.30	2921.90	ICICIGI
SUNPHARMA					ICICIGI
	445.20	449.75	433.95	438.85	
JSWSTEEL	286.05	292.70	285.45	289.35	DIII
DABUR	376.20	376.20	365.00	367.25	DUL
AMBUJACEM	218.50	219.10	213.00	213.50	100
INDUSINDBK	1518.05	1527.70	1480.00	1487.60	1
ESCORTS	644.40	648.00	625.10	628.65	
BAJAJFINSV	7550.00	7550.00	7320.05	7350.05	38.525

360.90	360.90	346.20	355.45
744.90	744.90	733.70	735.50
48.10	49.95	48.10	49.30
3017.70	3017.70	2895.30	2921.90
445.20	449.75	433.95	438.85
286.05	292.70	285.45	289.35
376.20	376.20	365.00	367.25
218.50	219.10	213.00	213.50
1518.05	1527.70	1480.00	1487.60
644.40	648.00	625.10	628.65
7550.00	7550.00	7320.05	7350.05
1028.00	1064.55	1025.00	1057.05
167.90	171.70	165.85	170.00
1969.85	1970.00	1926.00	1931.95
123.00	124.55	120.75	121.60
1361.05	1370.00	1355.05	1361.20
9.50	9.58	9.20	9.43
740.00	786.00	739.95	762.75
103.40	104.30	98.65	99.40
1750.00	1784.00	1720.00	1727.50
30.40	30.55	29.10	29.65
3027.10	3027.10	2954.00	2956.20
1382.80	1399.00	1365.65	1387.60
1251.25	1265.00	1230.30	1251.80
260.90	267.40	256.00	258.10
52.80	53.90	52.30	52.85
600.00	600.00	572.00	574.80
486.90	498.25	481.00	487.20
99.00	99.95	97.85	98.50
378.05	383.30	373.05	377.30
310.00	313.35	304.30	306.20
390.40	393.95	383.30	384.85
409.00	413.00	406.75	409.70
622.85	622.85	605.50	610.00
1701.00	1701.00	1675.30	1684.85
634.60	636.80	620.05	623.70

481.00	487.20	1 2
97.85	98.50	
373.05	377.30	GR
304.30	306.20	- Un
383.30	384.85	
406.75	409.70	MUTHOOTFIN
605.50	610.00	SRF
1675.30	1684.85	INFIBEAM
620.05	623.70	JUSTDIAL
57.40	58.00	ACC
754.00	782.50	PNBHOUSING
477.15	490.35	JAICORPLTD
1547.45	1577.00	SYNDIBANK
196.60	200.60	CANFINHOME
83.50	83.70	BEML
88.30	88.80	DBL
53.85	54.00	TECHM
385.10	387.75	FORCEMOT
129.55	130.45	CIPLA
2616.45	2652.85	HAVELLS
285.00	287.20	CENTURYTEX
298.60	300.75	RBLBANK
234.45	235.40	HINDCOPPER
377.15	378.90	ULTRACEMCO
755.00	763.40	BAJAJELEC
335.25	338.25	HIMATSEIDE
471.00	478.25	GRANULES
320.30	323.75	EXIDEIND
1155.95	1164.05	CHOLAFIN
111.00	113.95	COALINDIA
2485.05	2500.70	GICHSGFIN
40.75	41.35	LUPIN
570.00	573.45	NIITTECH
922.70	962.70	IGL
63.20	64.50	EMAMILTD
2180.00	2180.00	JYOTHYLAB
90.65	90.65	INDHOTEL
299.35	309.00	BLISSGVS

32,870

	554.00	558.05		
		220.02	541.00	549.95
	859.70	871.50	853.00	860.00
	145.00	145.75	140.10	140.15
	555.00	573.15	553.60	567.10
	51.05	51.05	49.70	49.90
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	566.90	569.50	556.70	560.40
	2500.00	2515.00	2426.00	2440.10
	42.65	43.50	42.00	42.25
	570.00	574.00	560.05	560.05
	1601.00	1602.35	1563.60	1590.90
	704.80	704.80	689.75	693.00
	104.55	106.70	103.70	104.05
	36.25	36.85	35.75	36.10
	313.00	326.15	312.85	321.30
	834.80	840.85	825.15	834.05
	479.40	479.40	455.45	456.75
	814.55	814.55	800.10	807.00
	1542.00	1595.00	1541.00	1552.20
	556.30	561.00	548.95	557.95
	735.10	740.00	725.80	734.00
	903.25	929.00	903.25	915.25
	662.40	666.15	649.50	650.00
	44.05	44.20	43.10	43.70
	4528.00	4552.00	4493.00	4520.00
	552.00	554.25	528.25	534.90
	203.70	205.70	195.00	197.15
	112.20	112.80	108.00	110.15
	212.00	212.50	207.50	208.30
	1281.00	1307.90	1278.00	1281.65
	250.00	252.15	248.10	248.90
	255.00	256.15	240.00	244.95
	851.00	857.80	844.75	846.10
	1247.50	1249.90	1230.25	1233.25
	306.00	312.95	304.75	308.40
	375.00	376.40	365.60	370.55
	170.85	173.05	159.10	161.70

TATACOMM	564.70	570.70
ORIENTCEM	111.00	111.30
GRUH	310.00	310.35
RNAM	190.95	195.45
MOTILALOFS	689.00	691.00
RCOM	2.07	2.15
SCHNEIDER	92.00	99.00
UBL	1369.00	1372.45
HSCL	104.35	105.70
RAJESHEXPO	695.00	695.00
EICHERMOT	20310.00	20435.40
SHREECEM	19700.00	19800.00
ALBK	45.00	45.05
MRF	53035.35	54399.00
CUMMINSIND	705.00	
AVANTI	354.05	359.30
AMARAJABAT	648.70	648.70
COLPAL	1156.00	1156.25
ZENSARTECH	242.30	248.75
TRIDENT	65.80	66.70
TRENT	367.50	384.00
VENKYS	2000.00	2000.00
DCAL	214.00	214.30
MMTC	25.05	25.25
AJANTPHARM	1035.00	1068.60
KANSAINER	423.00	436.95
GALAXYSURF	1000.10	1009.95
ABFRL	208.95	209.15
DEEPAKFERT	138.95	139.30
NESTLEIND	10472.00	10560.00
JINDALSAW	76.50	78.80
REDINGTON	92.40	93.75
FINCABLES	405.65	429.00
JMFINANCIL	84.75	85.40
VINATIORGA	1811.00	1823.95
INFRATEL	263.20	
NATCOPHARM*	532.00	543.70
GSFC	94.10	95.45
COROMANDEL		420.00
AEGISLOG	194.90	200.10
SYNGENE	603.00	617.90

443.75

239.10

23.65

84.90

209.35

347.95

452.90

244.80

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211.50

348.75

437.50

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204.15

337.00

449.40

244.00

22.90

81.90 PTC

205.15

338.55

87.00

PRESTIGE

EIHOTEL

GILLETTE

302.00	306.45	298.50	305.00	
17786.00	17812.00	17070.35	17300.05	
183.00	183.00	173.50	173.90	
390.50	391.60	364.70	364.70	
40.40	40.40	38.10	39.15	
86.00	86.00	83.30	83.60	
504.75	507.90	480.00	492.10	
181.85	182.25	177.10	177.30	
564.70	570.70	554.15	558.00	
111.00	111.30	107.00	108.45	
310.00	310.35	298.25	301.75	
190.95	195.45	185.70	193.70	
689.00	691.00	658.00	668.60	
2.07	2.15	2.07	2.15	
92.00	99.00	91.85	96.85	
1369.00	1372.45	1351.00	1361.65	
104.35	105.70	103.50	104.00	
695.00	695.00	683.50	687.90	
20310.00	20435.40	20231.10	20276.70	
19700.00	19800.00	19500.90	19757.05	
45.00	45.05	43.85	44.05	
53035.35	54399.00	52845.65	54399.00	
705.00	707.00	696.25	700.00	
354.05	359.30	350.00	350.10	
648.70	648.70	633.85	637.50	
1156.00	1156.25		1145.00	
242.30	248.75	238.10	247.10	
65.80	66.70	65.00	65.40	
367.50	384.00	365.25	378.00	
2000.00	2000.00	1955.10	1962.25	
214.00	214.30	203.00	203.10	
25.05	25.25	24.55	24.70	
1035.00	1068.60	1035.00	1067.55	
423.00	436.95	413.00	429.25	
1000.10	1009.95	983.00	992.75	
208.95	209.15	204.95	206.20	
138.95	139.30	131.70	133.35	
10472.00	10560.00	10284.20		
76.50	78.80	76.50	76.75	
92.40	93.75	86.65	87.35	
40F CF	420.00	40E CE	427.00	

07.00	070.23	700.00	LOOLLII
59.30	350.00	350.10	LAXMIM.
48.70	633.85	637.50	COCHINS
56.25	1142.00	1145.00	TORNTPO
48.75	238.10	247.10	CYIENT
66.70	65.00	65.40	SFL
84.00	365.25	378.00	LINDEIN
00.00	1955.10	1962.25	NLCINDI
14.30	203.00	203.10	IFBIND
25.25	24.55	24.70	SOMANY
68.60	1035.00	1067.55	NIACL
36.95	413.00	429.25	SCI
09.95	983.00	992.75	FDC
09.15	204.95	206.20	BDL
39.30	131.70	133.35	NETWOR
60.00	10284.20	10305.55	MINDAC
78.80	76.50	76.75	PGHH
93.75	86.65	87.35	MINDAIN
29.00	405.65	427.00	WHIRLPO
85.40	82.25	84.65	MPHASIS
23.95	1760.00	1778.25	SKFINDL
70.25	263.20	266.05	CARBORI
43.70	528.00	539.30	COFFEED
95.45	93.60	94.00	TNPL
20.00	414.00	420.00	KALPATP
00.10	191.40	195.05	JSL
17.90	601.00	613.20	UCOBAN
45.50	141.10	141.15	TATACOL

285.30 293.70 276.05 293.45 HERITGFOOD 1187.45 1188.95 1175.00 1177.20 LUXIND 1724.50 1680.00 1681.05 1690.00 CRISH NBVENTURES 96.00 92.75 LALPATHLAB 181.00 188.40 180.00 185.40 SHARDACRO 1098.25 STARCEMENT 196.20 199.70 193.25 197.10 TTKPRESTIG ANDHRABANK 23.60 24.30 23.90 RELAXO 324.90 314.00 324.90 319.75 TVSSRICHAK THOMASCOOK 244.00 245.00 238.60 242.55 DHANUKA 13.25 13.54 12.90 13.15 FINOLEXIND 183.30 188.50 188.50 185.40 ASTERDM 128.40 132.05 127.90 NILKAMAI 1035.70 1039.75 1020.95 1022.00 MAHSCOOTER TATAINVEST WELSPUNIND 53.00 53.70 52.15 52.40 AKZOINDIA 145.95 146.55 143.55 146.00 NAVINFLUOR SYMPHONY 1370.00 1333.70 1335.00 1379.50 TIMKEN 136.65 136.70 131.00 131.95 CENTRUM 3066.10 3104.70 MAHLIFE MAXINDIA 70.55 71.50 70.55 71.10 SHILPAMED 3115.00 3020.55 3034.70 3116.00 ABBOTINDIA 1950.00 1945.00 1945.00 1980.00 **GSKCONS** 3431.00 3444.30 3398.00 3422.70 **JSWENERGY** KNRCON 528.10 534.65 515.00 525.00 MAHINDCIE 219.55 224.60 225.65 219.80 MHRII 134.00 131.05 UNITEDBNK 5626.10 5626.10 5490.00 5511.95 CHOLAHLDNG 255.20 255.20 250.25 250.30 SCHAEFFLER 565.00 567.60 572.60 565.00 PHOENIXLTD 1276.50 1250.00 1267.00 1290.00 JAGRAN NDIA 487.00 497.00 487.00 489.55 CCL 778.95 781.20 765.25 770.95 GAYAPROJ YCERA 384.30 399.00 400.00 BAYERCROI 183.80 183.80 173.15 BLUEDART 33.40 33.40 32.50 32.65 SUPRAIIT 277.30 279.25 272.00 272.00 3MINDIA 31.55 31.70 30.80 116.60 118.25 115.65 115.65 THERMAX 10400.95 10500.00 10312.00 10386.10 ZYDUSWELL OOL 1356.00 1356.00 1335.00 1335.00 962.00 950.00 951.50 GULFOILLUB 1872.05 1872.45 1901.60 1903.20 GRINDWELL RUNIV 358.00 358.00 352.00 354.55 NAVNETEDUI HONAUT 184.70 185.35 180.90 184.10 KIOCL 452.60 460.40 457.65 TEAMLEASE 32.75 32.20 ASAHIINDIA 17.40 17.75 17.00 17.30 LAOPALA RATNAMANI JKLAKSHMI 362.80 364.05 350.10 352.00 SUNCLAYLTD 258.40 260.20 269.85 264.20 KPRMILL SHRIRAMCIT 1528.00 1477.05 1520.05 1552.00 ELGIEQUII 68.35 68.40 67.05 CERA 178.50 178.50 174.95 175.35 SOLARINDS 876.05 910.70 910.70 899.90 TRITURBINE 7385.10 7248.25 7263.60





