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Opp flies into EVM rage

As tampering charges zoom, demand for VVPAT checks peaks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

Azad's party colleague Abhishek Singhvi said after several requests to the EC for months, the poll body has now agreed to meet us on Wednesday to discuss the issue.

"Even if the EC disagrees with us, it should consider that 75 per cent of the electorate represented by these 22 parties is before it. How does it matter if it changes the rules? It will be

only a change in guideline or procedure. The EC has not decided for six weeks and now they are saying they will decide tomorrow," Singhvi said. Earlier in the day, several

videos of the alleged movement of EVMs from one unauthorised storage house to another went viral. Videos showed some EVMs were reportedly stored at shops, others were seen stacked in the boot of private vehicles.

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

"After the close of polls, all polled EVMs and VVPATs are brought under security cover to the designated strongrooms, which is sealed with double locks in the presence of the candidates and in the presence of observers of the EC. The entire process of storage and sealing of the strongrooms is covered under videography. Continuous CCTV coverage is done till completion of counting. Each strongroom is guarded with round-the-clock security by Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). Further, the candidates or their designated agents remain present at the strongroom for 24x7 vigil at all times," the EC said in a statement.

"On the counting day, the strongrooms are opened in the presence of the candidates/agents and observers under videography," said the Election Commission.

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Arunachal MLA, his son dead in NSCN ambush

9 others killed as terrorists attack convoy

AGENCIES ■ ITANAGAR

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

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

Aboh was on his way to his constituency from Assam, along with family members, three police personnel and a poll agent, when the suspected NSCN rebels opened fire at their vehicles near 12 Mile area in the district at around 11.30 am, Singh told PTI.

One security officer, who sustained injuries in the incident, has been admitted to hospital in Dibrugarh, Assam, the DGP said, adding that the MLA and ten others were killed on the spot. Expressing his shock over the incident, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said the perpetrators will be hunted down.

"Action will be initiated to



hunt down the perpetrators. My heartfelt condolences. May the departed souls rest in peace," he said.

Condemning the attack, NPP president and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma sought the intervention of the Prime Minister's Office and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

"The NPP is extremely shocked and saddened by the news of the death of its MLA Shri Tirong Aboh (Arunachal Pradesh) and his family. We condemn the brutal attack and urge @rajnathsingh and @PMOIndia to take action against those responsible for such attack," Sangma tweeted.

Meanwhile, the Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee

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

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

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

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

CO sacked, IAF officers face jail for copter crash



Role of ATC at Srinagar base also under lens

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Though the IAF on Tuesday refrained from giving details of the incident or the findings of the probe, sources said the air defence fired an Israeli-made SPYDER surface-to-air missile on February 27 from the Srinagar airbase after it mistook the MI-17 helicopter to be hostile. The system is specifically designed to ensure that friendly-fire incidents are avoided during the heat of battle. It is unclear if the IAF helicopter's IFF was functioning at the time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former President Pranab Mukherjee on Tuesday expressed concern over the alleged tampering of voters' verdict saying the onus of ensuring institutional integrity lies with the Election Commission, which should put all speculation to rest. He also said there can be no room for speculation that challenges the very basis of Indian democracy.

"I am concerned at reports of alleged tampering of voters' verdict. The safety and security of EVMs which are in the custody of the Commission," Pranab said in a statement posted on his Twitter handle.

"People's mandate is sacrosanct and has to be above any iota of reasonable doubt. The onus of ensuring institutional integrity in this case lies with

the Election Commission of India. They must do so and put all speculation to rest," he said.

Pranab said as a firm believer in the country's institutions, it is his considered opinion that it is the "workmen" who decide how the institutional "tools" perform.

Protests broke out in some parts of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday after videos of alleged movement and tampering of EVMs went viral on social media, a charge dismissed by the EC as "frivolous" and "unfounded".

The former President on Monday had lauded the role of the poll panel saying the 2019 Lok Sabha polls were conducted "perfectly". Speaking at a book launch event, Pranab said that right from first Election Commissioner Sukumar Sen to the present election commissioners, the institution is working very well.

Continued on Page 7

CBI clean chit to MSY, Akhilesh in DA case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh, the CBI has told the Supreme Court that the allegations of disproportionate assets against them could not be substantiated.

"The further enquiry under the registered PE in the present case commenced after the judgement dated December 13, 2012, of the court and was concluded on August 7, 2013. I further respectfully state and submit that since, no prima facie evidence of commission of cognisable offence against Mulayam and his two sons, Akhilesh and Prateek, was found, the Preliminary Enquiry (PE) was not converted into a criminal case/FIR and as such, no enquiry was conducted in the matter after August 7, 2013.

The CBI said that after conducting further enquiry in a "fair, impartial and professional manner" in the matter, it had independently taken a decision to close the probe against them as per court's directions in the 2012 verdict.

In its 21-page affidavit, the CBI said, "Thereafter in compliance of the directions of the court in the judgement dated December 13, 2012, further

enquiry was conducted in the said PE and it was found that the allegations against Respondent(s)..., for allegedly having acquired disproportionate assets to their known source of income could not be substantiated".

"The further enquiry under the registered PE in the present case commenced after the judgement dated December 13, 2012, of the court and was concluded on August 7, 2013. I further respectfully state and submit that since, no prima facie evidence of commission of cognisable offence against the suspects was found during enquiry, hence, the PE in the present case was not converted into a criminal case/FIR...and as such, no enquiry was conducted in the matter after August 7, 2013," a CBI SP said in the affidavit.

He said that the apex court in its 2012 verdict had passed various directions in the matter and allowed the CBI to take such independent action, as it considers fit, on the basis of the enquiry conducted by it, without seeking any direction from any corner.

"Accordingly, the CBI after



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a dinner meeting with top National Democratic Alliance leaders in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI



conducting further enquiry in a fair, impartial and professional manner in the matter, had independently taken a decision to close the enquiry against Respondent number 2, 3 and 5 (Mulayam, Akhilesh and Prateek) on August 7, 2013, in view of the directions of the court in the said judgement," the affidavit said.

CBI said that pursuant to the apex court verdict in 2007 on a plea by petitioner Vishwanath Chaturvedi, it had registered the PE on March 5, 2007, to look into the allegations of acquiring of disproportionate assets to the known source of income against the trio, Dimple Yadav (Akhilesh's wife), and other unknown persons.

"On careful examination of documents, statements of witnesses and the versions of the suspects during the course of further enquiry, sufficient evidence to support the allegations of possessions of disproportionate assets, jointly or individually, against Mulayam Singh Yadav and his family members could not be brought out. Therefore, in view of direction passed by court...in its judgement dated December 13, 2012, the competent authority in CBI took a considered decision on August 7, 2013, to close the PE against all the suspects," the affidavit said.

It said that CVC was communicated about the decision taken in the PE on October 8, 2013, along with reasons for

difference in computation of disproportionate assets in the early findings of 2007.

The agency said that PE is not a criminal investigation as envisaged under the CrPC and hence there was requirement for it to place the report before the jurisdictional court and even the apex court had not directed the agency to place before it or any other authority.

On April 12, the CBI had told the apex court that it had closed in 2013 a PE against Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh in the disproportionate assets case.

The top court had directed CBI to file its reply on a fresh plea by Chaturvedi seeking to know the status of probe in the assets case.

Yadav, who contested Lok Sabha polls from Mainpuri seat in Uttar Pradesh, alleged that the petition, filed on the poll eve, was politically motivated.

He had alleged that Chaturvedi was trying to rake up an old disproportionate assets case against him and his family to malign their image during the current general elections.

CAPSULE

COAST GUARD SEIZES PAK BOAT WITH NARCOTICS
New Delhi: The Indian Coast Guard on Tuesday apprehended a Pakistani boat off the Gujarat coast and seized narcotics, suspected to be heroin, worth ₹600 crore, officials said.

EC: DISSIDENT IN MCC CASES NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC
New Delhi: Rejecting demand of Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa, the 'full commission' on Tuesday ruled that dissents and minority views in EC orders in cases of model code violations would not be made public. P5

MODI PAYS TRIBUTE TO RAJIV ON DEATH ANNIV
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday took to Twitter to pay tribute to former PM Rajiv Gandhi on his 28th death anniversary.

BSP SUSPENDS RAMVEER UPADHYAY
Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party on Tuesday suspended senior leader Ramveer Upadhyay for 'anti-party activities'. The former Energy Minister in the Mayawati government, Upadhyay was removed from the post of chief whip of the party in the UP Assembly but continued to be the MLA from Sadabad.

'Exit poll projections exaggerated'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said that the exit polls projected exaggerated gains for Bharatiya Janata Party in the just-concluded polling in the Lok Sabha elections.

Akhilesh wrote a letter to the rank and file of the party and it is circulating in social media. "There is no need for despair and do not get misled by exit poll results. With the support of the public, Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal alliance is set to register a historic victory in Lok Sabha elections. The poll results will not only stun pollsters but will also go a long way in redefining the politics of Hindi heartland," Akhilesh Yadav said in his letter.

"The authenticity of exit polls will be exposed on the day of counting — May 23. Party leaders and workers should remain present at counting centres to thwart designs of the BJP government to manipulate poll results," the SP chief said.

Meanwhile, the SP directed party cadre to guard strongrooms in shifts of eight hours each.

SP state chief Naresh Uttam in an advisory issued to districts asked district chiefs to deploy experienced counting agents along with senior advocates in the counting halls till the process was completed. The BSP has also asked its workers to guard the strongrooms and match the EVM numbers so that they could not be changed at the time of counting.

The advisory further asks workers to ensure that the green paper seal and special tags are the same and only then permission be given to open EVM for counting. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has also sent out a message asking party workers not to get demoralised by exit polls predictions and rumours.

"My dear Congress workers, don't lose heart because of exit polls and rumours. Such things are spread to demoralise you. You should be more alert now. Stay firm outside the strongrooms and at counting centres. We have firm belief that our hard work will not go waste," Priyanka said in her message.



Oppn alliance to win 60 seats in UP, says Sanjay Singh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Am Aadmi Party leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh on Tuesday met Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and claimed that the opposition alliance would win at least 60 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh.

"This time the exit polls will be a total failure. People have already lost faith in this exercise and after May 23, their lack of belief will be cemented further. It is certain that an opposition government will be formed at the Centre after May 23," he said.

Talking to media after meeting Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on Tuesday, Singh said that it was a courtesy call.

"We had a fruitful talk and we dis-

cussed about the formation of a new government at the Centre," he said. "I feel the gathbandhan will get more than 60 seats in UP and the BJP will be wiped off across the country.

Exit polls will prove to be false, like it had happened before. The opposition will form a strong government at the Centre," he claimed.

The AAP leader, who is party in-charge of UP, said that the first priority of the opposition would be to prevent "communal" Narendra Modi and Amit Shah regain power at the Centre.

After the exit polls were aired on Monday, Akhilesh Yadav had met Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati and the two leaders were closeted for over an hour to discuss the post-poll scenario.

By-elections to 13 Assembly seats expected

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

By-elections to as many as 13 Assembly seats could be in the offing as some MLAs have tried their luck in the Lok Sabha elections. If these candidates win, bypolls will surely be held in their constituencies. The MLAs are from both treasury and opposition benches and include four UP ministers.

During the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, as many as 14 BJP MLAs were elected to Lok Sabha. In the ensuing bypolls, 13 of these seats were wrested by the then ruling Samajwadi Party and the BJP could retain only one seat.

The BJP has fielded four UP ministers and five legislators in Lok Sabha elections. Two legislators from Samajwadi Party and one each from Bahujan Samaj Party and Apna Dal (Sonehal) also contested the Lok Sabha elections.

Cabinet minister and BJP MLA from Lucknow Cantonment, Rita Bahuguna Joshi, contested the Allahabad Lok Sabha seat while another minister, Satyadev Pachauri, is the BJP candidate from

Kanpur Nagar.

Two other ministers in the fray are SP Singh Baghel from Agra (reserved) seat and Mukut Bihari Verma from Ambedkar Nagar.

Besides, the BJP legislators contesting the Lok Sabha elections include MLA from Manikpur RK Singh Patel (Banda), MLA from Iglas, Rajvir Singh Valmiki Diler (Hathras), Jaidpur legislator Upendra Rawat (Barabanki), MLA from Gangoh Pradeep Chaudhary (Kairana), and party legislator from Balha, Akshaywar Lal Gaud (Bahraich).

The Samajwadi Party has fielded its senior legislator Mohammad Azam Khan from Rampur Lok Sabha seat where he is pitted against Jaya Prada of BJP.

Another SP legislator, a rebel, is Shivpal Singh Yadav who is contesting from Firozabad against SP's official candidate and his nephew Akshay Yadav. If Azam Khan and Shivpal Yadav win their elections, the SP will have to face bypolls in two seats.

The Bahujan Samaj Party has fielded its legislator Ritesh Pandey from the

During the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, as many as 14 BJP MLAs were elected to Lok Sabha. In the ensuing bypolls, 13 of these seats were wrested by the then ruling Samajwadi Party and the BJP could retain only one seat

Ambedkar Nagar seat while Apna Dal (Sonehal) MLA Sangam Lal Gupta is contesting the Lok Sabha election from Pratapgarh on BJP ticket.

"The election season, as it is, never peters out in Uttar Pradesh and we seem to be heading for another round of by-elections in the coming months," said leader of opposition in Assembly and SP MLA Ram Govind Chaudhary.



Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party joint candidate from Ghazipur, Afzal Ansari, stages a protest outside the strongroom, alleging that the administration was trying to change EVMs, in Ghazipur on Monday

Government of India (Min. Of Railways)
RESEARCH DESIGNS AND STANDARDS ORGANISATION
 Manak Nagar, Lucknow-226011

Open E Tender Notice No. EDRDS051702201901
 E-Tender No. EDRDS051702201901 as invited by Director, Engine Development Directorate, RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow for and on behalf of President of India for following Works:

Description of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	EMD Money (Rs.)
*Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of Gas Leakage Detector system Installed in Emission Test Car NR 8025 for 03 years	Rs. 334669.00	Rs. 6700.00
	Tender Document Cost: Rs. 1000.00	

- Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.
- The tenderer must have Class-III Digital Signature certificate & must have registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer can participate in e-tendering.
- Last Date and time of submission 24.06.2019 up to 14:30 Hrs.
- Tender Opening Date and Time 24.06.2019 at 15:00 hrs.
- The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
- Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> only.

Director Engine Development RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow

UPEIDA to check overspeeding on Agra-Lucknow E-way



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Alarmed at the increase in number of accidents on Agra-Lucknow Expressway, officials of Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) have decided to strictly enforce speed restrictions on vehicles passing the expressway.

The UPEIDA has decided to install speed guns at different places on the expressway to ensure that vehicles crossed the expressway in stipulated time.

A car is supposed to cover the 302-km Agra-Lucknow

Expressway distance in 2 hours 35 minutes while a bus/truck should cover this distance in 3 hours 15 minutes.

"Any vehicle covering this distance in less than the stipulated time will be booked for overspeeding and the driver will be penalised," a senior UPEIDA official told this reporter on Tuesday.

