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Cong fears toppling bid in MP

As LoP writes to Guv, Nath says ready for floor test; K'taka Govt too alarmed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Congress fears the destabilisation of its Government in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka if the Modi regime returns to power as predicted by the exit polls. On Monday, Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Assembly Gopal Bhargava said the party will ask Governor Anandiben Patel to convene a special session of the State Assembly "to discuss important issues and test the Congress Government's strength".

- There is a lot of confusion prevailing over the stability of the Congress-led Government in MP, says BJP
- Two short of the majority mark on its own, the Congress has the support of the BSP and the SP in the House
- The LS poll results on May 23 could determine the future of the Karnataka's Congress-JD(S) Government, which has been subsisting on a wafer-thin majority



have already told them...The BJP is trying it for long. I have proved majority in the House four times in the last five months and I am ready for floor test again
KAMAL NATH

I am writing a letter to the Governor for convening a special session of MP Assembly shortly. We want discussion important issues like the farm loan waiver and (to) test the Government strength
GOPAL BHARGAVA



MP Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Monday said he is prepared to go for a floor test.

At the same time, there are apprehensions that the return of Modi "sarkar" will precipitate the ongoing political crisis in Karnataka, where the Congress and its alliance party, Janata Dal (S), have been at loggerheads for months.

"I am writing a letter to the Governor for convening a special session of MP Assembly shortly. We want discussion on important issues like the farm loan waiver and (to) test the Government strength," Bhargava told PTI.

He said the Congress,

instead of debating issues in the House, was dumping papers at former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's residence, claiming that loans of 21 lakh farmers in Madhya Pradesh have been waived.

The Congress is skirting debate on important issues, Bhargava said. During decisions and financial matters, we are going to seek division to test whether the weak Congress Government enjoys its support in the House, he said.

We have not drawn up a

strategy for the floor test of the Government, he said. There is a lot of confusion prevailing over the stability of the Congress-led Government in MP, he added.

The BJP said the Kamal Nath-led Congress Government should prove majority in the Assembly.

The BJP demand comes a day after as many as six exit polls predicted a 300 plus seats for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the Lok Sabha elections.

The exit polls also said the BJP will win maximum number of Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh.

In elections for the 230-member Assembly last year, the Congress won 114 seats and the BJP come a close second with 109. The Bahujan Samaj Party has two seats, the Samajwadi Party one and the Independents four seats.

The Congress had wrested power from the BJP in Madhya Pradesh after 15 years of the saffron rule. Two short of the

majority mark on its own, the Congress has the support of the BSP and the SP in the House.

The Congress accused the BJP of attempting to destabilise the Kamal Nath Government in Madhya Pradesh through use of "corrupt practices" and said in doing so they are trying to negate the mandate of people of the State.

Congress general secretary incharge of Madhya Pradesh Deepak Babariya said the people of the State had rejected the BJP and voted them out in the Assembly elections.

Babariya said the people had rejected the BJP Government's policies and had voted them out of power due to their "malgovernance".

The result of the Lok Sabha elections on May 23 could also determine the future of the Congress-JD(S) Government in Karnataka, which has been subsisting on a wafer-thin majority over the past year.

At least half a dozen Congress MLAs are reportedly in touch with the BJP for weeks and post-May 23 Lok Sabha poll results they could actively try, with the help of the BJP, to topple the State Government, sources said.

Shah to host dinner for partners today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With exit polls predicting a comfortable victory for the NDA in the Lok Sabha elections, BJP president Amit Shah will host a dinner for leaders of the alliance partners on Tuesday to discuss the Government formation exercise at the Centre. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to be present at the dinner.

Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and Lok Janshakti Party head Ram Vilas Paswan are likely to attend the meeting, which will take place two days before the counting of votes for the Lok Sabha polls on May 23.

A meeting of key BJP leaders, including Union Ministers, is also scheduled to be held at the party headquarters before the dinner meeting with allies.

The BJP's decision to start the Government formation exercise before the election results stems from six exit polls predicting 300 plus Lok Sabha seats for the NDA. Several BJP leaders asserted on Monday that the party will get a majority on its own, repeating the unprecedented feat it achieved in 2014 by winning 282 seats.

Confident of winning the polls, Modi has reportedly asked the PMO to be ready with programmes for next 100 days.

While the BJP leadership is supremely confident of returning to power, the Opposition has not given up hopes despite the fact that the exit polls has predicted a grim scenario for the Congress and other regional parties.

As part of his ongoing exercise to unite the Opposition to keep alive the prospect of dislodging the NDA if it fails to get the numbers, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu on Monday met his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee at her Kalighat residence.

The two leaders did not make any official statement

BJP strategises Govt formation activities; TDP chief Naidu refuses to give up hopes, meets Mamata to keep Opp chances afloat



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party president N Chandrababu Naidu with West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee at her residence in Kolkata on Monday

after their 45-minute meeting, but sources said they discussed a whole lot of issues that could arise after the poll results.

The two leaders also discussed issues that should find focus on a possible common minimum programme "should a situation arise" where an Opposition Government becomes a possibility.

Sources said the leaders also discussed ways to keep all the constituents of the grand alliance united under one umbrella.

Naidu had met Congress president Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar and other leaders before discussion with Mamata. The Bengal Chief Minister had on Sunday reject-

ed exit polls' prediction.

Meanwhile, violence continued even after the conclusion of the seventh phase of general elections in Bengal with voters from many villages making appeals to the Election Commission to delay the departure of Central forces. "We want the CRPF to stay in Bengal for another one month otherwise they will torch our houses and loot our belongings," said Sona Mondal of Mathurapur.

"Our houses have been looted and our men have been badly beaten up by TMC men. They have threatened to loot and torch our houses after the Central forces leave the State," she said.

State plans producing bio-fuel from paddy

IIT Bhilai, Chhattisgarh Govt sign MoU for bio-fuel research

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday said generating bio-fuel from paddy will be a unique initiative in the country for which inclusive efforts is required.

The state has ample opportunities to generate bio-fuel from paddy, sugarcane and other agricultural products, he said, adding that the state government intends to establish more agro-based industries in



the state.

He was addressing the concluding session of a 'National Workshop on Bio fuel from

Agri Produce' at Convention Hall, New Circuit House, Civil Lines, Raipur. The Chhattisgarh Bio-fuel Development

Authority (CBDA) and Energy Department jointly organised the event.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between I.I.T Bhilai director Rajat Mona and special secretary, energy Qaiser Abdul Haque for preparation of high quality bio-fuel research and work plan.

Exhorting agriculture scientists, research institutions and industries, Baghel said farmers should get appropriate value for their produce like paddy, for which such strategy be made to generate bio fuel from paddy.

It can be beneficial for industries, generate employment for local residents and will help in conservation of environment and procurement of

bio fuel, he added.

At minimum support price 80 lakh tone of paddy was procured at a rate of Rs 2500 per quintal, the CM said. The agriculture production is increasing in the state with betterment of irrigation facilities.

The states which were once procuring paddy from Chhattisgarh have also hiked their paddy production. Such situation warrants for generation of bio-fuel from paddy, the CM said.

Taking a cue from earlier effort to generate bio-diesel, Baghel said lessons should be learnt to move ahead.

Forest minister Mohammed Akbar, cooperative minister Premsai Singh and industries minister Kawasi Lakhma also addressed the session.

Exit poll unreliable, proved 'dubious' during polls: Baghel

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in a statement on Monday categorically rejected the exit poll results aired by various television news channels on Sunday, terming the findings 'dubious'.

Talking to a section of media persons, Baghel said the people of Chhattisgarh had proved the exit poll results wrong in recently concluded assembly polls in the state.

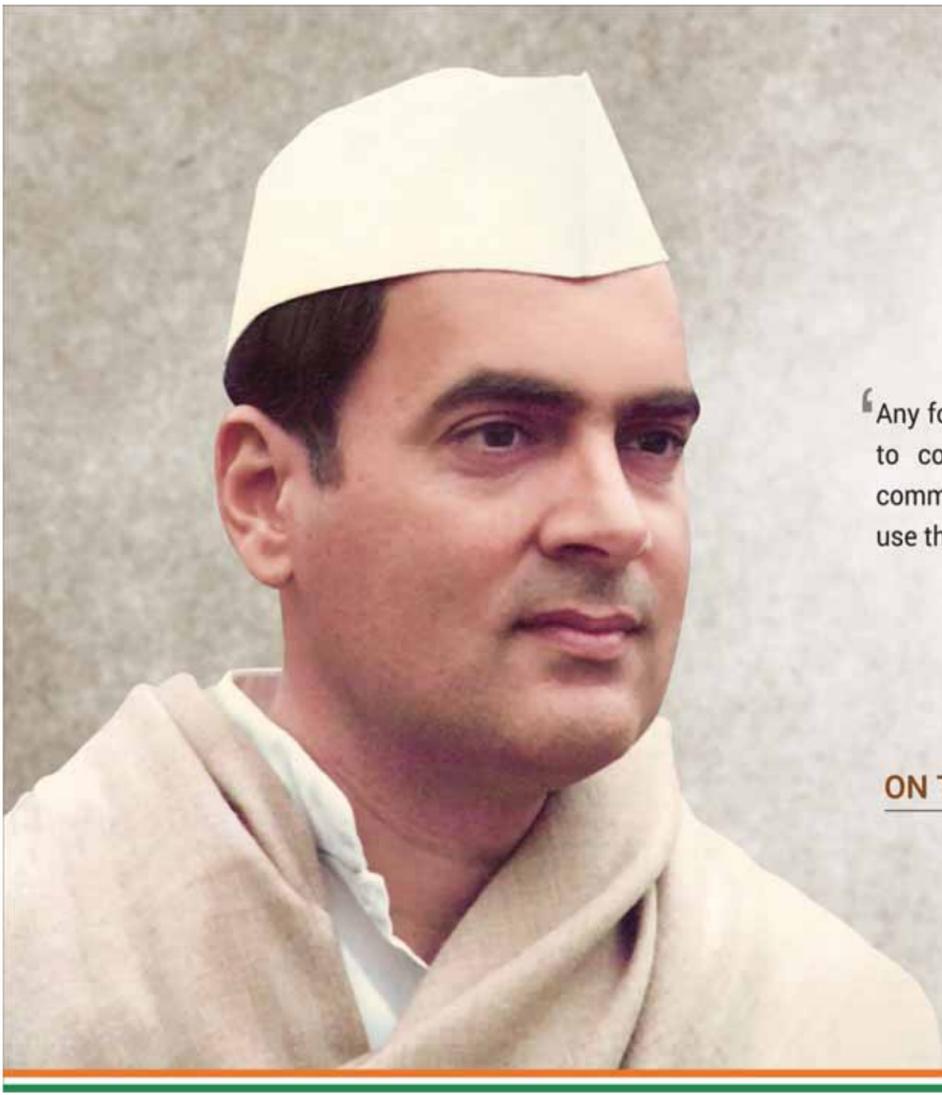
Exit polls had then predicted a clean sweep for the Bharatiya Janata Party, but ultimately it was

Congress which formed the government with more than a two-third majority in the state.

"The survey agencies does a random sample survey and come to a conclusion but on my opinion the results would be different", remarked Baghel.

"It is my strong belief that the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) would form the next government at the Centre clinching more than 300 seats. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on the other hand would be restricted within 200 seats."

Notably, ahead of the announcement of 2018 assembly election results in Chhattisgarh in December last year, 10 out of the 11 exit poll surveys had predicted that BJP led NDA was going to form a government in the state with a comfortable majority.



"Any force, any communal force, any religious force, that is out to counter secularism, any political force that relies on communalism or on religious interests, must not be allowed to use this interest to weaken the nation."

- Rajiv Gandhi

REMEMBERING
RAJIV GANDHI TODAY,
ON THE 28th ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MARTYRDOM

20th August 1944 - 21st May 1991



24 Akbar Road, New Delhi

Issued by Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee, Rajiv Bhawan, Anupam Nagar, Raipur

BJP seeks repolling in violence-hit Bengal seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A BJP delegation, led by Union Minister Piyush Goyal, met the Election Commission (EC) on Monday and demanded that repolls be held in some constituencies where violence occurred in West Bengal and Central forces be deployed for free and fair counting in the State.

"We have met the Election Commissioners and informed them about the violence that had taken place in all the seven phases of the Lok Sabha polls and requested for re-polling in all the violence-affected constituencies," Goyal said after meeting EC officials. He was accompanied by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and senior BJP leaders.

Goyal said party candidates and agents, deployed in West Bengal, were being threatened and the Election Commission should take strict action against the culprits. "We have enlisted with the EC some constituencies for repolling," he said.

Accusing West Bengal CM of threatening BJP candidates, poll agents and party sympathisers, the BJP leader said that Mamata Banerjee has been



BJP leaders Piyush Goyal, Nirmala Sitharaman and others talk to the media after meeting with the Election Commission of India at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi on Monday

repeatedly threatening the people of the State that 'chunao ke baad sabak sikhayengi' (she will deal with them after election) and the kind of violence seen till seven phase of general elections, it is apprehended that violence may take place again.

"We saw incidents of violence took place till the last phase of polling. There is possibility of violence even after counting of votes. So, we have requested the

Commission to deploy the central forces in Electronic Voting Machine strong rooms till the end of counting to allow free and fair counting," he said.

It is requested that the EC should deploy central forces at all EVMs strongrooms. Till the Model Code of Conduct is in force, personnel already deployed should remain there so that people are reassured that no violence will be tolerated," Goyal

added.

The senior BJP leaders also appealed to the poll panel to ensure the sanctity of the counting process in Odisha, Karnataka, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

"Independent observers must be sent in these states and CCTV cameras must be installed in all counting stations in the five States," he said.

TDP urges EC to ensure YSRCP doesn't disturb counting process

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The TDP on Monday wrote to the Election Commission urging adequate security in the counting premises to ensure the "YSRCP members do not disturb the counting process" in the State. The letter from TDP Rajya Sabha member K Ravindra Kumar came a day after YSR Congress Party approached the poll body seeking free and fair counting of votes.

YSR Congress Party national general secretary V Vijayasai Reddy had written to the EC alleging that the TDP has "trained some unruly elements and appointed them as their counting agents to disturb the counting process in case their candidates are trailing in the State".

Accusing YSRCP of mischievous game plan like the deletion of genuine voters of TDP by filing applications in bulk in the name of unknown persons from



places like Pune and Kolkata, TDP wrote: "We request the Election Commission to provide adequate security in the counting premises to ensure the YSRCP doesn't disturb the counting process."

The letter further states: "As the political parties are not allowed to carry food inside the counting hall premises, necessary arrangements have to be made by the concerned Returning Officers (ROs) to provide food and water to the counting agents also along with other counting person-

nel...Therefore, instructions may be issued to all ROs to provide food and drinking water to the counting agents during the period of counting."

The TDP leader also requested the EC "to issue instructions to the concerned officials to permit the counting agents to carry Form 17C Part-I/account of votes recorded, Form 17C part-II / scrolling sheet for recording the votes counted and required white papers and pen to make any representation on the counting issues."

IN SHORT

ITBP SHOWS DISPLEASURE OVER CPWD'S WORK SPEED

New Delhi: Indo-Tibetan Border Police Inspector General Vijay Kumar Singh has expressed displeasure over the slow pace of construction of residential quarters and barracks by the CPWD. In a letter to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) Director General, Prabhakar Singh, last week, Singh said out of the 1,970 residential quarters sanctioned in 2016-17, only 753 have been constructed, while 1,217 are still under construction.

MINISTERS CLEAR ALL DUES: MOHUA

New Delhi: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on Monday clarified that all earlier dues have been cleared by the respective Ministers. "The raising of demands for dues on account of use of furniture in official accommodations provided to the Ministers/MPs is a continuous process. The demands for dues are raised on quarterly basis and settled regularly," the Ministry said.

SUSHMA TO ATTEND SCO MEET IN BISHKEK

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will attend a two-day meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), beginning on Tuesday, in Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, during which several pressing issues including threat of terrorism are expected to be discussed. The MEA said the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) will exchange views on topical issues of international and regional importance, besides reviewing the preparation for the SCO Summit in Bishkek from June 13-14.

CHINA BEGINS SHARING HYDROLOGICAL DATA

New Delhi: China has begun sharing hydrological data with India on the Brahmaputra river for this year's monsoon season. It is also expected to start sharing data on the Sutlej River from June 1, the start of monsoon season in the country. New Delhi: Blue Rose Publishers has released a book "Knock Knock Let's Talk" written by Dr Ankit Sapan Marjadi. The book, covering topics like how to remain positive in life, also provides some health related tips but the main theme of the book is based on 'Pregnancy' and 'Teaching good qualities to unborn'.

Count all VVPATs, if EVM figures mismatch: Yechury

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Monday demanded that VVPAT slips should be fully counted if there is any discrepancy with EVM figures.

"On VVPATs & the EVM tally, the EC is yet to come out with a procedure in case there is a mismatch! Even if there is one mismatch in the VVPAT samples picked for counting and EVMs, to maintain integrity of the electoral process, all VVPATs in that Assembly segment must be counted," he tweeted.

With the exit polls predicting a debacle for the Left Front in the Lok Sabha election, the leaders of various Left parties are set to play a waiting game as regards joining the UPA or being part of a non-Congress federal front. A majority of the exit polls have predicted 14-16 seats for the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF)



in Kerala, 4-6 seats for the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and one seat for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In West Bengal, a State ruled by the Left Front for 34 years, a majority of the exit polls have given no seats

to it, which could mean the worst ever performance of the front in the State. "It is very clear that an Opposition front and its strategy can only be formed after the election results on May 23. One thing is clear that a secular, alternative Government will be formed at the Centre. Who will make it and how will it be created will be decided after the results," Sitaram Yechury told reporters here.

Meanwhile, Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary S Sudhakar Reddy said they would sit in the Opposition if no party got a clear majority. "We have our national executive on May 27-28. We will not take any decision before that. If no party gets a majority, we will sit in the opposition," he said.

CPI national secretary D Raja conceded that this could be the Left's worst poll performance in years. "What role we will play will be decided post May 23," he said.

IF EXIT POLLS MATCH FINAL RESULTS

Opp's fake EVM charge will lose credibility: Jaitley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after pollsters predicted a second term for the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Monday pointed out that EVMs play no role in exit polls and if the actual results of the general election are in consonance with the projections, "the Opposition's fake issue of the EVMs would also lose its non-existent rationale".

"Many of us may continue to squabble over correctness and accuracy of the Exit Polls. The hard reality is that when multiple Exit Polls convey the same message, the direction of the result broadly would be in consonance with the message," Jaitley said in a blogpost titled "The Message of

Exit Polls'.

"If the Exit Polls are read along with the 2014 election results, it would be clear that there is a huge maturing of Indian democracy taking place. The electorate keeps national interest paramount before exercising a choice on whom to vote for. When well-meaning people with similar ideas vote in the same direction, it leads to the making of a wave," he said.

Referring to the Congress, Jaitley said that the Gandhi family has become a liability for the grand-old party. "... In the Congress the first family is no longer an asset but an albatross around neck of the Party. Without the family, they don't get the crowd, with it they don't get the votes," he said.

He also said the personalised campaign against Prime Minister Modi did not cut much ice in 2014 and may not cut any ice in 2019.

"Leaders are judged on merit and not on caste or family names. Thus, the Prime Minister's style of rising above caste and concentrating on performance related issues received far more acceptability with the electorate," Jaitley said.

He said the voters are no longer willing to trust 'Coalition of Rivals' as their alliances are untenable.

The arithmetic of caste coalitions is no longer valid and has yielded place to national interest. "Fake issues only satisfy the 'manufacturers of fakery'. The voters don't buy them," Jaitley added.

Terror funding: NIA raids 10 locations in Tamil Nadu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday conducted searches at 10 locations of the accused persons at Muthupet, Keelakarai, Devipattinam, Lalpet and Salem in connection with investigation of the Keelakarai case, related to conspiracy to procure arms for their terrorist group, raise funds to wage armed struggle, facilitate escape of terrorists from jail and wage war against the country.

During the searches, the NIA seized a number of digital devices including three laptops, three hard discs, 16 mobile phones, eight SIM cards, two pen drives, five memory cards and one card reader besides two knives and a large number of incriminating documents.

"The case relates to a group of ten persons from different parts of Tamil Nadu who had formed a WhatsApp group named 'SHAHADAT IS OUR GOAL'. In 2018, they conspired together to procure arms for their terrorist group, to raise funds to wage armed struggle, to facilitate the escape of terrorists from jail and to propagate their ideology, to act against the State, the NIA said in a statement.

The case was initially registered on April 2, 2018 at Keelakarai police station of Ramanathapuram district of Tamilnadu, under Crime No. 46/2018 under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Arms Act 1959 against ten accused, out of which nine accused were arrested earlier. One accused is

still absconding. Later, all the 9 arrested accused were released on bail by the Court.

IPC sections relating to criminal conspiracy, religious or sectarian incitement apart from the UA (P)A sections relating to waging war against the country for violation of the Arms Act.

During the last few years, South India has emerged as a major hub for transnational radicalisation groups that are working at the behest of international terrorist groups like the Al Qaeda and ISIS. Various new forms of recruitment methods are adopted by such groups including through virtual technologies like social media and also through an organization like Street Dawah that seeks to attract the gullible youths to its fold by imparting radicalized sermons on Islam.

FROM SUPREME COURT

Centre's plea on applicability of black money law to be heard today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court agreed on Monday to hear on Tuesday the Centre's plea challenging the Delhi High Court order staying its notification to allow the 2016 black money law to operate with retrospective effect from July, 2015 to book and probe offenders.

The Centre is also aggrieved by the interim order of the high court that restrained the Income Tax (I-T) department from taking any action against VVIP chopper scam accused Gautam Khaitan, against whom a black money case has been lodged.

The high court, in its order, said the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of

Tax Act, which was enacted in April 2016, could not be allowed to operate with retrospective effect from July, 2015.

A vacation bench of justices Indra Banerjee and Sanjiv Khanna took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government, that the high court erred in staying the Centre's notification to invoke the black money law with retrospective effect.

"It will be listed tomorrow," the bench said when Mehta said CBI inquiries were launched on the basis of the law's applicability.

The bench refused to entertain the plea of senior advocate N K Kaul, appearing for Khaitan, that the matter be

listed for hearing after a week as Khaitan's advocate-on-record was not available during the week.

"You (Kaul) mention this (non-availability of lawyer) before the bench tomorrow," it said.

On May 16, the high court had restrained the I-T department from taking any action against Khaitan.

On invoking the black money law with retrospective effect, it had said Parliament, in its wisdom, had enacted the Act which was to come into force from April 1, 2016 and as the date was expressly decided by Parliament, it could not be made applicable with retrospective effect by way of a notification. **PTI**

Saradha Scam: Bengal top cop seeks extension of protection

New Delhi: Former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar moved the Supreme Court on Monday seeking extension of the 7-day protection granted to him by it in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam case in view of lawyers' strike in Kolkata.