Fin -3.22	UPL	1.14 Bajaj F	in -3.55
Agtors -2.80	Titan	0.95 Relian	or 3.41
Auto -2.55	Asian Pain	ts 0.52 Tata M	otors -3.12
-2.53	Cipla	0.37 Balai F	imery 2.87
	-4		
173.40	177.90	173.00	177.80
494.70	494.70	465.15	469.45
103.00	105.15	102.60	104.80
860.00	860.00	826.10	836.40
1711.10	1711.10	1669.05	1669.05
147.80	149.80	144.90	148.55
222.05	222.05	216.00	216.00
324.00	333.95	321.55	325.35
155.00	157.20	155.00	155.15
6212.15	6295.70	6162.05	6200.00
2503.40	2519.95	2460.00	2475.00
442.10	454.05	438.95	454.05
1275.00	1275.00	1262.00	1266.60
167.00	169.40	165.80	166.95
1150.00	1154.75	1131.25	1132.00
1291.45	1308.70	1251.15	1251.80
23.95	24.10	23.90	23.90
61.00	61.25	58.55	59.00
26.10	26.20	25.30	25.70
605.20	613.70	600.00	600.05
2178.00	2200.00	2121.00	2121.00
1179.45	1179.45	1160.00	1169.00
483.00	484.00	478.65	481.85
905.00	905.00	884.80	894.00
236.60	237.40	231.00	231.70

2503.40	2519.95	2460.00	2475.0
442.10	454.05	438.95	454.0
1275.00	1275.00	1262.00	1266.6
167.00	169.40	165.80	166.9
1150.00	1154.75	1131.25	1132.0
1291.45	1308.70	1251.15	1251.8
23.95	24.10	23.90	23.9
61.00	61.25	58.55	59.0
26.10	26.20	25.30	25.7
605.20	613.70	600.00	600.0
2178.00	2200.00	2121.00	2121.0
1179.45	1179.45	1160.00	1169.0
483.00	484.00	478.65	481.8
905.00	905.00	884.80	894.0
236.60	237.40	231.00	231.7
491.40	496.25	481.65	481.0
462.95	467.15	447.55	
			447.7
1297.75	1308.00	1262.10	1262.
1431.95	1440.00	1408.00	1440.0
1018.00	1020.00	1000.00	1002.0
388.00	399.90	381.00	381.0
106.00	110.40	105.05	107.9
8140.65	8140.65	7910.00	7910.0
879.70	879.70	861.25	864.0
2085.00	2149.00	2071.10	2093.0
650.00	650.00	638.00	641.9
			372.0
380.15	384.95	369.10	
462.80	462.80	455.00	456.7
143.95	144.00	140.00	144.0
1270.05	1270.05	1243.50	1249.2
3728.45	3749.95	3662.20	3712.7
879.95	879.95	849.10	853.0
1660.65	1665.50	1652.15	1656.4
675.00	681.00	673.40	673.5
542.05	549.95	535.00	536.0
28.85	29.90	28.40	29.7
381.25	384.80	376.00	382.2
376.00	385.75	370.05	378.4
7261.00	7328.00	7261.00	7300.0
6982.50	7040.45	6960.15	7008.2
5555.00	5631.50	5548.60	5562.0
231.80	232.85	230.00	231.9
599.00	609.95	591.00	608.5
232.00	233.50	229.35	230.0
10.70	10.84	10.66	10.6
705.15	720.00	705.15	720.0
492.55	508.00	492.55	506.0
5100.00	5100.00	4977.00	4977.0
613.50	617.00	599.00	599.0
110.95	110.95	108.35	109.0
255.35	255.35	251.00	251.7
256.10	260.00	256.05	260.0
160.00	162.10	156.40	162.
4065.60	4111.25	4052.40	4103.6
3008.40	3011.50	2975.30	2990.0
1815.00	1839.95	1762.05	1796.0
217.65	217.65	206.00	207.8
22901.00	23260.00	22850.05	
190.00	198.00	187.00	190.0
946.15	954.10	946.15	950.0
2650.00	2650.00	2596.30	2596.3
1305.25	1305.30	1290.40	1297.5
145.50	145.50	144.50	145.0
847.00	847.00	821.00	821.0
599.00	599.00	582.00	588.5

109.55

121.20

2902.85

230.35

860.00

2658.00

599.80

257.05

1071.45

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23815.00 23900.00

2888 00 2888 00

225.00 225.00

2601.00 2601.00

2784.70 2786.75

1061.45 1065.00

104.15 104.15

860.00

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652.30

Suicide attacks in Lahore kill 10

Ateenage Taliban suicide bomber blew himself up outside one of Pakistan's oldest and most revered Sufi shrines in Lahore on Wednesday, killing at least 10 people, including five police commandos, and injuring 25 others as the country marks the Muslim holy month of Ramazan. The powerful blast took place around 8:45 am (local time) outside Gate number 2 of the 11th-century Data Darbar shrine, the largest Sufi shrine in South Asia, where the elite police personnel were deployed for security, police

A CCTV footage showed that a teenage boy wearing black shalwar kameez and a suicide vest came closer to the vehicle of elite force and blew himself up. "The suicide bomber is about 15 years old and made no suspected movement before blowing himself up," Lahore police spokesperson Syed Mubashir told PTI.

He said at least 10 people including five policemen were killed in the blast. Over 20 injured are being treated at the Mayo Hospital Lahore, of them the condition of six is said to be critical. He said two suspects have been taken into cus-

tody.

The Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JeA), a breakaway faction of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), claimed the responsibility for the attack. "We also heard that Jamaatul Ahrar had claimed the responsibility of the Lahore blast on social media but we can't confirm it before investigation," Mubashir

Punjab Inspector General Police Arif Nawaz told reporters that it was a suicide attack and the target was the vehicle of the elite force that was stationed outside the shrine of Sufi saint Ali Hajvari popularly known as Data

He said the suicide bomber came closer to the police personnel vehicle and blew himself up, killing five of them and





A police officer comforts a man who lost his family membe and a mother mourns the death of her son Wednesday, May 8, 2019, outside a hospital in Lahore, Pakistan

injuring four others critically. One security guard and three civilians are among the dead,

The impact of the blast shattered the windows in nearby vehicles and buildings, local media reported. Television footage showed a number of damaged vehicles near the

Commissioner Saleha Saeed told the media that one of the dead bodies brought in to Mayo Hospital was that of the suspected attacker. "It was a suicide attack. Ball bearings were also used in the attack," she said. Mayo Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Yar Muhammad put the death

'We have received nine people including policemen dead. The condition of six injured is critical and doctors are trying their best to save their lives," he said.

Wednesday was the second day of Muslim holy month of Ramazan. The Data Darbar area is thickly populated and the shrine attracts thousands of visitors every day. "I was per-forming my duty when I heard

a powerful sound of the blast nearby. I rushed to the spot and found people in a pool of blood. I informed the police on emergency number and shifted two injured to Mayo Hospital," traffic police warden Rizwan Ahmed said.Safia Bibi was to enter the shrine from the Gate 2 when the blast took

She suffered injuries. At Mayo Hospital she told reporters that she came along with her daughter to take blessing of the Sufi saint."My daughter had entered the

erful blast. I fainted and recovered my consciousness at the hospital and found my daughter sitting besides me. I am thankful to God that my daughter is safe," Safia said.

Prime Minister Imran Khan strongly condemned the attack and directed the Punjab government to provide all assistance to the injured and families of victims.
Punjab Chief Minister

Usman Buzdar also condemned the attack and ordered an inquiry into the incident, summoning reports from the Punjab Inspector General of Police and the additional chief secretary of interior, according to a handout issued by the Punjab government.

Provincial Law Minister Basharat Raja said that the death toll may rise as some of the injured were in critical condition. "We condemn this cowardly act," he said. A rescue operation was conducted in the area before it was cordoned off for investigation. The shrine was evacuated, with devotees moved out through exits away from the blast site. Entry to the Data Darbar has since been restricted. Educational institutions near the shrine have been closed for Thursday.

Heavy contingent of police, Ćounter-Terrorism Department and forensic officials are collecting evidence from the site of the attack. The Inspector General of Police said police will share their findings once they conclude their probe. All regional police officers and city police officers have been directed to examine security in their respective areas and remain alert during the month of Ramazan.

The Data Darbar shrine is visited by hundreds of thousands of people each year. In 2010, the shrine was targeted in a suicide attack that killed more than 40 people.

Since then, the area has been increasingly hemmed in by heavy security, with visitors forced to pass through several layers of screening before they can enter the complex.

China, US bilateral trade volume drops by 20%

 $T^{
m he\ bilateral\ trade\ volume}_{
m between\ US\ and\ China}$ dropped by 20 per cent in the first four months of this year following a trade war between the world's two largest economies and it could get worse if US President Donald Trump goes ahead and clamp punitive tariffs on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese imports this week, according to official

The data - released by the General Administration of Customs here ahead of the crucial 11th round of trade talks to be held in Washington on May 9-10 - said that from January to April, the trade between the two countries was 1.1 trillion yuan (USD 173 billion), down from 20 per cent in 2017 prior to they engaged in a tit-for-tat trade tussle last

If Trump goes ahead with his threat to raise tariffs on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese imports from 10 per cent to 25 per cent Friday, the bilateral trade is poised to tumble further, inflicting deeper wounds on the two sides and claiming collateral damages

on others, state-run Global Times reported.

The 11th round of talks between China and the US are being held amid uncertainties about future rounds of parleys as Trump administration officials accused Beijing of back tracking from issues agreed in the previous rounds of talks. Asked about the allegations, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told the media on Wednesday that negotiation itself is a process of discussion. It is natural for the two sides to have differences, he said. "China will not sidestep contradictions but we are sincere about continuing the consultations," he said on Tuesday. In April, China's exports denominated in US dollar terms shifted into reverse, signalling growing downward pressure amid rising uncertainties in world trade amid an ongoing trade conflict between Washington and Beijing. In April, China's exports reached USD193.49 billion, down 2.7 per cent year-on-year, much lower than expected, GAC data showed. Imports of US goods fell 26 per

exports to US were down by 13

per cent at USD 31.4 billion. Trump is demanding China to reduce the USD 375

billion trade deficit. He also called for verifiable measures for protection of intellectual property rights (IPR), technology transfer and more access to American goods to Chinese markets.

He has already increased the tariffs on over USD 250 billion Chinese exports to US and threatened to extend tariffs on USD 200 billion Chinese imports to 25 per cent. China too slapped reciprocal tariffs on some US exports to the country. Trump recently hinted that President Xi Jinping could visit the US in June setting off speculation that both countries could work out a trade deal by next month.

Media reports suggest that the two sides are still discussing key issues on structural issues, such as the US accusation of unfair subsidies in China, a mechanism to verify compliance and what to do with the tariffs the two have already imposed on each other's goods.



cent from a year earlier to USD

Prince Harry, Meghan present first glimpse of their baby boy

Wednesday presented the first glimpse of their baby boy, the seventh in line to the British throne born on Monday. The described their new-born, who is referred to as Baby Sussex until his name is announced, as a "dream" and parenthood as "magic" as they attended a photocall at St George's Hall in Windsor Castle.

A visibly beaming Harry, 34, carried the infant out for the cameras before a brief interaction. "He has the sweetest temperament, he's really calm. He's been the dream," said 37-yearold Meghan.

Describing her first days as a mother, she added: "It's magic, it's pretty amazing. I have the two best guys in the world so I'm really happy." Harry said: "It's great. Parenting own little bundle of joy."

D ritain's Prince Harry and son has "already got a little bit who knows." excitement at becoming a dad. Baby Sussex, the eighth great grandchild to Queen Elizabeth II, is believed to be the first Duke and Duchess of Sussex mixed-race child born to a senior member of the British Royal Family in centuries.

Coming in ahead of him in the line of succession as it stands are his grandfather the Prince of Wales, his uncle the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, his three young cousins Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis, and his father Harry. The infant, however, will not be made a prince unless his greatgrandmother steps in, who is set to meet the new baby later on Wednesday.