The new regulation is expected to come into effect from June.

The time of a vehicle entering the expressway will be marked and the same will be done once the vehicle leaves the expressway.

"Thus, the average speed of the vehicle will be assessed and punitive action, if needed, will be initiated against the driver, the UPEIDA official said.

The number of accidents on Agra-Lucknow Expressway has peaked in recent times. As per police records, 18 accidents are reported almost every week with seven people losing lives every fortnight, on an average. Overspeeding has been found to be the main reason of accidents.

To check overspeeding, the UPEIDA had installed speed meters at two places but smart drivers slow down the vehicle on reaching the point to escape surveillance.

"Therefore, the UPEIDA has now decided to install speed guns at different places and even ask highway patrol to randomly check speed of vehicles," the official said.

Meanwhile, UPEIDA CEO Awanish Awasthi suggested that tea kiosks be opened at different places across the expressway where divers could be served tea free of cost. The line of thought behind this is that drivers feel sleepy at night and the kiosks will help the drivers in keeping sleep away.

BSP suspends Upadhyay for 'anti-party activities'



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party on Tuesday suspended senior leader Ramveer Upadhyay for 'anti-party activities'.

The Brahmin face of the BSP and former Energy Minister in the Mayawati government, Upadhyay was removed from the post of chief whip of the party in the UP Assembly but continued to be the MLA from Sadabad.

This was confirmed by BSP general secretary Mewalal Gautam. In a letter to Upadhyay sent on Tuesday, Gautam said, "During the Lok Sabha polls, you worked against BSP candidates and supported 'opposition' candidates in Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Aligarh, Hathras and on other seats. While you have been suspended from the party and removed as chief whip of the BSP in Assembly, you will neither be invited nor allowed to attend any party meetings."

During the recent elections, Upadhyay openly sought support for Bharatiya Janata Party candidates in Aligarh and also candidates on other seats. His brother Mukul Upadhyay had joined the BJP in February after which there were speculations that he too could join the saffron party along with his wife Seema.

Upadhyay was found hobnobbing with senior BJP leaders after his wife Seema Upadhyay refused to contest from Fatehpur Sikri (Agra rural) constituency on BSP ticket against Congress candidate Raj Babbar and BJP's Raj Kumar Chahar.

In 2009, Seema Upadhyay was elected from Fatehpur Sikri seat on BSP ticket.

Twelve killed in mishaps

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Dozen persons were killed in four mishaps across the state since Monday evening.

In Hardoi, three men were killed when their motorcycle rammied into a stationary pick-

up van near Pankutiya Sunni Mahri village in Baghauli police station area on Lucknow-Hardoi road on Monday night.

Police identified the victims as Vimlesh (24), Prithviraj (21) and Ram Pujan (18). All three were inebriated and were returning from a marriage function.

The bodies were sent for autopsy and a case was registered. In a similar mishap in Baghpat, four students coming from Haryana were killed when their car rammied into a stationary truck near Sarfabad village on Eastern Peripheral Expressway on Tuesday.

The mishap took place when the driver lost control over wheels and rammied the car into the stationary truck.

A girl, who suffered injuries, was admitted to the district hospital.

In Kaushambi, two members of a family were killed and two others injured after they were hit by a speeding SUV on National Highway 2 on Tuesday morning.

The victims were standing by the roadside when they were hit by the speeding vehicle. While Nusrat (30) and her daughter Alisha (5) died on the spot, Nusrat's mother-in-law and son were injured.

The SUV driver was arrested and the vehicle was impounded.

In the last incident reported from Pratapgarh, three persons were fatally struck by lightning in Bhav village of Baghrai police station area on Tuesday.

Sitaram (24), his sister Sakshi (14) and Ram Babu (35) were working in a field when they were struck by lightning. The bodies were sent for autopsy.

BSF
 जीवन पर्यन्त कर्तव्य

सीमा प्रहरियों के शौर्य एवं पराक्रम का अलंकरण

Investiture Ceremony
VIGYAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

22 मई 2019 को 10:00 बजे से अलंकरण समारोह का सीधा प्रसारण दूरदर्शन (D D BHARTI & DD India) तथा आकाशवाणी के राजधानी चैनल MW:450.5 मीटर/666 kHz व DTH मंचाकिनी (हिन्दी) पर किया जायेगा।

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Bada Mangal celebrated with religious fervour

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

It was a case of small budgets and big devotion on the first day of Bada Mangal which was celebrated with religious fervour in the city.

Devotees said they used their medium and small budgets and some organisations pooled in their resources to organise bhandaras on Bada Mangal. Right from the morning, orange tents cropped up at several points in the city and the bhandara organisers were seen bent on large woks of oil with tonnes of dough, making the necessary preparations.

The first rounds of bhandaras started at 11 am and peaked in the afternoon. Even as some bhandaras wrapped up by the evening, others continued till 10 in the night.

Sitting in the sweltering heat with piles of potatoes and pumpkins surrounding him in Gomti Nagar, Vijay Verma, who is in outsourcing business, performed puja with his family before starting the bhandara.

Talking to 'The Pioneer', Verma said that his father had told him that it was important to feed the hungry.

"This is my fifth year in organising bhandara and I do so because I can feed a large number of people coming from all categories and walks of life," he said, adding that with 1.5 quintal of flour, he would be able to feed over one thousand people.

Besides, Verma said, there were several Muslim friends who had also told him that they would break their rozas with the prasad of the bhandara. "Most of my Muslim friends will visit in the evening," he added. Verma said he had made all arrangements for keeping the place clean as appealed by the Nagar Nigam.

"Not only have we kept dustbins, we have also deployed volunteers who will remove the used plated and bowls from



(Clockwise from top left) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath offering prayers at Hanuman Setu temple, devotees through old Hanuman temple in Ailigani, prasad being distributed at one of the bhandaras in Aashiyana and devotees standing in long queues at Lord Hanuman temple on the first Bada Mangal in Lucknow



offer them prasad," he said.

On being asked why he organises bhandara only on Bada Mangal for feeding people when he could do so on any other day, he said that they try and feed orphans at orphanage. "However, in such cases we do not get the pleasure of serving them with our own hands which we get in this case," he said. Maheshwari's father, who actively participated in the arrangements despite the peaking mercury, said that they had kept a huge box to prevent devotees from littering.

Gyanendra Verma, Balwant Singh and J Singh from the RS Foundation Trust, who pooled in money to organise a bhandara, said the whole idea was to distribute prasad. "This is the second time we are organising bhandara and we keep serving 'prasad' till 10 pm," he said.

When asked if they were following the directives issued by the administration on not using plastic, Balwant Singh said that it was difficult to get kulhads in bulk.

"In case of plastic glasses, we can get them at one point but we cannot get kulhads in large quantities from one place and then bringing them to the spot is also a tedious job," he said.

Bhagirathi Yadav, a small businessman who organised bhandara for the first time in Gomti Nagar, said that earlier he used to pool in money with other people for bhandaras. "It is nice to see the children of the family participate in these bhandaras. They get excited when such functions are performed and they also learn about the culture," he said. Yadav said that they had made arrangements for cleanliness.

Satish Kumar, a helper, said that for drinking water they were not using plastic glasses. "We have made arrangements of a container and mug with which the people can manage," he added.

time to time," he said. Talking about avoiding the use of plastic glasses, he said that kulhads posed a problem

while transporting. "We would not mind the use of kulhads but while transporting them they break and hence there is no

option but to use the plastic glasses," he said. Pankaj Maheshwari, who runs a small business and

organised bhandara just in front of his residence in Gomti Nagar, said that he has been organising bhandara for the

past two years. His family, including his 80-year-old father, looked excited as they prepared for starting the bhan-

dara. "It gives us great amount of satisfaction and happiness when we feed the devotees and

Traffic diversions for counting of votes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Traffic Department announced the traffic diversions for the counting of votes which will take place on May 23 at the Rama Bai Sthal. The traffic officials while giving the details of the diversions said that no traffic movement would be allowed from the Rama Bai Sthal Crossing towards the strongroom via the Rain Basera Crossing and the vehicles would be diverted towards the Shaheed Path underpass.

From the Rain Basera Crossing only the vehicles of the agents of the political candidates will be allowed to move towards the strongroom and no other vehicles will be allowed. These vehicles will be diverted towards the Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar University underpass.

From the Shaheed Path underpass the ordinary traffic will not move on the service lane towards the Ramabai Police Chowki and this traffic will be diverted towards the helipad side.

The traffic officials while giving the details of the parkings of the vehicles said that from the Ramabai Sthal to the Rain Basera Crossing the park-

ing of vehicles was prohibited and it will be a no parking zone.

Regarding the other parkings the traffic officials said that the vehicles of the observers would enter from Gate No 2 of the venue and then enter the pucca parking 2.

The vehicles of the magistrates would be parked in the pucca parking 3. The police staff vehicles would be parked in the pucca parking 4, he added.

The vehicles of the polling staff coming from the Bangla Bazar side will move from Aurangabad trifurcation towards Binjore, Aurangabad underpass and they will park their vehicles on the pucca parking 05.

The vehicles of the polling staff coming from the Mohanlalganj and Utraitia will enter through the Rain Basera gate of the venue and will be parked in the pucca parking 5.

The vehicles of the political agents and candidates coming from the side of Mohanlalganj and Utraitia will enter through the Rain Basera gate and will be parked in the pucca parking 8.

The Traffic Department officials said that if the normal public faced any problem then they could contact the Traffic Control Room.

Several bhandaras leave place littered with pattals, glasses

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Despite the appeal made by Lucknow Nagar Nigam authorities for keeping the bhandara area clean, there were several bhandaras in the city that left the area full of garbage.

The areas presented a messy picture with garbage strewn all over.

The spot where these bhandaras were organised across the city were found strewn with plastic glasses and 'donas' (leaf bowl). Those who partook in the community feast also threw the 'donas' and 'pattals' (leaf plate) on the



roads.

Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia, who had specially made an appeal to keep the place clean and also inaugurated a website for bhandaras to get themselves registered, said that they would spread more awareness on the issue.

On being informed that several of the bhandaras used plastic glasses, she said there were some which had used biodegradable and paper glasses.

Incidentally, the district administration has been running a campaign against the use of plastic and polythene for the past two days.

LMRC returns 2 bags, 4 mobiles to owners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Over the last few days, the Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation team has returned two bags and four mobile phones, including those priced high, to their rightful owners who had either forgotten or lost them at the stations.

Indiranagar metro station controller Rajneesh had recently found a mobile phone lying unattended at the ticket window and kept it safely until the owner, Mohammad Rashid, came searching for it in the morning on May 16.

"After due verification to ensure he was the owner of the mobile phone, the hand set was handed over to him by the station controller Monika.

It turned out that Rashid had directly boarded the metro after landing at CCS Airport from Dubai on and had forgotten his mobile phone at Indiranagar metro station's ticket counter," LMRC officials said.

Impressed by such professionalism and sensitivity of the metro staff, Rashid expressed his gratitude in a hand-written letter, commending the service rendered by Lucknow Metro team.

"Incidents like these not only strengthen the passengers' belief in professionalism but also bring joy to the faces of the entire team when they receive such appreciation from happy passengers. Lucknow Metro has always been receiving a positive feedback from the people of

Lucknow.

"Right from providing immediate first aid to the needy, or reuniting parents with their children left behind at stations and returning numerous belongings left behind by the passengers, the Lucknow Metro team ensures that every passenger and belonging inside the metro premises is safe and secure," said a senior official.

Ever since the inauguration of commercial services on the entire North-South corridor on March 8, cases of passengers forgetting their belongings inside the trains or stations have gone up manifold and the LMRC team is winning hearts by returning the belongings to their rightful owners safely.

Why the devotees throng to this Hanuman shrine?



Lucknow (PNS): Scores of people come to this Hanuman temple because it displays a Rameshwaram stone which floats in water. This is the Panchmukhi Temple which is on the banks of the river Gomti and has an idol which shows the five faces of Lord Hanuman.

The priest of this temple, Acharya Pawan Mishra, said that there were thousands of devotees who came to the temple just to see this rare stone.

"The founder of the temple brought this stone from Rameshwaram and it has been

kept in water to show how it floats. Established in 2001 the temple falls in the area of the temple trail which includes shrines such as the Khatu Shyam Temple and the Hanuman Setu Temple," said Mishra.

Members of the temple admit that although among the new categories of shrines it also attracted attention being on the banks of the Gomti and surrounded by a number of trees.

The priest said that on the auspicious occasion of Bada Mangal the temple attracted huge crowds.

Rajiv Gandhi remembered on Balidan Diwas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Governor Ram Naik and Director General of Police OP Singh administered Anti-Terrorism Day pledge to their staff on the 28th death anniversary of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Tuesday as Congress leaders and workers paid tributes to their late leader and observed the as Balidan Diwas.

Paying tributes to the former Prime Minister in Lucknow on Tuesday, the Governor said that he was witness to the late leader's working as he too was in Parliament during that time.

Naik lauded Rajiv Gandhi's role in introducing information technology and also empowering youths of 18 years of age by making them part of electorate.



Congress workers paying floral tributes to late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Tuesday

Gandhi for introducing Panchayati Raj System, empowering local body members for development of their

respective area. The Governor also expressed concern over terrorism and said that a lot had to

be done in this field and hence every person must pledge to fight terrorism. DGP OP Singh also

administered the Anti-Terrorism Day pledge to police officials at the DGP headquarters on Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, UP Congress leaders and workers fondly remembered Rajiv Gandhi and organised several functions to mark the day despite the absence of state chief Raj Babbar. Rajiv Gandhi's statues at Kalidas Marg crossing and Mall Avenue were garlanded by Congress leaders and workers.

Later, a symposium was held at the state Congress headquarters to remember the contribution of the former Prime Minister.

UPCC spokesman Pankaj Tewari said that the leaders highlighted how Rajiv Gandhi scripted the rise of India in the 21st century by initiating the information technology era and empowered 18-year-old youths to cast votes.

DHFL **DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED**
 National Office: DHFL, HDIL Towers, B-Wing, 6th & 8th Floor, Anant Kanakar Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051.
 Regional Office: Office No. 211 and 212, 'Titanium' Shalimar Corporate Park, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE
 (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of DHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No. 00041860 of our Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Santosh Kumar Jha (Borrower) Yogita Jha (Co-Borrower)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing House On Plot No 69 On Khasra No 173 ka Minjumla Vill. Bhuhar Ward Haidarganj, Lucknow, Lucknow-226020	27-Dec-18 Rs. 25,63,565/-	15-05-2019
2.	(Loan Account No. 00043164 of our Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Santosh Kumar Jha (Borrower) Yogita Jha (Co-Borrower)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Plot No 70 Khasra No 173, Minj Vill- Buhar, Pargana Teh & Zila, Lucknow, Lucknow-226020	27-Dec-18 Rs. 12,12,853/-	15-05-2019
3.	(Loan Account No. 00044258 of our Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Rajat Krishna Agarwal (Borrower) Prabhat Kumar Agarwal (Co-Borrower)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing House on Part Of Plot No 23 Part Of Khasra No 274 Vill Mohibullapur Ward Fajjullaganj Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226020	26-Nov-18 Rs. 26,53,218/-	15-05-2019
4.	(Loan Account No. 00043874 of our Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Najmul Hasan Syed (Borrower) Kishan Kumar Kashyap (Co-Borrower)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing House On part Of Plot No D-1-164 Kh No 422 A Std At Rahimnagar Dudauli Ward Faizullahaganj Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226020	26-Nov-18 Rs. 32,22,377/-	15-05-2019

Place : Uttar Pradesh
Date : 22/05/2019

Sd/- Sorabh Pawha (Authorized Officer)
For Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

International Biodiversity Day to be observed today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Secretary, Biodiversity Board, SP Yadav, said that an action plan was being made for the state of Uttar Pradesh for the conservation of biodiversity of various flora and fauna species. Talking to "The Pioneer," he said that they would be documenting the traditional knowledge which had been used over the years for the conservation of biodiversity in this action plan.