Kumar's counsel mentioned the matter for urgent listing before a vacation bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and Sanjiv Khanna and said that since lawyers in Kolkata are on strike, the protection granted to the IPS officer should be extended.

The counsel said due to the strike, Kumar was not able to move the competent court for

seeking relief and hence, the protection granted to him be counted from the time the strike ends.

The lawyer told the bench that the top court had on May 17 granted seven days time to Kumar to approach the competent court for legal remedies but four days have already elapsed and they needed time to approach the competent court there.

However, the bench said since the May 17 order was passed by a three-judge bench, Kumar's counsel can approach the apex court registry or the secretary general for listing of the matter before an appropriate bench. **PTI**

India adopts new standards for 4 base units

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Monday adopted a global resolution to redefine four of the seven base units — kilogramme, kelvin, mole and ampere, a move expected to usher in changes in educational textbooks.

A resolution to redefine four of the seven base units was passed by representatives of 60 countries at the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), Paris on November 16 last year.

However, it has been implemented across the world on May 20 — World Meteorology Day, Shekhar Mande, Director General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), said at an event here.



adopted the metric system of measurements, also known as the International System of Units (SI), which has been in practice since 1889. The other base units are — second, metre and candela.

Mande said that quantum computing, artificial intelligence (AI), industry 4.0, and space enabled communications are some of the international challenges of the near future. The fundamental constants

are invariants of time and space and have successfully replaced the artifact based units, and aptly opened up the new era for quantum world by linking all seven base units to fundamental constants or quantum standards, added K Aswal, Director of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), one of the oldest scientific institutes in the country that also takes care of setting meteorology standards domestically.

The purpose of system units is to enable worldwide coherence of measurements. The International System of Units (SI) was formalised in 1960 and has been updated several times to account for development in measurement technology.

"Since the 1960s, we have to rely ever more heavily on advanced science and engineering in our day-to-day lives, and also in manufacturing, healthcare and science. The proposed changes in the unit definition have been designed to have no immediate consequences," he said.

The unit redefinitions represent a profound change of perspective and they are expected to form the foundations of improved measurements for decades to come as science and technology continues to develop in a way we cannot currently foresee, Aswal

said. However, this "may not change anything drastically", he pointed out adding it will matter when it comes to measurements less than a kilogramme. For instance, measuring smaller diamonds.

The NPL has also sent recommendations on the proposed changes to be incorporated in the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to implement them in contemporary education.

Recommendations on the proposed changes have also been sent to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), and other academic institutes to be incorporated in syllabi of metrology courses in graduate engineering and academic courses, Aswal added.

ASI to take applications online for public related services from June 1

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

From June 1, 2019, no more hassles of running around the local offices of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) for seeking permission — whether it is related to export permit for antiquity or shooting of films, photography or holding cultural events at the national monuments protected under the Central agency.

To ensure accountability and transparency as well as reduce paperwork besides convenience of the public, the premier archeological body under the Union Culture Ministry has decided to entertain applications online for granting permissions for its various public related services.

For instance, those seeking no objection certificates (NOC)

for mining or for construction of power plant near the monuments or looking for registration of antiquity too will have to apply through the ASI's portal for permission. Their applications will be scrutinised and accordingly replied. "In case the application is accepted, the applicant will be asked to deposit the fee, if case any. The fate of rejected applications will be informed online only," said a senior official from the Ministry.

Issuance of temporary export permit for antiquity, proposal for excavation and exploration from the archeologists will be accepted online only, he said adding that the move is the part of the government's Digital India programme.

All the ASI offices across about 70 across the country have already been informed to be pre-

pared for the online job and ensure that the applicants are informed of the development so that they do not have to go through the hassle of paper works like sending documents to the offices.

Meanwhile, as the part of the Digital India, the ASI has already expanded e-ticketing services to its 26 more monuments including Haуз Khas in Delhi from April 1.

Prior to these 26 monuments, Taj Mahal, Agra and Humayun's Tomb, Saldarjung Tomb, Tughlakabad Fort, Old Fort (Purana Qila), Red Fort, Kotla Firozshah, Jantar Mantar, New Delhi were already covered under the e-ticketing facility (online and at site).

There are 116 ticketed monuments and 32 museums under the protection of ASI.

An enigma called 'Supebeda'

ANKIT MISHRA ■ RAIPUR

My mother died of kidney disorder, so did my uncle, maternal uncle and a nephew and now I am here suffering with the same renal ailments, tells 51-year-old Lalbandhu Kshetrapal, who is undergoing treatment at the DKS Super Specialty Hospital, Raipur for the past two months.

He was detected with renal problem three years back and slowly his both kidneys stopped functioning. He has to undergo dialysis after every two days.

Kshetrapal, a class III state government employee, is a resident of Supebeda village located on Chhattisgarh-Odisha border in Gariaband district, about 230 km south-west of state capital Raipur. The village is infamous for abnormally high prevalence of kidney-related ailments.

According to the state government the problem is acute in Supebeda, while seven other adjacent villages too are affected.

Trilochan Sonwani, a native of Supebeda informed that since 2005 over 103 deaths have been reported in the village. All the deceased persons were suffering from kidney related problems, he claimed.

Sonwani has lost 17 family members to renal diseases and his mother too has been diagnosed with kidney problem.



Lalbandhu Kshetrapal with his son in DKS Super Specialty Hospital Raipur.

"The situation is grim. A month back, one person's engagement broke just because he is a resident of Supebeda. No parent wants to send their daughter to a village where people are dying of kidney-related ailments" he said.

However, Chhattisgarh health department has a different view.

According to Director state health department Shikha Rajput Tiwari, as per official data between 2008 and 2019, 68 deaths were recorded in Supebeda in which the creatinine- levels

of the deceased persons were high.

"It will not be correct to say that all 68 people may have died of kidney related problems, as creatinine level may shoot up due to various health conditions like uncontrolled Sugar, BP and others," she said, while adding that renal problem is prevalent among the residents of Supebeda.

Interestingly, the exact reason why Supebeda villagers are falling prey to renal issues is still "unknown".

In June 2017, a six-member team from Pt Jawaharlal

Nehru (JLN) Memorial Medical College Raipur was sent to Supebeda for investigation the reasons leading to renal failures.

Dr Ashish Sinha from JNL, who was part of the investigation team, found out that levels of fluoride and arsenic was higher in Supebeda. However, he said we cannot conclude that these elements are causing kidney troubles.

"The precise reason that is causing kidney related problem in Supebeda is yet to be identified. However, we suspect water contamination

as one of the reasons leading to renal issues."

As per Health department officials, in a research carried out by a team from Indira Gandhi Agriculture University (IGAU) Raipur the level of cadmium, chromium, cobalt and nickel was detected higher than normal parameters.

Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh Health Minister TS Singhdeo said that the state government was talking to experts from PGI Chandigarh and Medanta hospital New Delhi to come up with a concrete solution.

"We are working in this direction to prevent the occurrence of renal issues in Supebeda and surrounding areas," he told The Pioneer.

Singhdeo accepted that the exact reason causing kidney troubles in Supebeda is yet to be discovered. In the meantime, a project has been approved for purifying the surface water from adjacent 'Tel River' and supply it to the residents of Supebeda, he said.

Director Health informed that a dialysis centre has been established in Devbhog for patients in Supebeda and nearby villages. Supebeda community health centre will be upgraded to a civil hospital, she said.

However, locals claim that the dialysis centre is non-functional.

Baghel concerned over ground-water quality

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday expressed concern over the arsenic, fluoride and iron contents in ground-water used for drinking purposes in the state.

He directed the officials to ensure retaining of rain-water in ponds and rivulets to re-charge groundwater.

Baghel was reviewing implementation of the government's ambitious scheme, 'Narva, Guruva, Ghurva au Baari' (NGGB) at his official residence.

"Time frame for the implementation of the scheme has been relaxed for quality and planned implementation as it is a long-term project and is directly linked to farming and rural economy. The ISRO scientific mapping can be used. Also ensure community participation," Chief Minister directed the



officials. He emphasized on construction of dyke wall in sandy areas of Mahanadi River and revival of catchment areas of river Arpa in Bilaspur. Based on geographical structures, the recharging of rivers and rivulets should be taken up, the CM instructed.

Citing example, he said, ponds are drying up even as there is water in Sheonath River at Berla Tehsil of Bemetara district. "Can solar energy or other sources be used to fill rivulets, ponds during raining season or other period," he asked.

development department additional chief secretary R. P. Mandal briefed the meeting. Sanction for setting up of 1866 'Gautans' in 27 districts have been given. Each "Gautans" will be spread over 5-6 acre of land on an average. Each block of the state will have two model 'Gautans'.

The related works like installation of solar power tube-well, preparation of land for fodder cultivation and plantation fruit bearing trees like mango, jackfruit, guava, peepal, banyan etc., and vermin-compost preparation structures have been undertaken.

Girl Empowerment Mission inaugurated at Sipat

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) was inaugurated by Padmakumar Rajasekharan, chief general manager in the presence of other general managers of the NTPC Limited at Sipat Super Thermal Power Station on Monday.

Addressing the gathering, Padmakumar said GEM programme of the NTPC has been designed for holistic development of girls of associated villages. And its result will be shown in near future, according to a NTPC press release.

"It is a unique initiative of the NTPC Limited under its CSR activity. Under this



initiative 120 girls of government schools of associated villages will undergo one-month free residential training, comprises academic classes and a series of extracurricular activities and self defence," the press release said.

The programme has been designed to help the meritorious girls students

who has high ambition to achieve greater heights in their future life.

The meritorious trainees of the GEM programme who will join engineering and medical course, the NTPC will bear all the expense related to that. Apart from this 10 percent girls can be enrolled in the NTPC school free of cost.

Farmer duping case: Two horticulture officials arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

Two officials of the horticulture department were arrested on Monday for their alleged involvement in fraudulent release of loans to two farmers through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and facilitating the middlemen

to dupe the innocent farmers of the Bastar region. Bastar City Superintendent of Police Hemsagar Sidar informed that two officials

Upendra Choudhari and R.K. Mishra were arrested following the arrest of two middlemen.

With the arrest of these two a total of four

persons have been arrested in connection with the farmers' duping case, the official said.

Notable, after legal assistance the farmers lodged complaints against seven of the accused. Of them two middlemen Balram Chawda and Raghu Sethia were already arrested a couple of

days ago. Incidents of duping illiterate farmers by middlemen have come to the fore in the Bastar region recently when two of the farmers Tularam Maurya and Sukhdas of the region were arrested in connection with a cheque-bounce case.

Later, it was found that the touts in nexus

with horticulture department officials and bank officials had duped the innocent farmers. The modus operandi in these cases was to take the loan books and thumb impression of farmers on documents to get the sanctioned amount from the bank. Since the farmers are illiterate they often don't

know the exact amount of the sanctioned loan. The arrest triggered protest over the "injustice" done to the innocent farmers who have been duped. The farmers were, however, released on bail later by a lower court after a preliminary investigation found they were innocent.

Six killed, 10 injured in truck-SUV collision in Surajpur

STAFF REPORTER ■ SURAJPUR

Six people, including a Swoman and a minor girl, were killed and 10 others were injured when an SUV collided head-on with a truck in Surajpur district on Monday afternoon, police said.

"The accident happened at Pindari Ghat under Chandera police station limits when 15 people were going to Kudargarh temple in Surajpur in an SUV," Superintendent of Police Surajpur GS Jaiswal said.

According to the SP, the collision happened around 7 km from the police station between 1:00 and 1:30 am when the truck coming from the opposite direction lost control on wheels and rammed the SUV.

The collision was so intense that five people includ-

ing the truck driver died on the spot. Some kind of malfunctioning in the gear box caused the truck driver to lose control on the truck, the SP added.

After getting the information, a police team rushed to the spot and shifted the victims to a local hospital where a woman succumbed to her injuries, the SP said.

The deceased were identified as Ratu Bhuiya (45), Dhyam Ram Bhuiya (50), Reshma (12), Andulna (45), SUV's driver Pannalal Kushwaha (32), all natives of Balrampur district, and truck driver Shanshah Ahmed (32), a native of Sonbhadra district in Uttar Pradesh, the official said. The injured were later shifted to Ambikapur district for better treatment, he informed. Meanwhile, police has registered a case in this connection.

EOW interrogates Ex-SP Rajnesh Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Suspended IPS officer Rajnesh Singh on Monday went to the office of Economic Offence Wing (EOW) to record his statement in the purported illegal phone tapping case.

Singh, a former Sukma superintendent of plice, was questioned by a team of police officer at length. Sources in the department informed that he denied any wrongdoing.

Notably, the suspended DG Mukesh Gupta had already given his statement to the EOW in the illegal phone tapping case. Gupta claimed that he had all required permissions from the state government for tapping the calls. FIR was registered against Singh under Sections 166, 166 A(b) 167 (Public servant disobeying law,



with intent to cause injury to any person), 471 (Using as genuine a forged) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of Indian Penal Code (IPC). He was also charged under the Section 25, 26 and 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act.

DKS scam: PNB AGM Sunil Agrawal sent to police remand



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Lower court of Raipur on Monday sent former Additional General Manager of Punjab National Bank, Raipur, Sunil Agrawal to three-day police remand.

Agarwal was arrested allegedly for sanctioning loan to Dau Kalyan Singh (DKS) Super Specialty Hospital, giving undue advantage to Dr Punit Gupta, the son-in-law of former CM Raman Singh. Gupta is a prime accused in a fund misappropriation case.

ASP Prafull Thakur said the Court of Justice Sumit Kapoor

granted Agrawal's three-day police remand so that investigators can interrogate him to unearth the DKS hospital's fund-misappropriation scam worth Rs 65 crore.

Though the remand has been granted on a condition that police will not physically torture the bank official and due medical checkups would be done before and after the police remand, the police official said. Official further informed that Agrawal was arrested from the national capital a couple of days ago and was brought to Raipur on transit remand and was produced before the local court in Raipur on Monday.

Faculty dev programme under TEQIP begins in Raipur

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

About 38 participants comprising professors, associate professors, assistant professors from engineering colleges across the states of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Tripura are participating in the five-day long 8th professional development training that got underway in Raipur on Monday (May 20).

The programme conducted under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD), Government of India, under Technical Education



Improvement Program (TEQIP) II, aims at promoting excellence and quality teaching in technical institutions.

Professor M.Kannadhasan and Professor Dhananjay Bapat are the programme directors for this training programme

and the TEQIP coordinator is professor Sanjeev Prashar, Dean (Academics), according to a press release issued by IIM, Raipur, which is conducting the programme.

On the first day of the programme, the first session were conducted by Prof. Sanjeev Prashar on "Ice-

Breaking and inventories on expectations" at Hotel VW canyon.

The participants became acquainted with each other through game playing methods so as to reduce inhibition that exists among the faculty members.

He urged the participants to allow the facilitators to work on them so that they can take maximum benefits of the five-day program.

After the ice-breaking session, Prof Dhananjay Bapat discussed on 'Vision, Mission and goals in Academia', wherein the importance of setting aspirations was highlighted and why leaders, as well as organizations, need aspirations.

State Seed Corporation blacklists 4 seed companies

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Seed and Agriculture Development Corporation on Monday blacklisted four seed supplying companies and confiscated their Earnest Money Deposit (EMD).

In an order the corporation debarred these companies from participating in the tender process for the period of five years.

Notable, the Comptroller and Auditor General's office had taken objection to the tendering process in some of the state government departments and the seed corporation was also among them.



The CAG in its audit found that from the financial year 2012-13 to 2016-17

some of the companies, by forming a cartel, succeeded in getting tenders.

The official addresses, phone and fax numbers of these companies were also found identical and the bidders thus were having more than one company with the same address and phone numbers.

According to Managing Director of the Seed Corporation Janmejay Mohbe the name of the four companies are M/S Ashapura Recycling System, M/S Deluxe Recycling Private Limited, M/S Beejo Sheetal and Kailash Seeds. The earnest money deposits of these four companies have been confiscated with immediate effect and they have been debarred for participating in tender process for the period of five years.

Brewing tension between Capt and Sidhu, Minister fires fresh salvo

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

A rebel by nature, the cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu is currently on the target of his own Cabinet colleagues in Punjab for his rebellious attitude against the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

The state Cabinet ministers have described Sidhu's open attack only against the Chief Minister, but that is against the party as a whole. In unison, they are seeking "strong action" against Sidhu's indiscipline, while some has asked the former cricketer to quit if he has any problems.

Amidst all this, the state leadership is waiting for the May 23, the day when the results of recently-held general elections would be out, to "think about" action against Sidhu.

The cold war between the two senior Congress leaders touched a new level on Sunday, when the state was going for poll, when Capt Amarinder minced no words to say that the "ambitious" Sidhu might want to replace him as the Chief Minister. At the same

time, he had maintained that it was on the high command to act against the Sidhu, while making it clear that the Congress has zero-tolerance policy against indiscipline.

"His ill-timed comments against me and the Punjab Congress leadership have damaged the party...If he is a real Congressman, he should have chosen a better time to air his grievances instead of just ahead of voting in Punjab. Perhaps he is ambitious and wants to be chief minister," Capt Amarinder had said on Sunday.

Capt Amarinder's statement came after Sidhu, while addressing an election rally in Bathinda on May 17, talked about a "friendly match" without naming anyone, while asking the electorate to "punish" the "players" who have 75:25 share.

It is believed that Sidhu, in his speech, hinted at the rumoured pact between Capt Amarinder and SAD president Sukhbir Badal to ensure victory of their wives from Patiala and Bathinda.

However, Sidhu has denied having said anything that suggested a collusion between the



Congress and the SAD, while blaming the media for "putting words in my mouth".

Before that, Sidhu's wife and former MLA Dr Navjot Kaur Sidhu has blamed Capt Amarinder and state party affairs in-charge Asha Kumari for playing a negative role in declining her nomination from Chandigarh Lok Sabha seat.

Rubbing her allegations as "non-sense", Capt Amarinder had pointed out that he had no role in the decision-making for the

Chandigarh ticket, while adding that Dr Navjot was asked to contest from Bathinda or Amritsar, but she refused.

Coming to his wife's defence, Sidhu maintained that she "would never lie".

QUIT AS MINISTER IF YOU HAVE PROBLEM: DHARAMSOT

A day after Punjab senior-most cabinet minister Brahm Mohindra said that he along with other colleagues would write to the high command to



act against Sidhu, another cabinet Minister Sadhu Singh Dhamrasot on Monday slammed the former cricketer asking him to quit as the Minister "if he has problem with the Chief Minister".

"Sidhu has come to the Congress after quitting BJP and only god knows where he will go after leaving Congress," he said while demanding that high command must take action against Sidhu. "I would raise this demand in the party meeting," he said.

Maintaining that "politics is a serious business" with everyone working with a purpose of bringing about a positive change in people's lives and uplifting poor and weaker sections, Dhamrasot said: "Hankering for posts and berths should not be the aim...Personally, I think Sidhu got more than he deserved."

Another cabinet Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu said that the party's discipline will have to be followed by everyone. "Political leaders have to show restraint and should not embarrass the party by openly speaking on any issue," said Ashu.

ACTION AFTER RESULTS

The state Congress leadership would initiate any action, if needed, against Sidhu only after the poll results on May 23.

A senior party leader, who did not wish to be named, said that with everyone busy with the elections and now waiting for the results, any action in the matter would be taken after Thursday. The leader said that report would be sought in the matter from the state leaders and the matter would be

resolved accordingly. At the same time, the leader maintained that no written complaint against Sidhu has been received so far.

PLAYING OPPOSITION'S ROLE WHILE IN POWER

While staying in power, the firebrand leader Sidhu has played the role of an opposition.

During the SAD-BJP regime, when he was the BJP MP from Amritsar, Sidhu was at loggerheads with the Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, SAD president Sukhbir Badal, and his brother-in-law Bikram Majithia on the issue of development projects in Amritsar.

He openly criticised the Badals for scuttling his projects, so much so that he moved the High Court against the then government.

Joining the Congress just ahead 2017 state assembly polls, Sidhu was again seen on a collision course with the Chief Minister especially on the issues of acting against the Badals in sacrilege and related firing cases, running cable, transports mafias, and against Majithia in the drug cases.

AAP criticises CEC for giving clean chit to PM on code violations

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Leader of Opposition in Punjab Vidhan Sabha and Aam Aadmi Party's Dirba MLA Harpal Singh Cheema on Monday accused the Chief Election Commissioner for granting a clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the alleged serious model code of conduct violations saying, "the act has earned widespread ignominy".

"The disgraceful act has denigrated the stature of great institution, touted to be a formidable and impartial poll monitor in the country," said Cheema while accusing the Election Commission of India of being playing as a pawn in the hands of those in the saddle caring two hoots for the established tenets of democracy.

He said that if Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa's pointing figure to the grant of 'clean chit' to Modi, what he described as demolition of established norms, all apex constitutional institutions were under threat.

"The avoidable turmoil within the ECI, which surfaced after Lavasa shot off a letter to CEC Sunil Arora seeking recording of his dissenting note in the matter, is not the first of its kind. On earlier occasions also, glaring instances of meddling in the affairs of the high-end institutions and demolishing their credibility by those at the helm of power could be cited," he said.

Cheema alleged that the Modi dispensation had demolished the high-end constitutional institutions like the CBI, country's premier investigating agency, the Supreme Court, the UGC, the Planning Commission,

where the government had directly or indirectly done some arm twisting to turn the tide in its favour or settling score with its opponents.

At the same time, he cautioned all right thinking people of the country to come forward to make human chain and raise their voices against the demolition of the country's premier constitutional and other organizations, touted to be the pillars of democracy, stating that a threat to such pious institutions posed a potential threat to the world's biggest democracy.

Re-Poll at one booth in Punjab on May 22

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Election Commission of India on Monday ordered re-poll at one polling booth of Amritsar parliament constituency, to be held on May 22.

Punjab CEO S Karuna Raju said that as per ECI order, one polling station in Amritsar parliamentary constituency "Polling Booth No. 123" of Rajasansi assembly constituency would undergo re-poll.

He said that the returning officer and observer concerned have been instructed to act accordingly.

"The political parties and the contesting candidates have

also been intimated about the re-poll as per the Election Commission of India directions," he said, adding that the polling day has been fixed on May 22, Wednesday, and the polling hours would be from 7 am to 6 pm.

"Necessary arrangements have been made and election material, EVMs, security and poll staff in adequate numbers have also been deputed for this task," he said.

The Election Commission of India has ordered paid leave to all the voters of Booth No. 123 where the re-poll is announced on May 22 to facilitate the voters to exercise their franchise, said Punjab CEO S Karuna Raju.

Hry BJP prez appreciates his team in polls

PNS ■ ROHTAK

Haryana BJP President Subhash Barala on Monday said that the election management of the party was much better than the opposition during the Lok Sabha elections and they have managed to add more people to the ideology of BJP.