Asked which parent the baby resembled more, Harry said: "Everyone says that babies change so much over two is amazing. "It's only been two and a half days, three days, but toring how the changing process happens over this next

month really. But his looks are The royal joked that his changing every single day, so

> William had earlier wel comed his brother to "the sleep deprivation society that is par-The father-of-three said he

> looked forward to seeing the

new parents "when things have quietened down". Prince Charles also expressed his joy at the birth. During an official visit to Germany with the Duchess of Cornwall Camilla, he said: "We

the news and we're looking forward to meeting the baby when we return." A statement added that Meghan's mother, Doria Ragland, was "overjoyed at the arrival of her first grandchild" and was with her daughter at Frogmore Cottage - the new

parents' home on the Windsor Estate. The birth is understood to have taken place in hospital as opposed to at home as Meghan



Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, during a photocall with their newborn son, in St George's Hall at Windsor Castle, Windsor, south England, Wednesday. Baby Sussex was born Monday at 5:26 a.m. (0426 GMT; 12:26 a.m. EDT) at an asyet-undisclosed location. An overjoyed Harry said he and Meghan are "thinking" about names.

US welcomes release of 2 jailed Reuters journalists

The US has welcomed the release of two Reuters journalists in Myanmar after they were pardoned by the country's civilian government, amidst and Kyaw Soe Oo walked free Tuesday from Yangon's Insein jail after spending over 500 days in prison. They were jailed under Myanmar's Official Secrets Act for reporting on a massacre of Rohingya civilians.

The two men were released

as part of an amnesty of 6,520 prisoners by the country's President Win Myint. "Jailed for over 500 days since couldn't be more delighted at December 2017 for reporting on atrocities against the Rohingya, we are delighted they will be reunited with their families," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said Tuesday. The two journalists from the London-based news agency won



decorated Tuesday.

international acclaim for their reporting on the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar.

The men led an explosive Reuters investigation — which eventually won a Pulitzer Prize — into the killing of 10 Rohingya men in the village of Inn Dinn,

part of a military-led campaign against the Muslim minority which began in August 2017 after Rohingya militants attacked police posts.

More than 720,000

Rohingya are estimated to have been forced to flee into

Bangladesh as a result of the ensuing violence. Their December 2017

arrests made them an internaand civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Sanders hoped other jailed journalists in Myanmar would also be freed. A free press, freedom of reli-

gion, and the rule of law are fundamental principles for any democracy. The United States will continue promoting a stable, prosperous, and democratic transition in Burma," Sanders

said. Welcoming their release Senator Marco Rubio said the two journalists were unjustly jailed for their work — reporting the alleged atrocities against the Rohingya. "Their cases serve as a reminder of the critical role

a free press plays in bringing

accountability and transparency to governments, and we must do all we can to protect and advance those principles," Rubio said. tional cause celebre and a sign of Non-profit Reporters Without Myanmar's deteriorating press Borders (RSF) also welcomed the

"As well as the release of two individuals who should never have been in prison – Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo - this is a fundamental victory for press freedom and for the RSF, which had campaigned constantly since their arrest," said Daniel Bastard, the head of RSF's Asia-Pacific

"Their case is emblematic of investigative journalism's importance for the functioning of democracies. We hail the role played by all those civil society actors who, both in Myanmar and internationally, never forgot the fate of these two journalists and kept fighting for them until this successful outcome," he said.

Pakistan arrests 34 Indian fishermen

PTI KARACHI

Pakistan has arrested 34 Indian fishermen for allegedly violating the country's territorial waters, nearly 10 days after releasing 60 prisoners from India as a goodwill gesture, officials said Wednesday. The fishermen, arrested on Tuesday, have been handed over to the police, a Maritime Security Agency spokesman said. "They will appear before a judicial magistrate who will decide on their judicial remand," he said. This is the first time since January that the maritime security agency has arrested Indian fisher-

In January, five Gujarati boatsmen were arrested and jailed. On April 29, Pakistan released 55 Indian fishermen and five civilians as a "goodwill gesture" amidst tension between the two countries after the Pulwama terror attack.

Last month, the Pakistani government released more than 250 Indian fishermen from the Landhi and Malir jails in Karachi. The fishermen were released in three phases. The Pakistan Foreign



Ministry had earlier announced to release 360 Indian fishermen in four separate batches in April as a goodwill gesture.

Pakistan and India frequently arrest fishermen as there is no clear demarcation of the maritime border in the Arabian Sea and these fishermen do not have boats equipped with the technology to know their precise location.Owing to the lengthy and slow bureaucratic and legal procedures, the fishermen usually remain in jail for several months and sometimes years.

According to the list of prisoners exchanged by India and Pakistan in January, there are 347 Pakistani prisoners in Indian jails, 249 of whom are described as civilians and 98 fishermen, the report said.

GLOBE TROTTING

Jennifer Aniston has 'zero time' for dating

New York: Jennifer Aniston says dating has never been on top of her priority list but she is open to finding love. The 50-year-old actor said she has "zero time" for romance right now. The have zero time, to be honest ... Dating has not been one of my first priorities. I feel like whatever (romance) looks like, it will present itself, and it's not about seeking it out," Aniston told Harper's Bazaar. She said whenever love comes knocking, she would welcome it. "I'm not like, 'No, I'm done with that. That's never going to happen again.' My time on this planet has been about... It hasn't looked a certain way. It's my way; it's what I've been given this round. "But I would say I don't find any of my past has given me a reason to harden up and create a shell or a wall of 'No more, that's it, I'm closed," Aniston said. Asked if she believed in the concept of soul mates, the actor said she has her own interpretation of the term. "I think we have many soul mates. I don't think there's one and one only. I think we have soul clusters. I've had some of my friends for 35 years. I think we've all made some sort of unconscious agreement," Aniston said. "It's like when certain groups of people meet, they form a little soul cluster - a sort of common group of souls who have been put together," she added. Aniston was involved in two high-profile marriages, first to Brad Pitt and then

Mackenzie Foy, Kate Winslet to headline new 'Black Beauty' film

Los Angeles: "Interstellar" star Mackenzie Foy and Oscar winner Kate Winslet are set to play the leads in the latest film adaptation of classic novel "Black Beauty". The novel, penned by English author Anna Anna Sewell in 1877, is one of the best-selling children's book of all time. The story follows the titular wild horse and its bond with a 17-year-old girl, undergoing trauma after the death of her parents. In a significant departure from the novel, where Black Beauty is shown as a carriage horse, the new film will portray the character as a wild mustang captured on the Wyoming Plains.Foy, 18, will essay the role of the 17-year-old girl, while Winslet, 43, will voice Black Beauty's inner thoughts.





Iran suspends N-deal curbs | South Africans vote in health

... in push for relief from US sanctions

Iran said Wednesday it had stopped respecting limits on its nuclear activities agreed under a 2015 deal with major powers until they find a way to bypass renewed US sanctions.

The well trailed announcement came as Washington stepped up its rhetoric against Tehran, accusing it of planning "imminent" attacks and deploying an aircraft carrier strike group with several nuclear-capable B-52 bombers to the region.

Iran said it was responding to the sweeping unilateral sanctions that Washington has reimposed since it quit the agreement one year ago, which have dealt a severe blow to the Iranian economy.

It said it would stop implementing some of the restrictions it had agreed with immediate effect. Tehran said it would abandon more if the remaining parties to the agreement — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — failed to start delivering on their commitments to sanctions relief within 60 days.

President Hassan Rouhani underlined that the ultimatum was intended to rescue the nuclear deal from his US counterpart Donald Trump who has repeatedly called for it to be scrapped since he pulled out on May 8, 2018. "We felt the (deal) needed surgery and that the year-long sedatives have not delivered any result. This surgery is meant to save the (deal) not destroy it," Rouhani said at a cabinet meeting broadcast live on state televi-

Robert Kelley, a former UN nuclear inspector now with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, said the commitno bearing on its ability to develop an atomic bomb. He said Iran was simply seeking to "save face" after "striking a deal which was not respected by the

Under the landmark deal agreed by Trump's predecessor Barack Óbama, the parties to the agreement were supposed to lift nuclear-related sanctions on Iran in return for it reining in its activities to ease fears it was seeking the capability to produce an atomic bomb.

But the promised sanctions relief has failed to materialise as European and Asian banks and oil companies have moved swiftly to abide by the renewed US sanctions for fear of financial or commercial repercussions. Rouhani slammed European countries for seeing the US as the world's "sheriff" and said this keeps them from making "firm decisions for their own national interests." "You have responsibilities, too ... for keeping your youth away from drugs, the flood of immigrants and other cooperation Iran has had with you so far. If this trend continues, the cooperation will

"unreasonable pressure" on

Iran's Supreme National Security Council said it no longer considered itself bound by the agreed restrictions on stocks of enriched uranium and heavy water.

It said after 60 days, it would also stop abiding by restrictions on the level to which Iran can enrich uranium and modifications to its Arak heavy water reactor that were designed to prevent the production of plutonium.

Uranium enriched to much higher levels than Iran's current stocks can be used as the fissile core of a nuclear weapon, while heavy water is a source of plutonium which can be used as an alternative way to produce a warhead. The council called for swift action by the remaining parties to the deal, warning time was run-

The window which is now open for diplomacy will not remain so for long, and the responsibility of the (deal) failing and any possibile consequences are completely on the US and the remaining parties," it said.

On the eve of the Iranian announcement, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made an unannounced visit to Baghdad, an ally of both Washington and Tehran. Pompeo said he made the trip because Iranian forces are "escalating their activity" and said the threat of attacks was "very specific", without giving further detail.Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a fierce opponent of the nuclear deal, seized on the Iranian announcement as evidence that it was pressing ahead with its nuclear programme."We shall not allow

check for ruling ANCB

AFP JOHANNESBERG

South Africans voted Wednesday in nationwide polls all but certain to return the ruling ANC despite anger over corruption scandals, sluggish growth, and record unemployment. The election is the first measure of whether President Cyril Ramaphosa can reinvigorate support for a party whose backing rests largely on its liberation credentials, but now faces the prospect of a reduced majori-

"The ANC has been in power for the past 25 years and I don't see any change," lamented unemployed father-of-two Jacob Maretlwa, 30, who lives in a shack in Coligny in the North West province. Ramaphosa, 66, took over last year after the ANC, which first swept to power in 1994, forced then-President Jacob Zuma to resign after a nine-year term dominated by corruption allegations and a struggling economy. Zuma oversaw the party's most significant drop in support in the democratic era.

"This is a vote that reminds us of 1994... heralding a new period," Ramaphosa said after casting his ballot at a school in Chiawelo, Soweto, and described himself as "excitedly confident" of the outcome.

I am truly humbled by the turnout... it's a vote for the democratic system we have been building for 25 years," he said. "This is like a rocket booster for democracy." The 1994 vote saw Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress take power in the country's first multi-racial polls, marking the end of apartheid.

Support for the ANC has fallen in every election since

tions, compared with 62 percent in 2014's national vote.

Most opinion surveys suggest the ANC will secure nearly 60 percent of the Wednesday's vote, thanks to Ramaphosa's appeal and a fractured opposition.

"It reflects the weakness of the opposition, more than it does reflect the achievements of the ANC," said political scientist Collette Schulz-Herzenberg from Stellenbosch University. The ANC has been confronted by deepening public anger over its failure to tackle poverty and inequality in postapartheid South Africa.

"It's not easy to make the right choice," said Sowetobased first-time voter Nokuthula Shongwe, 18, who stated her priorities as unemployment and crime. "I'm nervous." The economy grew just 0.8 percent in 2018 and unemployment hovers around 27 percent — soaring to over 50 percent among young people.

President Cyril Ramaphosa casts his vote at the Hitekani Primary School in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa Wednesday,

South Africans are voting Wednesday in a national election that pits President Cyril Ramaphosa's ruling African National

Congress against top opposition parties Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters, 25 years after the end of apartheid

Of the 47 opposition parties in the race, only the main opposition centrist Democratic Alliance (DA) and the radicalleft Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) are major play-

The DA is hoping to shed its image as a white, middle-class party. Its first black leader, Mmusi Maimane, is contesting his maiden general election since taking the helm in 2015, and is expected to make modest gains on the DA's 2014 vote share of 22 percent.

"Vote for the future of this country and the South Africans who 'are unemployed," Maimane said after voting in

Soweto, insisting the poll was not "a beauty pageant but a contract" between voters and their representatives.

"This vote is about competence... so we can clean up this country," added Maimane, wearing a suit in the DA's sig-nature blue and posed for selfies with voters. But the EFF, founded six years ago by former ANC youth leader Julius Malema, is predicted to make major gains, growing from 6.3 percent to a forecast 11 percent. "A lot of people died for us to vote — we are here to honour their memories," said Malema as he cast his ballot in Seshego in eastern Limpopo province.

"If you need change, EFF is the way to go," added Malema, sporting his signature red and a green baseball cap with a red

said it remained committed to The three European parthe nuclear deal and Īran to obtain a nuclear 2004 with the party taking 54 ments Iran was dropping had ties to the deal — Britain, denounced what it called weapon," he said. percent in 2016 municipal elec-

France and Germany — tried

to save the accord with a trade

mechanism meant to bypass

reimposed US sanctions, but

their attempt was dismissed by

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah

Ali Khamenei as a "bitter joke".