The UP State Biodiversity Board has also highlighted the paper which had been written by a team of former NBRI and BSIP scientists and their students on the use of cultural and tribal knowledge for the conservation of biodiversity. The team which researched the paper included Kamla Kulshreshtha, DC Saini, Shambhu Kumar, Deepak Kumar Gond and Gaurav Kumar Mishra.

Giving the details about the research, the former scientist from the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Kamla Kulshreshtha, said that the tribal people had contributed a significant role in the conservation of biodiversity and in the environmental management and development

process in and around the localities of their natural habitat since the beginning of civilisation which had been very useful for eco restoration and the socio-economic development of the area.

"However, during recent times the plant diversity and tribal communities in India are in difficulty owing to modernisation in the tribal area, over-exploitation and indiscriminate and wanton destruction of natural forest cover for meeting the multiple requirements of the ever-growing population.

Consequently many important plant species are becoming rare and critically endangered or some of them have even become extinct. It is estimated that 10 per cent of all the species are threatened in India," she said.

She said that these extinctions were irreversible and given our dependence on food crops, medicines and other biological resources posed a threat to our own well-being.

The great forests which still exist were a grim reminder of what paradise was once and what could soon be lost. Nevertheless, the situation is not too bad to overcome. Our ancestors had left various religious beliefs for us towards nature and it was a very constructive device

for conservation of plant biodiversity not only during their time but at present also. The involvement of tribal communities is also required to be strengthened and expanded for the cultural and mythological way of preservation of natural vegetation," she said.

The scientist pointed out that plants could be conserved through Vastu Shastra.

"Vastu can be applied on flowers and plants in the house. The plants play a significant role in activating positive energy in our day-to-day life. Tulsi should be planted in the north, east or north east and in front of the house. Peepal should be planted near a temple or any other sacred place. Vat should be planted near a temple or any other sacred place. Money plant may be planted inside the room as it brings good luck to the house. Big trees should be planted in the south and west direction of the house and should not be planted in front of it. Spiny plant should be planted in an open area and should not be planted in the house because it produces bad energy. A rock garden should be developed in the south-west direction and should not be in the north-east direction," he pointed out.

50 students of KV visit border areas of Uttarakhand



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A group of 50 students belonging to Kendriya Vidyalyayas visited Pithoragarh and forward areas as part of a seven-day visit to border areas of Uttarakhand under the 'Seema Darshan' initiative, from May 13 to 19. During the tour, the students were taken to Dharchula along the Indo-

Nepal border to give them a first-hand experience of how the Army personnel are guarding the nation, braving the most hostile weather conditions and treacherous terrain.

The highlights of the visit were the weapons and equipment display and a demonstration on rock climbing.

A lecture on avenues and mode of joining the Indian Army was also

organised to motivate the students to join the Army and serve the nation.

The excitement and ebullience was visible on the faces of the young boys who were awed to see soldiers operating under such difficult conditions.

'Seema Darshan' is a unique initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development under which

schoolchildren visit the border areas of India with the objective of providing them a first-hand experience of the prevailing security environment in the border areas.

The other objective of the initiative is to foster patriotism and nationalism among students and provide them an opportunity to experience the border environment.

Thunderstorm likely in city today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Meteorological department has forecast thunderstorm in the city on Wednesday. There is also warning of duststorm, thunder storm accompanied by gusty wind with speed of 30-40 km per hour and lightning at isolated places in the state.

The forecast for Lucknow is that duststorm and thunder storm are expected in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 43 degree Celsius and 26 degree Celsius respectively.

The state forecast is that rain and thunder storm were very likely at isolated places over the state. On Tuesday, the denizens in the state capital felt the heat as the maximum temperature rose to 42.6 degree Celsius, 3 degrees above normal, and the minimum temperature at 26.1 degree Celsius, which was 1 degree above normal.

In the state, Allahabad recorded the maximum temperature of 45.6 degree Celsius.

Meanwhile, in view of the heat wave conditions prevailing in the state, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma has ordered closure of all schools up to Class 12 affiliated to all Boards, from Wednesday (May 22).

The District Magistrate said that if any school was found open despite the order, action would be taken against it.



Denizens protect themselves from heat wave as the temperature soars to 42.6 degree Celsius in the state capital on Tuesday

LPG delivery man looted

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a loot incident reported from Indira Nagar, two armed miscreants riding a motorcycle with their faces covered by cloth, snatched a bag containing Rs 36,760 and mobile phone from Daya Ram at gun point at Bajrang crossing around 3 pm on Tuesday.

Daya Ram, a delivery man of a cooking gas agency, had gone to Mohammadpur Mazra in Indira Nagar police area to deliver an LPG cylinder.

He was stopped by the two miscreants when he was returning to the office to hand over the cash he had collected during the day. The miscreants assaulted Daya Ram when he refused to hand over the money bag and one of them placed a pistol on his temple and snatched the bag and his mobile phone set and escaped. The passers-by came to know about the loot only when Daya Ram raised an alarm but by then the miscreants had disappeared in the lanes of the locality. The police are looking at the footages of the CCTV cameras installed in the area to identify the miscreants.

The police registered the case of loot in the evening on the basis of the complaint filed by Daya Ram.

Anti-Terrorism Day observed



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Anti-Terrorism Day was observed at the Divisional Commissioner's office on Tuesday.

On this occasion, Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Anil Garg administered a pledge to the staff of the office to fight all forms of terrorism and maintain harmony amongst people from all walks

of life. Anti-Terrorism Day was also observed at RDSO in Lucknow on Tuesday. The objective behind observing May 21 as Anti-Terrorism Day is to wean away the youth from terrorism and the cult of violence.

On this occasion RDSO Director General Virendra Kumar administered the anti-terrorism pledge to the officers and staff of RDSO.

उपरोक्त पावर ट्रान्समिशन कार्ययोजना
इस कार्ययोजना द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा संख्या 19 एवं 20/विपाओएम/गोष्ठा/2019-20, जो दिनांक 21.05.2019 को खोली जाती है, के सम्बन्ध में निम्न शुद्धि पत्र जारी किया जाता है। निविदा संख्या 19 एवं 20/विपाओएम/गोष्ठा/2019-20 के खुलने की तिथि विस्तारित कर दी गयी है, अब यह निविदाएं दिनांक 23.05.2019 को 14:00 बजे तक अपलोड एवं स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 23.05.2019 को 15:00 बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। निविदा के अन्य विवरण www.etender.up.nic पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत परिषद, 220 केभीओ उपकेंद्र परिसर जेल रोड, गोष्ठा। संख्या : 453/विपाओएम/गोष्ठा/दिनांक 20.05.2019 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाव, साधारण बल के स्थान पर एल.ई.डी. बल का इस्तेमाल करें"

SCHOOLSCAN



CMS STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FELLOWSHIP

Three meritorious students of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus I namely Kumar Pratyush, Aditya Pandey and Shivang Pandey have been selected for Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojna (KVPY Fellowship Award) of the Government of India and elevated school's flag high. All these students will be receiving the scholarship of Rs. 5000/- per month and Rs. 20,000/- as annual contingency grant during the 1st to 3rd year of graduation. At M.Sc. level course, they will be getting monthly stipend of Rs. 7000/- per month and annual contingency grant of Rs. 28,000/-. Thus, each student will be getting scholarship of Rs. 4,92,000/- during five years of higher education. Chief public relations officer Hari Om Sharma informed that this fellowship scheme is a very enterprising project of the Government of India to encourage the undergraduate students.

Unemployed youth commits suicide in Gomti Nagar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 22-year-old youth committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of his room at Mareshamau under Gomti Nagar police station. His body was found hanging in the room on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased, Sandeep, was living

with his uncle Sant Ram for the last three years and was looking for a job in the state capital.

In frustration, he had become addicted to liquor and this was strongly opposed by his uncle.

The police said that Sandeep had started coming to the house late in the night in drunken state.

On Monday night, he had come home in an inebriated state and had on reaching the room bolted the door.

The family became worried when Sandeep did not come down till 11 am. They went up and knocked the door but there was no reply. They broke open the door with the help of locals and found Sandeep's body

hanging from the ceiling. No suicide note was found in the room.

Meanwhile, the body of an unidentified youth was found hanging from a mango tree at Bhagu Kheda village in Mohanlalganj on Tuesday morning. The locals claim he was strangu-

lated to death at some other place and the body was later hanged from the tree.

The deceased was wearing a cotton shirt and jeans with socks but did not have footwear.

The body was spotted at 5:30 am by some morning walkers and they informed the police about it.

CISH developing nutri-rich mango varieties: Director

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Mangoes are valued for their unique colour, taste and aroma but rarely it has come to the people's knowledge that this unique gift of nature is full of bioactive compounds uncommon in other fruits.

The studies have shown that there is a wide range of differences among the varieties indicating that new ones are rich in these bioactive compounds and can be developed and a market for these fortified varieties will help in adding commercial value to the mangoes.

The Director, CISH (Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture), Dr Shailendra Rajan, said that they had developed several hybrids with a high nutritive value and the breeding programme was still in progress. In future people would demand established nutraceutically-rich mango varieties and the Institute was working in this direction, he said.

Mango had been an important part of human nutrition not only in India but also in different parts of South East Asia. During the mango season people consume a significant amount of this fruit sufficient for correcting vitamin A deficiency. He said that more than 100

types of mangoes were studied for important nutraceuticals in pulp and peel. Interestingly, in addition to fruit pulp, mango fruit peel is also rich in these compounds.

Peels of some varieties may be considered a source of many unique bioactive compounds and this fact was supported by biomedical studies.

Some of the common varieties were considered very tasty but may lack nutraceuticals, he said. "The study indicated that the famous variety, Langra, is rich in total antioxidant activity but low in carotenoids. Wide variation in the major nutraceuticals of mango varieties provides opportunities for exploitation as a nutraceutically-rich variety or its use as a parent for hybridisation."

He said that as a result of more than a two-decade-long breeding programme thousands of mango hybrids had been developed at CISH and a few dozen were evaluated for their pulp and carotenoid content so that the variability created in form of hybrids was directly used for evolving new nutri-rich varieties.

"CISH-Arunika, a red-blushed hybrid developed by the Institute, has a lot of consumer appeal and is additionally high in mangiferin and

lupeol content. The variety is becoming popular and thus can serve as a rich source of unique compounds found in this hybrid. These bioactive compounds help in reducing the blood glucose level by inhibiting the glucose absorption from the intestine. Mangiferin

the high beta carotenoid content when compared with rich varieties. This compound was also found in the commercial varieties, Kesar, Dussehri and Malgoa whereas Chausa, Janardhan Pasand and Banganpalli were poor in vitamin A.

"CISH-ARUNIKA, A RED-BLUSHED HYBRID DEVELOPED BY THE INSTITUTE, HAS A LOT OF CONSUMER APPEAL AND IS ADDITIONALLY HIGH IN MANGIFERIN AND LUPEOL CONTENT. THE VARIETY IS BECOMING POPULAR AND THUS CAN SERVE AS A RICH SOURCE OF UNIQUE COMPOUNDS FOUND IN THIS HYBRID."

has antioxidant properties helpful in protection against breast and colon cancers. The lupeol found in mango is reported to show a range of pharmacological activities against various disease conditions. These include conditions such as inflammation, arthritis, diabetes, cardiovascular ailments, renal disorder, hepatic toxicity, microbial infections and cancer," he said.

Similarly 'Saheb Pasand', a variety which is the sweetest one, has a high lupeol content also. It has double

was the target trait but gradually the increasing awareness about the medicinal properties of mangoes due to bioactive compounds has given a new direction in developing varieties with rich bioactive compounds. CISH conserves one of the world's richest arrays of mango varieties and its analysis has shown that a wide range of variability in these bioactive compounds is available. These varieties have not so far been screened out for this purpose. Apart from known varieties, the Institute has developed several hybrids, a storehouse of these compounds," he added.

He said that researches had established that mangoes are considered as a super fruit because of their rich source of vitamins and minerals.

"Mango varieties differ from each other in shape, colour, size, aroma, taste and many other characters. In the same way they also show a large variation in the bioactive compound content of fruits. Some commercial varieties have a high potential in the market but they are poor in nutraceutical value. Some of the varieties have a high content of these compounds but are not known to the common people and are unavailable in the market. A higher nutraceutical value will

help in recognition and make them popular for fetching a better price in the market," he said.

He further pointed out that researches had indicated that the variability in mango varieties was associated with varied amounts of these nutraceuticals and thus several traditional varieties may be a treasure house for single or several bioactive compounds.

"Mango varieties which are rich in nutraceuticals can get a higher price for value-added products or fresh fruits as few are 100 times superior to others and very well established through research data. This will only add to the farmers' income, increase their incentive to grow the traditional crop varieties rich in bioactive elements. During the old days children used mango groves as playgrounds and got an opportunity to taste the ripe mango fruits rich in vitamins and nutraceuticals which eliminate hidden hunger mostly due to Vitamin A deficiency. Although the mango is preferred for its sweet, luscious and aromatic flavour it is comparatively less known for its health benefits. However, most of us are unaware about its remarkable health benefits which are being gradually validated through research."

NORTHERN RAILWAY AUCTION NOTICE
This is for information of general public that 263 (Two Hundred Sixty Three) unconnected and unclaimed two wheeler vehicles kept in LPO (Lost Property Office) NR/LKO will be sold through Auction Process on 27.05.2019 till completion of auction.
Details of these two wheelers was published in leading daily newspaper (Amar Ujala, Times of India, Hindustan etc.) on 26.04.2019. Any person/public/company who are willing to participate in auction process, they can participate on 27.05.2019 on 10:00 Hrs. in LPO/Lucknow/Northern Railway alongwith their valid photo identity card.
No.: C/Parcel-LPO-2015/MH/KS Dt.: 21.05.2019.
Assistant Comml. Manager N.R.Ly., Lucknow
15352019
Serving Customers with a Smile

Videos of alleged EVM tampering viral

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"After the close of polls, all



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

CPM demands repolling in Bengal's Diamond Harbour

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A larger bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi has already dealt with the matter and passed an order, said a vacation bench comprising justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah and refused to entertain the plea filed by a Chennai-based organisation 'Tech 4 All'. "The CJJ had dealt with this matter. Why are you taking chance before a two-judge vacation bench. We will not list any such case for urgent hearing," it said.