He said that this series of hard work, has to be maintained for the elections which are scheduled to be held later this year.

The BJP election management committee meeting took place in the party office in which Barala along with state general secretary Suresh Bhatt, besides other leaders were present. CM Manohar Lal too was present on the occasion.

Barala appreciated work of all members and team of election management committee.



Chandigarh records 70.62% voter turnout

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh Parliamentary Constituency recorded 70.62 per cent voter turnout, tabulation of the figures revealed on Monday.

The highest voter turnout of 85.41% was seen at Polling Station Government Model High School, Sector 25, and Government Model School (Smart), Sector 53. 84.59 % was recorded at Anganwadi Building No 2, Maloya Colony, 84.52 at Government High School, Maloya Colony, 84.22 % at Anganwadi Composit Building No 4, Near Community Center, Dadu Majra Colony. Government Model High School Pocket No 8, Indira Colony, Manimajra (83.64%), Government Senior Secondary School, Dadumajra Colony (83.44 %), (83.32%) RIMT School Manimajra polling stations also saw voter turnout on a higher side.

However, some polling stations recorded low voter



turnout like Government High School, Sector 31 C (47.05%), Government High School Sector 47 (50.58%), Government Model High School, New Building Sector 26 (51.17%), Government Model Senior Secondary School, sector 20 B (51.79%), Kids are Kids School, Sector 42 C (52.21%), Government Model High School, Sector 43 A (53.76%) and Government Model High School Sector 54

(55.09%).

To appreciate and interact on the process of elections in Chandigarh Parliamentary constituency, and as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India, the British High Commissioner visited the District Control Centre at DC com RO office Sector 17 and various polling stations like Carmel convent school sector 9, Govt. Model Senior secondary school sector 10, Govt. High School, Sarangpur, Govt. High School, Sector 47.

Out of 597 polling stations, 75 polling stations at 22 locations were made the Model Polling stations. This is to report that all the 597 polling stations were equipped with all the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) and improved Queue Management System as developed by the NIC Chandigarh. The Polling stations managed by all Women Polling Party were MCM DAV College Sector 36, Carmel Convent School

Sector 9, and New Public School Sector 18. These booths also witnessed an overwhelming response of the Voters.

As a new initiative by the Election Team Chandigarh for including the employees of the persons with disability quota, Govt Model Sr Sec School Sector 10 Polling station was manned by all PwD members.

To make elections accessible for all, pick and drop facility was availed by 41 persons with disability who called or registered at the toll free number 1950, and arrangement of wheelchair and prioritize access was provided to all such voters. More than 1200 NSS volunteers deputed at the polling stations to assist the aged and Persons with disability voters.

No cases of booth capturing, violence and law and order were recorded, and all the diaries of presiding officers were also thoroughly scrutinized and no discrepancies were found, officials said.

Poll percentage figure is 72.25 in Himachal

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Devesh Kumar on Monday said that 38,01,793 voters cast their vote in all the four Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) out of total 52,62,126 voters of the state. This time, the overall turnout percentage for the state stood at 72.25 which is 07.80 percent higher as compared to 64.45 percent in 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

He said in Kangra, total 9,90,758 voters cast their vote which includes 4,70,156 male, 5,20,599 female, three third gender voters with total turn out percentage of 70.49

In Mandi, total 9,30,562 voters cast their vote which includes 4,60,850 male, 4,69,710

female and two third gender voters with total turn out percentage of 73.39

In Hamirpur, total 9,71,961 voters cast the vote which includes 4,58,029 male, 5,13,929 female and three third gender voters, with total turn out percentage of 72.64.

Similarly, in Shimla, total 9,08,512 voters cast the vote which includes 4,75,351 male, 4,33,154 female and seven third gender voters, with total turn out percentage of 72.65

Kumar said during the Lok Sabha elections 2019, ECI took services of 1096 Micro Observers (MO) at 7730, which includes 7 auxiliary and two snow bound polling stations. He said that this time, 186 model polling and 136 women managed polling stations were also set up in the state.

Women participate with equal vigour in Punjab polls

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Behind every successful parliamentarian in Punjab, women would have an equal role to play. Skewed sex ratio in the State notwithstanding, the equal number of women and men electorates came out to vote on Sunday for 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The compiled figures released by the state poll panel on Monday, showing that 65.62 percent female exercised their franchise as compared to 66.25 percent males, were enough to display that the weaker sex is standing abreast with the men participating equally in the country's democratic process to elect their representatives.

In all, 26.51 percent voters of 'third gender' too exercised their franchise on Sunday.

However, the state has recorded a dip in the total voter turnout this time at 65.96 percent, against the previous 2014 poll's overall polling percent of 70.89 percent. In fact, the

polling percentage during 2017 state assembly polls was recorded at 77.37 percent.

The state Chief Electoral Officer Dr S Karuna Raju had expected that the state would register voter turnout close to 70 percent.

Notwithstanding improvement in the state's sex ratio from 874 in 2001 to 895 in 2011, the percentage of the fair sex coming out to poll has seen a decline of whopping 11.41 percent from 2017 assembly polls, and 4.93 percent dip from 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

In the same way, the male and female voting percentage has also plunged by 10.43 percent and 12.51 percent, respectively, as compared to the 2017 elections.

Out of the total 2,07,81,211 registered voters, 2019 elections witnessed 1,37,07,058 exercising their franchise. Out of 1,09,50,745 male, and 98,29,904 female voters, 72,55,905 and 64,51,004 respectively, cast their votes.

Of the total 562 voters enrolled under "third gender" category, as many 149 have exercised their franchise.

Highest 74.10 percent polling was witnessed in Bathinda constituency which has emerged as the hot seat witnessing a multi-cornered contest between the sitting Akali MP and the Union Minister Harsimrat Badal, Congress' Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Aam Aadmi Party's Prof Baljinder Kaur, and Punjab Democratic Alliance's Sukhpal Singh Khaira.

It was closely followed by Sangrur at 72.44 percent, and Ferozepur at 72.30 percent—these three being the only constituencies to have witnessed voter turnout of over 70 percent. The lowest polling was recorded in Amritsar at 57.08 percent.

During 2014 elections, the highest 77.59 percent polling was witnessed in Sangrur constituency, closely followed by Bathinda at 77.46 percent, and

Fatehgarh Sahib at 74.03 percent. And the lowest was recorded in Hoshiarpur at 65.16 percent.

Among the assembly constituencies that has witnessed highest and the lowest polling are Budhlada assembly segment in Bathinda at 78.80 percent, and Amritsar West in Amritsar at 49.24 percent respectively.

When the state polled as high as 78.64 per cent during 2012 state assembly polls, it was thought that the high percentage was a vote for change. Contrarily, the results surprised everyone with the SAD-BJP combine winning the two consecutive elections, something that had happened for the first time in the Punjab's history.

As the anti-incumbency factor is prevailing against both the Congress in the state and the BJP-led NDA with SAD as its part at the Centre, the poll analysts believed that it was hard to comprehend in whose

favour the wind would blow.

However, the exit polls have indicated an improvement in the tally of the SAD-BJP combine, while the Congress would be able to maintain its grip in the state with major share of seats. AAP, which stunned the traditional political player in 2014 by bagging four seats, is expected to win just about one seat.

At the same time, the exit polls were silent on the performance of the fourth front — the Punjab Democratic Alliance which is a conglomeration of six political outfits. PDA's candidates human rights activist Bibi Parmjit Kaur Khaira in Khadoor Sahib, sitting Patiala MP Dr Dharamvir Gandhi in Patiala, sitting Jaiton MLA Master Baldev Singh in Fardkot, are said to be on the firm footing.

Well, it's just a matter of couple of days more and results will be for all to see on may 23, Thursday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakki Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra- 390007, Gujarat.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, A/C Bose Road, Kolkata 700020
CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

A notice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice dated were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice/Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Sunil Kumar Jain/ Kamal Kumar Jain/ Sweta Jain/ Mahendra Kumar Jain/ Surendra Kumar Lodha/ Vidhi Jain/ Sunil Kumar Jain (HUF)/ Kamal Kumar Jain (HUF)/ Surendra Kumar And Sons (HUF)/ Mahendra Kumar Jain HUF/ Madan Bai Lodha/ Shanichari Bazar Sadar Bazar Polsa Para Chhattisgarh Durg 491001/ LBBL100001888325	Nazul Sheet No 29/d, A Part Of Plot No 72, House No 78, B. No. 269 Shanichari Bazar Papura Mouza- Khas Durg N.p.n. Durg, Tahasil And District Durg Chhattisgarh Durg - 491001, Admeasuring An Area Of Land Area 2175 Sq.ft. Built Up Area 2823 Sq.ft.	30-03-2019 Rs. 5541349/-	31/1/2019

The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) dated mentioned above as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date : 21-May-2019
Place: Chattisgarh

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Name of Work	Hiring of Truck model TATA 407 or equivalent for loading/unloading of Railway materials in Delhi NCR region of Electrical coaching depots of Delhi Division for two years.
Tender No.	30-Elect-5T-Chg-2019-20
Approx Cost of the work in (Rs.)	Rs. 17,40,600/-
Cost of tender form	Rs. 2,360/-
Address of the Office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs. 34,800/-
Period of completion of work	24 Months
Last date & time of submission of tender	12.06.2019 upto 15.00 hrs.
And opening of tender	12.06.2019 at 15.01 hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI

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e-NIT No.: 18 of 2019 Dated: 17-05-2019

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In two Cover System) Erection, Testing & Commissioning of double Ckt 11 KV Line for Bifurcation of 11 KV feeders at Bishnah & Adjoining Areas under Languishing projects sanctioned by JKIDFC are hereby invited from Self Help Groups/A Class Electrical Contractors of J&K having Valid Registration Certificate for the year 2019-20 and meeting eligibility criteria as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document.

S.No.1, Name of work :- Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Double Ckt 11 KV Line for Bifurcation of 11 kv feeders at Bishnah & Adjoining Areas in the jurisdiction of the jurisdiction of EM&RE Div-II Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

Cost of Document (in Rs) :- 500/-
Earnest Money Security Deposit (in Rs.) :- 60000/-
Date & Time of Downloading of Bidding Documents :- 20.05.2019
Last Date of e-Bid Submission :- 06.06.2019 (upto 04:00 PM)
Time & Date of Opening of tender :- 07.06.2019 at 04:00 PM

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view/download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
EM&RE Division-II Gandhi Nagar,
Jammu

No. DIP/J-640/P/2019
Dated : 20-05-2019

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Resident Commission
5-Prithviraj Road, New Delhi - 110011
Ph: 24611108, 24611210 Fax : 24601277, 24627047
Email: jkhsdelhi@gmail.com

Installation of Coffee Vending Machines and Supply of Material/ Consumables.

The Resident Commission Office, Jammu & Kashmir Government, New Delhi under the administrative control of Hospitality & Protocol Department, J&K Government invites sealed quotations for installation of (3) Coffee Vending Machines (Bean to Coffee) for supply of tetra branded milk coffee, and supply of Materials/ Consumables like coffee, sugar sachets, branded milk, wooden stirrers, etc at J&K House, 5-Prithvi Raj Road and J&K House, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi as per the details given in the tender documents.

The tender documents may be collected from Chief Pay & Accounts Officer, Resident Commission, J&K Government, New Delhi on payments of tender cost of Rs. 200/- (non-refundable) through Bank Draft in favour of Principal Resident Commissioner, New Delhi on any working day (Monday to Friday) between 10:30 AM to 05.00. The last date and time for bid submission (Technical & Financial) shall be 16th May, 2019 up till 5.00. PM. The Bid Box shall be placed at reception of J&K House, 5-Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi.

Chief Pay & Accounts Officer
Resident Commission

KBI/Advt./1813-14/2019 Dated: 20.05.2019
KRC/Misc/Vend/483/18/495/19 Dated: 30.04.2019

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office, Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, Greater Kailash, P. O. Sainik Colony, Jammu - 180 011, Jammu & Kashmir. Tel: +91-191-2484778

OPEN e-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: KR-PD-JK-HK-NDLS-12-2019 dtd. 17/05/2019

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites "Open e-Tender" in "Single Packet System" from experienced agencies for "Supply of Manpower for Housekeeping and Upkeeping/ Maintenance of KRCL Rest House at New Delhi." Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 48.50 lakhs. Earnest Money: ₹ 97,000/- Completion Period of Contract: 24 Months. Submission of Tender: 17/06/2019 up to 15.00 hrs. Opening of Tender: 17/06/2019 @ 15.30 hrs. Cost of Tender Form: (i) ₹ 3,540/- (Rupees Three Thousand Five Hundred and Forty only) to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS portal only. For further details and updates please visit: <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the above website only.

HAIDERPUR BRANCH
177, Haiderpur, Near Bus Stand, Delhi-110088
Tel: +91-11-27490671, 27490670
E-mail: br.9021@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
(for Immovable Property) (See rule 8 (1)).

The undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Syndicate Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 18.01.2019 calling upon the borrowers(s) & Guarantor(s) (1) Sh. Ramesh Chand (2) Sh. Vinod Kumar S/o Ramesh Chand (3) Sh. Rajeev Kumar Garg to repay the amount mentioned in notice being of Rs. 34,33,881.45/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lacs Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty One Paice Forty Five Only) 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 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 section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 14-05-2019 at 12:37 pm

The borrower in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to charge of the **SYNDICATE BANK (BO: HAIDERPUR BRANCH)** for an amount of Rs. 34,33,881/- as on 01.11.2018 with further cost, interest etc. thereon.

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.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the immovable property - UREM Residential House Property No. 289 in Kharsa No. 682 Mohalla Kallupura Village Jattwara Nehru Nagar Road Near Ghaziabad Public School Owned by Mr. Ramesh Chand S/o. Sh. Teja Ram.

PROPERTY BOUND AS:-

On The North By Nehru Nagar Road
On The South By Others Property
On The East By Others Property (Raju Kharad Wood Works)
On The West By IIE, 106E (Pashupati Enterprises)

Date : 14.05.2019
Place : Ghaziabad

Authorised Officer
Syndicate Bank

Threats would mean Iran's end: Trump

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has issued an ominous warning to Iran, suggesting that if the Islamic republic attacks American interests, it will be destroyed. "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again," Trump said in a tweet. Tensions between Washington and Tehran have been on the rise as the United States has deployed a carrier group and B-52 bombers to the Gulf over what it termed Iranian "threats."

This account has been met with widespread skepticism outside the United States. The White House has sent mixed signals in recent days, amid multiple US media reports of infighting in Trump's cabinet over how hard to push Washington's arch foe Iran.

The Trump administration has ordered non-essential diplomatic staff out of Iraq, citing threats from Iranian-backed Iraqi armed groups, and sent an aircraft carrier and heavy B-52 bombers to the region.

On Sunday, a Katyusha rocket was fired into Baghdad's Green Zone housing Government offices and embassies including the US mission. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack.

According to US media reports, Trump's long-hawkish national security advisor John Bolton is pushing a hard line on Iran, but others in the administration are resisting.

Trump himself said recently that he has to "temper" Bolton. Iran-US relations hit a new low last year as US Trump pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed unilateral sanctions that had been lifted in exchange for Tehran scaling back its nuclear programme.

Saudis say they will defend themselves, as Trump warns Iran

Dubai: Saudi Arabia does not want war but will not hesitate to defend itself against Iran, a top Saudi diplomat said on Sunday after the kingdom's energy sector was targeted this past week amid heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf.

Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, spoke a week after four oil tankers—two of them Saudi—were targeted in an alleged act of sabotage off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and days after Iran-allied Yemeni rebels claimed a drone attack on a Saudi oil pipeline.

Iran mocks Trump's 'genocidal taunts'

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran on Monday dismissed US President Donald Trump's "genocidal taunts" and warned him not to threaten the country. With tensions rising, Trump tweeted on Sunday: "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the President should look at history.

"Iranians have stood tall for millennia while aggressors all gone... Try respect - it works!," the BBC reported.

The US has deployed additional warships and planes to the Gulf in recent days.

But Trump's tweet marked a shift in tone after recent attempts by him to downplay the possibility of a military conflict with Iran. Last week, when asked by reporters if the US was going to war with Iran, he said: "I hope not."

His warning to Iran was issued hours after a rocket was fired into the heavily fortified Green Zone in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, and hit a building about 0.5 km (0.3 miles) from the US embassy.

The US recently evacuated non-emergency staff from the mission because of what it called a "serious" threat reportedly linked to Iran-backed forces in Iraq.

Lankan Parliament official among six held over NTJ links: Police

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan Parliament official was among six people arrested for their alleged links to the banned Islamist extremist group, National Thawheed Jammath (NTJ), which carried out the deadly suicide attacks on Easter Sunday, a senior police official said on Monday.

Nine suicide bombers carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three churches and three luxury hotels on the Easter Sunday, killing more than 250 people. The ISIS claimed the attacks, but the Government blamed NTJ for the bombings.

Police Spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara told the media that initially three suspects had been apprehended after a NTJ training facility was discovered at a coconut estate upon a tip-off received by the Kurunegala Police.

Gunasekara said the suspects, which included the land owner, were arrested on May 9 and have been remanded until May 24 after being produced before a court.

Details pertaining to two more individuals including that of a Kurunegala hospital staffer had emerged following questioning of the three suspects. Gunasekara said several cheques had been discovered in the possession of the hospital staffer. Investigations had also revealed that cash deposits had been made to the suspect's bank account from various places.

Following the questioning of the two suspects, police arrested an individual in the Alawathugoda area last Saturday. This suspect was identified as an employee of the Parliament Hansard Department, Gunasekara said.

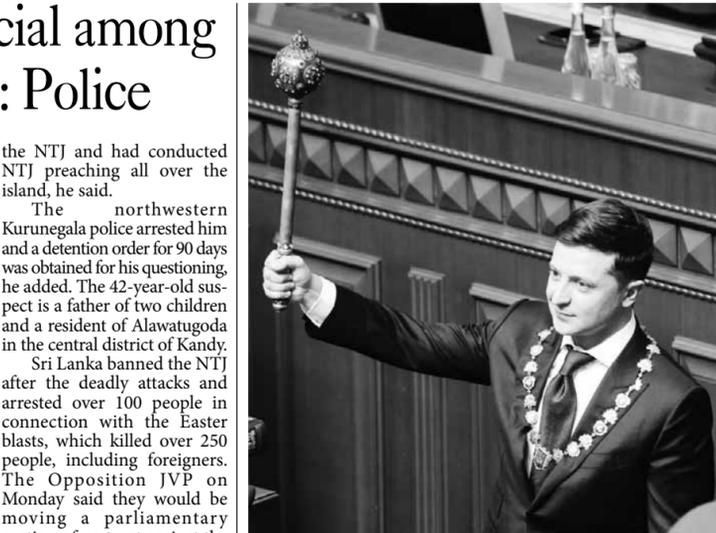
The man had been employed at parliament over the last 12 years. He has been found to be a main preacher of the NTJ and had conducted NTJ preaching all over the island, he said.

The northwestern Kurunegala police arrested him and a detention order for 90 days was obtained for his questioning, he added. The 42-year-old suspect is a father of two children and a resident of Alawathugoda in the central district of Kandy.

Sri Lanka banned the NTJ after the deadly attacks and arrested over 100 people in connection with the Easter blasts, which killed over 250 people, including foreigners.

The Opposition JVP on Monday said they would be moving a parliamentary motion of no trust against the Government over its failure to prevent the Easter attacks.

"The Government failed in its duty to protect the people despite the availability of intelligence on the possibility of the attack," JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake said.



UKRAINE INAUGURATES COMEDIAN ZELENSKY AS PRESIDENT | Comedian Volodymyr Zelensky stepped into his new role as Ukrainian president with his inauguration on Monday, launching a new era for the country wracked by war and economic difficulties. A month after scoring a landslide election victory against incumbent Petro Poroshenko, the 41-year-old became Ukraine's youngest post-Soviet President. In a ceremony in Parliament, he placed his hand on a copy of the constitution and the Bible and pledged to "protect the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine." AP

China asks US envoy to make 'unbiased judgement' during Tibet visit

PTI ■ BEIJING

China, which granted a rare permit for US Ambassador Terry Branstad to visit Tibet, on Monday hoped that the American envoy would make an "unbiased judgement" about the conditions in the Himalayan region especially on religion and the Tibetan culture.

Branstad was travelling to China's Qinghai province and the bordering Tibet Autonomous Region from May 19 to May 25, making the first trip by an American envoy to the highly restricted area in four years.

During his visit, Branstad is due to have meetings with local officials and visit religious and cultural heritage sites.

His visit is taking place amid escalating trade war between the world's two largest economies. China's permission to him came after US early this year passed Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018 warning equal and reciprocal measures if Beijing denied access to American citizens, government officials and journalists to Tibet, the homeland of the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

The new law would impose a visa ban on Chinese officials who deny American citizens, government officials and journalists access to Tibet.

Currently, foreign tourists need a special travel permit to visit Tibet in addition to a Chinese visa. Asked why China, which denied permission for US Ambassador to visit Tibet last year decided to do so now, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told the media on Monday that "we welcome Ambassador Branstad's visit so that he can see the major changes which took place in Tibet for past 60 years after the peaceful liberation."

Commenting on US embassy's statement that the

visit is a chance for the ambassador to engage with local leaders to raise longstanding concerns about restrictions on religious freedom and the preservation of Tibetan culture and language, Lu said China hopes the envoy could make unbiased judgement on the prevailing situation in Tibet.

"As for the comments from US embassy, we hope this visit can help them make unbiased judgement that is fact based especially on the religion, culture, heritage and history. We hope he can make his own judgement instead of being misguided by rumours," Lu said.

Swedish prosecutor issues formal request to hold Assange on rape suspicion

AFP ■ STOCKHOLM

Swedish prosecutors on Monday issued a formal request to hold Julian Assange, currently imprisoned in Britain, on suspicion of rape — a first step towards seeking his extradition to Sweden.

Swedish deputy director of public prosecutions, Eva-Marie Persson, said in a statement she had filed a request with the Uppsala district court to have Assange detained in his absence on suspicion of rape. Detaining someone in their absence is a standard part of Swedish legal procedure if a suspect is outside the country or cannot be located.

The request follows last week's reopening of a 2010 rape investigation, and Persson added that once the court had granted the request, she would then ask British authorities to transfer Assange to Sweden.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

It is publically informed that, one male namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age about 25-30 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Sallow, Face oval, Build medium, Having tattoo mark of 'अकारा बेटा' on right hand forearm, wearing military colour pant and yellow colour checked shirt was found dead in the area of P.S. I.P. Esate, Delhi near Ranjeet Singh Flyover on dated 16.05.2019. In this regard a D.D. No. 49, Dated 16.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. I.P. Esate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this person and his relatives please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi
DP/6289/CD/19 Ph.: 011-23370999, 8750870426

Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 35 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 5 Inch, Complexion : Shallow, Wearing : Grey Colour Shirt, Black Colour Pajama and Bare Footed, has been found dead on 10.05.2019 at Old Police Line Gate, Opposite L.G. House, Civil Line, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 48-A Dated 10.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
PS. Civil Lines, Delhi
DP/20/N/19 Ph.: 011-23815444, 8750870127

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unknown dead body was found at Under Shadha Flyover, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi, dated 13.05.2019. In this regard a DD No. 47-A dated 13.05.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi.