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who

was in Moscow on an official

visit, accused European gov-

ernments of not fulfilling their

obligations under the nuclear

China maintained very good

relations with us in this year

but the rest of the... partici-

pants did not meet any of their

uphold the nuclear deal. "We

as Europeans, as Germans,

will play our part and we expect full implementation

from Iran as well," Chancellor

Angela Merkel's spokesman

Steffen Seibert said. Britain called Iran's decision an

"unwelcome step" and urged it

to avoid "further escalatory

steps". China underlined that it "resolutely opposes" the uni-

lateral US sanctions on Iran

but called on all parties to

uphold the nuclear deal. Russia

obligations," Zarif said.

"Our friends in Russia and

Germany urged Iran to

Thai Junta-backed party needs allies after election count Bangkok (AFP): Thailand's 24 vote, the first election to reach a decision. "The party army-backed party needs allies to get enough votes to allow coup leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha to cling to power, according to election to election described by the generals, including the creation of appointed senators results released late Wednesday that were immediately challenged by anti-

junta rivals. The Junta-linked Palang Pracharat party now has 115 needing coalition partners. seats in the lower house, only the combined parliament the Democrat Party, which thanks to 250 militaryappointed senators. The house seats. results were announced more

since the junta seized power in a 2014 coup. It was held who can vote for prime min-

Despite the booked-in advantage, the lower house results leave Palang Pracharat The most obvious Shinawatra.

tes are Bhumiaitai and both have more than 50 lower

Officials from both parties

is split," longtime Democrat official Sirichok Sopha told AFP. A number of smaller parties are also up for grabs. Palang Pracharat could not immediately be reached for comment. The election was widely seen as a choice between junta allied parties and those aligned with billionaire ex-premier Thaksin

will have seats when parliament convenes within 15 days. Wednesdav's results are likely to set off horsetrading, negothan a month after the March said Wednesday they have yet tiations and challenges. The

Shinawatra-linked Pheu Thai party won the most lower house seats — 136 — posing a legitimacy crisis for the gruff junta leader Prayut should he become prime minister. It is also part of a lower house coalition with six parties, including upstart newcomer Future Forward headed by telegenic billionaire Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit.

Future Forward surged third place in the p vote and now has 80 seats. But Thanatorn has been hounded by court cases and complaints that the rising star has blasted as political sabotage". The ment.

Sunday terror attacks.

the first monthly report since

the terror attacks, showed that

Sri Lanka's tourist arrivals

declined 7.5 per cent in April

2019 compared to the same

period last year. The Sri Lanka Tourism Development

Authority said April recorded

166,975 foreign tourists in the

country compared to 180,429

in April 2018, a 7.5 per cent dip

in arrival of tourists from

abroad. State Minister for

Finance Eran Wickremeratne

said the debt moratorium will

Election Commission has come under fire for wildly inaccurate initial counts, the 2.1 million invalidated ballots, and the staggered released of full results. It has been flooded with complaints since the election, and recounts and new voting sessions were held in a handful of polling stations. Pheu Thai threatened to take legal action over the formula used to calculate seats.

Thai considers the Election Commission's action as an intentional abuse of the law and against the constitution," it said in a state-



French President Emmanuel Macron greets a veteran during ceremonies marking the 74th anniversary of World War II victory in Europe, under the Arc de Triomphe Wednesday in Paris.

UN chief praises India for counter-terrorism support

PTI UNITED NATIONS

JN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appreciated India's support to the counter-terrorism work of the world body and underscored the need to "detect and disrupt" terrorists fleeing the Islamic State prior to them carrying out an attack as a high priority for the international community.

The UN chief made these remarks during the launch of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme on Tuesday, over two weeks after the Easter Sunday terror attacks in Sri Lanka claimed by the ISIS. The programme would help to strengthen international counter-terrorism cooperation, expand multilateral networks for sharing information to detect, identify, disrupt and prosecute terrorists and to ensure that member states most affected by terrorism have the capacity to tackle this evolving threat, he said."The United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme we launch today is about helping to meet all these objectives. I would like to thank the Dutch Government for its generous contribution to this effort," he said. "I appreciate the continued support of the Governments of India, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar to the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations," Guterres said

The UN chief noted that following the territorial defeat of ISIL (also known as ISIS and Islamic State), many terrorists are trying to return home or



troubled parts of the world. "Many are well trained and could carry out future terrorist attacks. Others hope to radicalize and recruit new followers to their cause. They, as well as those they inspire, represent a major transnational threat," he said."Detecting and disrupting these terrorists and other high-risk criminals prior to them carrying out an attack is a high priority for the inter-

national community," he said. The programme will help member states collect, process and share travel data with other competent national and international authorities, with full respect for privacy and other fundamental freedoms, he said. "We know that policies that fully respect human rights are essential in tackling violent extremism. This information sharing will enhance the abilities of member states to effectively detect, prevent, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences, including their related travel," Guterres added.

Highlighting that there has been a dramatic movement of terrorists to and from conflict zones around the world over the last seven years, he said that relocate to safe havens or other just two years ago, more than affected by terrorism, he said.

40,000 people from more than 110 countries may have travelled to join terrorist groups in the Syrian Arab Republic and The recent despicable

attacks in Kenya, New Zealand and Sri Lanka, among others, are tragic reminders of the global reach of the scourge of terrorism," he said, adding such incidents underscore the need to work closely with partners across the United Nations system and beyond. General The

Assembly and Security Council resolution 2396 have reaffirmed the need to strengthen international cooperation and information sharing to improve national detection capacities and prevent the travel of ter-

rorists, Guterres said. "Importantly, this (the proramme) will also enable the detection and disruption of human trafficking and other forms of serious organised crime and to faster identify their victims," he said. Guterres said that the UN family is ready to assist in protecting and ensuring the rights of all victims whose interests are served by this project. "It represents the kind of cooperative, intergovernmental and institutional approach that I aimed for when I established the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact last vear to enhance counter-terrorism coordination and coherence across the system," he stressed. In that context, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre has also stepped up its efforts to meet the growing expectations and demands from countries most



be given by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to tourism sector institutions and individuals, on

a case-by-case basis. The moratorium period will be until March 31, 2020 for both capital and interest payments granted to the tourism sector as of April 18, 2019, the minister said. The interest subsidy is borne by the government on outstanding credit

facilities, both capital and interest, he said.

The working capital debt and interest will be treated as separate loans to be repaid from July 2020. Working capital loans will be based on revenue of hotels. Up to 75 per cent of the interest will be subsidised, the state minister said. The Value Added Tax on hotels will also be reduced to 5 per

Wickremeratne said. Duty free importation will be allowed for security equip-ment such as handheld metal detectors, walk-through metal detectors, baggage x ray inspection equipment and vehicle scanners.

The bombings, which targeted three Christian churches and three Colombo hotels, killed over 250 people, including 44 foreigners, and injured over 500, including 37 foreigners. Tourism industry officials said there have been 70 per cent cancellations of prior bookings after the attacks.

The US, China, the UK, India and Australia were among the countries which issued travel warnings on Sri Lanka following the blasts carried out by local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jammath (NTJ).

Maithripala Sirisena Tuesday appealed to the international community to lift travel the warnings issued after the terror attacks.

Tourism accounts for about five per cent of Sri Lanka's economy, with India, Britain and China being the main markets. The country earned about USD 4.4 billion in 2018 from the tourism sector. Around 450,000 Indian tourists visited Sri Lanka last year and the island nation was expecting the total Indian tourist arrivals to cross one million in 2019.

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority Chairman Kishu Gomes has said that tourist arrivals are expected to fall 60 percent in May. Sri Lanka is expected to lose 1.5 billion US dollars in revenue from tourism in 2019.

Teen girls more vulnerable to bullying than boys

PTI ■ LONDON

Teenaged girls are bullied more often than boys, and are more likely to consider or attempt suicide, a study has found.

Researchers from Rutgers University in the US conducted analyses of the data from a US survey from 2011-2015. "Bullying is significantly associated with depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation, suicide planning, and suicide attempts," said Nancy Pontes, an assistant professor at the Rutgers School of Nursing-Camden.

"We wanted to look at this link between bullying victimisation, depressive symptoms, and suicidality by gender," Pontes



said in a statement.

Pontes said that, in general, girls are more often bullied than boys, and girls are also more likely to consider, plan, or attempt suicide compared with boys, regardless of being bullied or not

although boys are more likely to die by suicide. In this study, researchers looked at significant associations and not direct causal

Using two methods of statistical analysis, the study, pub-

lished in the journal Nursing Research, shows the probability of a link between bullying and depressive symptoms and suicide risk Bullying among boys is often physical, Pontes said. While many schools are cracking down on physical bullying which people can see, those actions probably are preventing and stopping bullying that is more common among males, she said.

Among females, the bullying is often the kind that is not visible. It is often relational bullying, such as excluding someone from activities and social circles, or spreading rumours about them. The actions are not overt, Pontes said, so they could go on for a long time without anyone else

"Our school interventions should understand the differences in bullying and how we might better address females who are bullied," said Pontes. The researchers believe that preventing bullying should begin at a young age. She said parents should start teaching preschool children that bullying is unacceptable.

Pediatricians and nurse practitioners should talk about the harmful effects of bullying with parents so that they can intervene early and reduce the victimisation that causes adolescents to consider suicide, so they will be able to live happier and healthier

SPORTS IS A WAY OF LIFE

On his appointment as the vice president of the Uttar Pradesh Olympic Association, DR PN ARORA, the managing director of Yashoda Superspeciality Hospitals, in an interview with Ankita Saxena, says that youth's involvement in sports can give a positive direction to the country's growth

What is your vision to further the reach and active participation of Uttar Pradesh Olympic Association?

Our vision is focused; to attract maximum Gold medals in the Olympic Games. Apart from identifying the right players from the state to represent the country, we are ensuring that the players of all Olympic sports get proper training, direction as well as proper diet to help them keep fit and ready. It has been seen that many a time talented players are unable to afford training since they have to support their families which leave them off the selection procedure. For this, we are planning to engage coaches and also tie-up with some stakeholders to generate funds to help the sportspersons bring laurels for the country.

Infrastructure for sports is directly related to the performance of the sportspersons. Does the Uttar Pradesh Olympic Association have any plans to develop state-of-the-art facilities

Uttar Pradesh is the largest state in the country which also translates into a larger responsibility on our part to identify, train and nurture sportspersons. This needs a multi-level and multi-institutional participation. In order to train players we need state-of-the-art infrastructure and training personnel and facilities. As an association we plan to make sure that will cooperation of key stakeholders, facilities are available at the ground level, not only in cities but also in districts and villages to encourage more people to take up sports.

How does the association identify talented players?

We have been organising tournaments from time to time of various levels to provide a platform to the budding players to showcase their skill in a particular sport. Last year, we organized a badminton tournament in Hapur which saw an overwhelming participation from players from all across the country. What was thrilling to see was the number of girls who participated in the event. Such events have become a magnet for sportspersons and it gives us an opportunity to identify the potential players who can be taken under our wing for further training. We will also be advertising the dates of such tournaments in the mainstream media and other channels to ensure that the players are informed about them well in advance.

Given the injuries suffered by various sportspersons, proper medical facilities to tackle them hold very high importance. Do you feel that Uttar Pradesh and by in large the country, needs more hospitals/ divisions dedicated to sports?

As part of an association I realise that we need



to facilitate the players in every way possible to help perform at both national and international platforms. I want the players to know that the association is approachable by any player and we will ensure that their medical needs are taken care of. I have three hospitals and can ensure specialised treatments for any type of injury. Those who cannot afford the treatments, I can also offer treatment free of cost. However, injuries are one part of the game while diet is

and the development of a state and by in large TRAINING GROUND

Uttar Pradesh Olympic Association is a member of the Indian Olympic Association which is the governing body for the Olympic Movement and the Commonwealth Games in India. As an affiliated member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), the IOA administers

various aspects of sports governance and athletes' welfare in the country. In this regard, the IOA oversees the representation of athletes or teams participating in the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and other international multisport competitions of IOC, CGF, OCA and ANOC. The Indian Olympic Association is recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

INDIAN TEENS TO

'US KIDS GOLF'

ndia's growing strength in

Ljunior golf has been ampli-

fied with the qualification of as

many as 32 players in various

age-group competitions under

the global banner of the 'US

Kids Golf'. These 32 kids are

from 13 age groups-eight

SHOWCASE TALENT AT

another. It is the association's responsibility to

look into the diet of the players and I am sure

How do you think involvement of youth in

Despite having the largest youth population in

the world, India has not been able to realize the

full potential of involvement of its youth in

sports. I relate sports directly with good health

sports can benefit the country?

we will do our best.

the country. It is my belief that sports is an important part of one's life since it teaches discipline, team work spirit of sportsmanship among many other life skills. Even if one decides not to pursue sports as one's career, it is still important that one should be engaged in playing some game as it benefits the professional aspirations. I think that if one is engaged in an activity, it can arrest many social issues as well. There is a need to change the perception of parents as well towards sports who put pressure on their children to perform in studies and leave sports since it is not a viable career. However, I strongly believe that this can be addressed if all stakeholders come together to work in the same direction.