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



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

A three-judge bench head-

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

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

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

ED gags media talk

Probe agency Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra issues a memorandum

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"It has been observed that certain information relating to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

An official from the Union Culture Ministry said that last

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

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

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

"But despite several reminders to the Rajasthan

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

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

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

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

Home Secy directs States to gear up ahead of monsoon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Uttarakhand and Delhi-NCR.

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

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

Apex court rejects plea challenging appointment of observers in Bengal

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

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

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

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

Bengal, to approach the Calcutta High Court.

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

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

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

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

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

Karnataka Congress lawmaker slams party

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

PTI ■ BENGALURU



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

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

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

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

Baig for his outbursts. It said Baig's remarks were being considered seriously as an "anti party activity", and asked him as to why disciplinary action should not be taken against him.

Seeking Baig's explanation in a week, the notice signed by KPCC general secretary VY Ghorpade said, "On failing to reply further disciplinary action will be taken against you."

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

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

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

Pak boat carrying heroin worth ₹600 cr seized

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and other agencies that a Pakistani fishing boat was to deliver narcotics off Gujarat and that it was to be received by an Indian boat.

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

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

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

FIANS ■ AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Why hesitate to declare DMK is with Cong? AIADMK asks Stalin

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu hit out at DMK chief M K Stalin on Tuesday for saying his party would decide on being part of the next Union cabinet formed by "whichever party" after the Lok Sabha results, asking what was his "hesitation" over standing firmly with ally Congress.

Asked if the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) would be a part of the next Union cabinet formed by "whichever party", Stalin had said, "I can respond to this only after the conclusion of counting on May 23."

Latching on to his statement, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) mouthpiece "Namathu Amma" pointed out

that the DMK was an ally of the Congress and therefore, Stalin should have said his party would only be a part of the UPA cabinet.

"If he was an honest leader and a politician who stood by his principles, shouldn't he have said that the DMK will not be part of any other (central) cabinet than the one headed by the Congress?", a write-up in the AIADMK mouthpiece asked.

"What is the logic behind saying he will respond to this after counting," it added.

Recalling state BJP chief Tamilisai Soundararajan's recent statement that the DMK was in talks with the saffron party, possibly for a post-poll alliance, the article said she had "exposed Stalin's double standards."

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sena says Modi govt will get second term

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena Tuesday expressed confidence that a government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be re-elected for a second term as the exit polls show a "clear trend" in the BJP-led NDA's favour.

At the same time, it also praised Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and his sister and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for their "hard work", saying their party will get enough seats to bag the leader of opposition's post in the new Lok Sabha.

Elections to 542 seats of 543-member Lok Sabha ended on Sunday and counting of votes is scheduled for Thursday.

Most exit polls have forecast another term for Prime Minister Modi, with some of them pro-

jecting that the BJP-led NDA would get over 300 seats to comfortably cross the majority mark of 272 in the Lok Sabha.

"There was no need for political pundits to say the Modi government will be re-elected. The ground situation was such that people were leading the poll campaign and had made up their mind to vote Modi back to power," the Sena said in an editorial in party mouthpiece 'Saamana'.

Noting that the exit polls show a "clear trend" in favour of the Modi-led government, it said there are also predictions of the BJP having a clear lead in the Congress-ruled Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and also in West Bengal, where the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC is in power.

"In Maharashtra, the Sena-BJP alliance will register a his-

toric win," the Marathi daily claimed.

"Modi will be the prime minister again and the Congress and other opposition parties will fail to make a mark. But, it is better to wait till May 23 for the actual results," said the Sena, which is an ally of the BJP at the Centre and in Maharashtra.

The editorial also had a word of praise for Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

"They worked hard. The Congress will be successful as a strong opposition party," it said.

"In 2014, Rahul Gandhi could not win (enough) seats to get the leader of opposition's post. This time, the Congress will have a leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha. This will surely be Rahul Gandhi's success," the Uddhav Thackeray-led party said.

'EC could have taken decisions quickly'

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Former chief election commissioner TS Krishnamurthy Tuesday said the poll body has done a good job in conducting the Lok Sabha elections but could have taken decisions on certain complaints in time.

He also came out in support of the demand of Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa that his dissent be recorded in orders on model code of conduct (MCC) violation cases.

"Election Commission did a good job (in conduct of elections), reasonably well...," he told PTI.

The former CEC said he was not surprised by political parties' attack on the Election Commission, saying when it takes a decision on complaints of MCC violations, it has to be "one way or the other."

But Krishnamurthy, who oversaw the 2004 General Elections, said the EC should

have taken some decisions (on MCC violations) in time, and also while passing orders, it should have given reasons. He did not go into specifics.

"There is also criticism by one of the Election Commissioners about dissent having been not recorded; I don't see no reason why dissent cannot be recorded," he said.

"They (EC) could have taken decisions quickly instead of waiting for some time; secondly they could have given reasons whenever they have taken a view and third one is if somebody wants dissent to be recorded, it's in fairness to record," Krishnamurthy said.

He also expressed the view that the EC should have considered postponing elections in violence-hit constituencies of West Bengal to send a strong message to political parties that such things cannot be condoned.

EC, Krishnamurthy said, took prompt action in curtail-

ing campaign time in the state as "there was so much of violence from all sides" in West Bengal.

But he added EC should have also even thought of postponing the elections in such cases because political parties should know "these sort of things" would not be condoned.

"The 'brahmastra' that the EC has is postponement. You can't do it in every case, (but) where there is too much of violence, they (political parties) should know and it has to be dealt with very seriously. In serious violations, parties should know that we will postpone the elections", he said.

When he was serving as CEC, Krishnamurthy recalled, a ruling party member in a state said all the poll observers should be taken to the police station and they should not be allowed to function.

"I called up the Chief Minister and told him that we

will have to consider postponing the entire election in the state if this is the attitude, and officially it must be contradicted and they (the State government) did contradict," he said.

"So, there was a better understanding between political parties and state governments and the Election Commission", he said.

Krishnamurthy said he is "very disturbed" by hate speeches and personal attacks by politicians during the campaign in the seven-phase election that concluded Sunday.

"Somehow this time, so much of hatred, personal attacks and all that...felt very disturbed that such things should have happened".

He said the EC should give a strong message to political parties that violence, hatred and personal attacks cannot be tolerated.

"And only 'brahmastra' that the EC has is postponement of

elections but you have to do it very carefully, selectively in a few cases".

"In spite of so much of hatred, personal attacks and violence, we have been able to complete (the elections)", Krishnamurthy said.

According to him, EC should insist on having adequate paramilitary forces to conduct the elections in future within 4-5 phases, which would be ideal.

"I am sure they (EC) would have considered shorter schedule, but they did not have adequate paramilitary forces. So, now onwards they have to build on the paramilitary forces...adequacy of paramilitary forces so that our target should be four or five phase elections, and not seven-phase elections in future", Krishnamurthy said.

He said the "big takeaway" from the elections is that there is need for urgent implementation of electoral reforms.

Panneerselvam hails exit polls

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam on Tuesday hailed the exit polls favouring a second term for the BJP-led NDA at the Centre, saying it indicated a "good verdict" to be given by the voters.

Responding to Chief Minister K Palaniswami's remarks that the exit polls were "imposing of opinions", his deputy said such views were based on the respective individuals' "frame or mind", but did not elaborate.

Monday dismissed the exit polls suggesting a bad show by the AIADMK in the just-concluded Lok Sabha election in Tamil Nadu as "imposing of opinions" and exuded confidence that they would be proved wrong.

Panneerselvam, the AIADMK coordinator, also expressed confidence that the ruling coalition would secure a grand victory in Tamil Nadu, despite the exit polls projecting otherwise.

He was speaking to reporters here before leaving for Delhi to attend a dinner for NDA leaders to be hosted by

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Amit Shah on Tuesday evening, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also expected to be present.

"The exit polls show that all people residing in India are going to give a good verdict that the BJP should come back to power," Panneerselvam said.

Asked about the same exit polls painting a bleak picture for the BJP-led NDA in Tamil Nadu, he said, "The AIADMK alliance will secure a grand victory in all the 38 Lok Sabha seats and the 22 Assembly segments where bypolls were held."

Hindi heartland states hold key to BJP's tally

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With exit polls varying widely in their projection of seats for the BJP, much will depend on the party's show in Hindi heartland states, especially Uttar Pradesh, to determine if its final tally comes near its current numbers or falls much short.

Riding on its superlative win in five key Hindi-speaking states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the BJP had clinched up its maiden majority in the Lok

Sabha in the 2014 polls by bagging 165 of the 185 seats at stake there, a strike rate of nearly 90 per cent.

Most of the exit polls have forecast the BJP to be much ahead of the opposition in states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, while the Congress is seen to be running it close in Chhattisgarh.

However, they have projected diametrically opposite numbers for the BJP and its rival SP-BSP alliance in Uttar Pradesh, with the saffron party being given anywhere

between 33 to 65 seats of the state's 80 seats.

Different exit polls suggest that the BJP could end up winning only 89 seats in the five states if the most grim forecast of its tally comes true. But its final tally may zoom to 144 if the most optimistic prediction turns out to be correct on counting day on May 23. The formidable caste arithmetic in the support of the SP-BSP alliance has posed a strong challenge to the BJP in the politically crucial state of Uttar Pradesh.

However, BJP leaders are of

the view that the party's expected losses in some states will be made up with gains in West Bengal and Odisha to propel it beyond the majority mark of 272 seats again.

Exit polls have been unanimous in predicting another term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with some forecasting a majority for the BJP on its own.

When the Lok Sabha poll campaign began, many observers were of the view that the BJP will find it difficult to repeat its 2014 success in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh

and Chhattisgarh — where it had 62 of the total 65 seats after losing power in the three states to the Congress in 2018.

BJP leaders have, however, insisted that support for Modi combined with the three state governments' "unimpressive" performance has swung the electoral pendulum in the saffron party's favour.

BJP president Amit Shah has asserted that his party will repeat its sweep of the three states and also do better and not any worse than its previous show in Uttar Pradesh. May 23 will tell.

Ambani to withdraw defamation suits against Congress, Herald

Ahmedabad: Anil Ambani's Reliance Group has decided to withdraw the ₹5,000-crore civil defamation suits filed in an Ahmedabad court against Congress leaders and *National Herald* newspaper over their statements and an article on the controversial Rafale fighter jet deal. The suits were being heard in the court of city civil and sessions judge P J Tamakuwala.

"We have intimated the defendants that we are going to withdraw the suits against them," the complainant's lawyer, Rasesh Parikh, told PTI on Tuesday.

PS Champaneri, the lawyer representing the National Herald and some other defendants, said he was told by the Reliance Group's counsel that he received instructions from his client to withdraw the defamation suits against them. The formal process to withdraw the suits will be taken up in the court when it

resumes after the summer vacation, Champaneri said.

Reliance Defence, Reliance Infrastructure and Reliance Aerostructure-- part of the Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Group-- had earlier filed civil defamation suits against Congress leaders including Sunil Jakhar, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Oommen Chandy, Ashok Chavan, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Sanjay Nirupam and Shaktisinh Gohil, and some journalists and news organisations like the National Herald. The defamation suits were also filed against the *National Herald's* editor Zafar Agha, and Vishwadeepak, the author of a news article published by it.

Before going for summer vacation, the court was hearing applications moved by the defendants questioning the territorial jurisdiction of the court in Ahmedabad to hear such suits.

1 dead in post-poll violence in Bengal

Mamata may eliminate our candidate: BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid ongoing post poll violence in different parts of Bengal, including Bhatpara-Kakinara industrial belt of North 24 Parganas in the northern fringes of Kolkata where the TMC and BJP workers continued to fight with crude bombs and guns for the third day on Tuesday senior saffron leader Kailash Vijayvargiya alleged that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee could get her party's Barrackpore Lok Sabha candidate Arjun Singh eliminated in an encounter.

Arjun Singh a four-time TMC MLA and strongman from Bhatpara-Naihati region

joined the BJP just before the Lok Sabha elections after he was refused nomination for the parliamentary seat. He is contesting on a Lotus ticket against the TMC's outgoing MP Dinesh Trivedi.

Vijayvargiya, also the party's observer for Bengal tweeted, the Mamata Banerjee had ordered the arrest of Singh who could even be bumped of in an encounter warning the Chief Minister would be held responsible if anything happened to his party candidate.

Violence continued to take its toll throughout Bengal while a youth was shot dead near Kharagpur IIT and another three persons getting grievously injured in a shootout at Sitai village in Coochbehar of North Bengal. In both the cases the BJP claimed the victims as their supporters accusing the TMC for the violence.

But the Bhatpara Assembly



segment under Barrackpore parliamentary constituency remained the epicenter of violence

with the supporters of BJP and TMC continued to fight overnight defying prohibitory orders.

Things took turn for worse when BJP workers blockaded road and suburban trains for three hours on Tuesday morning demanding arrest of the alleged TMC goons who had reportedly been on the rampage for the past several days. Train passengers narrowly escaped injury as crude bombs were hurled and stones were pelted at the static trains, sources said, adding police and the Central forces had been deployed and were conducting route-marches through out Bhatpara region known otherwise for its notoriety.

A group of BJP leaders led by State party president Dilip Ghosh on Tuesday met State Governor KN Tripathi "drawing his attention towards the ongoing violence where the BJP

workers are being targeted." Ghosh said, "never in the history of Bengal such things have been noticed," he said reminding "in 2009 Parivartan had ensued with the Left getting lesser seats than TMC in Lok Sabha elections. But there was no violence then. It was a smooth transition of power. The ongoing violence is only a prelude to what we are likely to see after the poll results are out." He warned "if the TMC goons resort to violence the BJP will give a befitting reply."

Meanwhile, the Election Commission on Tuesday ordered re-polling at one booth in North Kolkata where BJP's Rahul Sinha, TMC's Sudip Bandopadhyay and CPI(M)'s Koninika Ghosh were engaged in a multi-cornered fight.

The election would take place at booth number 200 on Wednesday a day ahead of the counting of votes.

NDA decries Opp for questioning EC

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Tuesday asserted that India was no longer a "soft state" after five years of the Modi Government and criticised Opposition's attempt to "question" integrity of the Election Commission (EC).

All the NDA allies, barring three, who attended a dinner here with Prime Minister in attendance passed a resolution which expressed concern over alleged

"Opposition attack" on institutions including EC.

The resolution condemned poll Violence in West Bengal and Kerala. NDA allies expressed full faith in Modi who in turn said NDA today "represents hopes and aspirations" of India and has turned into an organic entity.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh who spoke to media along with RLSF leader and union minister Ram Vilas Paswan said Prime Minister said NDA played an

important role in fulfilling regional aspirations and it was a "strong pillar" of regional hopes. Modi expressed concern over "unnecessary questions" being raised over the "integrity" of EC.