The Description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Sex: Male, Age: 42 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue Colour Shirt.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi
DP/25/N/19 Ph.: 011-23968730, 08750870123

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo) namely Munna Lal S/o Satya Narayan R/o H. No. A-81, Street No. 3, Karan Vihar Part-5, Kirari, Delhi Aged - 40 Years has been reported missing since 05.05.2019 vide DD No. 65-A Dated 06.05.2019 lodged at Police Station Aman Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'9", Face: Round, Clothing: Black coloured t-shirt, black coloured lower and red coloured hawai slipper in feet.

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

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Aman Vihar, Delhi.
DP/2863/RD/19 Tel.: 011-23014046, 23015218

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Neha Kumari, D/o Sikander Yadav, R/o: Khasra No.15/3, Near Shani Mandir, Gali No.-01, Swaroor Nagar Extension, Delhi, Age: 18 years 6 Months, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, wearing Blue and White colour Shirt and Red colour Jeans, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi since 11.04.2019. In this regard a DD No. 74-A, dated 14.04.2019 has been registered at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi
DP/266/ON/19 Ph.: 011-27811933, 27811934

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: Approx 45-50 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Built: Thin, was wearing White colour Shirt, Black colour Pant and Bare feet, was found in front of Shop No. 2814, Shankar Gali, Bazar Sitaram, Delhi on 23.04.2019 at 01:55 PM. In this regard a DD No. 74A, dated 23.04.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi
DP/6287/CD/19 Ph.: 011-23279338, 23271751

Vote for leadership

Be it Modi at Centre or Mamata and Patnaik in States, exit polls favour leaders who are byproducts of immediate contexts



While some scepticism remains about the range of margins and the swing factors of exit polls, that is a debate of psephological granularity and arithmetical precision. But in totality, the numbers seem to point towards a decisive uniformity about renewing faith in a muscular leadership that didn't quite have an equally fiery challenger. And this kind of hierarchical hold across cross-sections of society defies existing logic that prime ministerial aspirant Narendra Modi has gained just by setting bipolar contexts, identity politics or the religious card. For while these could be contributors, the tidal support for a leadership that holds despite the hostile conditions created by his under-performance on key economic issues, shows that the electorate is willing to give him one more chance. And from the young voter to the old, he is being seen as the best embodiment of an aspirational high in the absence of a robust alternative that is needed to steer the country out of its present morass. In that sense, perhaps this election embodies the classic TINA (There Is No Alternative) factor in parliamentary democracy. Somehow, Modi has been able to justify himself among the thousands of farmers and the jobless, a dissatisfied lot that was expected to rebel, that five years were too short a time but he could lead them to a proverbial El Dorado if they threw in their collective lot with him for five more years of transactional benefits. After all, he has given them something back in the form of the Awas Yojana, the toilet revolution and last mile connectivity to civilisation through roads and rural electrification. Or is it that the issues that have been in ferment for the last couple of years been subsumed to the presidential-style and hypnotic construct of bigger issues? Like hyper-nationalism, which breeds on humouring the non-privileged majority as stakeholders in a narrative which has so far been seen as exclusively endearing to minorities and outliers and dictated by the out-of-touch elite. Maybe he has reconciled this middle ground to a different idea of India and has harvested it through a smart demagoguery. And in a post-globalised world marred by protectionism and ultra-radical leaders, Modi is seen as an option to establish competitive relevance than risk oblivion, bargain on strengths than fritter them away.

This capability has no doubt been built up with a subtle cooption of institutional mechanisms and even the media. French President Emmanuel Macron had once hinted at US President Donald Trump with his remark, "Nationalism is a betrayal of patriotism." Sadly, that's the new oeuvre of global geopolitics and India is not immune to it. Particularly economic nationalism, one that is defined by prioritising domestic industry, manufacturing, jobs and economy over global corporations. Modi's zeal for "Make in India" has much congruence with the "Build America first" theme and perhaps, this *modus operandi* washes with the younger electorate. Also, we must remember that the emergent electorate is disconnected from historicity and reacts to contemporary contexts that apply to its immediate reality, like Balakot. This mindset has reduced the liberals and rationalists into the realm of lost tribalism. This trend also explains why fiercely regional leaders, who articulate similar aspirations and are equally muscular about local contexts, are holding ground. Be it KC Rao of Telangana, Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh, Stalin in Tamil Nadu, Mamata Banerjee in Bengal or Naveen Patnaik in Odisha, they are holding their States albeit they may be dented in a "nationalist" surge of the Lok Sabha. It is also true that they will be expected to negotiate in case of a dominant single party at the Centre but if they hold on to their core appeal and knit their grassroots understanding the same way the BJP has in the heartland, they are not blowing in the wind too soon. As for Modi's expected second stint in leadership, the question is whether he will be magnanimous about seeking a legacy run or merely get territorial, seeking to build a pan-India narrative with the turncoat politics of power play? For somebody who is sagacious enough and seems to have crafted his strategy well — first harping on benign development, then upping aggressive posturing of identity politics and now widening the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) fringe appeal to an easily harvestable core base — he has a fertile ground for his play. With the cushion of numbers, he could make the difference between being a statesman or dictator.

Trouble in the skies

Even as promoters of IndiGo resolve problems, other airlines are cribbing that it is being favoured over flying rights



The news last week was that IndiGo's two promoters, Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal, have had some differences and were trying to resolve them. In a way, this was actually a positive for the airline that its promoters had recognised their problems and were trying to get things back on track before things got out of hand. The markets, however, disagreed and India's largest and most valuable airline, worth over ₹50,000 crore, lost almost a tenth of its value while stock markets exuberantly expected another term for Narendra Modi. But now IndiGo seems to be in another spot of bother as its rival private airlines are accusing the government of being partial to it as Jet Airways' old routes get carved up, albeit 'temporarily', according to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Jet Airways had built a very strong network of routes between India and the Arabian peninsula, particularly from Kerala, and while it had cancelled these flights as it went into a financial tailspin, they are extremely valuable. Although Air India has the first option on many of these routes, the national carrier is deeply short of aircraft. It has increased capacity on some routes but IndiGo, by virtue of being India's largest airline, stands to gain the most, particularly since it has several extra aircraft at the current time and with more pilots coming on board, will be able to offer new services very quickly.

The other airlines are understandably aggrieved about this and have a point when they argue that the routes should be divided equally among all of them. International routes are usually far more profitable than domestic sectors for airlines. With Jet Airways' barely on life support and with the next government almost certain to pull the plug on it, the need of the hour actually is helping air travellers. The collapse of the airline with its international network has meant airfares shooting up on flights to Dubai, London, Singapore among other places. The Indian government must try and be fair to all airlines but it should also understand that high fares could damage the industry in the long run. There is a lot of room for growth for all of India's airlines and a route map in new sectors must also be promoted with equal zeal. The Civil Aviation Ministry is keen to start new flights to China, South East Asia, Iran and elsewhere in Arabia. Even if IndiGo gets a lion's share of the old routes, these other sectors hold a lot of promise.

The Italian connection

BG Deshmukh's revelations in his book, *A Cabinet Secretary Looks Back*, shows how security protocols in the Rajiv era weren't entirely above board



A SURYA PRAKASH

There is much talk of how Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister took his Italian relatives on a holiday to Lakshadweep and compromised national security by misusing the aircraft carrier *INS Viraat* and other Navy assets and also had naval officers in attendance to cater to the needs of the holiday-makers.

But there is an even greater scandal concerning the wholly illegal involvement of his Italian brother-in-law in the so-called training of the Special Protection Group (SPG) that managed the proximate security of the Prime Minister — a matter which would have certainly compromised the protocols of the special force and exposed it to foreign agencies.

Former Cabinet Secretary BG Deshmukh narrated the story of how the SPG became vulnerable to unknown and unauthorised foreigners in his autobiography, *A Cabinet Secretary Looks Back*. He said that as Cabinet Secretary, the special force was under his charge and one day in October 1986, he was told by an officer of this force posted in the Prime Minister's residence that a few of them were going to Italy for "special training." He immediately checked with Rajiv Gandhi and the latter said this was being arranged by the "Prime Minister's House." Deshmukh was not at all happy with this arrangement because the special force was a force that protected the Prime Minister of India, not Rajiv Gandhi, the individual. Therefore, he said the expenses must be borne by the Government. He also told Rajiv Gandhi that the Intelligence Bureau could handle it but later suggested that the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) be entrusted with the job and the payments be made from the secret funds.

Rajiv Gandhi asked him to speak to Capt Satish Sharma, his close friend. Sharma told Deshmukh that Joshi, Director, RAW, should speak to a certain Italian (whom he named) "and settle the details." When Deshmukh asked Sharma who this Italian was, the latter "had a hearty laugh" and said Joshi would know. "Joshi...said, it might have escaped my memory that this person was Rajiv Gandhi's brother-in-law." Later, Deshmukh said, Joshi came back to him after a week and said when RAW's Geneva office asked the Italian to pick up the amount in US dollars, the Italian said Joshi should himself "make arrangements to bring the amount in Italian currency and deliver it in Italy."

Deshmukh recounted what happened next: "Joshi was not at all happy with this as it would entail carrying about a quarter of a million dollars in Italian currency in a big suitcase, which was sure to invite trouble." The Cabinet Secretary told Rajiv Gandhi that the arrangement was not acceptable, "specially because the amount was so large. He (Rajiv Gandhi) flushed and told me to forget the whole affair." Later, Deshmukh learnt that officers did not go to Italy but an Italian expert



came to India — "of course, he became rather unpopular with the SPG for he would throw his weight around." Deshmukh also realised that thereafter instructions had gone out to keep him out of the loop on all such "sensitive (read family) matters!"

In other words, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi wanted RAW to pay a quarter of a million dollars to his brother-in-law in Italian currency supposedly to train the SPG. And what were the qualifications of this brother-in-law with regard to proximate security of a Prime Minister? No one had a clue!

Deshmukh concluded his narration of this shocking incident by saying that "in the Mughal-darbar-like functioning of the Gandhis, he had committed the cardinal sin of checking with the king himself, the message he conveyed to me through his aides."

Deshmukh is a credible and reliable witness to the Rajiv Gandhi era in national politics. He belonged to the Maharashtra cadre of the IAS. He was called by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Delhi in 1986 and appointed Cabinet Secretary. A year later, the Prime Minister was coping with the Bofors scandal. In 1989, he was appointed Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. Therefore, when the Bofors kickbacks allegation became public in April 1987, he was in the thick

of it, participating in key meetings and advising Rajiv Gandhi on the way forward when the Opposition mounted an attack on the Prime Minister and accused him of taking bribes for the Swedish company.

The senior civil servant said he became aware of the fact that the Prime Minister's House had access to funds from abroad when the question of hiring Rajiv Gandhi's Italian relative to "train" the SPG came up. There were two sources for these funds — money stashed away by the family in foreign banks consequent to garnering commissions on foreign deals and the other being the secret funds of the Government of India. The secret funds are deployed for such purposes because they are not subject to inquisitive probes by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

Hailing as he did from Maharashtra, Deshmukh was aware of how the Congress collected funds in the state. In the initial years of her prime ministership, Indira Gandhi depended heavily on Maharashtrian leaders like Rajni Patil and Vasant Naik. Later, when she gained complete control of the party and the Government, she decided that it was far better to collect funds for the party by "claiming cuts from foreign deals."

Consequently, trusted offi-

cers were posted in key Ministries like defence production. Also, Deshmukh said the practice of taking kickbacks earned India notoriety in foreign countries. So much so that when India decided to buy submarines from West Germany, the German Defence Ministry told the supplier the amount of commission that it would have to pay. The general talk in international circles was that in Latin American and African countries, the commission was above 10 per cent. India was placed in the five to 10 per cent bracket.

So, the scandal about commission payments by Bofors was no surprise. Deshmukh said that although he did not believe Rajiv Gandhi took the money, he said there was strong circumstantial evidence that he (Rajiv Gandhi) knew the names of the recipients but was reluctant to expose them. One could only surmise that the beneficiaries could be the Congress "or a close relative or friend of the Prime Minister's family", Deshmukh concluded. Indeed, he says a lot here without taking names. It appears, the *dramatis personae* of *L'Affaire* SPG were once again the same! For the sake of our Prime Minister's security, all this needs to be probed.

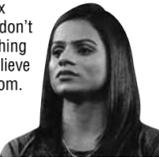
(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

“
 THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT SAID HE BECAME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE HAD ACCESS TO FUNDS FROM ABROAD WHEN THE QUESTION OF HIRING RAJIV GANDHI'S ITALIAN RELATIVE TO 'TRAIN' THE SPG CAME UP
 ”

SOUNDBITE

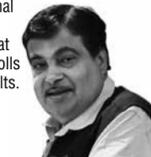
I am in a same-sex relationship and I don't think there is anything wrong with it. I believe in individual freedom.

Indian athlete
—Dutee Chand



Exit polls are not the final decision but are indications. By and large, what comes out in the exit polls also reflects in the results.

Union Minister
—Nitin Gadkari



What are we supposed to celebrate about Cannes 2019? The cinema that's being celebrated or just the clothes our actors wear and the parties they attend?

Director
—Onir



What have you (media) thought of us politicians? Do we look like cartoon characters to you? Who gave you the authority to show everything humorously?

Karnataka Chief Minister
—HD Kumaraswamy



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gear up for World Cup

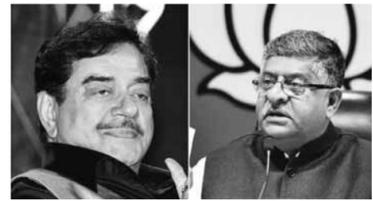
Sir — The Indian cricket team is one of the favourites to lift the World Cup on July 14. Most of the players who have been selected to play in the tournament being hosted by England and Wales have proved their mettle in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The sole exception seems to be Vijay Shankar, who played poorly in the League. The IPL, of course, is entirely different from the World Cup, but most players took the League seriously. Shankar's failure throughout the tournament merits concern. Hopefully, Shankar will rise to the occasion. Here's wishing our heroes the very best for the World Cup.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Role model for true friendship

Amid the verbal garbage and extreme loose cannons from political rivals in the just-concluded general elections, bonhomie and camaraderie were rare commodities. Muck was thrown at each other with gusto by contestants. There was no limit for personal criticism. Families, too, were not spared. Decency was thrown to the wind by most political rivals. But somewhere in distant Patna, *khamoshi* prevailed. In the Patna Sahib constituency, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and his friend and Congress candidate Shatrughan Sinha were pitted against each other. Before the "campaign battle" began, the two friends vouched not to humiliate each other by raking up the past. Only speaking about policies was their *mantra*. Both exuded 'personal respect' towards each other describing either as a "good man." Apparently, both Prasad and Sinha were comfortable in silence.

Ironically, when Prasad desired to test his fate in the electoral battle, he chose Patna Sahib because he belongs to Bihar and more importantly, from the Kayastha community of which he is an important member. However, Sinha is also a well-known if not a cult figure



of the community, which has as much as four lakh votes in the constituency. The two have been known as thick friends from childhood. Insiders say any attempt to ruffle each other's personal space could have brought some deep secrets out. That said, Kayastha voters are fiercely pro-BJP and are also smitten by the charisma of Sinha. Will Prasad breach the Sinha fort by dethroning his friend? The mutual respect and love between old friends hopefully will stay.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Save elephants

Sir — Tedious temple celebrations take a massive toll on our gentle pachyderms. The heat, sound and the crush of bodies cause them suffering. Not just animal rights activists but every citizen must do something to relieve

temple elephants of their burden. The man-animal conflict is the result of human deprivations in forests. Enough emphasis is not being laid on protecting wildlife corridors and extending the arc of the protected forests.

Anoop Hosmath
Mysuru

Predicting elections

Sir — This refers to the report, "Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar, predict polls" (May 20). Exit and opinion polls at times gauge the mood of the nation very well but most times they fail to predict the

final result with reasonable accuracy. A small sample survey cannot be considered as the pulse of the people. What better example do we need other than Australia, where the ruling Conservative coalition won surprisingly in the country's general election, defying all opinion and exit polls.

In India, all exit polls have indicated a landslide victory for the BJP-led NDA. The exit poll results cannot be brushed lightly. Prime Minister Modi has won the confidence of the people by running a corruption-free Government and focussing on good governance. The negative campaigning by the Opposition that focussed only on dislodging the BJP with no other agenda on the cards is sure to have a telling effect on the results. The Opposition should craft a workable strategy.

Sravana Ramachandran
Chennai

Easy target

Sir — Amid competitive politics and conflicting political narratives, it is no surprise that the EC finds itself bombarded with a barrage of complaints of alleged violations of the model code of conduct. But given the reality of today's polarised politics, the EC will always be found wanting by someone or the other.

Rohit
Via email

Send your feedback to:
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Inculcate smart farming practices

Data-driven agriculture can help India manage droughts better and improve long-term profitability of produce



VENKAT MAROJU

News about Fani and the trail of devastation in large parts of coastal Odisha put the spotlight on cyclones and with it extreme weather-related events that impact agriculture came into focus. Arguably, one of the most frequently experienced weather events in India is drought, which has, unfortunately, become commonplace. But with new trends in this sector like data-driven agriculture and precision farming, drought situations can be combated and negative impact on yields and farmer incomes can be minimised.

Farming and data seem to occupy opposite sides of the spectrum but the link between the two is at its strongest ever, giving rise to the concept and practice of 'data-driven agriculture', which is a result of the need to participate in a globally competitive and market-oriented system of agriculture. What it entails is the thoughtful use of big data to supplement on-farm precision agriculture. It means having the right farm data at the right time to make better decisions to improve long-term profitability. Precision agriculture is another buzzword and it specifically refers to the use of data that has been generated on the farm. Data-driven agriculture combines this on-farm data with other statistics that is compiled by a third party, catalysing it into useful information that helps make correct decisions. Data here is both an input and a product and putting them to use can resolve many issues. When it comes to different types of data that are generated as a result of the entry of digital technologies into agriculture, there are many. And combating drought is supported not directly by a single set of data but by applying a combination of them — some indirect parameters and others more straightforward. The types of data generated range from analysing weather patterns to advice on when to plant, to analyse prices and to advice on when to harvest. These decisions are subject to a variety of influences. The best combination of data needs to be applied to arrive at the right decision. Looking at the types of data in greater detail, in the normal case, there are two streams of data used by farmers. The first relates to data that is generated and collated on the farm, to be used on the farm itself. This is 'localised' and includes soil data — form, depth and composition, seed and fertiliser use, date of sowing, production practices, water use and the like. This kind of data can both be generated and managed by the farmer or by an agent. The farmer 'owns' this data. The second stream is data generated and collated off the farm for use on the farm. Examples are climatic data and market prices that have been interpreted and customised for on-farm use. This is called 'imported' data.

When it comes to combating drought, direct data available will be of weather forecast which is available through weather advisory services that farmers may subscribe to. But this must be combined with other data such as soil moisture, soil type and type of crops to grow, when to sow and when to harvest. It may also help to know the pricing patterns as well. Even the farmer's access to financial services like banking, credit and insurance will have a bearing, helped on by data-driven services that ease access to finance. Fortunately, remote sensing satellite data combined with unmanned aerial vehicles and mobile weather stations are providing a huge amount of data that models can integrate. Hyper-localised analysis and recommendations are becoming available more easily, with GPS-enabled phones that provide exact latitude, longitude and elevation — all of which can sharpen decision-making.

Taking a deeper look into how such weather data can be collected, the good news is that infrastructure to collect weather and rainfall data has drastically improved. There is a system in which meteorological stations send out field staff to collect localised weather data and transmit it into a central repository. Adding to this are automated weather data collection systems using sensors, which are also evolving. Other features like ground water monitoring and monitoring of water flow in canals are also carried out and captured. All this data put together helps in 'water budgeting', which in turn can reduce the damage due to drought. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra are some States investing in this area.

An app developed by ICRISAT in collaboration with Microsoft does just that. The app advises farmers on the best time to sow crops depending on weather conditions, soil and other indicators. Using business intelligence tools with a dashboard provides important insights around soil health, fertiliser recommendations and seven days' weather forecast. There are more than 500 million farmers worldwide who play a vital role in food production. Unlike earlier times, it has become possible to bring them into the fold of data-driven farming because of the spread of mobile technology and ubiquitous connectivity, irrespective of whether they are literate or not. While this diversity enhances resilience, it can also become a challenge to data-driven service providers whose business models need to match delivery of precise and personalised services with the need to reach many farmers at low costs.

(The writer is CEO of a farm software solution company)

I AM WRITING TO THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A SPECIAL SESSION OF ASSEMBLY. WE WANT DISCUSSION ON ISSUES TO TEST GOVERNMENT STRENGTH.

—LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN ASSEMBLY
GOPAL BHARGAVA

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THEY (BJP) HAVE BEEN TRYING THIS SINCE DAY 1. I HAVE PROVED THE MAJORITY AT LEAST FOUR TIMES. THEY WANT TO DO IT AGAIN, WE HAVE NO PROBLEM.

—MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER
KAMAL NATH

Matches we never played

With some imagination and greater investment of time and trust, India and Australia will find that the sea between them is not a barrier, it is their shared border



RAJA KARTHIKEYA

India's southern neighbour Australia wants more from the bilateral relationship. But this may require a lot more investment and imagination from both sides. The Australian continent and the Indian sub-continent have been tied together since the ice age but the ice between them has only begun to break in recent times. This has been buoyed up by an increasingly prominent Indian diaspora in Australia (so prominent that the last two Australian ambassadors to India have been of Indian origin) and by growing appreciation over there about India's potential as an economic and strategic partner. More recently, the two countries' strategic relationship has been in the news after the resumption of the Quad.

Driven by diaspora but not dollars: The Indian diaspora in Australia is highly visible in the coastal cities and is the second largest Asian-origin diaspora there (after the Chinese) with some families almost six generations old. With their above-the-median-level education levels and wealth, Indian-Australians are now entering politics and policy-making in a big way. For its size (seven lakh in a population of 2.5 crore), Indian-Australians punch above their weight. In terms of economics though, two-way trade languishes at \$21 billion, equal to a fifth of Australia's trade with China. Trade deficit is decidedly in Australia's favour. However, it is not so much the deficit that is troubling as is the under-realisation of the potential of the relationship. India-Australia ties continues to be driven by Governments and inadequately by businesses. Australian corporates are too conservative to invest in what they perceive as a "risky" and "volatile" business environment in India. Barely 0.3 per cent of Australia's outward FDI in 2017 came to India. There is a perception among Australian corporates, perhaps far more than European or American counterparts, that Indian business environment is tumultuous with frequent Government interventions. On the other hand, large Indian corporates appear to view Australia largely as a market but not as an investment destination. Part of the challenge is that despite being a country endowed with natural resources, Australia's GDP is largely driven by the services industry and Indian corporates need significant knowhow to muscle their way into it.