What are your suggestions to the sportsmen? The only suggestion to the players is that they should have the dedication and concentration like that of Arjun of the Mahabharata. It has to be a focused approach in order to achieve more medals. For everything else, we are there for

NLC India contributes to aid relief in Odisha

n a response to the distress of the people of Odisha, facing one of the worst unprecedented Cyclone 'Fani' relief works, NLC India Limited, a Navratna CPSE of Government of India, has contributed ₹2 crore towards the Government of Odisha Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund. Rakesh Kumar, CMD, R Vikraman, Director (HR) and Prabhakar Chowki, Director

(Mines) of NLCIL, handed over the cheque to the chief minister of Ödisha, Naveen Patnaik in the presence of senior officials of NLCIL at the CM's Office in Bhubaneshwar.

Acknowledging the gesture, the state's chief minister expressed his gratitude to NLCIL for standing by with the people of Odisha in this

SCOPE powers green initiatives



ittle efforts can bring large Lsaving of electricity as power saved is power produced. This has been reflected by SCOPE which has brought down the energy consumption substantially in two of its towers at Lodhi Road and Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi. These two towers accommodate the corporate and regional offices of 65 public sector enterprises. The director general of SCOPE, Dr UD Choubey, informed that during 2018-19, savings in power consumption was around 0.93 million units, which is equivalent to saving worth ₹1.02 crore. In the last

seven years, such efforts by SCOPÉ and its constituents have resulted in saving of 9.10 million units, which is equivalent to ₹9.36 crore. This has been possible by undertaking various steps by the organisation. These steps include the effective monitoring of power consumption, replacement of conventional lights with LED lights and occupancy sensors, overall energy consciousness, and energy efficient equipment, among others. SCOPE is determined to save further energy by way of lower consumption of electricity in the year 2019-20.

Bonphul's oxygen optimiser now GreenPro certified











 $B_{\rm which\ aims\ to\ be\ the}^{\rm onphul\ Air\ Products}$ product performance, benefits to green built environment, world's most comprehensive product stewardship and case indoor air quality (ÎAQ) comstudy. A Green Product Certification signifies that a pany, has successfully attained the GreenPro certification by product is 'Green' i.e, environthe Green Products and ment-friendly and safe. The certification is aimed to facil-Services Council, an initiative of the CII-Sohrabji Godrej itate the green product mar-Green Business Centre, ket transformation in the Hyderabad, for its oxygen country, enabling green buildoptimisers branded as ing projects in selecting the 'OxyMax'. right product and equipment The certification has been and to increase the market given to OxyMax under the demand for the green prod-

Innovation' category after the successful evaluation of the Oxymax is the world's product by the Council on criteria's which include product design, product application,

unit and an indoor unit. The outdoor unit harvests oxygen from the outside air and pumps it indoor, where it is dispensed by the indoor unit. This increases the oxygen level in the indoor air from its current level to 21 per cent, creating an environment of freshness and vigour.

In a letter to Bonphul, it

is affirmed by the council that

OxyMax, the oxygen optimiser contributes in maintaining the good health and wellbeing of occupants in green buildings by enhancing indoor environment quality through increasing oxygen level, and also contributes in improving the energy efficiency of such buildings. Prior to this, OxyMax has also successfully received the

ROHS and CE certifications for conforming to health, safety, and environmental protection standards. Bonphul Air Products will be felicitated with the certificate by the May 29 and 30 in Pune.

among boys and five among girls. A total of 20 boys and 12 girls are now eligible with the 'Priority Status' for the US Kids global events in Europe and some of them will also be eligible for the World Championships, depending on their status. Of the five cate-32 Indian players have earned the Burgundy status on the Enjoy special Ramadan menu at The Ashoka Hotel basis of their scoring. Of the

> The opportunity to play on international courses also readies the youngsters to play on Championship courses where the world's best compete annually. This year, the European segment of US Kids will see the players practice and play at courses like the Renaissance, Gullane, Craigelaw, Archerfield Links and others. Each agegroup's competition is held at a different venue and all the events are scheduled for the last week of May.

> remaining, 14 have Orange

Status and five have Blue Status.

Gullane is where the prestigious Scottish Open was held last year with India's Shubhankar Sharma playing it for the first time, while this year's Scottish Open is scheduled to be held at the Renaissance. So, the UK Kids Golf events will give the teen and pre-teens a chance to see and play course they will hope

to play on as adults later on. A

lot of the youngsters who have

achieved Priority Status this

season will be playing in

Europe for the first time,

adding to their experience of

playing in quality courses in

India and Asia and now The president of the US Kids India, Rajesh Srivastava, said "Our main aim is to get in the sport and get to play where the world's best compete like the Gullane or Renaissance which have hosted the Rolex series events like Scottish Open on European Tour." He further added, "Thus, when these young players finally to get play major events at the same courses, they will not be in awe of them, but take on the chal-

cation system that determines when players receive invitations for multi-day events. There are five levels in order-Platinum, Burgundy, Green, Orange and Blue. The players must also meet the Scoring Requirement for their age group and the Priority Status expires after one year. Players can have multiple levels of status, each level with its own



Rythme School to charm Las Vegas

The students of Rythme School of Music mesmerised the audience during the 'Music Beyond Boundaries' show organised by Le Rythme. They presented musical fusion and different forms of classical dances. More than 120 students participated in the programme of which more than 30 students presented group performances to present the harmony among different instruments.The Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee, Pandit Rajendra Prasanna played jugal bandi between Indian Flute and western Flute with Jeanne Miramon. He also played the shehnai with the violin of Dr Santosh Nahar, Ustad Akram Khan accompanied in tabla. Renowned singer Rin Mukherjee, founder of Le Rythme mentioned "It is our privilege to train the students across the different parts of development programme, 19 eminent Gurus are engaged to train the students. I am sure that with all of our initiatives in due course the students from underprivileged sections of the society will also be turned into real asset of the country and will perform in the international platforms. They will participate in NABC 2020 at Las Vegas

NMDC rejects news regarding recruitment notification Astatement released by the National Mineral

Development Corporation (NMDC) states that the company has observed that some websites have hosted recruitment notice about 'NMDC Executive Trainees Recruitment 2019'. This is to inform that it is a fake news that is being spread through websites and social media with malicious intent. All concerned are requested to beware of such mischievous act aiming to deceive the innocent by fraudulent means and hence do not pay any attention or act upon it. It is clarified that NMDC Limited, a Government of India Enterprise, has not issued any such notification pertaining to recruitment of Executive Trainees-2019 in any website or newspapers. NMDC does not take any responsibility for public responding to/applying against such fake posts.



Ignite young minds to conserve energy

 $T_{(\text{Tata Power-DDL})}^{\text{ata Power-Delhi Distribution}}$ ed the winning students of its pan India contest on energy conservation— 'Bijli Bachao Star Banjao'. The campaign was launched to ignite young minds to save and make optimal use of electricity and to become a proud contributor in supporting the 'Power for All' initiative of the Government of India.

The CEO of TATA Power-DDl, Sanjay Banga and the chief of HR and Admin, Sushil Kumar Srivastava, presented the winners with certificates, gift cards and mementos. "I congratulate the winners and appreciate their efforts for sharing interesting ideas on energy conservation. I am sure that these little champs will further promote the judicious use of electricity for a sustainable living cause among their friends and families," said

gories of Priority Status, Burgundy status holders will be **ICSI** strengthens auditing standards second and India's first oxygen these youngsters ready for the Council during the GreenPro eligible for US Kids World Summit 2019 to be held from bigger challenges as they grow optimiser. It operates in a 'split' mode, with an outdoor Championships and 13 of the The Council of the Institute

With the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan, The Ashoka Hotel is celebrating the magnanimous

spirit of Ramadan and is all set to take care of its guest and their special needs with its special menu of 'Iftar' and 'Sehri'. The special menu is being hosted at the hotels' coffee shop— 'The Samavar' (24x7).

To pay exceptional regards to the traditions of the guests, the management will provide special amenities like the prayer mat to facilitate the course of the festival. The mats are being made available at the moment of guest checkins. The hotel is also extending the facility of 'book your meal'

where the guests can book their iftar or sehri even before reaching the hotel. The service will be extended through the room service and the Coffee

During Sehri and Iftar, the lavish handpicked selection, right from the starters, main course to the desserts, is presented to delight the taste buds. The course of Sehri begins with varieties of dishes made with eggs, to the mouth-watering fried fish, 'Mutton Rogan Josh', 'Chicken Nuggets' among others, served with traditional paranthas and roomali roti. To complement the after taste of these amazing dishes, milk and jalebi is served to the guests. The treat of *Iftar* is journey

of flavours in itself. It begins with refreshing drinks like 'Nimbu Paani' and 'Sharbat-e-Gulab' and dates. To tune the palate for the night, the course delights with assorted vegetable/paneer pakora, 'Chicken-Do-Pyaaza' and much more. The Sehri and Iftar are non-chargeable for the inPriority status is a qualifi-

India (ICSI) has approved the issuance of four ICSI Auditing Standards and the same were released recently at the ICSI House in New Delhi. The Standards are required to be observed by the Company Secretaries undertaking Audits. The Standards seek to promote best auditing practices, uniformity and consistency while

▲ of Company Secretaries of

The four Standards are— CSAS-1: Auditing Standard on Audit Engagement; CSAS-2: Auditing Standard on Audit Process and Documentation; CSAS-3: Auditing Standard on Forming of Opinion and CSAS-4: Auditing Standard on Secretarial Audit. These are applicable on recommendatory

basis on Audit engagements

conducting audits.

after July 1, 2019; and mandatory for Audit engagements accepted by the Auditor on or after April 1, 2020

accepted by the Auditor on or

The CSAS-1 lays down the Auditor's role and responsibilities with respect to an Audit Engagement and the process of entering into an understanding/agreement with the Appointing Authority for the purpose of audit. The CSAS-2 lays down the responsibilities and duties of the Auditor with respect to Audit Process in conducting audit and maintaining proper audit records. The CSAS-3 covers the basis and manner for forming Auditor's opinion on subject matter of the audit while the CSAS-4 covers the basis and manner for carry-

ing out the Secretarial Audit. ICSI's president CS Ranjeet Pandey, chairman, ASB and Council Member CS Vineet K Chaudhary, the vice chairman, ASB and Council Member CS Manish Gupta, and the officiating secretary of ICSI CS Ashok Kumar Dixit, were present at the release of the Auditing

While speaking about the issuance of Auditing Standards, CS the president said, "I am confident that these standards issued by ICSI will guide our Members and further strengthen our Audit Process". CS Vineet K Chaudhary congratulated the entire team of ICSI for this achievement and commented that the institute shall be conducting familiarisation programmes for the members to make them understand the true spirit of the Auditing Standards issued by the ICSI.



It's a busy year for me: Bhumi

Actress **BHUMI PEDNEKAR** is extremely busy this year as she has six films lined up.

The films are Bala, a social satire, *Dolly Kitty* Aur Wo Chamakte Sitare, Saand Ki Aankh, a biopic, Pati Patni Aur Woh, a romantic comedy and the multi-starrer epic Takht. She also features in an untitled horror film opposite Vicky Kaushal.

"I am grateful that I have got the opportunity from such talented filmmakers. I have always wanted to push my boundaries as an artiste. It's a great responsibility to deliver for them and bring the characters to life," Bhumi says.

'I really don't understand the unwarranted interest and negativity about my citizenship. I have never hidden or denied that I hold a Canadian passport. I find it disappointing. It's a matter that is personal, legal and non-political, and of no consequence to others. I work in India, and pay all my taxes in India. —Akshay Kumar

Actress SONAM KAPOOR AHUJA will next be seen in The Zoya Factor, an adaptation of Anuja Chauhan's book about a girl, Zoya Singh

Solanki wno ends up becoming a lucky charm for the cricket world cup team.

She says, "A lot of girls feel, 'if I am such a mess, how am I going to succeed?' But I want to say, it's okay to be a mess. I think that's what I said through Mili in Khoobsurat and that's what I liked about Zoya as well. She is a huge mess. But I like to play girls who are regular and normal.

'My child is like a slice of heaven'

The forthcoming Mother's Day will be rapper CARDI B's first as a mother. And she has one more reason to celebrate. She has topped Spotifys global list of moststreamed mothers.

Talking about her child, she said, "She is so fun. I love her, she's my little best friend. She makes the gloomiest days look like sunshine. It's a slice of

heaven." The Grammy winner isn't the only mother who juggles the demands of parenting with life in the limelight. Honouring them, Spotify has come out with lists. Cardi B is followed by singer Beyonce, Adele, Pink and Shakira. As for India, moststreamed Indian artists-moms on Spotify is topped by Alka Yagnik. The second position went to Sunidhi Chauhan, fol-

lowed by Tulsi Kumar.