"Our elections could be a global brand but opposition was creating hurdles...", he said. Prime Minister said some narratives like those of caste and casteism need to change and "we need to come out of it". While saying so, he said the main focus need to

be eradication of poverty. Rajnath said India has emerged strong globally and is no more a soft state.

Paswan said NDA will win more seats than projected by the Exit polls on Sunday. He said people have voted for Modi. He said on certain occasion PM turned emotional. Paswan said EVM issue was a bogus one.

Among others SAD leader Prakash Singh Badal, JDU leader Nitish Kumar and SHiV Sena Chief Udhav Thackeray attended the meet.

From guns to ghosts! Bengal polls replete with tales

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KALNA/BURDWAN

Though they have held their spirits high in an atmosphere of continuing bloodshed the election staff of Burdwan district find themselves snowed under by the fear of 'spirits'.

Cut to MBC Institute of Engineering in East Burdwan. The late evenings are quite uncanny for staff designated for counting duty. The employees fear to trade beyond the main gates of the dominating structure. The reason, "It is eerie beyond that iron gates. You feel the presence of some weird things upstairs," one of the staff say.

Biswajit Bagdi a local says, "I was going towards the wash-room when I felt someone was

following me. It simply seemed so to me. I turned around to find none. It was just 8 in the evening."

Another person refusing to be identified said, "Often in the nights we hear mild jingles of ghungroo as though someone is dancing to the tunes of tabla and harmonium. We hear the sound of musical instruments very distinctly accompanied by faint wails of women though none of us have gathered the courage to go inside there."

Haripada Manna a local said "this was a place associated with the zamindars of the yore. The kings had built their elephant house somewhere here and there was a dance house too. It is said that the zamindars brought women from other places and enjoyed them here. Though I have not



heard it myself I have seen people scurrying past this place in the evenings. Normally we do not venture this side."

However Chandranath Chakrabarty a history teacher

call it a gossip spread by the local goons "who find this place suitable for their anti-social activities during the evening." There could be a bit of psychological aspect too in the whole story of fear as "some people get so overwhelmed by the stories that they would listen to some sounds of music or find some people trailing them."

Anurag Srivastav the District Magistrate says he did not listen to such stories let alone the sounds himself. The phantoms are often apprehensive of the IAS cadre, some of his staff say lightly while the DM gives a bureaucratic assures saying, "I have everything under CCTV surveillance. My work is to ensure security to the poll staff and everyone else and I am doing so."

Blood may spill on streets if results are manipulated: Upendra Kushwaha

PTI ■ PATNA

The Opposition Mahagathbandhan in Bihar on Tuesday alleged that attempts were being made to manipulate Lok Sabha poll results in favour of the ruling NDA and warned blood may spill on the streets on account of tremendous public anger.



These could be through manipulation of the EVMs or any other measures at the counting centres. The leaders of the NDA are hereby warned not to indulge in such a misadventure. There is tremendous public anger and blood may spill on the streets, for which we shall not be held responsible, Kushwaha told reporters.

The exit polls appear to have been a step in this direction. We have all toured the state during elections and can say, without any hesitation, that we are set to win most of the seats in the State. Such has been the public response in favour of the Mahagathbandhan, he said.

Bihar should be granted special status: Nitish

IANS ■ PATNA

Ahead of attending a dinner meeting being hosted by BJP president Amit Shah in the national Capital on Tuesday night, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that the State should be granted special category status.

"We are still in favour of the special category status to Bihar. This issue is very important for us. We will continue to raise it," the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) chief told the media here on Tuesday.

Nitish Kumar also downplayed differences over his ally Bharatiya Janata Party's demand to abolish Article 370.

Opp flies into EVM rage

From Page 1

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

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

Earlier, in a meeting attended by Ahmed Patel, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ashok Gehlot, Abhishek Singhvi of the Congress, TDP's Chandrababu Naidu, Satish Chandra Mishra of the BSP, Sitaram Yechury of the CPI(M), D Raja of the CPI, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal,

Derek O'Brien of the TMC, Ramgopal Yadav of the SP, Kanimozhi of the DMK, Manoj Jha (RJD), Majeed Memon (NCP) and Devinder Rana (NC) among others discussed the VVPAT issue along with larger strategy of formation of a non-BJP Government at the Centre. The leaders then approached the EC to raise the issue of VVPAT.

"We are asking the EC to respect the mandate of the people. It cannot be manipulated. If there is a blood test and it shows some discrepancy, then the whole body should be scanned. Similarly, we demand that if discrepancy shows up in one VVPAT, then all of them in that Assembly segment should be counted," Naidu said addressing the media along with the other leaders.

BSP leader Satish Chandra Mishra alleged that "there is large-scale bungling relating to EVMs in Uttar Pradesh. We demand deployment of Central forces." The Opposition parties also raised concerns over the transportation of EVMs ahead of counting of votes and urged the EC to probe the issue.

New Govt to focus on land, labour reforms, export promotion: Report

Report sees three possible scenarios of reform — acceleration, status quo, and regression

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Land and labour reforms, privatisation and export promotion would be at the top of agenda of the new government irrespective of which party or coalition takes charge after the poll results on May 23, a report has said.

Most exit polls have predicted a sweeping victory for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which is expected to win over 300 seats in the election.

Irrespective of which party or combination of parties form the new government after the results of the Lok Sabha election announced on May 23, the priority is likely to be on reforms on land, labour, privatisation and export promotion, Goldman Sachs said in its report Tuesday.

"We see potential reforms (by the new government) to focus on land transparent auctions, and digitisation of records; labour creating an enabling regulatory environment and privatisation in areas such as agriculture and banking," it said.

The promotion of exports through targeting new markets such as Eastern Europe and Central Asia; and creating a credible system of grading and certification will also be a area of priority for the new government, it said.

The report sees three possible scenarios of reform -- acceleration, status quo, and regression, and has analysed the effect these might have on GDP growth.

It estimates a 2.5 percentage points boost or drag to its base case of 7.5 per cent for average real GDP growth during FY2020-2025.

"We see baseline growth rising up to 10 per cent in our acceleration scenario of effectively enforced major reforms; or narrowing to 5 per cent in our regression scenario of stalled reforms," the report said.

The accelerated reform scenario assumes the new government would have a sufficient majority to introduce important legislative reforms, and the will to implement reforms, it said.

If the official election outcome bear out the exit poll trends, dollar/rupee will continue to drag lower in coming days. The three-month forecast for USD/INR is 69, it said.

It remains neutral on the rupee on a medium term horizon, expecting USD/INR to edge higher to 71 on a 12-month horizon.

The report anticipates the banking system liquidity situation to normalise as currency in circulation reduces from its high post elections, and with potential liquidity operations by the RBI.

In the event of a decisive mandate which enables further progress on structural reforms, the report expects a faster recovery in the corporate earnings over the medium term.

Pranab: Onus on EC...

From Page 1

At a time when the Election Commission is under fire from Opposition parties for being biased, Pranab also said all the three commissioners are appointed by the executive and they are doing their job well. "You cannot criticise them, it was a perfect conduct of elections. If democracy has succeeded, it is largely due to perfect conduct of elections by election commissioners starting from Sukumar Sen to the present election commissioners," Pranab said.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
EXAMINATION SECTION
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110608

Notification No. 50/2019
AIIMS-MBBS Entrance Examination 2019 : Important Advisory

Ref. No. F.AIIMS/Exam. Sec./Advt./5-6/2018-MBBS-2019 Dated : 20.05.2019

Dear Candidate,

As you prepare to appear for the AIIMS MBBS Entrance Examination this weekend on 25 May 2019 or 26 May 2019, we wish you the very best!

We are aware of the hard work put in by each of you. With the level of competition in this examination, where even small differences in marks may matter, it does not necessarily mean that those who unfortunately are not selected are incapable of pursuing a career in medicine. Just relax and give your best on that day.

We would like to inform you that to ensure strict confidentiality, integrity and fairness of every examination certain steps are taken right from the stage of registration. Many of these are in place to prevent unfair practices such as impersonation, use of transmitting devices, sneaking in material into the examination hall for copying etc. Only the most deserving should be selected. Obviously, for every candidate who is unfairly selected, another will be unfairly pushed out of the competition. We therefore seek your assistance towards smooth-conduct of the examination. Please comply with certain requirements and co-operate during frisking. Those who do not allow to be frisked shall not be permitted into the examination centre. We assure you that these measures, however inconvenient these may seem, will benefit you who are honest, hardworking and have toiled tirelessly towards fulfilling your dreams and the aspirations of your parents, family and teachers. We request candidates, parents, guardians and well-wishers to adhere to the following instructions as well as those in the Admit Card and Prospectus. Remember that these are uniformly applicable in all centres throughout the length and breadth of this country. Therefore, please do not argue or plead with the officials on duty since any exception made in one instance, however reasonable it may seem personally, may not be fair and just to other candidates in the same or in other centres. Also, every examination has its own unique procedures and hence, please do not make comparisons to justify your views.

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2. You or your parents or guardians who may accompany you should visit the examination centre before hand and familiarize with the location and means of reaching there on time. Make travel arrangements to reach at the Reporting Time.
3. The **Reporting Time** is mentioned in the Admit Card. If you report beyond the Reporting Time it means you are late. No Candidate shall be permitted to enter after the entry Closing Time as mentioned in the Admit Card. There are several formalities that will be completed before the examination commences and it is in your best interest that you should enter the venue well in time. Do not wait outside till the last minute Instructions have been issued for strict adherence to timings.
4. You should carry with you only three items: (i) Admit Card (ii) any valid ORIGINAL Photo ID Proof (as opted during Registration and indicated in the Admit Card: Passport, Aadhar Card/ Aadhar Card ORIGINAL Print out, PAN Card, Voters ID, Driving License, Recognized Central or State Board Examination (12 CLASS ONLY of 10+2 scheme) Admit Card bearing photograph. Please note that ID Cards issued by Schools/ Coaching Centres, Aadhar Enrollment Receipt and PHOTOCOPIES, SCANNED IDs, IDs STORED IN MOBILE PHONES, etc are NOT ACCEPTED) and (iii) TWO recent Passport Sized photographs with white background, one of which should be pasted in the Admit Card as indicated. Remember: NO ADMIT CARD or NO VALID PHOTO ID NO ENTRY.
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6. Please do not wear any ornaments whatsoever. Mobile phones, wristwatches and any electronic device including those capable of transmission and receipt of any data in any form, pen, pencil, papers, books, bottles etc are forbidden. There may not be any provision for safe keeping of valuables in every centre. Therefore, please come prepared accordingly.
7. Candidates who are differently abled are requested to look out for signages and proceed directly for priority entry and completion of formalities Staff wearing easily identifiable green / coloured jackets will facilitate and assist all such candidates.
8. Please note that the examination will be computer based and therefore familiarize with the examination through the Mock Test available at www.aiimsexams.org. Do not use the keyboard during the examination. Please remember that the sequence of the subjects and both questions and responses shall be shuffled for all candidates. The sequence of subjects for each candidate shall be displayed in the candidate console before the examination. The facility of a simple calculator that will pop-up on the screen is available. While you may mark answers for Review and visit later please note at the end of examination, answers marked for Review shall not be saved automatically and therefore not evaluated. These need to be submitted by clicking the Submit/ Save button. No one is permitted to leave the examination hall before the end of the examination.
9. Please use the back of your Admit Card for Rough work. All Admit Cards and Rough Sheets must be returned, and the form signed. Those who do not do so may not be evaluated.
10. Please go through all instructions in the Admit Card and Prospectus. Looking forward to your kind co-operation.

With best wishes
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Choking the Opposition

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



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

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

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

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

Love has no boundaries

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



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

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

Engage with Taliban

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



ASHOK K MEHTA

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

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

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

Pakistan is now a key facilitator and de facto guarantor for the Taliban's attendance at the peace talks. In 2016, former US President Barack Obama ordered a drone strike against Taliban leader Emir Mullah Akhtar Mansour for playing truant on peace talks. Till 18 months ago, Islamabad used to say it has no control, only some influence on the Taliban, despite all its leaders residing in Karachi and Quetta. It says it has applied unprecedented pressure on the Taliban to open talks with Kabul. Now, Kabul has asked Washington to reveal the nature of the relationship between Pakistan and the Taliban.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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



Former President
—Pranab Mukherjee

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



Actor
—Anupam Kher

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



Chinese Envoy
—Luo Zhaohui

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



Congress leader
—Priyanka Gandhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Devalued predictions

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

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

I agree with the Vice President and want to mention here that exit polls after the 2004 Lok Sabha

Exit poll confusion

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

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

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

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

Much-needed break

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

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

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

May 23 drama

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

D Nagarjuna
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Excelling in stock market moves

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



HIMA KOTA

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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



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

A revolution in rural job creation

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



BINDU DALMIA

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

United colours of Opposition a pipedream?

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

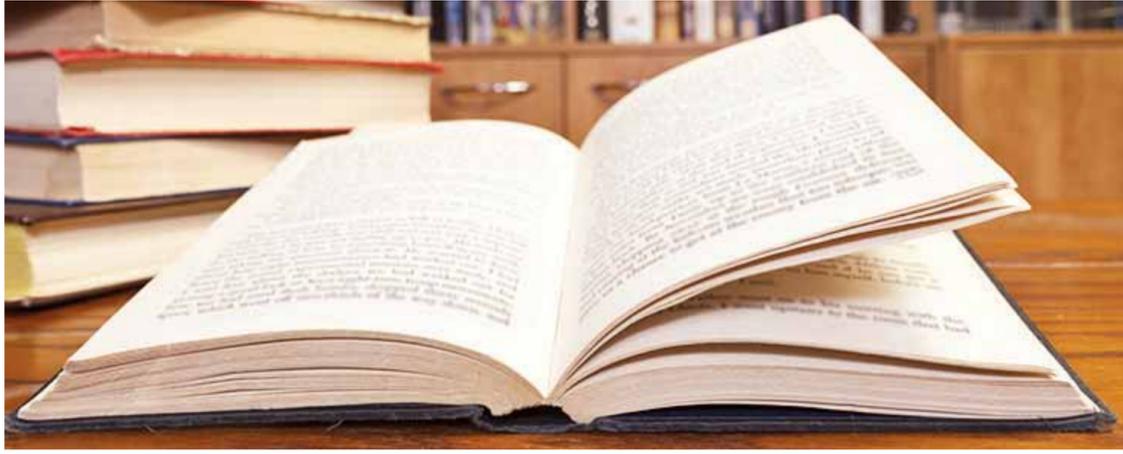
(The writer is a senior political commentator and syndicated columnist)



THERE ARE NO WINNERS

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

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



INTER-ACT WITH YOUR SKILLS

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

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

The words 'multidisciplinary', 'interdisciplinary' and 'trans-disciplinary' are used a lot. In a multidisciplinary approach, each discipline contributes a piece of the jigsaw and it is

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

THINKING DIFFERENTLY

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

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

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

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

DEGREES

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

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

OTHER BENEFITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is Director, IIIT-Delhi

QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

PG DIPLOMA

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

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

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

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

MEDICAL LAB TECH

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

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

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

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

Last date to apply: June 12, 2019.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

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

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

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



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

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

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

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

UG-PG PROGRAMMES

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

Eligibility: For UG programmes is Class XII in any stream. For PG programmes graduation is mandatory from any recognised university or institute.