Australia's resource paradox: The lure of Australia's commodities continues to attract Indian investment, albeit at a slower pace. The single-largest Indian overseas investment proposal till date, Adani Group's gambit to buy the Carmichael coal deposit in Queensland for over \$16.5 billion, ran into a political storm and had to be considerably scaled down last November. Though political parties have largely supported the acquisition, environmental activists lobbied against the project. The controversy is symbolic of a larger paradox in Australia's energy policy, which sits on some of the world's largest coal deposits but a large part of its population now opposes using coal due to concerns about carbon emissions. Australia is, thus, turning away from coal-fired plants and is increasingly adopting renewables even as it remains the world's second largest exporter of coal.

In fact, the Australian economy is so closely tied to coal exports that its currency went into a downward spin in February over rumours of China blocking its coal imports, after ships bear-



ing Australian coal were delayed off Dalian. Australia's biggest markets for coal, China and India, are now keen to move up the value chain to own the sources of production. But the fact that Chinese and Indian efforts have aroused more attention than Australia's domestic coal production among the Australian public and the continuing dilemma of economics vs environmental responsibility in Australian politics, will play in the minds of Indian investors intent on Australia.

Australia is counting big on becoming a top destination for Indian students for higher education. The report, 'An India Economic Strategy to 2035: Navigating from Potential to Delivery' by Australia's former Ambassador to India, Peter Varghese, stressed the potential for Australia in skilling India's workforce for rapid economic growth. However, the value of an Australian degree in the Indian job market is not yet seen on par with an American degree. It's also an open secret that for many Indian students headed to Australia, education is the first step towards settling down in the country. On the face of it, this appears to be a win-win solution for Indians as well as for Australia since the latter is under-populated, direly needs population in its interiors and would benefit from a skilled immigrant workforce. In fact, foreign students, who opt to attend universities in smaller cities like Adelaide, are even being awarded extra points when they apply for permanent residency.

However, there appears to be some reluctance in Australia to fully acknowledge in policy this linkage between foreign students, who come for education and the latent immigration aspirations of the foreign students. This may lead to mismatched expectations at some point: Australia welcomes Indian students so that it economically helps the local education industry and expects that they would return home after their study; but Indian students see Australian education as a conduit for migration.

The Peter Varghese report, released in April 2018, has won bipartisan support by both the Liberal and Labour parties. The report calls for targeted engagement with 10 Indian States. There is also a call for a regular Strategic

Economic Dialogue between the Finance Ministers on both sides. In an upcoming parallel report by Amb Anil Wadhwa, India may similarly identify a set of priority areas. For the economic relationship to take off, Canberra and Delhi would merit coming up with a list of mutual actions based on these reports.

Learning political values from each other: Politically, the two democracies appear to move along parallel longitudes of history albeit in different hemispheres of reality. While India's electorate is 60 times that of Australia's, the latter's electoral system, a full century older than the former, has had more time to mature. Despite the vicissitudes of unstable Governments, stable State institutions keep the economy ticking in Australia. India has had its share of coalition Governments and despite a stable Government, the even-handedness of State institutions remains a concern.

There's much that both nations can learn from each other. Australia's democracy with its compulsory voting rule has much to be envied. One can get a ticket to contest as MP in Australia by applying to a political party with your resumé, something that is unthinkable in the Indian political scene. Transparency in Australian politics is awe-inspiring. Australia has only recently begun to turn its back on a history of racial exclusionism. Social justice is a demand in both countries but the way India dissolves the layers in its stratified caste system is likely to be very different from the way Australia handles historical injustices against the native Aborigines. What both nations can, however, concur on is the undebatable need to ensure equality of opportunity — in India for women and socially under-privileged communities and in Australia for the people in the rural interior. In both cases, youth is an asset, which, if not managed deftly, can become a real challenge. The threat of extremism and disaffection from the mainstream is for real. If polarisation levels along religious grounds are likely to pose a clear and present challenge in India for years to come, the recent massacre in Christchurch by an Australian suggest the latent fury in a small section of its society that cannot be ignored. Given

the way hate-mongers are sharing ideas across borders, the policy establishment in both countries needs to brainstorm together on ways to address cyber-radicalisation, irrespective of the ideological tint, and without sacrificing democratic freedoms.

Future areas for cooperation: Looking ahead, the bilateral relationship needs a heavy dose of imagination. Notwithstanding India-Australia cooperation in the high seas, including the recent bilateral naval exercises off Visakhapatnam, there is great scope for collaboration in other forms of international commons. In the internet, India's IT power can be boosted manifold with Australia's edge in cyber security technologies. And yet, private sector cyber collaboration may just not be enough.

Both democracies remain highly vulnerable to cyber-attacks. In February, Australia's Government and political parties were hit by a cyberattack attributed to a "sophisticated state actor." In March, the website of the ruling party in India was hacked. In an era where elections are won and lost over social media, cyber-security awareness needs to be ramped up among leaders of both countries. It is not just about protecting EVMs but about protecting all instruments that shape elections — from party websites to insulating against any foreign attempt to subvert election through fake news. Both will do well to collaborate here.

Space is another frontier. Despite a MoU between India and Australia, joint space collaboration remains nascent. Australia's space agency, established in July 2018, stands to gain from working together with ISRO on missions such as oceanography and remote sensing in the Indian Ocean region. Climate change is arguably the most under-appreciated area for collaboration. India is reeling from a rise in Extreme Precipitation Events (EPEs) such as the recent Kerala floods and unseasonal droughts. For the last seven years, Australia has been faced with below-average rainfall and drought even as rising acidity levels in the ocean have been destroying the Great Barrier Reef. While the countries may differ in climate negotiations about ways to address carbon emissions, they acknowledge that climate change is a reality. Hence, there should be no hesitation in collaborating on developing and benchmarking climate adaptation policies that range from building regulations to forestry to addressing the security impact of internal displacement of people due to climate change.

Building trust bilaterally: For far too long, Australia and India have been bound together by a third country. Pre-independence, it was the British empire that ensured that troops from both countries fought and bled together in theatres as diverse as Gallipoli and Tobruk. In recent years, shared interests with the US have brought the nations closer. But is there a scope to enhance this relationship without a third country? This requires Australian and Indian civil servants and politicians to overcome some long-standing trust issues. A deep perceptual shift is needed. This goes beyond targeted measures to enhance security cooperation. Australians must understand that India will remain a land of paradoxical images which work together — democratic freedoms co-exist with disrupted Parliament sessions, water supply problems co-habit a land with anti-satellite weapons. The deeper, systemic stability of India needs to be understood for what it is. Indians, too, should understand that Australia today sees its future far closer to Asia than the Americas. The familiar bonding over cricket can co-exist with the strangeness of Australian National Football.

(The writer was a participant in the 2019 Australia-India Youth Dialogue. These views are personal)

Bridge the gap on patent rights

It's unfortunate that the USTR, the US trade body, has put India on a 'priority watch list' for intellectual property rights violations. For now, the rift appears too wide and requires adjustments by both sides. Protection of IP rights isn't always inimical to public interest



UTTAM GUPTA

The US Trade Representative (USTR) has placed India on its Priority Watch List (PWL), alleging lack of "sufficient measurable improvements" to its Intellectual Property (IP) framework on long-standing and new challenges that have negatively affected American right holders. It has warned of enforcement actions under Section 301 of the Trade Act or pursuant to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) or other trade agreement dispute settlement procedures, necessary to combat unfair trade practices.

The long-standing IP challenges facing US businesses in India include those which make it difficult for innovators to receive and maintain

patents in that country, particularly for pharmaceuticals, insufficient enforcement actions and lack of an effective system for protection against unfair commercial use as well as unauthorised disclosure of undisclosed test or other data generated to obtain marketing approval for agrochemical products.

The biggest challenge is Section 3(D) in the amended Indian Patent Act (2005), which bars grant of patents to new forms of known substances unless the new form results in significant enhancement in efficacy over known substance. The applicant should demonstrate that the "new form" gives substantially higher "efficacy" over a previously known compound. Indian law-makers had justified this as a step to rein in tendencies to seek "frivolous" patents on some minor modifications to an existing substance or "ever-greening".

The Constitutional validity of Section 3(D) was upheld by the Supreme Court of India in the case of Glivec (an anti-cancer drug) in 2013, the beta-crystalline form of pre-existing compound 'imatnib

mesylate', for which Swiss major Novartis AG had sought a patent. It virtually shut the door to "incremental" innovations such as "new dosage form" and "new delivery systems." This is what worries global R&D companies and the USTR.

A perception that this will tantamount to "ever-greening" is a myth. Patent protection is confined only to a "new form" of "known" substance. The latter on completion of its patent term is already available to "generic" players for manufacture and marketing. Moreover, any company other than the inventor of a "known" compound, including Indian firms, can come up with a "new form" or a "new dosage" or "delivery system" and take patent cover.

While getting a patent is difficult, securing its enforcement is even more daunting. A major factor here is the use of compulsory licence — a flexibility available to developing countries under trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPs) agreement — which is often misused. A compulsory licence authorises a

generic firm to manufacture and market a patented product without prior consent of the patent holder.

Under Section 84 of Indian Patent (Amendment) Act 2005, a compulsory licence can be issued for "private commercial use" if it is found that the patent holder has not taken required steps to make patented product available in "sufficient" quantities or price charged is not "affordable." Further, under Section 92, the Government can issue the compulsory licence citing circumstances of "national emergency or extreme urgency or in case of public non-commercial use."

In 2012, using Section 84, compulsory licence was granted to Natco Pharma to make cheaper version of Bayer's kidney and liver cancer drug sorafenib (brand name: Nexavar). This was upheld by the apex court in 2014. With regard to protection of registration data, Article 39.3 of the TRIPs agreement states as under: "Members, when requiring, as a condition of approving the marketing of pharmaceutical or of agricultural products, which utilise new

chemical entities, the submission of undisclosed test or other data, the origination of which involves a considerable effort, shall protect such data against unfair commercial use."

In February 2004, the Government had set up an inter-ministerial committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, department of chemicals and petrochemicals, to "consider the steps to be taken in the context of the provisions of Article 39.3 for protection of undisclosed test or other data submitted to the regulator for seeking market approval of agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals."

In its report submitted on May 31, 2007, the committee recommended three years of data protection for agrochemicals and also suggested protection of information against unauthorised disclosure/use of agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. In Pesticides Management Bill (PMB) introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 2008, the then Government had proposed data protection for three years. The Bill is still pending.

In all the aforementioned three

areas, the gulf between the US and India is a bit too wide. While USTR wants Section 3(D) in the amended Indian Patent Act, 2005, to go or substantially diluted, India is in no mood to yield. On compulsory licence though, the latter had used it only once, its being on the statute makes the former scary. On data protection, with process of enacting the PMB going nowhere, the US has become jittery. No wonder, USTR has declared India as a repeat offender.

Both countries need to make efforts to bridge the gulf. India should expedite passing a law on data protection, dilute provisions of Section 3(D) and instill confidence that compulsory licence will be sparingly used. For this, it will have to shed a mindset that views protection of IP rights as being inimical to public interest. On its part, US-based MNCs will have to demonstrate that they won't exploit these rights to the detriment of patients and Indian farmers. However, for now, this seems to be a remote possibility.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)



FOREIGN EYE



BREXIT OPTIONS: GETTING STARKER

The odds seem slim on Mrs May snatching any sort of victory from the jaws of defeat before she is chased off into retirement. Yet the attempt to pass a bill is an important moment. Without some kind of convergence next month, it seems unlikely that Brexit can be resolved in the current parliament. But that does not make it any more likely that it can be resolved in the next parliament either.

(The Guardian Editorial)

Yogi sacks Rajbhar from Cabinet

SBSB leader hits back, says CM does not endorse my war against poverty

Lucknow: Just a day after polling ended in the Lok Sabha elections, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday sacked SBSB leader Om Prakash Rajbhar from the Cabinet for his outbursts against senior NDA partner BJP.

Governor Ram Naik accepted the recommendation and relieved Rajbhar with immediate effect from his post of Backward Class Welfare and Divyangjan Empowerment Minister, an official spokesperson said here.

The CM also recommended to the Governor that all other Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) members holding the rank of Minister of State be removed immediately.

A recalcitrant Rajbhar appeared before the media soon afterward and "welcomed" the decision of the CM.

"I welcome the decision (to

sack me). The decision taken by the chief minister was a delayed one," Rajbhar said. "Had the decision been taken around 20 days ago, it would have been much better."

"By taking the decision, he (Adityanath) has proved he does not endorse my war against poverty," he told reporters, donning his traditional yellow scarf, associated with his party.

The Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) had won four seats in the 2017 UP Assembly elections.

The MoS removed from the post included Rangaram Rajbhar and Virendra Rajbhar, both members of UP Backward Class Commission; Sudama Rajbhar, a member of Uttar Pradesh Pashudhan Vikash Parishad; Arvind Rajbhar, the Chairman Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises department; Rana Ajit Pratap Singh, the Chairman-cum-Director UP Seeds Development Corporation, Sunil Arkwanshi and Radhika Patel, members of National Integration Council.

All of them enjoyed the rank and status of state ministers. The senior Rajbhar was shown the door for making con-

troversial statements quite often against the saffron party, the latest being during the Lok Sabha election campaign when he said that BJP members should be "thrashed" with shoes.

He had recently sent a letter to the chief minister stating that he was resigning from the cabinet.

In Lok Sabha polls, Rajbhar's party fielded candidates from several constituencies in Uttar Pradesh and supported the Congress and the SP-BSP candidates on some seats.

Asked about the possibility of going with the BSP-SP-RLD alliance, Rajbhar said he would talk about it later.

Rajbhar expressed strong resentment towards the BJP for not allying with the SBSP in the state in the Lok Sabha polls.

"I was only demanding one seat in the Lok Sabha election. We are a party. And if we do not contest, then what message will we give to our workers and people?" he asked.

On what would be his future strategy, Rajbhar said, "I was born alone, I will walk alone. We will take our views to the people and spread awareness among the backward castes about their rights."

Rajbhar alleged that Adityanath did not have time to implement the recommendations of the social justice committee.

"If Om Prakash Rajbhar speaks about improvement in primary education to the children poor households, then it is bad," he said.

Rajbhar said he used to talk about implementing prohibition in Uttar Pradesh on the lines of Gujarat and Bihar, but claimed that Adityanath would not endorse it.

Hours after Rajbhar was sacked, the state BJP accused him of shattering the decorum of alliance dharma by continuously speaking against the saffron party despite being its partner.

"The BJP is a party which gives full respect to its allies and honours the coalition dharma. But, it is unfortunate that our alliance partner in UP, Om Prakash Rajbhar, not just violated the decorum of alliance dharma, but shattered it. It is for this reason that the party and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were compelled to take such a strong step," UP BJP chief Mahendra Nath Pandey said in a statement here. **PTI**

Why Kumaraswamy is annoyed with exit poll?

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy is annoyed with the exit poll results which have predicted land slide victory to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP with a desperate and annoyance Kumaraswamy who runs a coalition government along with the congress has expressed concerns over the vulnerability of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Tweet after tweet he hit out at exit poll predictions and blamed the media as biased and alleged that the "artificially engineered" or "manufactured" Modi wave is being used by the BJP to lure regional parties well in advance to fill any shortfall after the results on May 23.

He said in a tweet "Entire Opposition political parties had expressed concern over credibility of EVMs under PM @narendramodi's rule. Opposition parties even knocked the doors of the Supreme Court asking for a traditional ballot paper election-sto avoid defective EVMs that are vulnerable to fraud."

"World wide, even developed countries have opted for traditional polls through paper

ballots. The exit poll surveys on May 19 only reiterated the serious concern of the Opposition parties on misuse of vulnerable EVMs for electoral gains by the ruling party," he said in another tweet.

With most exit polls forecasting another term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP almost sweeping Karnataka in the Lok Sabha polls, chief minister H D Kumaraswamy looks desperate and also bogged down by the infighting within the coalition demanding for a change.

He said "The entire exit poll exercise was an effort to create false impression of a wave in favour of one particular leader and the party. As they say, it is just an exit poll, not exact poll."

Most exit polls on Sunday predicted that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party led National Democratic Alliance will comfortably cross the halfway mark of 272 seats in the Lok Sabha. Some even projected that the NDA will get more than 300 seats.

After the exit polls prediction a sweep for the saffron party in Karnataka, with pollsters claimed that the BJP was likely to win over 21 of the total



HD Kumaraswamy

28 seats. The jubilation is evident in the Karnataka BJP which went to polls under the Lingayat strong man BS Yeddyurappa. However, he said people of the country as well as Karnataka have supported Modi and the exit polls giving 22 seats to the saffron party in the state was a proof of that.

Stressing that many tall leaders of Congress-JD(S) will lose, he said, "Let's see what will happen after May 23, fighting is on between Congress and JD(S) already, let's see where it will reach." The Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) leaders questioning the EVMs shows their desperation", he added.

In the 2014 general election, the BJP had won 17 seats

while the Congress and the JD(S) had bagged 9 and 2 seats respectively. However, in the bypolls held in November last year the BJP had lost the Ballari seat to the Congress.

Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara too raised doubts over the EVMs, saying that the BJP had sponsored the exit polls as the ground reality was different. He also noted that the United Progressive Alliance will come to power at the Centre this time.

"Most of the exit polls are the reflection of the wishes of news channels. There is a Modi wave in the news channels but the actual result will be out when the (ballot) boxes are opened," congress leader BK Hariprasad told reporters. "They have shown BJP losing 40 to 45 seats in Uttar Pradesh. In rest of the places, these channels tried to fill the void. Exit polls are not exact polls. We will get exact poll when the counting happens," he added.

Speculation is rife in the political circles that any adverse results for Congress-JD(S) alliance in the polls will have its implications on the longevity of the Kumaraswamy-led government in Karnataka.

Chief of Northern Army Command warns Pak dare not touch LoC

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the declaration of Lok Sabha poll results on May 23, one of the senior most army commander based in Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur, Monday warned Pakistan to dare not try and come anywhere near the Line of Control (LoC) to carry out any actions.

"Should there be any misadventure by the Pakistan, they will be given a befitting reply," said GoC-in-C Northern Command headquarters Lt-Gen Ranbir Singh on the sidelines of a program in Udhampur.

"Indian Armed Forces have the capability, resolve and operational plan to take any challenge from the Pakistan whenever it arises" he added.

Addressing a press conference, Lt-Gen Singh also clarified that the first surgical strike happened in September 2016. He said, "I don't want to go into what political parties say, they'll be given an answer by the government. What I told you is a statement of fact."

In April 2018, DGMO had clarified in response to a RTI query, "data pertaining to surgical strikes, if carried out before 29 September 2016, was not available in the headquarters"

Referring to February 26 air strikes in Balakote by the Indian Air Force, Lt-Gen Singh said, "The action by IAF for carrying out air strikes in Balakote terrorist infrastructure was indeed laudable. Our aircrafts penetrated deep into their territory and carried out attacks on launch pads and camps."

Referring to Pakistan's posturing along the LoC, Lt Gen Singh said, "they carry out their operations close to the LoC and were given befitting reply". He said, "our deterrence, our articulation and our military strategy have always been clear."

"In case they mean business, they got to dismantle, the terror infrastructure, launch pads and

camp which are very close to the LoC," he added and said, "we are keeping continuous watch on the LoC and whenever any wrong activity is carried out by the Pakistan Army or Armed Forces, suitable response will be given to them," the Army Commander asserted.

Commenting on the overall security situation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh said, "The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir is well under control."

"During this year, we have been able to neutralize 86 terrorists so far & our operations continue in the same manner. Nearly 20 of them have been apprehended, we've also been able to bring back many of them to the mainstream."

Lt-Gen Ranbir Singh said, "Pakistan has continued with activities, which are mainly anti India like promoting cross border infiltration, ceasefire violations, drug trafficking, narcotics and circulation of fake Indian currency."

He added that all their actions are ensuring the proxy war waged against India is in continuation, adding, "But I assure you that our actions to counter them are in place and the Pakistan will not be allowed to succeed in their designs."

He said, "As far as the hinterland is concerned, we have recently finished with the elections in the state. It is to the credit of the security forces, administration in the state that we have very peaceful, free and fair elections". Referring to local youth joining ranks of different terror outfits, Lt Gen Singh said locals in Kashmir joining militancy "remains a matter of concern for all of us."

"Local recruitment remains a matter of concern for all of us. Last year, we had 217 local youth who had picked up militancy. This year, the number has significantly reduced and as on date there are only 40 youth who have picked up arms."



Macaque monkeys quench their thirst from roadside water-tanks during a hot summer day at Kishangarh near Ajmer in Rajasthan on Monday **PTI**

PSPL Agra (North) candidate resigns from party

Lucknow: A setback to Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) led by Shivpal Singh Yadav, its Agra (North) Assembly bypoll candidate Dilip Baghel resigned from the party on Monday.

The polling for the by-election was held on Sunday along with the seventh phase of Lok Sabha elections in the state.

In his resignation letter, Baghel has alleged that the party leaders did not cooperate with him in the bypolls.

He alleged that the area in which the party's youth wing president resides, no one was deployed at the polling booths while the district party office-bearers did not participate in his electioneering.

The PSPL leaders denied the charges.

"I am resigning from all party posts with immediate effect," Dilip Baghel said in the letter sent to Shivpal Yadav.

The bypoll to Agra (North) Assembly seat was necessitated following death of BJP MLA Jagan Prasad Garg. **PNS**

Exit polls a big farce: PUCL

Lucknow: "Exit polls are nothing but a big farce and one should take their outcome with a bucket full of salt," said a senior office-bearer of Lucknow chapter of People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) after a number of television channels aired analysis of exit as the marathon polls in India ended on Sunday evening.

It was not the exit polls but the variance in their projections that baffled the voters. Nine channels aired exit polls out of which six projected that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance would get between 300 and 350 seats while three predicted 287 to 242 seats for it. The majority half way in 543-member Lok Sabha or Lower House is 272. The variance is also visible in UP, the largest state of India, where the pollsters have given between 68 and 22 seats to the BJP.

The PUCL leader said that one of the news channels increased the seat projections

for BJP in Uttar Pradesh by 10. Earlier it predicted 22 seats for the BJP in UP but an hour later it jacked it up by 10 saying BJP would win 32 seats. "How and why that increase no one knows," he said.