While PRIYANKA CHOPRA may have failed to make a strong impression among social media users with her Met Gala look, fashion designers appreciate her over-the-top boldness, says TEAM VIVA











chandelier to Cardi B's celebrities at the Met gigantic red dress that needed its own entourage, Gala 2019, both with criticisms and prais-Kim Kardashian's dropletses, actress Mandira falling and seemingly-wet Bedi summed it up best when she skin-tight dress to Lady took to social media to express her Gaga's four seasons of fashion opinion. She wrote, "People are camp fashion-themed Met oooohing and aaaahing all day, Gala 2019's red carpet showcased all things extravagant, over some women who are looking absolutely ridiculous in the glamorous and over-theclothes they are wearing... Follow the theme, 'yes', but don't look absurd for God's sake." We couldn't top.

Talking about the outfits and looks by Indian women agree more. There has to be a line on the floor, actress drawn between being avant Priyanka Chopra played it bold as she wore a

garde and downright crazy.
From 'Nobody sits silver Dior gown at the Met Gala' out-fit of Katy Perry with colourful, feathered ruffles that was emblaat its bottom and a high leg slit. Going whimzoned with candlecarried a similarcoloured

with a silver spiked crown on the top. Her silver-frosted brows and eyelashes and a dark burgundy lip colour, however, failed to make an impression among the global audience as her curly, backcombed hair waves couldn't complement the overall look. Deconstruction is good but certainly that doesn't mean being destructive. No wonder she kicked off a meme fest with comparisons to Sri Lankan cricketer Lasith Malinga's hair and Johnny Depp's Mad Hatter character from Alice in Wonderland. In other trolls, she was shown to have been hit by a thunder shock.

Frankly Deepika Padukone's Barbielook was too plastic and lifeless while Isha Ambani's 'simple' mauve ball gown with hand-embroidered crystals and ostrich feathers, turned out to be fit for a Disney set.

Designers, of course, complimented the boldness of PeeCee's spirit.
Varun Bahl described her look as "giving major fashion goals" in the genre of quirk. Said he, "Channelling her inner Mad Hatter, Priyanka made heads turn with her flamboyant Dior gown and added a touch of Indian tradition with *bindis*. She truly incorporated the meaning of the theme and went it with it real-

Designer Nikasha disagreed as she felt that Priyanka's look "needed little more of a story." She said, "She did try to stay authentic to the theme and I must compliment her for the efforts. Having said that, I felt that she could have added more gravitas to her look. It could be more reasoned." Being unrecognisable is one thing but burying her strong facial accents wasn't certainly on point.

'PRIYANKA DID TRY TO STAY AUTHENTIC TO THE THEME AND I MUST COMPLIMENT HER FOR THE EFFORTS. HOWEVER, SHE COULD HAVE ADDED MORE GRAVITAS TO HER LOOK. IT NEEDED LITTLE MORE OF A STORY'

Nikasha, who called camp fashion as "ironic, kitschy and tongue-in-cheek," felt that exaggerated and tacky are also telt that exaggerated and tacky are also other associated words. "It is something so outrageously artificial, affected, inappropriate or out-of-date as to be considered amusing. But did it really amuse us in the end?" she wondered. Talking about Deepika's look, she said, "I consider her a gorgeous style icon who is always one step ahead on

icon who is always one step ahead on her glamorous avatar. However, this pretty Barbie-look was just that — too pretty and glamorous but there was nothing iconic or tongue-in-cheek about it." On Isha's look, she said, Lavender is definitely her colour but the pretty pouf and volume did very little for camp fashion. She could have carried a Mata Hari or an Indian goddess look with more oomph." Lastly, calling Natasha Poonawalla "pretty and pre-dictable," she said, "Let's go easy on her as she is not really a media star, a fashion diva at best."

Designer Abhinav Mishra identifies camp fashion as something "that has

everything to do with irony and the humour of being way too extra but be visually appealing at the same time.' Appreciating PeeCee's vibrant stance, he said, "This was her third appearance at the Met Gala and as usual, all eyes were on her. I loved the fact that she incorporated her make-up with bindis as she said she wanted to add a touch of the Indian traditions to her look but overall the ethnicity didn't perhaps gel too

While he rated "drop-dead gorgeous" Deepika's look as the "truest to the theme," he found Isha Ambani "undoubtedly beautiful." However, he added, "It didn't relate much to the gala's theme. I feel she could have experimenttheme. I feel she could have experimented a little more with the outfit." On the other hand, he compared PeeCee's Indian touch with Natasha Poonawalla's sparkling maang tika. "She surely had her princess moment on the red carpet with that pleated train." Calling Deepika a style inspiration, Varun said, "Bringing her zaniest best to the red carpet this year, I found her look more of a dramatic flair which took everybody by storm." Isha, he added, "could have carried a Isha, he added, "could have carried a clutch to complete the look even though she was absolutely stunning at her

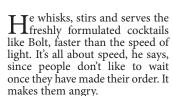
However, global critics panned the Met Gala as an outrageous, presumptive show that was too intent on making a statement than honouring the true spirit of creativity. Also, the presence of outubers and wannabes was something that trivialised what once used to be a culture statement. From the looks of it, it was not even a pantomime, but a freak

Manga mix with spices

Mixologist RICHARD HARGROVES tells Ayushi Sharma how he trusts local resources







makes them angry.

Taking us on a journey through
his special curations at the Gurugram bar-cum-restaurant, Dragonfly, mixologist Richard Hargroves says, "You need differ-ent types of drinks to suit the needs of disparate individuals. People want their cocktails to be mindful of their tastes and preferences." Out of the specially-curated 12 alcoholic cocktails for summer and four non-alcoholic ones, five are laid out before us. And we try three.

First in line is the Japanese Colada, a tad bit more captivating from the usual Pina Colada. Using an eight-year-old Bacardi, he has blended it with Shochu (a Japanese distilled beverage made with rice, barley, buckwheat and brown sugar), home-made coconut sorbet, pineapple cordial, some almond milk, tamarind reduction and plum wine reduction together with pineapple syrup and champagne. Shaking it vigorously with crushed ice, the cocktail is garnished with some coconut and pineapple foam, giving it the look of a mocktail. The colada tingles the senses evocatively.

He apprises us that whenever one launches a cocktail menu, there is always a theme woven around it. So here, all the drinks are inspired by Manga characters. He



The best way to make summer cocktails here is to make use of local spices and ingredients. They lend a huge kick to the drink and I am sure they would find takers in the West, too

says, "Attention is paid to even the around with the resources. He minutest detail, something that a restaurant or bar will not be able to focus on. And that is where our expertise comes in."

One of the mixologist's key *mantras* is to make his own syrups. They not only add a cool element but as well save money as they last for about a week and cut down on liquor waste. They are the cost of only a cup of sugar.

Next on the counter is

Lemongrass Whisky Sour. Infused with lemongrass, which enhances the aromatics, he takes out the Japanese Yamazakura whisky and blends it with lemongrass cordials, vanilla syrup with a dash of angostura bitters, typically used for flavouring beverages. Extra marks for his uphill battle but the drink appears dull and tastes exactly like its name — sour.

Another drink, Sakazuki Cooler, is a gin infused with passion fruit, blended with Shochu and plum wine. To balance the drink's flavours of fresh lemon and green apple juice, he uses a dash of honey, ginger cordial and orange bitters. Served in a dragonflyshaped, oval cup, which make it look a bit over the top, the cocktail is garnished with a caramelised apple ring, toasted sesame seeds and mint spring. The one-of-its-kind drink is enough to make one realise how a good cocktail can really help you unwind.

So how has he customised cocktails for India? Hargroves instantly responds that he plays

says, "There are very limited amounts of cures here. If we talk about London, we have 10 different types of muses, flavours and ingredients. But the trouble here is that you don't have that privilege. This is a disadvantage for India to not have the entire set of ingredients. So that limits you to present what you have thought of. For instance, we did a research a couple of days ago and we experimented with over 20 classic cocktails but it was quite hard to complete because there were very few ingre-

However, doesn't this dearth of resources not make one creative and innovative? "Of course it does. There are certain elements that you simply cannot replicate even if you wish to. So you have to think out of the box and create something totally brand new."

Explaining further, he says that in most countries one can bring the cure over subject to approval. "However," he says, "if I bring it over here and it doesn't have enough sales, it will eventually disappear and die out. We have to build an awareness first before we develop a market for flavour profiles. Also, you have to pay a huge fee for the licence to bring such ingredients into the country. The best way is to make use of spices and ingredients here. They lend a huge kick to the drink and I am sure they would find takers in the West



Vidya to play **Shakuntala Devi**

The mathematical wizard or a human computer, Shakuntala Devi, mathematician, astrologer, cookbook author and novelist, has donned many hats throughout her life. She had been known for her ability to make incredibly swift calculations. Shakuntala's genius was first discovered when she was five when she solved a math prob-lem for 18-year-old students. Though she never received any formal education, her talent for numbers also earned her a place in the 1982 edition of The Guinness Book of World Records.

Actress Vidya Balan will soon play the role of Shakuntala Devi in a biopic film on the writer. The Shakuntala Devi film will be helmed by Anu Menon along with Nayanika Mahtani and the dialogues will be penned by Ishita Moitra. Producer Abundantia is currently developing the film for the big screen. Scheduled to go on floors, later this year, the film is slated to release in summers of 2020.

Vidya said, "I am extremely excited to play the human computer, Shakuntala Devi, on the big screen. She was someone who truly embraced her individuality, had a strong feminist voice and braved many a naysayer to reach the pinnacle of success. But what truly fascinates me is that you wouldn't normally associate a fun person with Math... and she completely turns that perception on its head. I am thrilled that Vikram (Malhotra), who I've worked with on Kahaani, and his team are producing the film. Anu and I are proud to bring

to life the story of one of the most inspiring women of this country. How incredible is it that 'The Math Genius' or 'The Human Computer' was a small-town Indian girl, who took the world by storm."

Producer Vikram Malhotra echoes her sentiment, "We have always been at the forefront of supporting progressive and insightful stories. I am delighted that we are extending our content philosophy further with this exciting story on the life and times of Shakuntal Devi. I am confident that this compelling story will resonate strongly with fans of all ages. I'm delighted to collaborate with Vidya once again, her versatility as a performer is unmatched and the passion that she has brought to this film is amazing. I am equally delighted to partner with Anu, who has woven an entertaining and evocative narrative. With this film, we hope to take engaging storytelling to the next level."

Director Anu adds, 'Shakuntala Devi was an extraordinary woman, who lived ahead of her times and on her own terms, unapologetically. Her love for numbers and the passion with which she spread the joy of math, against all odds, is truly fascinating. Shakuntala is a true heroine of our times. Also, who else can capture the spirit of a woman like Shakuntala than the incredible Vidya Balan? We have spent months together in script development and it's been nothing short of exhilarating. I hope all of us together can do justice to the life of Shakuntala, who was truly one of her kind."

4 NOTHING

Liverpool cap historic 4-0 (4-3) comeback at Anfield against Barcelona to enter CL final



AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

iverpool produced one of the most stunning come-⊿backs in Champions League history to beat Barcelona 4-0 and progress to the final for the second consecutive year on Tuesday as stand-in striker Divock Origi and substitute Georginio Wijnaldum both scored twice.

Liverpool went into the match at Anfield trailing 3-0 from the first leg and deprived of injured star attacking duo Mohamed Salah and Roberto

Firmino. However, Origi — making a rare start — and substitute Wijnaldum both netted twice as Barca for the second season in succession surrendered a threegoal first-leg lead to exit the

Champions League.
Liverpool will face either Dutch side Aiax or Premier League rivals Tottenham in the final on June 1 in Madrid and crowned European champions for the sixth time.

SINGLES

KUALA LUMPUR: Badminton star Lee Chong

Wei will miss the World Championships in

Thailand on June 5. According to the fixture announced by Football Association of

Thailand on Wednesday, the hosts will face Vietnam on June 5 in the four-team

tournament. The respective winners will lock

horns against each other in the final on June

8 and the third-place match will be held earlier on the same day. All the matches will be

played at the Chang Arena Stadium, Buriram. As per FIFA Rankings of April, India are ranked

101 and Thailand at 114. Vietnam are at 98

B'DESH MONITORING SL BEFORE TOUR

NAGPUR: Bangladesh cricket officials said on

Wednesday they were monitoring security in

Sri Lanka in the wake of last month's terror

attacks and ahead of a planned tour slated for

July. The national team narrowly avoided

being caught in the New Zealand mosque

attacks that killed 51 people. Bangladesh's

ODI series in Sri Lanka was scheduled to take

place in July, having been brought forward

from December. But the fate of the series has

been thrown into doubt following the April 21

attacks in Sri Lanka churches and hotels that

killed more than 250 people. "We won't say

the series is uncertain, but we are monitoring

the situation through the Bangladesh High

Commission and our foreign ministry," cricket

board chief executive said.

and Curacao at 82.

when they last lifted the trophy in 2005 when they overturned a 3-0 half-time deficit in the final against AC Milan in

Istanbul. However, Klopp underlined the importance of his side writing their own history even if their bid for a first Premier League title for 29 years falls short behind Manchester City this weekend.