Last date to apply: May 31, 2019.

Last minute prep tips

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

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

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



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

- Keep your Focus right:** As just a week is left for the exam, you have to keep your focus intact. Stick to your plan and strategy because a new strategy may give worst results.
- Concept wise study:** Go for concepts wise studies. This will

help in fast learning.

- Don't start a fresh topic:** Don't start a fresh topic. Try to strong the topics and sections which are already been studied by you.
- Create a bunch of flash cards:** For all the important formulas and topics, try to make flash card as it will help in memorizing it quickly and easily.
- Solve mock tests:** Attempting the mock test will help to know your preparation level. Not only this, the students will get familiar with the computer-based test. Mock test is the replica of the actual exam; it will also help them to learn time management.
- Stay positive:** Take right amount of pressure. Don't let nega-

tive vibes affect your preparation level.

- Do's:**
 - Arrive early at the examination centre
 - Keep your admit card with you
 - Listen to the instructions given in the examination hall carefully
 - Do check for your name, photograph and your roll number in front of the computer system assigned to you.
 - Read all the questions carefully
 - Clear your doubts if any
 - Do remember to collect your admit card once the exam is over.
- Don'ts:**
 - Do not indulge in any unfair practice in the exam hall
 - Do not hurry while answering the questions
 - Do not disturb other candidates
 - Don't answer in a hurry. On the other hand, don't waste time also
 - Don't spare more than the required amount of time on an answer
 - Don't answer questions simply as you could lose marks if you answer negatively marked questions.

The writer is Director, FIITJEE

Technical education takes centrestage

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

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

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

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



Professor SC Saxena
Vice-chancellor, Jaypee University

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

Academic fee discount for wards of Defence/ Paramilitary forces

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

ICSI signs MoU for Int'l commerce olympiad

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



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

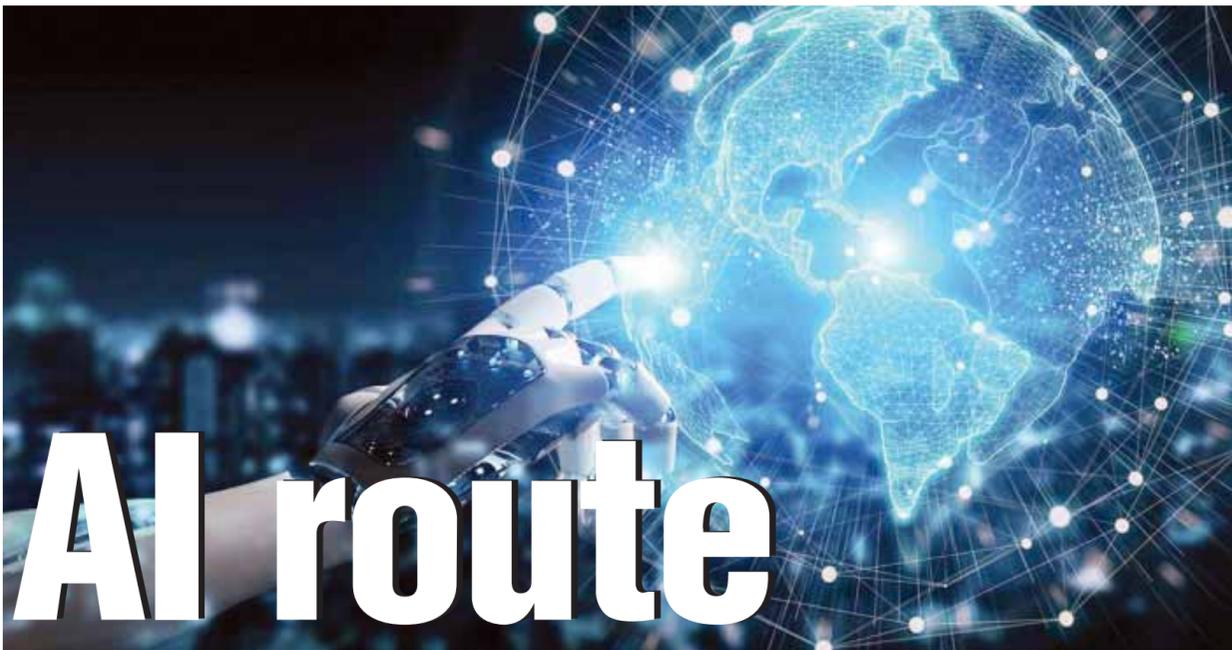
ticipating in this single level examination that aims at promoting reasoning skills and creating awareness about the CS course and profession among the student community across the globe.

President ICSI, CS Ranjeet Pandey and Officiating Secretary ICSI, CS Ashok Kumar Dixit signed the MoU on behalf of ICSI, whereas SOF Founder Director, Mahabir Singh and Rajan Marwah were signatories from the SOF. ICSI Central Council Members CS Nagendra D Rao and CS B Narasimhan were also present during the MoU signing ceremony.

Victorious end of C'ship

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

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



AI route

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

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has touched every industry including education where it is changing the way students, teachers and administrators are moving forward. The developments taking place in the technology called artificial intelligence are spreading across the globe on an unprecedented and unforeseen scale. As per the AI Market in the US Education Sector report, the AI market in the US education sector is expected to grow at a CAGR of 47% from 2018 until 2022. Of the numerous ways artificial intelligence will change the education sector, we've outlined 10 ways below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

challenges that every student faces.

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

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

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

The writer is Founder-CEO, Engineer.ai

'Hospitality degree takes you high'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dr Kulneet Suri Senior Director at IMS, Noida

have to deal with.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINDIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is Sunanda Rao, Founder-director of Concept



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STUDY CENTRES

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

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



MARKETING AT FIRST ENERGY

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

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT UXINDIA

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

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT CLEARTEX

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

MARKET RESEARCH AT NAANDI FOUNDATION

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

TELECALLING AT JETIC HEALTHCARE (PEPODEAL)

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

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT REFLEXION

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

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT SHREE VALLABH JEWELLERS

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

IN BRIEF

TEZPUR UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU

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

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

will also offer opportunities for student and staff exchange for the purposes of study, research and teaching. It will also enable scholars from Tezpur University to commence PhD study at Queen's in September 2019.

Primarily, the scope of collaboration will be in research, aligning with the strengths of both the institutions. Initially, identified research areas of interest are primarily within the engineering field.

HIMALAYAN SUMMIT AT IIT ROORKEE

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

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

The center under the 'National Initiative for Design Innovation

scheme was set up in multi-dimensional space with the long sighted vision, primarily to address the problems of the Himalayan region which makes most of the northern part of our country and offers a vast potential for various activities.

WORKSHOP ON LUXURY INDUSTRY

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

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

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

NEW OFFICE FOR IIT-M

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

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

CONVOCATION AT SNU

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

Sensex slumps 383 pts on profit booking FinMin seeks AAI shares

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices took U-turn from record high levels touched during early trade on Tuesday, with the BSE Sensex tripping nearly 383 points and the NSE Nifty shedding over 119 points as investors hurried up to book profits.

In the general election has already been factored in appropriately. After hitting an intra-day record high of 39,571.73, the 30-share index ended 382.87 points, or 0.97 per cent, lower at 38,969.80. The gauge hit the day's low of 38,884.85.

The company posted a 49 per cent decline in March quarter profit. Maruti, IndusInd Bank, M&M, Bharti Airtel, SBI, PowerGrid, Hero MotoCorp, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Yes Bank and TCS too fell up to 3.25 per cent.

Traders believe that though a profit-booking emerged at higher levels but election rally may continue if the election results come as per exit polls prediction. On Monday, the 30-share index skyrocketed 1,421.90 points, or 3.75 per cent, to 39,352.67, and the Nifty soared 421.10 points, or 3.69 per cent, to 11,828.25.

Minister Narendra Modi. The results of the seven-phase polls will be announced on May 23. Meanwhile, the Indian rupee was trading marginally lower at 69.76 against the US dollar.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry has asked Airports Authority of India to issue shares in lieu of the Rs 656 crore capital it has received from the government, sources said.

The AAI is yet to issue shares to the government in lieu of the equity infusion worth Rs 656.56 crore made over the years. The matter came to the notice of the ministry last year during discussions over share buy back by profit making public sector enterprises.

“The finance ministry has written to AAI for issuing shares in lieu of the paid-up capital of Rs 656.56 crore infused by the Government,” the sources told PTI.

NCLAT to hear plea against Flipkart

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The NCLAT has admitted a petition filed by an online vendors association challenging the orders of fair trade regulator CCI, which had absolved e-commerce major Flipkart of unfair practices using its dominant position.

Tribunal in its order on May 15. A three-member NCLAT bench headed by Chairman Justice S J Mukhopadhyaya has directed to list the matter for hearing on July 30.

The CCI had ruled that looking at the present market construct and structure of online marketplace platforms in India, “it does not appear that any one player in the market is commanding any dominant position at this stage of evolution of market”.

“As such, Flipkart Internet is bound by these laws, the compliance of which is ensured by the relevant authorities,” the order said. Citing the market construct and the context of examining allegations against Flipkart, the CCI noted that there is also no case of contravention of Section 4 by Amazon as well.

Singapore, Canada seek to join WTO consultations against India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Singapore and Canada have expressed interest in joining consultations in a case filed by Japan in the WTO's dispute settlement body against India's import duties on certain information and communication technology products, including mobile phones.

works; machines for reception, conversion and transmission or regeneration of voice, images or other data; and parts of telephone sets. It alleged that imposition of import duties on these products by India infringes WTO norms as India has committed zero per cent bound tariffs on these products.

with export value of USD 120 billion annually, has substantial trade interest in this matter,” it said. Similarly, Canada has said that during 2016-2018, India's imports from Canada of ICT products have aggregated at USD 28.7 billion.

dispute settlement process. If the bilateral consultations requested by the complainant with India do not result in a satisfactory solution, it can request the WTO to set up a dispute panel to pass a ruling on the matter.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty stocks including DREDDY, INFRAEL, TITAN, etc.

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists top 50 BSE stocks including UNIONBANK, FORCEMOT, DISHTV, etc.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists next 50 Nifty stocks including UBL, HINDALCO, JUBLANT, etc.

BSE SENSEX

Table with columns: BSE SENSEX, NSE NIFTY. Shows index values and changes for BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty.

TOP GAINERS

Table with columns: SCRIP, % CHG. Lists top gainers in BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty.

TOP LOSERS

Table with columns: SCRIP, % CHG. Lists top losers in BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty.

BULLION | Last 7 Days



PTI GRAPHICS

Table with columns: SCRIP, % CHG. Lists various stocks and their percentage changes.

Pak appoints new envoy to India

Moin-ul-Haq to start fresh engagement with new govt

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Career diplomat Moin-ul-Haq has been appointed as Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India to start a new process of engagement with the country where a new government will be formed soon, amid strained relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday approved appointments of over two dozen ambassadors in various countries including India, China and Japan. Haq, in his mid-fifties is the current ambassador to France. He has previously served as chief of protocol at the Foreign Office. He joined Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1987 and was posted in countries like Turkey, Canada and Sri Lanka.

The post of High Commissioner to India fell vacant after Sohail Mehmood was appointed Pakistan's new foreign secretary in April.

The decision came after a detailed meeting with Prime Minister Khan, who formally approved the new appointments,

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said in a video message on Monday night.

Qureshi said, "New Delhi, India, is very important... After consultation I have decided to appoint Moin-ul-Haq, the current ambassador in France, who will be sent to Delhi, and I hope that he (Haq) will deliver."

Qureshi said that Indian elections were coming to an end and it was possible that after the elections a new process of engagement could start. The results of India's general election would be announced on May 23.

The relationship between the two neighbouring nations currently is at all-time low after a Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) suicide bomber attacked a CRPF convoy in Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir on February 14 that killed 40 soldiers.

Amid mounting outrage, the Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out a counter-terror operation, hitting what it said was a JeM training camp in Balakot, deep inside Pakistan on February 26.

The next day, the PAF retal-

iated and downed a MiG-21 in an aerial combat and captured an IAF pilot, who was later released and handed over to India on March 1.

Qureshi expressed hope that Haq would perform his new job with best of his abilities.

Since assuming the office in August last year, Prime Minister Khan repeatedly reached out to India for the resumption of peace talks on all outstanding issues. But India has made it clear to Pakistan that terrorism and dialogue will not go hand-in-hand.

Confirming other major appointments, the foreign minister said Naghmah Hashmi, career diplomat, is being sent to China, which is "very important" country for Pakistan.

She will replace Masood Khalid, the incumbent envoy to China, after completion of his tenure.

Additional Secretary Imtiaz Ahmad was appointed ambassador to Japan while Zaheer Janjua, currently serving as additional secretary to Europe, was sent to Pakistani mission in Brussels.

Additional Secretary Amina Baloch was appointed Ambassador in Malaysia, Javed Khattak in Portugal, Saqlain Sayeda in Kenya, Rukhsana Afzal in Singapore, Khalid Jamali in Czech Republic and Ataul Munim in Algeria.

Sarfraz Ahmad appointed as ambassador to Sudan, Imran Haider was appointed as ambassador in Tajikistan, Major General Abdul Aziz Tariq in Brunei and Major General Muhammad Khalid Rao in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Qureshi said council generals appointed included Khalid Majeed in Jeddah, Ayesha Abbas Khan in New York.

Ambassador in Kuwait Ghulam Dastagir will replace Muazzam Ali Khan in Abu Dhabi, while Qazi Khalilullah, serving as ambassador in Russia, was being given an extension of six months.

Qureshi hoped that the newly-appointed ambassadors and consul generals will play a pivotal in promoting the soft image of Pakistan and will adopt the best behaviour with Pakistani community living abroad.

Indonesia's Joko Widodo re-elected president

AFP ■ JAKARTA

Thousands of soldiers fanned out across Jakarta on Tuesday after the surprise early announcement of official results in Indonesia's election showed Joko Widodo re-elected leader of the world's third-biggest democracy.

The election commission had been due to give the final tally of the divisive poll on Wednesday, but the results were revealed early Tuesday with little advance notice amid fears of unrest.

Presidential challenger Prabowo Subianto had warned of possible mass uprisings in response to his claims of widespread cheating.

Tensions have also spiked high since police said last week that they arrested dozens of Islamic State-linked terror suspects — including some who planned to cause chaos by detonating bombs at any post-election protests.

On Friday, the US embassy in Jakarta issued a heightened security alert for Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim majority nation.

There was a heavy security presence in Jakarta on Tuesday, including in front of the elections commission office, which was barricaded with razor wire and protected by scores of heavily armed troops.

Subianto, a 67-year-old retired general, has targeted the commission by accusing it of allowing a string of election violations.