Another news channel said Aam Aadmi Party vote share in UttarKhand would be 2.5 per cent though AAP is not contesting from this hill state, he said. The exit polls have thrown up confusing numbers. While some have given upper hand to SP-BSP-RLD mahagathbandhan, others say BJP will sweep the polls in the state. The range for BJP varied from 22 to 68. In the 2014 parliamentary election, BJP and its ally Apna Dal (Sonela) had won 73 seats in UP which has 80 Lok Sabha seats.

As per the exit polls, Times Now CVoter has given BJP 38+ seats in UP, gathbandhan 40 seats, and Congress two seats while ABP Nielsen has projected 56 seats for the alliance, 22 for BJP and two for Congress. **PNS**

Maharashtra enacts Maratha quota Ordinance for medical admissions

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a big relief to students seeking admission to medical and dental under-graduate and post graduate courses under Maratha reservation quota, the Maharashtra government on Monday promulgated the Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2019 to facilitate reservations to the students concerned.

Maharashtra Governor Ch Vidyasagar Rao signed the ordinance on the basis of an advice given by the Maharashtra Cabinet that such an ordinance was necessary to provide the benefit of reservations in admissions to SEBC classes in Medical and Dental under-graduate and post-graduate courses.

"There shall now be reservations in favour of the candidates belonging to SEBC classes from the educational year 2019-20 and also for admissions to other educational courses including under-graduate courses requiring the passing of the NEET or any other National Entrance Test," a statement issued by Raj Bhavan said in the evening.

The ordinance has been necessitated by the stay granted by the Bombay High Court on the 16 per cent quota offered to the Maratha community under the socially and educationally backward classes (SEBC) category for admission in this year's postgraduate medical courses.

The Nagpur bench of the high court had on May 2, said that the notification dated March 8 on the implementation of the new 16 per cent reservations for the Maratha community under the SEBC quota, would not be applicable to the post-graduate medical admission process which had begun earlier.

The high court agreed with the petitioners Shivani

ORDINANCE FACILITATES ADMISSIONS UNDER MARATHA QUOTA TO STUDENTS SEEKING ADMISSIONS UG, PG MEDICAL COURSES IN MAHA

Raghuwanshi and Pranjali Charhe who stated that the reservation was "unconstitutional" for this year's admissions. Their argument was that the SEBC Act came into force on November 30, 2018, while the admission process for the PG medical courses had started prior to that, on October 16, 2018.

Following the high court's order, Maharashtra government on March 4 filed a special leave petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court, challenging the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court's decision to stay the 16 per cent quota offered to the Maratha community under the socially and educationally backward classes (SEBC) category for admission in this year's postgraduate medical courses.

Immediately after the high court's order, the students seeking admissions to post-graduate medical courses in the state had gone on an indefinite agitation seeking admissions under the Maratha reservations quota.

The Maharashtra government's latest move comes as a huge relief to the agitating students seeking admissions to post-graduate medical courses under the Maratha reservation

category. It may be recalled that the PG medical courses had started on May 2, but on May 5, the students were informed that their admissions were cancelled, though they had paid full fees and joined duties.

They had secured admissions on the basis of the Maratha quota (SEBC) while cancelling their seats got through the All India Quota, but the SEBC quota has been declared invalid for the current year, he added.

The State government had last week assured the affected students that it would promulgate an ordinance to ensure the admission process was not affected in the Maratha reservations category.

Meanwhile, in its SLP filed before the apex court, the state government has submitted to the court that two rounds of the admission process has already been held and preparing a revised list now, will be unjust. The government also brought to the court's notice that the SEBC students, who cracked the two rounds of the admission process, have not made any representation before the High Court.

The state government has argued that deciding on the writ petition without involving the 'to be affected' parties results in violation of the principle of natural justice.

On its part, the State government had written a letter to the DMER on March 8, 2019 to incorporate and implement the SEBC quota from the academic year 2019 in their post-graduate medical courses.

However, the High Court, in its ruling, said that the government's notification of March 8, 2019 regarding the SEBC quota in health science courses will not be applicable for postgraduate admissions in dentistry and medicine since the registration process for NEET began on October 16 and November 2 in 2018, respectively.

Seshan, the ultimate Chief Election Commissioner

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The name Tirunellai Narayana Iyer Seshan many not strike any chord with the new generation. But you say TN Seshan and even the brash among political leaders may stand up in reverence. It is no exaggeration if one tells that people in the country learnt about the significance of the post of Chief Election Commissioner only after Seshan assumed the post in December 1990. For six years when Seshan was the boss of Nirvachan Sadan, booth capturers and vote merchants disappeared altogether.

"I am like a football referee. I don't have any role except supervising the match so long the players stick to the rules of the game. Ill not interfere. But the moment I am convinced that the play is going out of control, Ill pull out the yellow



"I am like a football referee. I don't have any role except supervising the match so long the players stick to the rules of the game. Ill not interfere. But the moment I am convinced that the play is going out of control, Ill pull out the yellow and red cards from my pocket and show it to the persons who err. If they continue with breaking of rules, I may have to sound the whistle and call off the match"

TN SESHAN, FORMER CEC

and red cards from my pocket and show it to the persons who err. If they continue with breaking of rules, I may have to sound the whistle and call off the match," said Seshan immediately after taking over as the Chief Election Commissioner.

True to his warning, he sounded the whistle during the 1991 Lok Sabha election, one of the most violent elections the country has seen.

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was campaigning at SriPerumbudur near Chennai was killed by a human bomb owing allegiance to the LTTE. Seshan, who is a seasoned astrologer had told his friend Rajiv Gandhi to be careful as the stars were not in favourable constellation. The next six years saw the election process undergoing major changes under the watchful eyes of Seshan. Politicians went

to the extent of describing him as a bull in the China shop, Al Seshan (in synch with the canine whose growling is sufficient to scare away strangers) and Tough Nut Seshan!

Age has tamed this lion as the former IAS officer who turned 86 last December needs the help of two-three aides to move around. "His weight is a problem as he weighs 150 kg. But nothing is wrong with his mental prowess as he is aware

of what is happening around. Seshan keeps track of all events through newspapers and radio," said Swamy Sunil Das of Sneham Charitable Trust, who is in touch with the former CEC on a daily basis.

Seshan stays at Jaya, a house which he purchased after retirement from IAS at St Mary's Road, Alwarpet, Chennai. His spouse Jayalakshmi passed away on 2018. A group of aides are always in attendance to help the 'master' who has not stopped roaring commands. Election Commissioners and Chief Election Commissioners would come and go. But each general election brings to mind the name of Seshan, who streamlined the complex election process in India. Malayatoor Ramakrishnan, himself a former IAS officer, had written a short story with Seshan as central character. What does a public servant want in life?



Students from an Art College pose with painted portraits of cricket team members ahead of World Cup 2019, outside CST terminal, in Mumbai on Monday **PTI**

SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE

R.C. No. 203/2014

HSBC VS AMIT KUMAR

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961, READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993

- CD#1** : Amit Kumar, B-1/53, 2nd Floor, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017.
Also at : Liberty Health Care Pvt. Ltd., 4347, Sector-23, Palam Vihar Road, Gurgaon - 122001.
Also at : Plot No. 29, Road No. 5, Qutub D, DLF Phase-1, Gurgaon.
CD#2 : Poonam Ameet Kumar, B-1/53, 2nd Floor, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017.
Also at : Liberty Health Care Pvt. Ltd., 4347, Sector-23, Palam Vihar Road, Gurgaon - 122001.
Also at : Plot No. 29, Road No. 5, Qutub Enclave Complex, Gurgaon.

1. Whereas Recovery Certificate No. 203/2014 in O.A. No. 50/2012 dated 24.06.2014 drawn by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II for the recovery of a sum of Rs. 2,59,83,339.00 (Rupees Two Crores Fifty Nine Lacs Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Nine Only) as become due as per Recovery Certificate drawn in O.A. No. 50/2012 dated 20.06.2014 by the Presiding Officer, Debt Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi, from defendant with simple interest @ 9% p.a. from 30.03.2012 onwards until recovery with cot of Rs. 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lac Fifty Thousand Only).

2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate.

3. Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://www.bankelections.com> on 21.06.2019 between 11 a.m. to 12 noon with extensions of 5 minutes duration after 12 noon, if required.

4. The sale shall be of the property of the CD(s) above-named as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot.

5. The property shall be put up for the sale as specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized by sale is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale will also be stopped if, before auction is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.

6. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.

7. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made thereunder and to the following further conditions.

7.1 The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.

7.2 The reserve price below which the property shall not be sold is Rs. 3,48,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crores Forty Eight Lacs Only) in respect of the property mentioned at serial no. (i) of the schedule of property and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is Rs. 34,80,000/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lacs Eighty Thousand Only) in respect of the property mentioned at serial no. (ii) of the schedule of the property.

7.3 The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price, alongwith documents including PAN Card, identity proof, address proof, etc., latest by 19.06.2019 before 5.00 PM in the Office of the Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi, shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 Noon on 21.06.2019. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.

7.4 The bidder(s) shall improve their offer in multiples of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only).

7.5 The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi/CH, i.e., HSBC Bank, immediately on closure of the e-auction proceedings.

7.6 The Successful/highest bidder shall have to prepare Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount favoring Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 203/2014 within 24 hours after close of e-auction and after adjusting the EMD and send/deposit the same in the office of the Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi so as to reach within 3 days from the close of e-auction, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.

7.7 The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 203/2014, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @2% upto Rs. 1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1,000 in favour of Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above).

7.8 In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

8. The property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".

9. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.
Property bearing No. Plot No. 29, Road 5, D-Block, Qutub Enclave, Phase-I, Gurgaon, Haryana	Not known	Not known	Not known

Given under my hand and seal on 06.05.2019.



sd/-
(Shiv Kumar)
Recovery Officer-I,
DRT-II, Delhi

BJP confident of 74 seats in UP; SP-BSP in huddle

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

A day after exit polls forecast a return of the NDA at the Centre, enthused State BJP leaders predicted Uttar Pradesh would give them more than 74 of its 80 seats, a claim dismissed by the SP-BSP camp whose top leaders met to discuss post-poll scenarios.

At the UP BJP office here, pointing to electoral maps of the state, detailing parliamentary and assembly constituencies, party leaders and functionaries from various districts indicated places from where SP-BSP alliance candidates would lose and claimed the SP-BSP alliance would break up after the results are announced.

As for SP-BSP, they do not agree with the projections that the NDA would get over 300 seats.

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati appeared to be opting for a wait-and-watch policy till results are announced on May 23.

"The future course of action will be decided only after the final results are announced. Till then, she (Mayawati) will be in the state capital," a party source said, requesting anonymity.

Multiple exit polls have suggested that the SP-BSP-RLD alliance is likely to dent the Bharatiya Janata Party's 2014 tally in Uttar Pradesh, though it might not be enough to throw a spanner in the formation of an NDA government at the Centre. Against the backdrop of the exit poll projections, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav drove to the residence of Mayawati in the morning and held talks with her for about an hour.

"We (SP-BSP-RLD) should get nothing less than 55 seats as the alliance has done exceedingly well. We expect around 60 (out of 80) seats. We do not agree with exit poll projections," another source said.

Meanwhile, with most BSP leaders preferring to remain in their districts after hectic elec-



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav and Bahujan Samajwadi Party chief Mayawati at latter's residence in Lucknow on Monday PTI

tioning, there was not much activity in the party camp here.

"The party leaders will come to the state capital only after May 23. They have been asked to stay in their respective districts and oversee the counting process," a party leader said.

Roads outside the BSP office and Mayawati's residence

reflected the caution with which the party is treading.

Aiming to check the return of NDA at the Centre, Mayawati had opted to sink decades-long differences to enter into an alliance with the SP for the Lok Sabha election.

In the 2014 general election, the BJP had won 71 seats,

its ally Apna Dal bagged two, the Samajwadi Party five and the Congress just two, while the BSP drew a blank.

Akhilesh Yadav went into a huddle with senior party leaders as the SP headquarters remained bereft of any enthusiasm.

The SP office here is generally abuzz with activities of

party workers but it was not so this morning though some supporters were seen discussing outcome of the alliance with the BSP and the RLD.

"The exit polls show us in good light. Some of the polls even give us over 50 seats. We are enthused with the exit polls, but are keeping our fingers crossed till the results are out on May 23," said Ajay Pratap Singh, a party leader from Sitapur, exuding confidence that the alliance candidate will win in his district.

A shop outside the SP office which usually does brisk business wore a deserted look with no buyers. Some said the torrid weather also played a role.

"We hope after the counting, if alliance gets required number of seats, there will be demand for flags and other materials," said Manoj, a vendor.

A group of young people having tea at a stall outside the party office were seen busy discussing results and credibility of exit polls.

POLLACHI SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE

CBI visits house of accused

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

CBI officials on Monday visited the house of an accused in the case of sexual harassment of women by a gang in nearby Pollachi as part of investigation, police said.

Two officers from the Central Bureau of Investigation, which has taken over the probe from Tamil Nadu CB-CID police recently, visited the house of Sabarirajan, among the five people arrested in the case.

They questioned the accused's parents, who were in the house, police said. A 19-year old woman student in February lodged a complaint with the police that a gang of four men had allegedly tried to strip her inside a car, shot a video of the act and blackmailed her using the visuals.

The gang was believed to have sexually harassed and blackmailed a large number of women in Pollachi over a period of time.

The issue triggered a public outrage, prompting the Tamil Nadu government to first transfer the case to the CB-CID police and later to the CBI.



Maharashtra NCP chief Jayant Patil, along with party's leaders, workers and local farmers, takes part in a protest march against the State Government over the drought-like situation in the State in Sangli on Monday PTI

Stalin: Centre, TN Govts have 'tied' hands of EC 'from behind'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

DMK President M K Stalin Monday charged the Central and Tamil Nadu governments with having "tied" the hands of the Election Commission of India (ECI) "from behind" and urged his party to keep a vigil on May 23 when votes polled in the Lok Sabha elections will be counted.

The BJP and AIADMK "will go to any extent in their quest for power" and DMK workers and agents should mount additional vigil on Thursday during counting of votes, he said.

"The Central (BJP) and

state (AIADMK) governments, who have tied the hands of the EC from behind, will go to any extent in their quest for power.

Though they know the people of Tamil Nadu are very angry against them, they are planning to prevent the victory of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance and are issuing orders to officials," Stalin said in a statement.

He said DMK agents should reach the counting centres well ahead of time and ensure all arrangements were in place and also make sure that the EVM seals are proper.

They should also ensure that the polled votes and the

ones counted matched and seek redressal if they come across any anomalies, Stalin said.

"We should not ignore the warnings issued by various opposition parties about the possible EVM frauds," he added.

"Our counting centre agents, party district secretaries and candidates should be extra vigilant during every round of counting," he added.

Earlier, Congress President Rahul Gandhi, TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Karnataka counterpart H D Kumaraswami had questioned the EVMs.

Six Hindu Mahasabha men held for celebrating Godse birthday in Guj

PTI ■ SURAT

Six Hindu Mahasabha activists were arrested for allegedly celebrating the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse at a temple in Surat's Limbayat area on Sunday, police said.

Godse was born in Baramati in Pune district, then part of the Bombay Presidency, on May 19 in 1910.

Godse was born in Baramati in Pune district, then part of the Bombay Presidency, on May 19 in 1910.

The Hindu Mahasabha activists had organised the celebration in the premises of Suryamukhi Hanuman temple in Limbayat area of city, following which they were arrested on Monday, said Surat Police Commissioner Satish Sharma.

"During the celebration of Godse's birth anniversary, these Hindu Mahasabha members lit up diyas around Godse's photo, exchanged sweets and sang bhajans in the temple premise. They even made videos and took photographs of the event,"

said Sharma.

"Their act of revering Godse, who had killed Gandhiji, deeply hurt the sentiments of citizens. It was an attempt to incite people and disturb peaceful atmosphere," said Sharma.

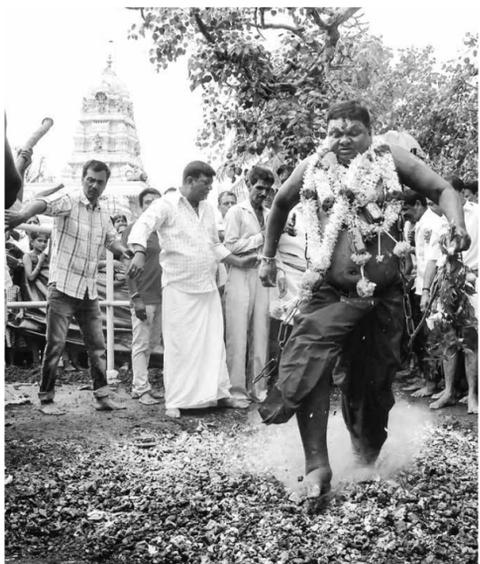
Officials said the six have been arrested under IPC sections 153 (provocation with an intent to cause riot), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups, doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 153B (making assertions prejudicial to national-integration). Police identified those arrested as Hiren Mashru, Vala Bharwad, Viral Malvi, Hitesh Sonar, Yogesh Patel and Manish Kalal.

Condemning the act of the Hindu Mahasabha, the ruling BJP's spokesperson Bharat Pandya said criticising Gandhiji was like "spitting at the sky", adding that such celebrations were being carried out by "immature people who do not have the vision to under the Mahatma's teachings".

The Congress, however, attacked the BJP on the issue.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
NIT No.: 116-S/1/Vehicle/Contract/5(2019)/ML-IV Name of work and its location: "Hiring of multi-utility Road vehicle i.e., Innova/Scorpio/Xylo (Five Door-Seven Seater) for the period of three years under Chief power Controller, DRM's Office, New Delhi" for 2400kms with 300hrs duty per month. Approx Cost of work: Rs. 15,55,200/- (Fifteen lakh Fifty Five thousand Two hundred only) plus GST as applicable. Earnest Money: Rs. 327000/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not to be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no 2015/CR-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016 Completion period of work: Three years i.e. 36 months from the date of execution of work. Cost of tender document on cash/by cost: Rs. 2360/- with GST @18% Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs on 25.06.2019 Opening of Tender at 15.00 hrs. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in 116-S/1/Vehicle/Contract/5(2019)/ML-IV Dated: 17.05.19 1523/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

OJSWI TRADES INVESTMENT AND FINANCE LIMITED
Kh. No. 300, Gopi Ram Building, Sultanpur Village, New Delhi-110030
Tel. No. 09810836602, Fax No. 0124-4699333
CIN: L67120DL1990PL042059
Website: www.ojswi.com Email: corporate.ojswi@gmail.com
Notice of Board Meeting
In Pursuant to Regulation 29 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement), 2015, notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, May 30, 2019** inter alia, to consider and take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and year ended on **March 31, 2019**.
The said information is also available on the website of the company at www.ojswi.com and may also be available on Stock Exchange website at www.mseil.com
By order of the Board,
For Ojswi Trades Investment and Finance Limited
Sd/- Sandeep Garg
Director
Place: New Delhi
Date: May 20, 2019



Devotees walk on embers during Kollapuradamma Kendotsava in Chikmagalur, Karnataka on Monday PTI

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is here by informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely: **Narayan @ Kalu S/o Santosh R/o WZ-212, Madipur Village, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from H. No. WZ-212, Madipur Village, Delhi since **07.05.2019 at 02:00 PM**. In this regard FIR No. 260/19 U/s 363 IPC dated **08.05.2019** has been lodged at **PS Punjabi Bagh, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far.
His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 08 years, **Height:** 3' ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black Color Pant and T-Shirt & Red Color Hawaii Chappal in feet.
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **Ph: 011-25225616**
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 **Mob. No. - 8750871124**
Fax No.: 011-24368639 **DP/8251/WD/19**

6-7, Rishi Bhawan, Community Centre, Phase-1 Mayapuri Delhi-64
Tel.: 011-28115786, 28114971, 28115814, Fax: 28115786
RTGS/IFSC: Symb0009028, SWIFT: SYNBINBB152
E-mail: Br.9028@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
([Appendix IV under the Securitization Act-Rule 81(1)])
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Syndicate Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 29.01.2019 with total outstanding Rs. 2,10,36,719.34 (Rupees Two Crore Ten Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Nineteen Rupees and Thirty Four Paisa) as on 29.01.2019 calling upon the borrower/owner of the property, M/s Ganapati Stone Crushing Proprietor Mr. Pradeep Mathur Unit: Village Bivan, Tehsil, Fatehpur Jharka, Distt-Nuh Haryana-122107 and Mr. Pradeep Mathur (Proprietor) House No. 43, Parva Pana, Delhi VPC Karala, surties Mr. Kartar Singh House No. 43, Parva Pana VPO Karala, Delhi and Mrs. Kanta Devi House No. 43, Parva Pana, VPO Karala Delhi.
The borrower/surety/owner of property having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/surety/owner of the property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 14th of May 2019.
The borrower's attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The borrower/surety/owner of the property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Syndicate Bank Mayapuri Branch (BIC : 9028) Branch for an amount of Rs. 2,18,89,153.52/- (Rupees Two Crore Eighteen Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand One Hundred Fifty Three Rupees and Paise Fifty Two Only) is due along with interest from 01.05.2019 and costs etc.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY OWNED BY
1. Commercial property bearing Kh. No. 79/83, 432/456, Kila No. 130/6/2, 4-0, 7, 8-0, 14/1, 1-13, 14/2/1, 1-12 Village Bewan, Tehsil-Firozpur Jharka, Haryana. Owned by M/s Ganapati Stone Crushing Company (Prop. Mr. Pradeep Mathur) bounded by North-Other Land, South-Other Land, East-Road and West-Other Land.
2. Commercial freehold property at Kharsa No. 1182/1265, Kila No. 167/8, Village-Bewan, Tehsil-Firozpur Jharka, Distt.-Nuh, Haryana Owned by Mr. Pradeep Mathur bounded by North- Village Road, South Road, East- P.M. Gram Road and west -Village Land
Date: 14.05.2018 Authorised Officer
Place: NEW DELHI (Syndicate Bank)

HAIDERPUR BRANCH
177, Haiderpur, Near Bus Stand, Delhi-110088
Tel : +91-11-27490671, 27490670
E-mail : br.9021@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
([for Immovable Property] (See rule-8 (1)))
The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Syndicate Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 19.12.2018 calling upon the borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) (1) **Ms. Renu Yadav (2) Sati Bala (3) Harswaroop to repay the amount mentioned in notice being in Rs. 33,74,986.58/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lacs Seventy Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Six and Fifty Eight Paise Only)** 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 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 section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **14-05-2019 at 03.34 am**
The borrower in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to charge of the **SYNDICATE BANK (BO: HAIDERPUR BRANCH)** for an amount of Rs. 33,74,986.58/- as on 01.12.2018 with further cost, interest etc. thereon.
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.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of the immovable property - Land an Building Plot No. 115 Admeasuring area 122 Sq. Yards Kharsa No. 1152, Yamaha Vihar Colony, Village Barola, Noida Tehsil Dadri, Dist. Gautambudh Nagar, Pin-201304 Owned By Renu Yadav.
PROPERTY BOUNDED AS:-
On The North By Plot No. 134
On The South By 20 Feet Wide Road
On The East By Plot No. 116
On The West By Plot No.114
Date : 14.05.2019 Authorised Officer
Place : Noida (Syndicate Bank)

India Inc mum on exit polls; awaits actual results

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Majority of India Inc on Monday chose not to react to exit polls, giving a second term to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they await election results on May 23.