"We believed in this chance, we didn't compare it with Istanbul or whatever," added Klopp. "We want to create our own history. We need new chapters obviously and the boys

Despite the despondency of losing Salah and Firmino, Klopp's men never lost faith and were accompanied by a typically raucous Anfield atmosphere for a European night.

Origi would almost certainly not have started had Salah and Firmino been fit.

But the 24-year-old Belgian title challenge and had his first The Reds' stunning victory ever in the Champions League brought back memories of on seven minutes on the

LIVERPOOL WILL FACE EITHER DUTCH SIDE AJAX OR PREMIER LEAGUE RIVALS TOTTENHAM IN

THE FINAL ON JUNE 1 IN MADRID AND WILL LIKELY BE FAVOURITES TO BE **CROWNED EUROPEAN** CHAMPIONS FOR THE SIXTH TIME

rebound after Marc-Andre ter Stegen had denied Jordan Henderson's initial effort.

BARCA COLLAPSE AGAIN Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde was left to face up to the second major European embarrassment of his time in

The Spanish champions blew a 4-1 first-leg lead to bow out at the quarter-finals against Roma last vear.

His side were left to rue not ing their chances in the first important goals in Liverpool's half after weathering Liverpool's

> early burst. Lionel Messi had seemingly turned the tie in the

"With any other team I wouldn't think it was possible. They are really mentality giants. I am really proud to be the manager of this team. What they did tonight was really special. I will remember it

-Jurgen Klopp

"Once again we showed that everything is possible in football." —Georginio Wijnaldum

"We are all very emotional now because of the elimination. We have to raise our spirits because there is a Copa del Rey final to come. There will be difficult days for everyone but we have to lift

—Josep Bartomeu

"I apologise to the fans because after the Rome thing, it happens again, it is very hard to fall like that with a good result in the first

-Sergio Busquets

"Things got on top of us after those two quick goals. We didn't manage to get on the scoresheet and they rolled us over really. It's a terrible result for our fans and for ourselves. It's really, really unfortunate, but credit to Liverpool.3

—Ernesto Valverde

knew it would be difficult but still possible.' —Jordan Henderson

"Unbelievable! I don't think many

people gave us a chance. We

"Who's going to the final? We are

That's all that matters.' -Andy Robertson

"You know when you talk about the great nights, this is the best ever. It's absolutely incredible."

-Robbie Fowler

"This place has seen some of the most amazing nights, European nights, of football and it's right up there with them. Possibly the

-Michael Owen

"What they've produced here is breathtaking and you can do nothing but respect the team, the management, and the way this club have conducted themselves, unmarked to fire high past Ter especially on a night like tonight."

Gasquet — who had defeated him

twice on clay — for 5-3 in the second

with Gasquet, just back from six

NISHIKORI WAWRINKA FACEOFF

Wawrinka in the third round after bat-

tling past Bolivian qualifier Hugo Dellien on Wednesday.

hours to win 7-5, 7-5 after Dellien saved

seven set points during an impressive

fightback from 5-1 down in the open-

The Japanese will go up against Wawrinka on Thursday for a place in the quarter-finals. The winner could

Pella 6-3, 6-4, with a break in each set

proving enough for the three-time

ings with Wawrinka, including a three-

set defeat in Rotterdam in February, when his Swiss opponent went on to reach his first final since undergoing

Wawrinka beat Argentina's Guido

Nishikori has İost his last two meet-

Kei Nishikori will face Stan

Nishikori needed just over two

Federer has won 18 of 21 meetings

before serving it out a game later.

months out with injury.

play Rafael Nadal.

grand slam champion.

knee surgery in 2017.

Arsenal lean on Lacazette, Aubameyang to save season

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal's collapse at the busi-ness end of the Premier League season means the success or failure of Unai Emery's first campaign now solely depends on lifting the Europa League and as a result sealing Champions League football.

The Gunners travel to Emery's old club Valencia on Thursday defending a 3-1 semifinal, first leg lead given to them by star strikers Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang at the Emirates last week.

Arsenal's awful record on the road this season will give the Spanish side plenty of encouragement that they can overturn a two-goal deficit.

Emery's men conceded three times in losing at Wolves and Leicester in their last two away league games and were also defeated at BATE Borisov and Rennes before turning Europa League ties around at the Emirates.

Attack may therefore be the visitors' best form of defence in the cauldron of the Mestalla and Arsenal are at least getting what they paid for from Lacazette and Aubameyang.

The Londoners' first season without Arsene Wenger for 22 years has been dogged by many of the same defensive problems suffered by the Frenchman towards the end of his reign.

But Wenger's final two big signings have come good as club record fees were paid for Lacazette in the summer of 2017 and Aubameyang in January 2018.

After a difficult first six months in England, many thought Aubameyang's arrival was ominous for Lacazette's

want to say it," admitted Aubameyang, while Lacazette conceded to French television station RMC he "could be even happier" if he started more

regularly. "Every player wants to play each match for 90 minutes, but as a manager I need to use the player in the best moment," said Emery in defence of his decisions throughout the sea-

Lacazette who won the club's player of the year prize for his "Sometimes our performances are better with both, but all round contribution with 18 sometimes our big perfor-Those figures are all the mances are better with only one, and after they make an impact more impressive as they have often had to battle for just one replacing another striker."

Given the problems Emery is trying to patch up at the other end, the Gunners are likely to need the firepower of both to ensure they make it to Baku to try and save their season next



Valencia vs Arsenal

SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

longevity at the club, but the two

have formed a fine partnership

Salah has scored more Premier

League goals than Aubameyang's 20, but it is

Only Liverpool's Mohamed

Both players have voiced

You know that I like to play

their displeasure at Emery's

reluctance throughout the cam-

paign to play with two strikers.

on and off the field

goals and 12 assists.

starting spot.

ve from 12:30am IST

Hockey series Finals to stay in Bhubaneswar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar has suf-Fani but that would not come in the way of conducting the Hockey series Finals scheduled to be held in the city next month, Hockey India asserted on Wednesday.

Rejecting speculation that the June 6-15 tournament might be shifted out of the Odisha Capital to either Lucknow or Raipur, a top Hockey India official said no such decision has been taken and the national body is committed to host the event in Bhubaneswar.

"I don't know from where these reports come from but we absolutely had no discussions with Odisha government about shifting the venue," a top HI official said.

We are in touch with the Odisha government officials and we have been informed that the extent of damage in the hockey stadium is minimal. Hockey India officials will also travel to Bhubaneswar this week to assess the condition of the turf and take stock of the situation at the official team hotels.

Six months ago, Bhubaneswar hosted the FIH World Cup but last week's Cyclone Fani wreaked havoc in the city, causing substantial

The Kalinga Stadium, venue for the World Cup and next month's Hockey Series Finals, too was at the receiving end of the nature's fury.

Thundersticks 2-0 **PTI** ■ PERTH

India beat WA

The Indian men's hockey team Wednesday defeated WA Thundersticks 2-0 to start their Australia tour on a positive note at the Perth Hockey Stadium here on Wednesday.

Goals from Birendra Lakra (23rd minute) and Harmanpreet Singh (50th) secured the win for the visitors in their opening match of the tour, where they will also play the Australian national team on May 15 and May 17.

India will play their next match against Australia 'A' on May 10.

But according to the Odisha government's Department of Sports and Youth Services (DSYS) the damage to the stadium has been minimal and they are hopeful of hosting the tournament as scheduled.

 $Eight \ countries-including \ Japan, \ Mexico,$ Poland, Russia, South Africa, USA, Uzbekistan and hosts India — are set to take part in the men's Hockey Series Finals, which is a qualifying tournament for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

FIFA upholds Chelsea transfer ban

The ban on Chelsea signing players over the next two transfer windows remained largely in place after FIFA issued their ruling on the London club's appeal on Wednesday.

In February, the Blues were banned from signing players for their men's teams for the next two transfer windows after being found guilty by FIFA's disciplinary commit-tee of breaching regulations relating to the recruitment of minors.

Chelsea denied any wrong-The committee lifted part doing and appealed. On Wednesday, the governing body of world football

of the ban, but only for players under 16 who are not "international transfers and first regis-

announced that its appeal committee had "decided to partialtrations of foreign minor playly uphold the appeal".

That means Chelsea will still not be able to sign male players over the age of 16 when the summer transfer window opens.

'Glad to be back': Federer wins on clay return

Catalans' favour late in the first

leg with a brilliant free-kick and

his first effort was tipped over

by Alisson Becker before the

Brazilian denied his interna-

tional teammate Philippe

dealt another injury blow as

Andy Robertson was with-

drawn at half-time, but he

made way for Dutch interna-

tional Wijnaldum with James

massive. He was picked out by

Trent Alexander-Arnold's low

cross and drilled under Ter

Stegen. And from Liverpool's

next attack, Xherdan Shaqiri

picked out Wijnaldum to head

some order as Coutinho was

replaced for the second time in

impact, but Barca were inex-

plicably caught cold from a

11 minutes from time that

picked out Origi completely

Valverde tried to restore

The change briefly had an

home at the Kop end.

Wijnaldum's impact was

Milner moving to left-back.

Liverpool were seemingly



Roger Federer celebrates after winning his first match at Madrid Open against Richard Gasquet

AFP ■ MADRID

 $R^{\text{oger Federer shook off a brief bout}}_{\text{of pre-match jitters as he returned}}$ to clay after a three-year absence, posting a 6-2, 6-3 win over Richard Gasquet on Tuesday at the Madrid Open.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion needed just 52 minutes to brush Gasquet aside in the second round, but confessed he had to control his emotions during afternoon match strategy sessions with his team.

"I was very calm all day, but two hours before, I was feeling it a bit. But that was the only time," Federer said. "The nerves went away quickly, I'm just happy I started well.

"I'm glad to be back," said the threetime Madrid champion who last played on clay almost three years ago, losing to Dominic Thiem in the Rome third round on May 12, 2016.

Federer skipped the dirt for two full seasons to concentrate on his grass court form, winning Wimbledon in



2006, 2009, and 2012. "I've been missing the clay, this is a great return, it's a special night for me,"

Federer swept up the opening set He claimed the Madrid title in in 23 minutes and broke Frenchman

The pair have reached 12 grand slam semi-finals between them. Nishikori's compatriot and world number one Naomi Osaka is through to the quarter-finals of the women's tournament for the first time after she eased past Belarusian Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-2, 6-3. The two-time major champion will face either Switzerland's Belinda Bencic and Ukraine's Kateryna Kozlova in the last eight. A potential semi-final foe for

Osaka is world number three Simona Halep, who annihilated Slovakian Viktoria Kuzmova 6-0, 6-0 in 44 min-

Halep is chasing her third Madrid title after winning the tournament in 2016 and 2017.

DC win a thriller against SRH

PTI VISHAKAPATNAM

Young Keemo Paul gave the final touches to a Rishabh Pant blitzkrieg as Delhi Capitals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by two wickets in a nerve-wracking IPL Eliminator here on Wednesday.

Chasing a target of 163, Delhi Capitals, who had lost the way after a blazing start, were brought to cusp of victory by young Pant, who smashed 49 off 21 balls with five sixes as West Indies' Paul finished it off the penultimate ball of the innings with a boundary off Khaleel Ahmed.

Pant, who resurrected the innings from a orecarious 111 for 5 couldn't have chosen a better venue than chairman of selectors MSK Prasad's home ground to drive home a point on his much dbated World Cup exclusion.

It was a sense of dja vu for Paul, who had similarly hit winning runs in an U-19 World Cup final in 2016 when Khaleel was the bowler in the final over.

Delhi Capital now face Chennai Super Kings in the second Qualifier in their bid to make it to the maiden IPL final against Mumbai Indians.

Needing 34 from three overs, Pant showed brilliant game awareness to target Sunrisers' weakest link Basil Thampi, smashing him for 21 runs in the 18th over as he brought the game on even keel.

A six off Bhuvneshwar Kumar brought the equation down to five runs before Pant in his bid to finish the game was holed out with five required from seven balls.

When the chase started, Prithvi Shaw (56 off 38 balls) was in his element in the fifth over bowled by



Bhuvneshwar Kumar when he first played a flowing cover drive, followed by a ramp shot for six over third man and a lofted boundary over mid-off to

put Sunrisers on the backfoot. Sensing that Prithvi has taken the lead, senior partner Shikhar Dhawan (17) after collecting three boundaries started playing the second fiddle with

55 coming off Powerplay overs.