The former military man — who has strong ties to the Suharto dictatorship that collapsed in 1998 — has kept up a steady string of rhetoric since



Incumbent Indonesian President Joko Widodo (left) and his running mate Ma'ruf Amin pose for photographers as they declare their victory in the country's presidential election in Jakarta, Indonesia on Monday. Widodo has been elected for a second term, official results showed, in a victory over a would-be strongman who aligned himself with Islamic hard-liners and vowed Tuesday to challenge the result in the country's highest court. AP

unofficial results for the April 17 poll put bitter rival Widodo ahead by a wide margin.

Widodo, who had held off declaring victory after last month's polls, confirmed the win Tuesday.

"After we're sworn in... we will be president and vice president," Widodo told reporters in Jakarta with running mate Ma'ruf Amin, a Muslim cleric, at his side.

Subianto, meanwhile, rejected the results but called for supporters to remain calm and said his camp would pursue "legal avenues".

Earlier Tuesday, Subianto's legal director was quoted by

Indonesian media as saying a formal appeal would be filed at the Constitutional Court.

Subianto unsuccessfully challenged Widodo's 2014 victory over him at the same court.

Analysts and election officials have discounted Subianto's claims that the result was affected by voter fraud and widespread cheating.

"The scale of abuses and errors in the conduct of the election are clearly very minor overall," Jakarta-based political analyst Kevin O'Rourke said before Tuesday's official results. "Subianto and his camp are harping on minor defi-

ciencies and very micro problems, clearly in an attempt to sway public opinion and delegitimise Widodo." It was unclear if huge crowds would flood the streets to support Subianto, but there was little sign of Tuesday.

"There will be protests from disappointed (Subianto) supporters but I don't think it'll be significant," said Syamsuddin Haris, a political analyst at the Indonesian Sciences Institute.

"Authorities have been anticipating this," he added.

The presidential campaign was punctuated by bitter mudslinging and a slew of fake news online — much of it directed at the presidential contenders.

The soft-spoken Widodo — who pointed to his efforts to boost Southeast Asia's biggest economy with a huge infrastructure push — stood in stark contrast to fiery nationalist Subianto, a strongman who courted Islamic hardliners and promised a boost to military and defence spending.

Online, Subianto was pilloried by social media users who poked fun at his repudiation of the unofficial results and for kissing the ground as he declared himself president.

Last month, a record 245,000 candidates ran for public office in Indonesia, from the presidency and parliamentary seats to local positions — the first time all were held on the same day.

Widodo and Amin won the country's top jobs with 55.5 per cent of the vote against 44.5 per cent for Subianto and his wealthy financier partner Sandiaga Uno, the commission said Tuesday.

Christchurch attacker charged with terrorism: Police

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

The man accused of shooting dead 51 Muslim worshippers in the Christchurch mosque attacks was formally charged with terrorism for the first time on Tuesday, New Zealand police said.

In addition to the terror charge, Brenton Tarrant also faces 51 charges of murder and 40 of attempted murder over the March 15 attacks that rocked the South Pacific nation. "The charge will allege that a terrorist act was carried out in Christchurch," police said in a statement.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has characterised the mosque killings as "a well-planned terrorist attack" since the day Tarrant, a self-described white supremacist, allegedly carried them out.

But until now the charges against him were less expansive, as New Zealand's

Terrorism Suppression Act was only introduced in 2002 and is untested in the courts.

Police said the decision to lay the terror charge more than two months after the attack was made following consultation with prosecutors and government legal experts.

Tarrant, a 28-year-old Australian, is currently in a high-security prison undergoing tests to determine if he is mentally fit to stand trial for the worst massacre in modern New Zealand history. His next court appearance is scheduled for June 14.

Police said they had met survivors and victims' families Tuesday to explain the additional charges.

"Police are committed to providing all the support necessary for what will be a challenging and emotional court process to come for the victim's families and survivors of the attack," they said.

Ahead of the shooting, Tarrant posted a rambling manifesto on social media in which he identified himself by name and described himself as a white supremacist out to avenge attacks in Europe perpetrated by Muslims.

He live-streamed himself as he opened fire in the packed Al Noor mosque during Friday prayers and then travelled across town to continue the carnage in the suburban Linwood mosque.

Ardern's government tightened the country's gun laws in the wake of the attack and has said it will review laws dealing with hate speech.

It has also pushed international efforts to ensure social media giants to do more to combat online extremism, including the so-called "Christchurch Call" unveiled by world leaders and top technology firms in Paris last week.

13 hurt as car hits pedestrians in China

PTI ■ BEIJING

At least 13 people were injured, two of them critically, when a car ploughed through pedestrians in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou on Tuesday morning.

A car pulled away at a red light in Tianhe district at about 8.50 am (local time) and drove through a pedestrian crossing, hitting a number of people before colliding with two other cars, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

The injured people were taken to a hospital, two of whom were in critical condition, Guangzhou police bureau said on Weibo, China's equivalent of Twitter.

A motorist surnamed Ding was detained, the police said, adding that an investigation was on.

Bangladesh halts visas for Pakistani nationals amid impasse

PTI ■ DHAKA/ISLAMABAD

Bangladesh high commission in Islamabad has stopped issuing visas to Pakistani nationals for one week over a fresh diplomatic row, a Bangladeshi official said Tuesday, amid strained bilateral ties since 2013 when Dhaka decided to hang several of the 1971 war criminals. The diplomatic row between Bangladesh and Pakistan is on the rise since last year when Dhaka denied a visa to the Pakistan high commissioner.

"You can call it a sign of protest against the Pakistani gesture," a Bangladeshi foreign

ministry official familiar with the development told PTI.

The foreign office in Dhaka, however, is yet to make any formal confirmation and no official notification has been issued on the halting of visas to the Pakistani nationals.

But the official, who preferred anonymity, said the Bangladeshi diplomat in charge of issuing visas refrained from processing the application by Pakistanis as Pakistani authorities had been sitting on his own official visa renewal application for the past four months.

Pakistani high commission in Dhaka is not processing his family members' visa

applications, barring Bangladesh high commission's press and visa affairs councillor Iqbal Hossain from meeting his family, the official said.

"Issuance of any visa to Pakistani nationals remains suspended as the visa counter in Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad has been closed since last Monday [May 13]," Dhaka Tribune quoted Hossain as saying.

The Bangladeshi councillor said they had informed the South Asia wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Pakistan. According to the officials, Hossain is living in Islamabad with his daughter

while his wife and son were in Dhaka. No official in the Pakistani high commission was immediately available for comments over the impasse.

Pakistan apparently has delayed the renewal of the visa after Dhaka refused to accept the nomination of the new high commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh for over a year.

In March 2018, Pakistan Foreign Ministry proposed Saqlain Syedah as its new high commissioner to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh refused to accept Syedah's "agreement" (documents related to proposal of nomination) as Pakistan high Commissioner.

Stop it! Japan anti-groper mobile app becomes smash hit

AFP ■ TOKYO

A Tokyo police smartphone app to scare off molesters has become a smash hit in Japan, where women have long run the gauntlet of groping on packed rush-hour trains.

Victims of groping can activate the Digi Police app, which either blasts out a voice shouting "stop it" at top volume, or produces a full-screen SOS message — which victims can show other passengers — reading: "There is a molester."

Please help." The app has been downloaded more than 237,000 times, an "unusually high figure" for a public service app, said police official Keiko Toyamine.

"Thanks to its popularity, the number is increasing by some 10,000 every month," Toyamine told AFP.

scared to call out for help, she said. But by using the SOS message mode, "they can notify other passengers about groping while remaining silent."

There were nearly 900 groping and other harassment cases on Tokyo trains and subways reported in 2017, according to the latest available data from the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department. "But it's the tip of the iceberg," Toyamine said, with victims often hesitant to come forward.

Offenders face up to six months in jail or fines of up to 500,000 yen (\$5,500 dollars). The potential jail sentence is increased to 10 years if violence or threats are used.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department quietly launched the free Digi Police app three years ago.

It initially aimed to provide information for elderly people,

as well as parents and their children about scams or prowlers.

But the function to "repel molesters" was added a few months after the launch.

And an online conversation about the app — caused by a female pop idol being assaulted late last year — resulted in its sudden popularity.

Yui Kimura, a 27-year-old beer shop employee on the nation's northern island of Hokkaido, says she is always worried about groping whenever she visits the capital.

"I tend to be vigilant on Tokyo trains as dodgy men can happen to be in front of me at any time," Kimura said.

Reina Oishi, a 21-year-old university student in Tokyo, also said: "I want to download the app as I have been groped so many times." Experts agree that the app could be a boon for "silent" victims.

"Molesters tend to target those who appear shy and reluctant to lodge a police complaint," said Akiyoshi Saito, a certified social worker who supported some 800 former molesters during a rehabilitation programme.

Groping on trains can occur in any country where trains are frequently crowded, Saito told AFP. "But the idea that men are superior to women, which is Japan's traditional bias, may help sustain" sexual harassment on trains in the country, he added.

Awareness of the issue has risen in Japan in recent years, with women exchanging tips on how to avoid the unwanted attention online.

East Japan Railway runs women-only carriages during rush hours and has set up security cameras on some lines notorious for a high rate of groping.

Indian peacekeeper to be honoured posthumously with UN medal

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

An Indian peacekeeper is among the 119 military, police and civilian personnel who will be honoured this year with a prestigious UN medal this year for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.

Police Officer Jitender Kumar made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

He will be honoured with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal on Friday as the world organisation observes the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin would collect the medal on behalf of the fallen Indian

peacekeeper at a solemn ceremony here.

India is the fourth largest contributor of uniformed personnel to the UN peacekeeping. It currently contributes more than 6,400 military and police personnel to the UN peace operations in Abyei, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Lebanon, the Middle East, South Sudan and the Western Sahara.

According to the UN information last year, India has lost the highest number of its peacekeepers deployed in various UN peacekeeping operations in the last 70 years, with 163 military, police and civilian personnel from the country making the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

Of the 3,737 peacekeepers who have died since 1948, 163 have been from India.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will preside over the ceremony this week at which the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal will be awarded posthumously to 119 military, police and civilian peacekeepers, who lost their lives in 2018 and early 2019.

The commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers will begin with the UN Chief laying a wreath to honour all UN peacekeepers who have lost their lives since 1948, when the UN's first peacekeeping mission, the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), began operations in Palestine.

In a video message, the Secretary-General said the day honours more than one million men and women who have served as UN peacekeepers since the first UN mission in 1948.

"We remember that more than 3,800 personnel paid the ultimate price. And we express our deepest gratitude to the 100,000 civilian, police and military peacekeepers deployed around the world today and to the countries that contribute these brave and dedicated women and men."

The Secretary-General added that this year, the United Nations marks 20 years since the Security Council first mandated a peacekeeping mission to protect civilians.

"Peacekeepers protect men, women and children from violence every day, often at great personal risk."

Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix said UN Peacekeeping deploys to some of the most complex and difficult places, protecting some of the world's most vulnerable.

PUNCH PERFECT

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

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Argentine dominated the first round but



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Indian shuttlers suffer 2-3 loss

PTI ■ NANNING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Giroud gears up to face Arsenal

AFP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mkhitaryan to miss Europa League final

AFP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

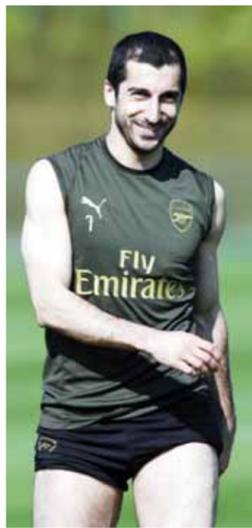
"We are very disappointed to announce that Henrikh Mkhitaryan will not be travelling with the squad for our UEFA Europa League final against Chelsea," an Arsenal statement announced on Tuesday.

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

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

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

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



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

UEFA, European football's governing body, insisted they had done all they could to ensure Mkhitaryan's safety in Baku.

Mkhitaryan had featured in 11 games during the Europa League campaign and his absence will be a big blow as Arsenal look for the victory they need to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Pain-free Murray optimistic about return

AFP ■ LONDON

Andy Murray is confident he can return to competitive tennis and has hinted at a doubles spot at Wimbledon, inspired by American doubles great Bob Bryan's return from hip surgery.

The two-time Wimbledon champion, 32, in January announced plans to retire after this year's Wimbledon due to injury, expressing doubt as to whether he would even make it to the All England Club.

The Scot has all but ruled out an appearance in the singles draw, nearly four months after surgery on a career-threatening hip problem, but he could return by playing in the men's doubles.



The former world number one told *Tuesday Times* there was "very little chance" he would play singles during the grass-court season.

"Potentially doubles, but I'm not trying to get ready for singles just now," he said.

"The thing I said before was that, if I wasn't feeling good, there was more chance that I would play and then stop after Wimbledon."

"Whereas if it's feeling good, it makes a bit more sense to give it time to make sure that it's as good as possible before I try to play singles on it."

HI names women's team for U-21 tourney

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Tuesday named an 18-member Indian junior women's team for the Cantor Fitzgerald U-21 International 4-Nations tournament in Dublin, followed by matches in Baranovichi, Belarus.

The Indian team will first travel to Ireland where they will play a match each against the Irish national team and Canada junior women's team on May 28 and 29 respectively. That will be followed by the Cantor Fitzgerald U-21 tournament featuring India, Ireland, Canada and Scotland which is scheduled to be held from May 31 to June 4.

The team will then play yet another match against the Irish national team on June 6 following which, the Indian junior team will travel to Belarus to play five matches with the host nation's senior, junior and development teams starting June 9.

The Indian team will be captained by Suman Devi Thoudam and her deputy will be Gagandeep Kaur.

Bichu Devi Khariabam and Khushboo have been selected as the Goalkeepers who will guard the goalposts, while Defenders Ishika Choudhary, Priyanka, Mahima Choudhary, Simran Singh will join Suman Devi Thoudam and Gagandeep Kaur in the backline.

Midfielders Preeti, Mariana Kujur,

Chetna, Ajmina Kujur and Baljeet Kaur will command the mid-field for India, while the forward-line will feature Mumtaz Khan, Beauty Dzungdung, Sharmila Devi, Reet and Lalrindiki.

Speaking about the team selection, coach Baljeet Singh said, "We have a good few weeks of matches coming up in Ireland and Belarus against some of the stronger teams in the world."

"We have selected our team keeping in mind the challenges we are going to face there, and I am sure both the tours will help our players in gaining further experience of playing quality teams at a high intensity. I am looking forward to seeing our team excel in foreign conditions."

Xavi's last match ends in defeat

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Xavi Hernandez's dazzling career came to a low-key end when his Qatari side Al Sadd were beaten 2-0 by Iranian giants Persepolis in their last group match of the AFC Champions League on Monday.

The 39-year-old midfield genius, who helped Spain win the World Cup in 2010 and won four UEFA Champions League titles and eight La Liga titles with Barcelona, was cheered by fans at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran where already-eliminated Persepolis

produced an improved display to register only their second win in six matches.

Just 11,000 spectators were present in the 100,000-capacity stadium, mostly wearing the red of Persepolis, who won the Iranian league title days before this match.