When reached out, major industry chambers Ficci, CII and Assocham declined to comment on the exit polls.

Responding to a tweet by Chief Economist of Mahindra Group Sachchidanand Shukla on what to look forward to this week, group Chairman Anand Mahindra said, "This week will have only one 'Thing' we'll all be looking out for!" hinting at the May 23 results.

Apart from the election results, Shukla had listed US Fed's policy meeting on May 22-23, European Parliament elections on May 23-26 and PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) numbers for Japan, the US and Eurozone, among the global events to watch out for.

Reacting to the exit polls, industry body PHDCCI President Rajeev Talwar told PTI, "All of us in India must respect the mandate of the voter. If they deem it fit to give a second term to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, then it is much better than any opinion of anyone else".

The Indian voter has changed regimes whenever they have felt appropriate. They have also given a repeated term in their own wisdom. Therefore, probably if Modi gets a second term, it is best for the Indian economy, India's prestige and a peaceful Indian



society, he said.

"As an industry representative I believe there are a number of reforms which have happened and ones which need to take place. This is a decisive government and the reforms must continue, (if) we are to become a USD 7 trillion economy in the next five years," Talwar said.

RPG Enterprises Chairman Harsh Goenka, who is known for his witty and humorous tweets, said that now one thing is sure, "the next PM's initial starts with 'N'".

He also shared a joke from Whatsapp, "Based on #Exitpolls there will be a STABLE government and no HORSE trading necessary. No wonder, PM's residence is on RACE COURSE Road".

Brokerage Edelweiss Securities said if the NDA returns to power with a clear majority in line with exit polls, markets would rejoice the policy continuity.

"Besides, NDA is seen to be

relatively more fiscally disciplined and less populist in nature, which should augur well for inflationary dynamics," it said.

Edelweiss said factors such as the lagged impact of tighter financial conditions, sluggish private capex ahead of various domestic election-related and other external uncertainties and possible slower public capex amid fiscal constraints will weigh on growth outlook ahead.

"We expect only marginal cyclical improvement in growth in FY20 amid easier monetary stance and some consumption led the fiscal push in early FY20. But we see domestic structural overhang and global slowdown concerns constraining significant pickup in growth," it said.

In a report on Monday, Kotak Institutional Equities said, "we could see a small rally post-May 23 election results if the results are in line with the market's expectations".

₹ records biggest gain in 2 months after exit poll results

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Monday appreciated by 49 paise, the biggest single-day gain in two months, to close at 69.74 against the US dollar following sharp gains in equities and forex inflows after exit polls suggested another term for the ruling NDA Government.

Forex traders said investors welcomed exit poll results that predicted a thumping majority for the current BJP-led Government.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 70.36 and advanced to a high of 69.44 during the day.

The currency finally settled at a nearly two-week high of 69.74, registering a rise of 49 paise or 0.70 per cent against the dollar over its previous close. On Friday, the rupee had settled at 70.23 against the US dollar. This is the biggest single-day for the rupee since March 18 when the currency had zoomed by 57 paise or 0.82 per cent.

According to WGC Wealth Chief Investment Officer Rajesh Cheruvu, India saw a remarkable strengthening in its currency after exit polls and some de-coupling of the INR from other emerging currencies could be seen over the next few trading sessions. Sentiments were also buoyed by positive opening in domestic equities, and foreign fund inflows.

Benchmark Sensex zoomed over 1,422 points and the NSE Nifty surged 421 points after most exit polls

showed that the Narendra Modi-led NDA is returning to power with a thumping majority in the Lok Sabha elections.

The 30-share index ended 1,421.90 points, or 3.75 per cent, higher at 39,352.67. During the day, the gauge hit a high of 39,412.56 and a low of 38,570.04.

In a similar movement, the broader NSE Nifty soared 421.10 points, or 3.69 per cent, to 11,828.25.

Foreign investors put in Rs 1,734.45 crore on a net basis in equity markets Monday, provisional exchange data showed.

"Most of the exit polls have projected thumping majority for the NDA Government. The Government has taken bold steps in the last five years. This ensures policy continuity and required stability. Hence it will attract long term investors. So if the exit polls match the actual outcome then the rupee may head towards 68 levels in coming sessions," said Rushabh Maru, Research Analyst — Currency and Commodity, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers.

However, rising crude oil prices weighed on the domestic currency. Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global benchmark, was trading at 72.51 per barrel higher by 0.42 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 70.1666 and for rupee/euro at 78.4336. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 89.7276 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 64.03.

Airline stocks end on mixed note; IndiGo falls over 1%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Airline stocks on Monday ended on a mixed note, with InterGlobe Aviation slumping over 1 per cent even as markets soared on exit polls showing NDA returning to power.

Among the three airlines listed on the exchanges, shares of Jet Airways and SpiceJet gained, while that of InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, closed in the red.

InterGlobe shares fell 1.17 per cent to close at ₹1,456.75 apiece on the BSE. It had opened at ₹1,539.

On the NSE, the scrip declined 1.48 per cent to end the day at ₹1,452 after opening at ₹1,519.

Differences have cropped up between the promoters of IndiGo, the country's largest airline.

In a detailed statement issued on Saturday, InterGlobe had said that in any strong and well-managed company there will always be differences.

"And, yes, there may be differences currently on certain matters but the company has a great track record of resolving issues and coming out ahead. If the current differences were to not get resolved, you shall certainly hear about it, however, it serves no purpose speculating about it," the airline had said.

Shares of shuttered Jet Airways climbed 4.94 per cent to ₹130.60 on the NSE after opening at ₹130.

Business Corner



A Seminar was organised by Institution of Railway Signal & Telecommunication Engineers (India) (IRSTE) on the occasion of World Telecommunication & Information Society Day on May 17, 2019, at Rail Bhawan New Delhi. VK Yadav, Chairman Railway Board presided over the function. Other Board Members were also present in the Seminar. Addressing the gathering Yadav emphasised the need for Indian Railways to adopt a high capacity bandwidth Digital Mobile Communication Network for enhancing Passenger Safety, Security, Throughput and Asset Reliability.



Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed its Annual Performance Contract i.e. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the year 2019-20 with Ministry of Civil Aviation. The MoU was signed on Monday between Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary (Civil Aviation) and Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI. On this occasion, senior officers from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Board Members of AAI were also present.

Australian election results bode well for Adani's coal mine project

PTI ■ SYDNEY

A surprise election victory for Australia's pro-coal ruling coalition may bode well for the Adani Group's long-delayed mega coal mine project, with the Group's country head saying the defeat of Labor Party in Queensland, where the project is based, is a clear message to get the project done.

The opposition Labor Party leader Bill Shorten who took a firm stand against coal and mining has announced he is resigning after accepting defeat as his party fared poorly in Queensland, especially in mining communities in the north of the state.

Adani Australia Chief Executive Officer Lucas Dow in a video message on the company's Twitter page said Queenslanders have sent a strong message and it is now time for the Queensland government to hear that message.

"Queenslanders are proud of their coal mining industry. They know it is an economic powerhouse that creates jobs and sustains their regions and also provides billions of dollars each year for the benefit of the State," he said.

Dow also added that Queenslanders do not understand the Queensland Labor Government's continued efforts to "tarnish and delay the work of Adani Mining, which has been held to the highest level of scrutiny over the past eight years of planning and demonstrated its capability to operate as one of Australia's leading mining companies".

Adani Group wants to develop the Carmichael coal deposits in Queensland state, but the plan has been hampered by regulatory delays and difficulty in securing financing aiming fierce environmental resistance. First proposed in 2010, the project, if fully developed, has the potential to more than double the country's coal exports.

The people of the state "despair at the Queensland Labor Government's continued efforts to delay and undermine the delivery of the Carmichael Project, despite waving through approvals on other projects without the same level of scrutiny," he said. "As evidenced by this weekend's election results, Queenslanders have no tolerance for political actions that are unjust and put people's livelihoods at risk".

It's up to Govt to take a call on Huawei issue: Trai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator Trai on Monday said the issue of whether India needs to take a stand on Huawei is a "larger question" and that it is up to the government to take a call on the matter.

Last week, the Trump administration had placed Huawei and its affiliates on a blacklist, a move that essentially bans the Chinese firm from purchasing parts and components from American companies without the US Government approval.

Replying to a query on whether India needs to take a position on Huawei also, Trai Chairman RS Sharma told reporters, "This is a larger question and the government will have to take a call".

He did not comment further on the matter.

Meanwhile, Huawei has said it will continue to provide security updates and after-sales services to its existing smartphones and tablets, even as the future road map of products remains uncertain after the cancellation of its Android licence.

EU firms 'caught in crossfire' of US-China trade war

AFP ■ BEIJING

European firms are "caught in the crossfire" of the US-China trade war and fewer are optimistic about their future in the world's second-largest economy, a business survey showed Monday.

The clash between Beijing and Washington does not benefit European companies, contrary to what some might have hoped at the beginning of the dispute last year, according to the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

"Now the trade tensions are seen as another uncertainty on the business environment, something that won't be sorted out quickly whether there is a deal or not," said chamber vice president Charlotte Roule.

"The trade tensions, according to our members, are not good for business". According to the survey, the trade war is one of the top concerns for European firms in China (23

per cent), after the Chinese economic slowdown (45 per cent), the global economy (27 per cent) and rising labour costs in China (23 per cent).

The study, which received replies from 585 firms, was conducted in January, as trans-Pacific trade tensions eased.

They ratcheted up again in early May with the United States and China slapping steep increases in punitive customs tariffs on each other.

But early this year, a quarter of European companies in China said they were already suffering from the US increase in tariffs on Chinese products. Many European companies manufacture products in China and export them all over the world.

A small number (six per cent) have already relocated to circumvent the US penalties, or are planning to do so elsewhere in Asia or Europe.

But Europeans say they share many of the grievances raised by the Trump adminis-

tration in its campaign against Beijing.

"The fundamental issues driving the trade war need to be resolved by addressing market access barriers and regulatory challenges while also tackling SOE reform and forced tech transfer," Roule stressed.

Some 20 per cent of the companies surveyed complained of being forced into technology transfers for the benefit of a Chinese partner, double the figure two years ago. For a quarter (24 per cent), such transfers were currently under way. "The authorities are saying there are no technology transfers any more but this is not what we see in our survey," she said. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang reiterated Beijing's denial.

"We do not have a national policy of forcing foreign companies to transfer technology," Lu said at a regular press briefing.

He recalled that the country's rubber-stamp parliament adopted in March a foreign investment law that prohibits the use of "administrative means" to force the transfer of technology.

More than half of the companies said legal protection of intellectual property was "inadequate", and 45 per cent say they suffer "unequal treatment" compared to their Chinese counterparts.

State firms and their subsidiaries are their main bone of contention. The Europeans largely accuse these companies of enjoying preferential treatment, with 62 per cent saying they have better access to public contracts.

And the outlook is getting gloomier: only 45 per cent of the firms surveyed say they are optimistic about growth prospects for their sector over the next two years, compared to 62 per cent a year ago.

Half do not expect to see a level playing field in the next five years or even beyond.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Amit Kumar S/o Lt. Sat Parkash R/o 428, MCD Colony, Samaipur Badli, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. **514/14 U/s 379/411 IPC** registered at P.S. **Prashant Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Amit Kumar** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Amit Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Amit Kumar** of F.I.R. No. **514/14 U/s 379/411 IPC** registered at P.S. **Prashant Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **16.07.2019**.

By Order
Ms. Niharika Sharma
Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 110, 1st Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

HAIDERPUR BRANCH
177, Haiderpur, Near Bus Stand, Delhi-110088
Tel.: +91-11-27490671, 27490670
E-mail: br.9021@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property) (See rule-8 (1))
The undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Syndicate Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **18.01.2019** calling upon the borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) (1) **M/s Durga Departmental Store (2) Sh. Dau Dayal Aggarwal S/o Sh. G. S. Aggarwal (3) Sh. Shudhanshu Aggarwal** to repay the amount mentioned in notice being of **Rs. 21,55,665/- (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Fifty Five Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Five Only)** 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 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 section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **14-05-2019 at 01.43 pm**
The borrower in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to charge of the **SYNDICATE BANK (BO: HAIDERPUR BRANCH)** for an amount of **Rs. 21,55,665/-** as on **01.01.2019** with further cost, interest etc. thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of the immovable property - Subsequent Charge on Existing UREM of Commercial Sh. No. 9 & 10, S-22, B-Block, Shalimar Garden Extn.-II, Ghaziabad in the Name of **Dau Dayal Aggarwal** Who is the Father of The Borrower Owned By **Mr. Dau Dayal Aggarwal**.

PROPERTY BOUND AS:-
On The North By Road
On The South By Road There After Chandersokhar Park
On The East By Corridor
On The West By Road
Date : 14.05.2019
Place : Ghaziabad
Authorised Officer
Syndicate Bank

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Ram Singh, S/o Handu Ram, R/o: WZ-430, F-2, Ground Floor, Naraina Village, New Delhi, Age: 45 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Face: Oval, wearing Red colour Shirt and White colour Pant and Red colour Chappal in feet,** has been missing from his house since 05.05.2019 around 07:00 PM. In this regard a **DD No. 10A, dated 07.05.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Naraina, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Naraina, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25891181, 25892010
DP/8254/WD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of **Male Age: About 32 years, Height: 5'6", Face: Oval, Built: Strong, Hair: Black, Complexion: Wheatish, ID Mark: A tattoo of "Mukesh Kumar" on right arm, Wearing: Blue coloured sports t-shirt, Cream coloured sports lower and slipper in feet,** was found dead hanged with tree on 14.05.2019, Near Platform No.-1, Delhi Cantt Railway Station, New Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 37A, dated 14.05.2019** has been lodged at **PS Naraina, Delhi**. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.



SHO
P.S. Naraina, Delhi
Ph.No.: 011-25891181, 25892010
Mob.: 8750871122, 9818606025
DP/8255/WD/19

MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one person, **Namely: Varun Gupta, S/o: Rajender Singh, R/o: Flat No.-339, Sec A/6, Pkt-1, DDA Flat, Narela, Delhi** has been missing/kidnaped since 14.04.2019 from the area of **P.S. Narela, Delhi**. In this regard, a **Case Vides DD No. 75-A, Dated 30.04.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi**. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing/kidnaped person is as under:
Name: Varun Gupta, S/o: Rajender Singh, R/o: Flat No.-339, Sec A/6, Pkt-1, DDA Flat, Narela, Delhi, Age: 31 years, Height: 5'4" feet, Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Black Colour Shirt & Blue Colour Pant and Khaki Shoes in feet. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnaped person, then please inform **P.S. Narela, Delhi**.



email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: No.011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
S.H.O
P.S. Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27282350, 27285839
DP/271/ON/19.

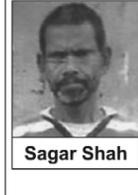
SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Pooja D/o Pammi, R/o H.No.296E, Gali No.9, Nehru Nagar, Anand Parbat, Delhi PS Anand Parbat, Delhi** has been missing since 10.05.2019 at 3.00 PM. In this regard a **DD No. 62A, Dated 11.05.2019,** has been lodged at **PS, Anand Parbat, Delhi**. The description of missing girl is as under:
Name : Pooja, Father's Name : Pammi,

Age : 18 years & 9 Month, Height : 5'0", Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Built : Thin, Wearing : Skyblue Suit, & Salwar, Chappale in feet.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO
P.S., Anand Parbat, Delhi
Ph : 011-28762468
28764807
DP/6272/CD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a Male namely **Sagar Shah S/o Sh. Moti Shah, R/o H.No. 263, Village Rajpur, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi, Age : 55 yrs., Height : 5'5", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Oval, Built : Medium, Wearing : Light Yellow Colour Half Pant, Light Green Colour Shirt and Black Colour Chappal in Feet,** has been missing / kidnapped since 08.05.2019 at 10:00 pm from Delhi Gate, Daryaganj, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 48-A dated 09.05.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped Male but no clue has come to light so far.
If anyone having any information about this missing / kidnapped Male please inform undersigned.
Website: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23274683, 23279331
DP/6284/CD/19.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that a female person was found in SGM Hospital, Mangolpuri, Delhi on dated **09.05.2019** at 11:46 PM. vide **MLC No.7147/19**. During the treatment she has been declared dead by doctor. In this regard a **vide DD No. 80-B dated 09.05.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**.



The description of the dead female is given as under **Name: Sunita Devi, W/o Sudhir Pal, R/o Sai Widow Ashram, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, Age: 35 years, Height: 5' Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Cream Colour Blouse and Blue Colour Saree**
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead female please inform undersigned.
SHO
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-25946710, 25946700
DP/2249/OD/19
7065036129

Mbappe wants responsibility, 'maybe at PSG, maybe elsewhere'

AFP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain star Kylian Mbappe fuelled speculation surrounding his future on Sunday, saying that he wants "responsibilities, maybe at PSG, maybe elsewhere".

The 20-year-old backed up his excellent 2018 World Cup, where he scored four times as France won the trophy, by netting 38 times for PSG this season.

He was named as the Ligue 1 player of the season on Sunday, but did not deny that a potential move away from France could be in the offing.

"It (the award) is an important moment for me, a turning point in my career... The moment of having more responsibilities, maybe at PSG, maybe elsewhere," he told *BeIN Sports*.

Mbappe did not back down on his comments when asked about them in the mixed zone a few minutes later.

"For me, it was the moment to say it... When I say something, I think about it," he said, reiterating his desire to have more "responsibilities".

"If it's at PSG, it's good, if it's elsewhere, it will be elsewhere for

a new challenge."

Mbappe has been regularly linked with a potential move to Real Madrid since breaking through with Monaco's 2017 Ligue 1 title-winning team, but instead made the switch to PSG, initially on loan, and then for 180 million euros.

But since Zinedine Zidane's return to the Real dug-out earlier this year, rumours about Mbappe joining his fellow Frenchman at the Santiago Bernabeu have intensified.

This term, Mbappe has stepped up another gear with teammate Neymar out injured for much of the campaign.

Mbappe has followed in Neymar's footsteps by winning the player of the season accolade in France, although he needs to score five in the last league game of the season against Reims next weekend to snatch the European Golden Shoe from Lionel Messi.

"I tell myself that even if I lose, I lose to Messi, one of the greatest players in history," he said.

"To think that maybe I kept up with him until the last game, that's a source of pride too, but it's not over."



India eye KO stage at Sudirman Cup



Japan survive scare after Momota gamble backfires

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

Japan gambled by resting top-ranked Kento Momota and nearly paid the price, suffering a huge scare before battling back to beat Russia 3-2 in their Sudirman Cup opener here on Monday.

The top seeds are bidding to win the mixed-team world championships for the first time, but a major shock was on the cards when the Japanese went 2-1 down.

The unfancied Russians enjoyed surprise victories in the men's singles and men's doubles, before the Japanese fought back.

Japan, who along with the hosts are the favourites, decided to rest world champion Momota along with their first-choice men's pairing.

They were initially unaffected and won the mixed doubles in the opening rubber. But Russia then took advantage of Japan's weakened side with Vladimir Malkov, ranked 62, beating Momota's replacement Kenta Nishimoto — 10th in the world — and also winning the men's doubles.

But Japan's women saved the day for them, world number two Nozomi Okuhara thrashing Natalia Perminova in the women's singles to make it 2-2 in the tie.

The women's duo of Yuki Fukushima/Sayaka Hirota saw off Ekaterina Bolotova/Alina Davletova to save Japan from embarrassment.

"It was a relief to get the winning point," said Fukushima.

"In the end it worked out well for us."



PTI ■ NANNING

India will start as favourites against a young Malaysian team sans legend Lee Chong Wei when they clash in a group 1D match of the Sudirman Cup here on Tuesday.

India, who had reached the quarter-finals twice in the 2011 and 2017 editions, will have to overcome Malaysia, the 2009 semifinalists, when they begin their campaign. Any hiccups against Malaysia will make their next clash against the mighty China a must-win battle.

Malaysia were thrashed 0-5 by China in the opening match and a loss against India will see them bow out of the competition.

The 13-member Indian team, seeded eighth this time, chances during the mixed team championship will depend on the quality singles players such as PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma.

Malaysia will be led by Goh Jin Wei and Soniia Cheah in women's singles, while Lee Zii Jia will be entrusted with the responsibility in men's singles in the absence of Chong Wei, who is still recovering from nose cancer.

While India hold the edge in both, given the way Soniia stretched All England Championship Chen Yufei on Sunday, it will be interesting to see who

India will select to field between No 5 Sindhu or Saina, ranked 9th.

Srikanth has consistently reached the quarters but struggled to go beyond in 11 of his last 13 tournaments. He had a runner-up finish at the India Open and is expected to hold the edge against Zii Jia.

Malaysia will need their doubles to put up a good performance to salvage hopes of making it to the knockout stage.

Malaysia saw some promising performances this year from Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik and Ong Yew

Sin and Teo Ee Yi in men's doubles, Chow Mei Kuan and Lee Meng Yean in women's doubles and Goh Soon Huat and Shevon Jemie Lai and Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing in mixed doubles.

For India the return of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy after an injury gap will fuel India's hopes in both men's doubles and mixed doubles.

Satwik, who recovered from a shoulder injury to make a title-winning comeback at the Brazil International Challenge recently, will form a formidable men's doubles pair with Chirag Shetty, while pairing with the experienced Ashwini Ponnappa in mixed doubles.

If India can quell the Malaysian challenge, they can go with a relaxed mind against the 10-time champions China on Wednesday.

SINGLES

SAI CLEARS OPEN TRIALS FOR ASIAN C'SHIP

NEW DELHI: Top gymnasts, including Dipa Karmakar and Rakesh Patra, breathed a sigh of relief after the Sports Authority of India cleared Gymnastic Federation of India's proposal to have an open trial for the Asian Championships on June 7 at the IG stadium. Over 12 senior gymnasts had written to SAI, Sports Ministry and GFI, expressing concerns regarding the trials, which were announced on May 17, with just a two-day notice for the Mongolia event to be held from June 19 to 22. GFI had said that the selection trials were not open but limited to just 8-10 gymnasts, who were selected for the National Coaching Camp during the trials conducted by SAI on April 12 and 13. However, SAI decided to postpone the trials after a meeting with the GFI officials. "There will be an open selection trials for seniors on 7th June 2019 at IG Stadium, New Delhi for selecting the team for the Senior Asian Championships," GFI vice president, Riyaz Bhati said.