One of the most regal shots played by Prithvi was a six over longon when he gave off-spinner Deepak Hooda the charge.

In the same over, Wriddhiman Saha effected a smart stumping down leg-side to see the end of Dhawan even as Prithvi completed his 50 off 31 balls.

However just like Sunrisers, Delhi also lost momentum at start of the back-10 with Khaleel's extra pace and bounce accounting for Prithvi and skipper Shreyas Iyer (8). Prithvi's

innings had six fours and two sixes. It was Rashid Khan (2/15 in 4 overs), who them removed Colun Munro (14) and Axar Patel (0) to peg off with a six off Mohammed Nabi, hit him for a second six as 42 runs were required off the last four overs when Pant changed the match.

Earlier, Delhi Capitals bowlers pulled the plug in the middle overs, restricting Sunrisers Hyderabad to a par score of 162 for 8.

Keemo Paul (3/32 in 4 overs) was ably supported by Amit Mishra (1/16 in 4 overs), Ishant Sharma (2/34 in 4 overs) and Axar Patel (0/30 in 4 overs) as the quartet bowled 40 dot balls between them.

Ishant got rid of Wriddhiman Saha (8), who offered a simple catch to Shreyas Iyer at mid-off.

Martin Guptill (36) hit three sixes including two off his countrymate Trent Boult to set the pace in the Powerplay overs which yielded 54

Credit to Delhi bowlers as the next 14 overs produced only 108 runs.

As Guptill was in attacking mood, it gave the normally flamboyant Manish Pandey (30) to play around before the spinners came in operation.

Axar and Mishra choked the runflow and Guptill was accounted for trying to slog sweep the leg-spinner. His innings had four sixes apart from a boundary. Sunrisers suddenly lost momentum in those middle overs as Pandey and Kane Williamson (27 off 26 balls) added only 34 runs in seven overs before he Karnataka batsman was dismissed by a Keemo Paul slower delivery. Pandey was holed out by Sherfane Rutherford at long-on bound-

ary making it 90 for 3 for Sunrisers. Vijay Shankar (25 off 11 balls) and Mohammed Nabi (20 off 13 balls) added 36 runs in 2.4 overs to beef up the total but Paul kept things tight in



Velocity spice up Women's Challenge

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Mithali Raj's Velocity overcame some anxious moments late in the innings before registering a three-wicket win over Trailblazers to keep the race to final in the inaugural Women's T20 Challenge alive, here on Wednesday. After their five-wicket win over Supernovas in the tournament-opener on Tuesday, a victory over Velocity would have sealed Trailblazers' place in Saturday's sum-

mit clash. But it was not to be as Velocity first restricted Trailblazers to 112 for six after opting to bowl and then chased down the target with 12 balls to spare to keep the tournament alive for all the three teams.

In the final league match on Thursday, Velocity will play Supernovas and the outcome of that game will decide the finalists.

Opting to field, left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht (2/13) and New Zealand's Amelia Kerr (2/21) shared four wickets between them to keep Trailblazers under check from the

Harleen Deol top-scored for Trailblazers with 43, while

opener Suzie Bates made 26. Skipper Smriti Mandhana made a run-a-ball 10 while Deepti Sharma scored 16 off 16 deliveries towards the end to take Trailblazers past the 110-run mark. Later, after the early dismissal of Hayley Matthews, Shafali Verma (34 off 31; 5x4s, 1x6) and Danielle Wyatt

(46 off 35; 5x4s, 2x6s) accelerated the scoring for Velocity to set the platform for an easy chase. After the dismissals of Verma and Wyatt, Mithali (17

off 22) looked set to finish off the chase before Velocity lost four quick wickets — three in the 18th over bowled by Deepti Sharma — with just two runs needed for vic-

While Veda Krishnamurthy was run out for a firstball duck, Deepti cleaned up the experienced Mithali with a yorker with the first ball of the 18th over before going through the defence of Shikha Pandey a ball later.

Off the fifth ball of the same over, Deepti claimed her fourth scalp of the day when she bowled Kerr to raise hopes of an improbable win for her side, but it was not to be.

Off-spinner Deepti (4/14) was the wrecker-in-chief for Trailblazers. She was ably supported by Rajeshwari Gayakwad (1/28) and Harleen (1/19).

By virtue of this win, Velocity are on top of the standings just ahead of Trailblazers with Supernovas yet to open their account.



Rohit rates SKY as one of best against spin

CHENNAI: Talented batsman Suryakumar Yadav has earned praise from his Mumbai İndians captain Rohit Sharma who described him as one of the best players of spin bowling after his match-winning 71 not out against Chennai Super Kings in the first IPL Qualifier.

Suryakumar's 54-ball unbeaten knock on a sub-standard Chepauk track ensured a smooth passage to the final for the Mumbai Indians as they

beat the defending champions by six wickets.

"He's (Suryakumar) probably is one of our best batsmen against spin. We knew the spin threat CSK possess will be a huge factor. Suryakumar plays spin very well. I have seen him at close quarters. The shots he plays behind the wicket, those are not easy shots. Always knew he was going to come good at some stage," Rohit said after the match on Tuesday.

28-year-old Suryakumar, who won the Man of the Match award, said he had decided to play most of his shots along the ground after watching how the pitch behaved when CSK batted.

"After first innings, I saw what happened, not too many players were able to hit the shots in the air. So I wanted to play down the ground, pick singles and doubles. Had the chat after first innings that

someone from the top-order will have to play towards the end because it won't be easy for players coming in later," the former Mumbai Ranji captain

For Rohit, the role of his three spinners (Jayant Yadav, Krunal Pandya and Rahul Chahar), who gave away only 60 runs for four wickets in 11 overs among them, was impor-

Smith's 89 not enough for Aus success

"It was important to than a wrist spinner."

restrict them to as little as possible, because it can get tricky against their quality spinners, said Rohit.

He was happy that his call to have off-spinner Jayant Yadav paid off.

"It was a call we had to make, knowing they have quite a few right-handers in the CSK squad. Jayant is a quality bowler. Thought that a fingerspinner can be more effective



Zealand to a seven-wicket

AFP ■ BRISBANE

Will Young stroked a masterful 130 to steer an under-strength New win over Australia in a World Cup practice match on Wednesday, outshining a classy unbeaten 89 from Steve Smith.

The visitors chased down their 278 target with 10 balls to spare, inflicting the first one-day defeat on Australia in 10 games, although this was not counted as a full international.

Young, who is uncapped and not part of New Zealand's World Cup squad, was eventually run out after smacking 11 fours

and two sixes in his 132ball knock.

George Worker (56) and Tom Latham (69 not out) were also among the runs as New Zealand, missing Kane Williamson, Martin Guptill and Trent Boult, made 283 for three in reply to Australia's 277

Australian pace spear-head Mitchell Starc made his long-awaited return from injury and was the pick of a lacklustre bowling attack, taking 2-14 off five overs with trademark yorkers before being withdrawn from the action.

It was his first match back since tearing a muscle three months ago. Earlier, former skipper Smith was the star attracexpired.

tion with his 89, including four big sixes, in only his second game in Australian colours since his one-year ban for ball-tampering

He came to the crease when Shaun Marsh was out for 28 and was in fine touch in a major boost for Australia ahead of their

World Cup defence in England.

Usman Khawaja and Glenn Maxwell were also in form, scoring 56 and 52 respectively.

But David Warner, who made 39 on his return from the "Sandpapergate" scandal in the first of the three unofficial matches in Brisbane on Monday, did not fare so well.

He opened the innings with Aaron Finch, rather than Khawaja, but was soon back on the sidelines after spooning a catch to cover without scoring, lasting just six balls.

Australia won the first match by one wicket, with the final game at Allan Border Field on Friday.



Flintoff backs Stokes to 'steal the show'

AFP ■ LONDON

ndrew Flintoff believes Ben Stokes can A"steal the show" for England in a home season featuring both the World Cup and the

For the first time since the inaugural men's World Cup in 1975, England are staging arguably the two biggest events in their calendar - the one-day showpiece and a Test series against arch-rivals Australia — in the same season.

Flintoff believes Stokes' bowling confidence may have been set back by being hit for four successive sixes by the West Indies' Carlos Brathwaite in the last over of a 2016 World Twenty20 final in Kolkata that England had been poised to win.

But Flintoff said that was partly a consequence of Stokes' willingness to take responsiblity at key stages.

'With Ben he's just different," Flintoff told

reporters in London on Tuesday. "As a batter he can bat three, he can bat

four - his bowling's getting better all the "The World T20 probably knocked his

confidence a little bit. That can happen, bowling at the death," added Flintoff. "He's always in the big moments of a

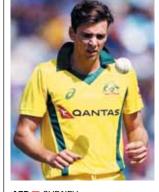
game. He seems to be that lad who lifts the Flintoff, a central figure with both bat and

ball when England regained the Ashes on home soil in 2005, said the season ahead would be the ideal stage for Stokes to shine. "World Cup, Ashes — it's all to play for,"

wouldn't be surprised if he just steals the

"We spent five weeks together having

Jhye Richardson out of WCup



AFP ■ SYDNEY

 $A^{\mathrm{ustralian}}$ fast bowler Jhye Richardson was ruled out of the World Cup on Wednesday after failing to recover from a dislocated shoulder, with namesake Kane Richardson replacing him.

He picked up the injury during Australia's series against Pakistan in the United Arab

Emirates in March, but was included in the squad for the World Cup in England starting later this month. But recent tests showed he

would not be ready in time.

"This is obviously very disappointing news for the team and for Jhye, who has been exceptional throughout his rehabilitation process," said team physiotherapist David Beakley.

"After his most recent assessment and attempting to bowl in the nets, it was clear that Jhye was not progressing as fast as required.

"Therefore, in consultation with selectors, we made the decision to withdraw him from the squad.'

Kane Richardson was called up to replace him, with longtime pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood, who has been put of action since January with a back injury, overlooked.

It's going to be amazing but gruelling: Bairstow on WC, Ashes

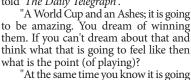


PTI ■ LONDON

 $E^{ngland\;batsman\;Jonny\;Bairstow\;can't}_{wait\;for\;the\;"biggest\;summer"\;of\;his}$ cricket career to get underway with the World Cup this month but he also expects it to be the most gruelling as the Ashes is lined up just a few weeks later.

Bairstow, who scored 445 runs from 10 matches for Sunrisers Hyderabad in his debut IPL season, will be a key player for the England in the World Cup starting May 30. The World Cup will end on July 14 and the Ashes, against arch-rivals Australia, will start August 1.

"It is huge. It is the biggest summer I will ever be involved in. It is the biggest ever summer for English cricket full stop," he told 'The Daily Telegraph'.



be a gruelling summer. Five Tests at the end of World Cup is going to be tough, mentally and physically," he added. Bairstow played alongside Australia's

David Warner in the IPL but the Englishman said there would be no love lost when the two square off during the "We can say hello now. We did not

have a connection before, but now we've played together and done well together and had a good partnership it will make a dif-

dinner and coffees. It changes things but it will still be England versus Australia," he said.

"As a character and player like Ben, you

"We can (then) all forget about 2005 and

move on with ourselves!



begins on May 30, will see all 10 participating nations face each other in a round-robin format. India's 15-member squad

boasts of experienced players like Dhoni, Kohli, Rohit, Shami and Shikhar Dhawan along with in-form youngsters such as Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep. "India has a great combina-

tion of youth and experience. In a way they are more experienced than the other teams. They have the right balance four fast bowlers, three spinners and they have Virat Kohli and Dhoni," Kapil, the 1983 World Cup-winning captain, told reporters at a promotional event of Britannia Khao, World Cup Jao Campaignon on Wednesday.

"Dhoni and Kohli have age," he said.

done extremely well for India. Both of them are unmatchable,' he added.

Kapil Dev poses for photo with the winners of 1st set of the Britannia Khao, World

Cup Jao Campaign in New Delhi on Wednesday. 100 lucky winners will head on

an all-expenses paid trip to England to watch the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

India will need some

beyond semis: Kapil

luck to progress

The legendary all-rounder also hailed India's pace attack and said it will deliver in the English conditions.

The four fast bowlers we have are fantastic, they are very good. I think the English conditions will help them swing the ball. Then players like Shami and Bumrah can bowl 145kmph, have swing and pace," he said. Kapil, who has also coached

the Indian team in 1999-2000,

predicted that the "Men in Blue'

will reach the semifinals alongside hosts England and defending champions Australia. "I think India will definitely finish in the top four. After that it will be really difficult. After the semifinals, stroke of luck alongside personal and

team performance will deter-

mine who goes forward," he

said.

"England, Australia and India are the top three teams. These teams have more strength than the others. New Zealand or West Indies can emerge as the surprise pack-