Several home fans brandished banners reading "Adios Xavi" to show their appreciation of the player who with Andres Iniesta formed the backbone of one of Barcelona's greatest ever sides.

Xavi was also honoured by the Persepolis management who presented him with a jersey featuring the number six he has worn in his career.



But Al Sadd's second defeat in a row, following their 4-1 thrashing by domestic rivals Al Duhail in last week's Amir Cup final in Doha, meant Xavi's illustrious career ended in a low-key fashion.

Xavi, who became the first player in history to play 150 UEFA Champions League matches, has indicated that he will stay in Qatar to begin a coaching career, probably remaining in a highly-paid role with Al Sadd, rather than return to Spain.

"The idea is to start as a coach in Qatar, where there is less pressure, to test myself and get some experience," Xavi told Spain's *Efe* agency in Tehran just hours before facing Persepolis.

"I think football has bid farewell to one of the best players in the world... it was beautiful to work with a player with Xavi's calibre," Al Sadd's current head coach Jesualdo Ferreira said after the match.

Ferreira has predicted Xavi "will be a great manager".

Fellow Al Sadd midfielder Gabi also paid tribute to his captain and fellow Spaniard, calling him a "role model".

HANDLING PRESSURE MOST IMP AT WC: KOHLI

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



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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

Kuldeep and Chahal are pillars of our attack: Virat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

World Cup pre-departure press conference here.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Willey makes way for Archer in Eng squad

AFP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I'd quite like to get Virat Kohli out because I wasn't able to in the IPL," Archer told Sky Sports. "Chris Gayle as well," added Archer, mentioning the big-hitting West Indies batsman. And for all his lack of England experience, Archer believes the time he has spent in the IPL has been good preparation for the pressure of a World Cup.

"I think I probably have a bigger advantage over some of the other guys in our team," he said.

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



of inside information."

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

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

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

James Vince came in after

England decided against selecting Hales following the Nottinghamshire batsman's ban for recreational drug use.

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

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

'Dhoni will be India's trump card'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zampa confident of posing dual spin threat with Lyon

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

"We play two different roles. (Lyon) is so accurate, a beautiful off-spinner, bowls to his field really well and bowls really

tight. That means I can attack from the other end."

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

"We've communicated really well over the last few months. We speak a lot in the nets, we speak a lot in the field, just about whatever — anything — spin bowling, field settings or how the ball's going to come out. Just anything," he said.

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

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

Test experience helped Riaz in WC selection

PTI ■ KARACHI

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

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

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

Wahab and another experienced left-arm pacer



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Xi calls for co-existence of various civilisations

Chinese president Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the opening of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations. With the theme of "Exchanges and mutual learning among Asian civilizations and a community with a shared future," the conference aims to deepen cooperation among Asian countries. Here are the highlights:

Humanity needs cultural strength to address challenges ahead

Humanity needs cultural strength, besides economic and technological strength, to cope with common challenges and head toward a bright future.

The intensifying global challenges humanity is facing now require concerted effort from countries across the world.

Asian civilizations write 'brilliant chapter' in human civilization

Asian civilizations have written a brilliant chapter in human civilization.

Being one of the earliest human settlements and a major birthplace of human civilization, Asia takes up one third of the total land on Earth, has two thirds of the global population, and consists of 47 countries and more than 1,000 ethnic groups.

Asian people have made incredible cultural achievements over the past thousands of years and they have started cultural exchanges and mutual learning since the early days.

Asian people's aspiration for better life should become reality

Geographically and culturally connected, Asian countries have experienced similar historical situations and pursue the same dream.

Facing future, Asian countries should grasp overall situation and strive to turn people's aspiration for a better life into reality.

Asian people expect peaceful, stable Asia

I hope all Asian countries will respect and trust each other, co-exist in harmony, expand cross-border, cross-time-and-space as well as cross-civilization exchanges, and jointly maintain the peaceful time that is more valuable than gold.

Asian people expect Asia of common prosperity

I hope all Asian countries will jointly promote economic globalization that is open, inclusive, balanced, and beneficial to all, and work together to eliminate poverty and backwardness in some countries.

Asian people expect open, integrated Asia

Civilizations will lose vitality if countries go back to isolation and cut themselves off from the rest of the world.

Mutual respect, equal treatment among civilizations stressed

It is foolish to believe that one's race and civilization are superior to others, and it is disastrous to willfully reshape or even replace other civilizations.

Harmonious co-existence of various civilizations called for

We should leave various civilizations in the world all in full blossom.

There would be no clash of civilizations as long as people are able to appreciate the beauty of them all.

Openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning among civilizations stressed

Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations should be conducted in a reciprocal and equal manner, and be diversified and multi-directional. They should not be compulsory or forced, or be a one-way flow.

Civilizations should keep pace with times

Innovation should be encouraged to give impetus and vitality to the progress of civilizations.

Asia tourism promotion plan proposed

China is willing to implement an Asia tourism promotion plan with other countries.

Chinese people made more than 160 million outbound trips in 2018 while inbound trips by overseas tourists exceeded 140 million. They are important forces for promoting exchanges and mutual learning among Chinese and foreign civilizations.

Chinese civilization greatly promotes progress of human civilization

China's paper-making, gunpowder, printing, compass, calendar, philosophy and people-oriented view have exerted profound influence in the world and greatly promoted the development process of human civilization.

Chinese civilization is an open system formed during constant exchanges and mutual learning with other civilizations.

In the future, China will surely embrace the world with a more open posture and contribute more dynamic civilization achievements to the world.

Confidence of civilization urged

Asia should enhance confidence of civilization.

We should keep exchanges and mutual learning with other civilizations in the world, and strive to continue writing new brilliant chapters of Asian civilizations.

Chinese civilization expounded

Seeking goodwill with neighbors and harmony with all nations is the Chinese way of engaging with the world.

Benefiting the people and providing them with stability and prosperity are the distinctive value of Chinese civilization.

Keeping reforming and innovating, and advancing with the times are the unchanged spirit of Chinese civilization.

Following the rules of nature and uniting human and universe are the philosophy of existence for Chinese civilization.

(Chinadaily)

ECHO

US and China should cooperate with mutual respect, equality and good faith

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference on May 14, 2019.

Q: According to media reports, US President Trump said on Twitter that trade talks were 95 percent there when China took back some of its previous commitments. Some people believe it is the US indication that China's backtracking led to current setbacks in trade talks. I wonder if you have any comment on that?

A: The spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce responded to similar questions last week. Here I'd like to make some brief statements.

First, it is only natural

to have differences in a negotiation because, by definition, it is a process of discussions. The differences we have are exactly the reason why we are continuing the talks. Now with the talks still going on and a deal yet to be concluded, how can one blame the other for breaking commitments?

Second, if you look at previous media coverage on the past 11 rounds of trade talks, you will see clearly which side has been flipping all along. In May last year, China and the US reached consensus on trade and issued a joint statement in Washington, D.C. But just a few days after that, the US abandoned the agreement. In December last year, the

two sides reached consensus on the value of China's purchases from the US, but in the following talks the US want only rejected the agreement and asked for more. It is never China that backtracks and breaks commitments.

Third, it takes the joint efforts from both sides to make a deal. China honors promises and has demonstrated the utmost sincerity and good will in the talks. We hope the US can meet us halfway and strive for an agreement that benefits both sides in the spirit of mutual respect, equality and good faith.

(News source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China)

REMARKABLE 70 YEARS

Natural gas consumption exceeded 280 billion cubic metres in 2018



Editor's note: The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past seven decades, China has developed from a poor, weak country to the second largest economy in the world. This issue, we continue the column called "Remarkable 70 years" to help you understand the great changes that have taken place in New China.

In order to better meet the gas demand for natural gas, the Sinopec Huabei Oil and Gas Branch, which is responsible for the development of the Daniudi Gas Field, has taken the time to ensure production. Since the founding of New China, our Party and Government have attached great importance to energy development, and the supply has been guaranteed and the structure has been increasingly optimized. Data shows that China's natural gas consumption in 2018 reached 280.3 billion cubic meters, an increase of 18.1% over the previous year.

The picture shows China-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline - Kunming West Branch natural gas Bijimen Station put into operation. Photo by Yang Zheng

CULTURE

Hulusi, a musical instrument popular among ethnic minorities in Yunnan



Hulusi is a free-reed wind instrument from China. It is made of a gourd with three bamboo pipes inserted into the bottom end of the gourd wind chest. The bamboo pipes consist of one main pipe which

has finger holes for making different tones and two drone pipes which can play chord. It is mainly used by minority ethnic groups in Yunnan province and it has a clarinet-like sound.

Photo taken on May 11,

2019 shows a traditional Chinese musical instrument Hulusi at an art school at Qijiang, southwest China's Yunnan Province.

By Yang Zongyuo

TRAVEL

Vernal scenery seen in Shangri-La in May

In May each year, the wild azalea fields along the tourist routes extend for 50 plus kilometers in Shangri-La of Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, forming a spectacular sight.

With azaleas flowering on the undulating ridges, in the gullies

and over the verdant hills, the Shangri-La tourist routes are turned into seas of lowers.

The Rhododendron woods in the Baima Snow Mountain are rated as one of the top ten beautiful forests in China by the magazine called Chinese National Geography.

The Baima Snow Mountain boasts the most complete vegetation spectrum in the alpine valleys. With nearly 90 azalea varieties, the Rhododendron trees can be as tall as 8 meters. The little azalea shrubs are as short as 0.3 m.

By Li Hengqiang

Yunnan Fuxian Lake photo exhibition debuts in Paris

Yunnan is the province with the most ethnic minorities in China. In the long historical process, 26 different ethnic groups have created a colorful and distinctive traditional culture, which has rich connotations and traditional features.

The "Yunnan Fuxian Lake Photo Exhibition" hosted by the China Cultural Center of Paris, the Chinese and Foreign Cultural

Exchange Center and the China Tourism Office in Paris was exhibited at the Chinese Cultural Center in Paris in Apr.30.

Fang Bin, general manager of Yunnan M60 (Miracle happens on 60 mu deserted factory) Cultural and Creative Park, presented Chengjiang County with a book entitled "One Word, One City and One Lake" reflecting the beautiful

scenery of Chengjiang County and the beautiful scenery of Fuxian Lake.

60 scenic photographs and news photos of Fuxian Lake, vividly showing the ecological protection, rural construction, and cultural integration of Fuxian Lake which have made the guests yearn for traveling to Yunnan.

By Liu Yanqin

Indian expert dubs Indian, Chinese civilisations 'cousin cultures'

Describing the Indian and Chinese civilizations as "cousin cultures," a renowned Indian scholar said that it was a matter of great honor that India and China share their historic relationship in such a vibrant manner in contemporary times.

Lokesh Chandra, litterateur and former president of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), said that India-China ties are very ancient, recalling that a Chinese emperor invited two Indian monks to China to introduce Buddhism during the 3rd century.

"Sugar went to China from India, and India got tea from China. And then we shared the concepts of art. Today in Beijing alone there are over 1,600 Buddhist sacred places and temples, from this you can imagine the depth of our age-old relationship," Chandra said in an interview with Xinhua prior to the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations (CDAC) starting from May 15 in Beijing.

About the languages being part of both countries' cultures and civilizations and establishing a connection between the two, he said that mandarin itself is a Sanskrit word Mantri which means "minister" in Hindi.

The Chinese people have developed their national language to a very high level, he added.

Based on a strong culture and civilization, the speed of scientific development of China is very remarkable, said Chandra, an expert on culture and a leading academician.

"I wish the conference a great success," said Chandra.

By Pankaj Yadav, Zhao Xu



Pictured is a chef making Indian Roti at Beijing Olympic Park On May 16. As one of the activities of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian

Civilizations, the Asian food festival will last for a week. The food and cultural feast will showcase the colorful Asian culture and style of

Asian civilization. The general public can enjoy Asian food without going abroad. Photo by Zhang Chenlin, Xinhua



Asia is the birthplace of many ancient civilizations. For thousands of years, in the long history of human development, various civilizations with distinctive features have passed on and integrated with each other, forming a colorful world. Colorful Asia with various customs. Pictured is Indian girls performed at the Pushkar camel festival.

By Zheng Huansong, Xinhua

"Chinese friends have helped lift more of us out of poverty"



Lao farmers giving a thumbs-up to a Chinese agricultural irrigation project, thanking China for its help

in the dry season, because there is a steady supply of irrigation water. Sometimes more and sometimes less rain in the rainy season which is not conducive to the growth of rice. The rice production has increased, thanks to the irrigation system that China helped build."

The Saybungfai is the first tributary of the Mekong River. The basin is fertile and is an important grain producing area in central Laos. More than 100,000 hectares of plains can be used to develop agricultural production. Over the years, small irrigation and flood control projects have been built on the river, but their irrigation and flood control capacity is low, and downstream farmland and villages are often threatened by drought and flooding.

With the operation of the irrigation project, life of the villagers in Nongping has undergone a welcome change. "With the irrigation system, not only rice planting area is expanded, but also other cash crops can be planted. Rice, vegetables, fruit trees and fish ponds

have increased villagers incomes. We no longer have to worry about children's tuition fees, nor do we have to go to work in Thailand. The family is very happy being together," villager Banong said to us.

A total of nine villages with over 1300 farm households benefited from the project, the same as Nongping Village. The tail-water gate No. 3 irrigation project of Nanteng No. 2 Hydropower Station has formed an irrigation area of 2,800 hectares, providing a stable water source for the cultivation of rice and other cash crops.

Yongmara County covers an area of about 120,000 hectares. There are 46 villages with more than 35,000 villagers. Director of County Agriculture and Forestry Bureau told the reporter that the County's paddy and other crops land total more than 7,000 hectares. There are seven irrigation systems, of which China has helped build the longest irrigation canal, which is of great significance for increasing the arable land

area, alleviating the damage of rainy season floods and increasing crop yields. Dry season rice is exported to countries like Thailand and Vietnam, and we hope to sell rice to China as well.

It is said that with irrigation systems, rice yields have nearly doubled to 4 to 5 tons per hectare.

On April 30 this year, China and Laos signed an Action Plan on Building a China-Laos Community of Shared Future. According to the Action Plan, China will send agricultural experts to Laos to help train leading farmers to become rich, jointly build China-Laos modern agricultural industrial cooperation demonstration parks, increase agricultural output and added value of agricultural products, and encourage the development of sustainable agriculture and export-oriented agriculture. "This will bring unprecedented opportunities for agriculture development in Laos", said a member of Lao Parliament. (Adapted from People's Daily)

After driving more than 400 kilometers South-east from Vientiane, the capital of Laos, we arrived at a village called Nongping in the south-central province of Khammouan.

May is a hot season in Laos. After rice harvest, Zhuokan from Nongping Village is ploughing with a tractor. He said, "Rainy season is coming soon. If I plough the fields well, I can plant rice seedlings when the rain comes. If

there is no rain, there is no need to worry. Irrigation canal is right next to the rice fields and water is always available."

"The rice production has increased, thanks to the irrigation system that China helped build."