TIGERS TAME NORTH MUMBAI PANTHERS

MUMBAI: Shams Mulani's unbeaten 60 helped Aakash Tigers Mumbai Western Suburb beat North Mumbai Panthers by six wickets in their T20 Mumbai League game here on Monday. Arjun Tendulkar also made a notable contribution for the Tigers, first by returning with figures of 3/27 and he later scored 28 off 24 balls, striking four fours. Mulani took a wicket conceding 33 runs and then his unbeaten 60 off 31 balls, in which he struck three hours and four sixes, guided Tigers to a win. Mulani with his left-arm spin put the brakes on a dangerous Panthers opening partnership that was running away with the game early on before Tendulkars timely blows with his left-arm pace restricted the Panthers to 169 for six.

ALONSO FAILS TO QUALIFY FOR INDY 500

INDIANAPOLIS: Fernando Alonso's latest bid for Indianapolis 500 glory ended in failure on Sunday after the two-time Formula One world champion failed to qualify for the US motorsport showpiece. The 37-year-old Spaniard was eliminated by young US driver Kyle Kaiser on the final run of the rain-delayed "Last Row Shootout" qualifying session at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. McLaren driver Alonso had been chasing a victory at the Brickyard in a bid to become only the second driver after Britain's Graham Hill to claim the Triple Crown of motorsport, with wins in the Monaco F1 Grand Prix, 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance and Indy 500. But Alonso's attempt to add the last remaining piece of the treble to his trophy cabinet was snuffed out in a dramatic qualifying session.

INDIA BEAT KOREA 2-1 IN TOUR OPENER

JINCHON: Indian women's hockey team defeated hosts South Korea 2-1 in the first match of the three-match bilateral series to begin its short tour on a confident here Monday. Young striker Lalremisiami (20th minute) and Navneet Kaur (40th) scored for India, while Shin Hyejeong (48th) found the net for Korea. "Considering this was our first match, I think the result was good but the performance can be better. We tried some new things in the match and it was interesting to see how we handled the change," India's chief coach Sjoerd Marijne said after the game.

Agencies

Siwach leads way as all Indians advance

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Former world youth champion Sachin Siwach outclassed his Argentine rival Ramon Nicanor Quiroga as all seven Indians in fray had a smooth sailing on the opening day of the Indian Open boxing tournament here on Monday.

Fresh from a Bronze at the GeeBee Boxing tournament, Siwach used his height to full advantage, dominating the bout right from the first round en route a 5-0 win by a unanimous decision in the 52kg men's category at the Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor Stadium.

Siwach will next face former world championship Silver medalist Rogan Ladon in the quarterfinal and aiming to avenge his semifinal defeat by a split-decision in the President's Cup.

"It was a narrow defeat last time. But now I've now improved my speed and skill and I will look forward to settle scores this time," Siwach said.

Siwach features in the bottom half of the draw that has Commonwealth Games Gold medalist Gaurav Solanki, while the top-half in the 52kg draw features Asian Games Gold medalist Amit Panghal.

"When it comes to Indians we all know each other's strengths and weaknesses. It's a tough road ahead as flyweight is highly competitive. But as of now my focus is on the next round against the Filipino boxer," the 20-year-old talented boxer from Haryana said.

Siwach was the only Indian in the fray in the men's section, while the women's category saw all of them making the next



round.

Former world championship Silver medalist Sonia Lather began her campaign with a 5-0 win over Chandra Kala Thapa to reach the quarterfinals in the 57kg.

In the women's 60kg, Preeti Beniwal put up a robust display to outclass her Nepalese opponent Sangita Sunar in a unanimous 5-0 victory to make the quarters.

Making her competitive debut in the 60kg, Shahshi Chopra too had an easy outing defeating Bhutan's Tandin Choden 5-0 by unanimous decision.

Manisha Maun defeated Nesthy Peticio of Philippines 4-1 in the 57kg category. Jyoti Gulia and Anamakia also made the quarterfinals with easy wins over their respective opponents.

MARY NIKHAT BATTLE

Six-time world champion Mary Kom may have a possible semi-final face-off with Asian Championships Bronze medalist Nikhat Zareen in 51kg.

As per the draw,

released on Sunday. As many as 10 Indian boxers are already confirmed of a medal each with six in men and four in women entering the 81kg semi-finals, and so are Naman Tanwar and Sanjeet in 91kg while Satish Kumar and Atul Thakur are in +91kg.

In women's boxing, Lovlina Borgohain and Anjali are already assured of medals in 69kg while Bhagyabati Kachari and Saweety Boora are through to the last-four in 75kg by virtue of a first round bye.

"We have at least a couple of Indian boxers in each category and the competition is very close. It will be a very interesting tournament and the exposure for the boxers will stand them in good stead ahead of the World Championships," Raffaele Bergamasco, the Performance Director of Indian women's boxing, said.

On the pitch, forward Mario Mandzukic struck ten minutes from time to cancel

ATALANTA SNATCH POINT AT ALLEGRI'S FAREWELL

AFP ■ ROME

Departing Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri bid farewell to the Turin fans in the team's final home game this season on Sunday, a 1-1 stalemate against Atalanta that kept the visitors' hopes of a first-ever Champions League qualification alive.

The Juventus fans paid tribute to Allegri, who the club's management have decided will not be their coach next season, despite winning 11 trophies in five years, but missing out on winning the Champions League.

Juventus have already wrapped up their record eighth consecutive title, which was Allegri's fifth.

The team were officially presented with this year's Serie A trophy — the first for Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

Former World Cup winner Andrea Barzagli played his final home game after eight years in Turin, and received an resounding ovation when he came off after an hour.

On the pitch, forward Mario Mandzukic struck ten minutes from time to cancel



out Josip Ilicic's 33rd-minute goal for Atalanta.

The point keeps Atalanta's hopes of a first Champions League campaign alive, which they can seal if they beat Sassuolo in their final game next weekend.

Atalanta moved third ahead of Inter Milan on head-to-head after Luciano

Spalletti's side lost 4-1 at Napoli.

Juventus and second-placed Napoli are already through to the Champions League next season.

AC Milan are just one point behind Inter and Atalanta in fifth after Krzysztof Piatek and Suso struck in a 2-0 win over Frosinone.

Inter will play their final match against Empoli, who are trying to avoid relegation. Polish striker Piatek got back scoring on 57 minutes at the San Siro, with Spanish winger Suso adding a second nine minutes later.

Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved a Camillo Ciano penalty before Piatek broke his five-match scoring drought with his 22nd goal of the season.

Milan are at least assured of a place in next season's Europa League, along with Roma, who were held to a goalless draw at Sassuolo on Saturday.

The two teams benefited from seventh-placed Torino's shock 4-1 defeat at Empoli, which ended the northerners' European hopes.

Lazio, in eighth, are sure of playing in the Europa League group stage thanks to their Coppa Italia victory.

Empoli moved out of the relegation zone at the expense of Genoa, who were held 1-1 by Cagliari, and are now 18th ahead of next week's clash with Fiorentina, themselves just three points off the drop zone.

Kroos pens new Madrid deal

AFP ■ MADRID

Germany international Toni Kroos has extended his contract with Real Madrid until 2023 ahead of an expected summer overhaul at the club, the Spanish giants said on Monday.

The 29-year-old midfielder has won 12 titles in five seasons in Spain, lifting the Champions League trophy in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Kroos has scored 13 goals in 233 appearances for Real since arriving from Bayern



Munich in 2014 after helping Germany win the World Cup in Brazil.

Real finished third in La Liga this term, 19 points behind champions Barcelona after registering their lowest points haul in 17 years, ending with a limp 2-0 home defeat to Real Betis on Sunday.

Coach Zinedine Zidane has promised changes to the squad ahead of the season, with Gareth Bale, goalkeeper Keylor Navas, Nacho, Sergio Reguilon, Isco and Marcos Llorente all tipped to leave the club.

MAN CITY NEED TO WIN CL: GUARDIOLA

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola admits Manchester City will ultimately be judged on whether they win the Champions League despite wrapping up an unprecedented domestic treble with a 6-0 whipping of Watford in the FA Cup final.

The 48-year-old Spaniard said in the immediate aftermath of Saturday's rout the domestic treble is more difficult than winning the Champions League because it demands greater consistency over a gruelling season.

"I said before that I know we will be judged at the end

on whether we win the Champions League," said Guardiola, who twice conquered Europe as Barcelona coach.

"I know unless we do that it will not be enough." "This comes with me. I know that. I arrived in Barcelona, we were lucky we won it two times in four years and the people expect I am something special, that we have to win the Champions League and it's still true."

Guardiola, who has not tasted European success since 2011, having drawn a blank during his spell with Bayern Munich, said what sets the



GUARDIOLA AND CITY, WHO HAVE NEVER WON THE COMPETITION, HAVE FAILED TO MAKE IT PAST THE QUARTER-FINALS SINCE HE TOOK OVER IN 2016

Champions League apart is the level of the opposition.

Guardiola and City, who have never won the competition, have failed to make it past the quarter-finals since he took over in 2016.

They lost to Monaco in the last-16 in 2017 and exited in the last eight to Liverpool last year and Tottenham this season.

"In this club, the points record and the domestic competitions is incredible," he said.

"But the Champions League we don't win quite often compared to the other ones because the teams are so good, the competition is so demanding but we want to win it."

Amir, Wahab recalled for WC

PTI ■ KARACHI

Experienced left-arm pace duo of Muhammad Amir and Wahab Riaz were included in Pakistan's final 15-member World Cup squad following their 0-4 loss to England in the ODI series.

Both the bowlers were not included in the initial World Cup squad announced last month but Amir, who is yet to recover from chickenpox, was named for the one-day series against England which Pakistan completed on Sunday.

The selectors have axed allrounder Faheem Ashraf and left-arm pacer Junaid Khan from their initial World Cup squad to make way for the two senior players.

The selectors had discarded Wahab from the tour to England but after the thrashing given to the Pakistani pacers in the one-day series they apparently had a change of mind.

Wahab, who turns 34 next month, last played a one-day international for his country in the opening match of the 2017 Champions Trophy against India going for 87 runs without a wicket and than limping off with an injury.

Since then the selectors have ignored him for 50-overs cricket while Amir also didn't feature in the series against England after contracting chickenpox and his form remains a concern after he took just five wickets in his last 14 ODIs since the Champions Trophy.

According to the cricket board, Amir has recovered from his chickenpox and he and Wahab will be available for the warm-up matches against Afghanistan and Bangladesh this week.

In another major decision, the selectors have dropped young batsman Abid Ali from their World Cup squad to make way for the hard-hitting Asif Ali.

Ali was initially not part of the World Cup squad and went to England for the ODI series where he scored two half-centuries.

"The lack of potency of our frontline bowlers in the recent ODI series meant that a change was needed. In addition, we now know that we will encounter batting wickets throughout the World Cup campaign," Chief Selector, Inzamam-ul-Haq said.

"The combination of these elements, meant that we believed right now, utilising the World Cup experience and knowledge of Wahab was the correct

choice," he said.

"Wahab has been training and playing club cricket, and the player of his calibre will not face much problem in adapting and adjusting to the gruelling demands of the World Cup," Inzamam said.

On the exclusion of Abid Ali, Inzamam said: "It was not an easy decision to leave him out particularly after he got only one opportunity on the tour. But, he was our third choice opener. After both struck early form, we preferred Asif Ali as he brings firepower to the team that can strengthen our chances in the tournament," the Chief Selector said.

Abid, despite being a member of the initial World Cup squad, was given just one opportunity on the entire tour.

Inzamam said the final 15-member squad was announced in consultation with the captain and head coach.

Wahab has been included in the squad in place of allrounder, Faheem Ashraf while the experienced left arm pacer, Junaid Khan has also been dropped after playing in just two ODI matches against England.

Pakistan World Cup squad: Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Asif Ali, Shoaib Malik, Muhammad Hafeez, Sarfaraz Ahmed (Capt), Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Wahab Riaz, Muhammad Amir, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Muhammad Hasnain.



Bumrah can burn opposition with pace: Jeff Thomson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In his prime, his USP was raw pace that terrorised batsmen across the globe and no wonder Jeff Thomson is impressed with Jasprit Bumrah's ability to "burn opposition with raw pace".

Bumrah has been rated as the world's best bowler by Sachin Tendulkar and the legendary Dennis Lillee's former new ball partner's words only add to the Gujarat slinger's exponentially growing reputation.

"Bumrah is really good. He is someone, more than he has bowled, the better he has got. That's how it should work," Thomson, the world's fastest bowler in the 1970s alongside Malcolm Marshall, said.

"He has got raw pace to burn opposition as and when he wants to but he mixes it up. And he is awkward too to read. I haven't seen batsmen reading him well. He is unorthodox and that's what makes him different," said Thomson.

According to Thomson, Bumrah, along with Kagiso Rabada, will be the two bowlers to watch out for as they can put their hand up and respond to situations.

Talking about pace bowling, Thomson is a touch worried about Mitchell Starc's form but agreed that the left-arm quick would be a vital cog in Australia's wheel.

"I hope Mitchell Starc is on song during World Cup as of late he has been all over the shop like last summer," Thomson said about Australia's senior most pacer.

However, given his quality and ability to run through opposition sides, Thomson is confident that he will find form.

"Starc, if he can bowl well can be as good as anybody in the world. He is a precious man. He needs to bowl quick and at the same time be accurate. He gave too much away in the past," he added.

Thomson, however, is not happy that Josh Hazlewood is not in the bowling unit even though it seems quite decent.

"Pat Cummins is not a problem in my books. He has talent. We don't have Hazlewood but he could have been there. Still I would say our bowling attack is pretty good," he added.



POOR FIELDING WORRIES ARTHUR

IANS ■ LEEDS

After conceding a 0-4 series defeat against England, Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur admitted that his side did not perform well in the bowling and fielding departments which led to their loss in the five-match rubber.

On Sunday, hosts England comfortably defeated Pakistan by 54 runs in the final ODI of the series and made sure that their World Cup preparations were on track and they remain the hot favourites for the showpiece event.

Pakistan, who are usually termed as a very good bowling side, lacked bite and conceded totals in excess of 300 in the four completed matches. And towards the end of the series, their poor fielding, which saw regulation catches being put down and a slew of misfields, also



raised questions over their World Cup chances with less than two weeks to go.

"Our fielding has been very disappointing. That has been a massive difference between the two sides," ESPNcricinfo quoted Arthur as saying

after the loss at Leeds.

"At Southampton and Nottingham, it was anybody's game going into the last five overs. We competed really well. The one difference has been our fielding and that's a real worry for me," he added.

The Pakistan head coach was, however, happy with the way the batters performed against the number one ranked ODI side.

"We sit here and take a hell lot of the positives out of this series. Our batting has gone to another level and we have batted extremely well. That's given our dressing room a massive amount of confidence. When we were coming to England, people were saying we were a 280 team. I am taking a fair amount of positives certainly in that department out of this series," said the South African.

"Our bowling and fielding has been average at best. Another thing is that we played against a team which is number one in their own conditions. I don't think there are too many other teams around in England as prepared as we are in terms of the competition we played against and match fitness, which is something very important," he added.

Despite the humiliating series loss, the 51-year-old insisted that he was confident that his side will perform well in the World Cup.

"We've got a couple of days now to regroup, two warm-up games and then we'll go. I'm very, very confident with the players we've got. We need to sharpen up on a couple of disciplines but we'll certainly get there. We'll be good," he said.

Every side will be wary of Australia: Waugh

PTI ■ DUBAI

Former captain Steve Waugh said Australia may not be the favourites to win the upcoming World Cup but the return of Steve Smith and David Warner will make other teams "wary" of the five-time winners.

Immediately after returning to action after an year-long international exile, Warner sounded warning bells to the rival bowlers with 692 runs from 12 innings in the IPL, while Smith showed glimpses of his old touch in the three warm-up matches against New Zealand in Brisbane recently.

"Every side will be wary of Australia. They know the potential of the Australian side. There's been turmoil in Australian cricket over the last 12 months, but that has been put aside now. We've got our best players available to be picked in Smith and Warner," Waugh was quoted as saying by the ICC website.

The defending champions seem to be peaking at the right time. Starting in 2018, Australia had won just three out of 18 ODIs before they turned their fortunes around during the limited-overs tour of India.

Trailing 0-2, Australia posted a hat-trick of wins to register a remarkable come-from-behind series victory against the favourites and hosts India in



March. Then, they blanked Pakistan 5-0 at the United Arab Emirates, proving that their success against India was no fluke.

"Their form was very poor, but all of a sudden, they've won their last eight matches, and they've got Smith and Warner in the team. And that is ominous for other sides, they know how good these sides are.

"Australia will be one of the teams... probably not the favourite for the tournament, but the team that other sides will be probably most fearful of. They could do some damage. So I think

Australia could go really deep in the tournament," Waugh said.

The 53-year-old, however, picked hosts England as the firm favourites to clinch the coveted trophy.

"England to me are probably the favourites - their form has been outstanding over the last couple of years. They are playing at home. Sometimes, that creates more pressure, but they've got a really good coach in Trevor Bayliss to keep the players grounded. So I think England would be favourites, and probably Australia and India on that second line of favouritism," said Waugh.

Need to stop doing Superman things & cope with fear of failure: Du Plessis

PTI ■ DUBAI

South Africa captain Faf Du Plessis has urged his teammates to avoid doing "Superman things" and instead focus on overcoming the "fear of failure" ahead of the World Cup.

South Africa have a reputation of losing big matches which has earned them the label of chokers. The Proteas are yet to reach the finals of the World Cup having been knocked out at the semi-final stage four times in the past.

"In previous World Cups, we wanted to do

Superman things. We thought we had to be more special, we had to do something more than we usually do, and we did not do what was good enough before," Du Plessis was quoted as saying by the ICC.

"We haven't always got that right in the past, to play our best cricket at the World Cup, because we put so much pressure on ourselves. We want to just focus on enjoying our cricket," he added.

Du Plessis, who will be competing in his third ODI World Cup, stressed on the need to be mental-



ly prepared for the tournament which will be imperative for the team's success in England.

"There's a reason why we want the guys to play freely — because we don't want them to have a fear of failure, which is what the World Cup is for some of them.

"Our success in England over the next couple of months depends on how well we release that aspect of our play — we need that for the team to be at our best. Each player needs to find out his own strengths," he said.

Everyone in team wants to impress Ponting: Finch

PTI ■ LONDON

Australia's cricketers in front of Ricky Ponting are "like eight-year-old girls around Justin Bieber", feels the team's World Cup skipper Aaron Finch when the batting great, whose mere presence gives them a filip.

In February, Ponting was appointed as an assistant coach for Australia's World Cup campaign, specifically working with the limited overs batsmen.

Ponting has previously worked short-term with Australia's ODI and Twenty20 squads.

"The boys all want to impress 'Punter'," Finch was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au.

"Everyone wants to impress Punter, you should see them — it's like eight-year-old girls around Justin Bieber when Punter's around the change room," he said, drawing comparisons between Ponting and the famous Canadian singer-songwriter.

"It's embarrassing, but it's great," Finch said of the legend who won the World Cup three times including twice as captain.

Langer defends Hazlewood's omission

IANS ■ MELBOURNE

Australia head coach Justin Langer has defended the decision to exclude Josh Hazlewood from the upcoming World Cup squad, saying the pacer didn't play enough white-ball cricket in the recent time to make his case for the showpiece event.

"He just hasn't been playing any cricket," cricket.com.au quoted Langer as saying.

"He's come off a second stress fracture in his back and while he's just starting to get up and running in the nets now — I think he's played six white ball games in the last 18 months — that's T20 and one-day cricket.

"We know he's a great bowler. He's a brilliant bowler, but it was just such bad timing for him," he added.

Hazlewood played a vital role in Australia's successful campaign in the World Cup four years ago and was also the number one ranked bowler in ODIs in 2017.

The right-arm pacer had last week expressed his disappointment over the snub after Kane Richardson was



preferred by selectors following the shoulder injury that forced Jhye Richardson out of the squad.

"It was obviously bitterly disappointing. It only comes around every four years. I was lucky enough to experience it on home soil last time. It'll probably hit me a bit once the tournament starts and you're watching on TV," Hazlewood had said.

"It's pretty hard. It's not just a normal ODI series, it's a World Cup," he added.

Afghan coach Simmons to quit after World Cup



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former West Indies allrounder Phil Simmons will step down from his position as Afghanistan coach after the end of the ICC men's World Cup.

Simmons, who took over the position in December 2017, said he has achieved his target of taking Afghanistan to the World Cup and the time is ripe for him to leave.

"I have thought about it and I have actually given the ACB my notice that I will not be renewing my contract. I will move on to something different once my contract expires on July 15," Simmons told ESPNcricinfo.

Simmons' contract with the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) runs until the end of the World Cup and he might have been given an extension given Afghanistan's rise under his guidance.

"I signed up originally for 18 months and I think I have done a lot in this period. It is time for me to

move on to something else now. To want to get to the World Cup - that was ACB's goal at the time they appointed me," Simmons said.

"My goal is always to leave things better than when I joined; the way we practice, the way we think about the game, the way we assess other teams. I've tried to help the players in all those areas," added the 56-year-old, under whom Afghanistan won the World Cup Qualifier last March.

Last month, ACB had controversially appointed Gulbadin Naib as ODI captain in place of Asghar Afghan.

Simmons said he had no clue about the decisions and he was not consulted before making those changes.

"No, I was not aware of it. I was not given any reasons. It was the decision of the Afghanistan Cricket Board and the selectors," Simmons said.



I don't know the final 15: Morgan on WC selection

IANS ■ LEEDS

England captain Eoin Morgan has admitted that he is still unsure about the final 15 who will be selected in the squad for the upcoming World Cup beginning May 30.

After the final match of the five-ODI series against Pakistan which England won by 54 runs, Morgan said the continuous improvement in performance by the players has made the selection meeting extremely difficult.

"I don't know the 15," ESPNcricinfo quoted Morgan as saying on Sunday after the match. "Every one of these guys should be proud of what we've achieved so far. The continuous improvement of performances makes the selection meeting extremely difficult.

"But every single member of the 17-man squad here will play some role, due to the nature of injuries and illness and call-ups," he added.

Meanwhile, Chris Woakes, who bagged the Man of the Match award for his five-wicket haul in Leeds, admitted he would be anxiously waiting for the confirmation.

Woakes finished on top of the series bowling charts, with 10 wickets in four matches and made a strong case for being selected in the final 15 for the showpiece event.

"Everyone will be wary of that phone call," Woakes said. "Even if you feel like you've got a good chance to being in the squad, until you hear it from the selectors' mouths, it's not quite set in stone. You're still probably a little bit on edge, particularly with these 16 and 17 players, because everyone has performed at some point. It's a tricky decision for the selectors. Everyone will be looking at their phones tomorrow I suppose, if that's when we find out," he added.