

**WORLD 5**  
WORLD CONGRATULATES  
NARENDRA MODI

**OPINION 6**  
FARMERS BACK  
IN THE FOLD

**MONEY 10**  
US CORPORATE SECTOR HAILS  
RE-ELECTION OF PM MODI

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11 SPORT

# INDIA INCREDIBLY MODI-FIED

## Anti-BJP forces bite dust, fail to stop BJP juggernaut

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

**Modi hai to mumkin hai.** The evocative tagline of the BJP campaign aptly reflects the party's massive victory in the Lok Sabha polls. The brand 'Modi' has outshone every competitor, be it regional satraps or Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who found few takers for his "chowkidar chor hai" jibe at the PM.

The result shows the BJP has emerged as a pan-India force as the saffron party made big inroad into the strongly protected fortresses of Mamata Banerjee's West Bengal and Navin Patnaik's Odisha. Except Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the footprint of the BJP is clearly visible all over the country.

The result emphatically negated pre-poll calculations that the coming together of anti-BJP forces in several States could stop Modi's juggernaut there. While the Uttar Pradesh mahagathbandhan of Samajwadi Party and BSP did pull down the BJP a bit, but in Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Maharashtra, no one could withstand the force of the all-pervasive Modi wave.

The outcome is particularly worrisome for West Bengal

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had emerged as the most vocal critic of the Prime Minister during the poll campaign. All the seven phases of the polls were marred by violence, and both the PM and BJP chief Amit Shah had warned that those engaged in bloodletting will pay for it after the elections. Now, that the BJP stands neck and neck with the TMC in terms of tally and its voting percentage has increased phenomenally, the party is expected to make a big push to grab power in the State in next Assembly polls.

The West Bengal result shows that, like in every other part of India, there has been a significant consolidation of Hindu voters in the State with 27 per cent Muslim population. The BJP's strategy to centre its campaign around Hindutva paid off rich dividends.

The BJP victory is all the more significant because the party crossed halfway mark of 50 per cent seats in 17 States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh among others.

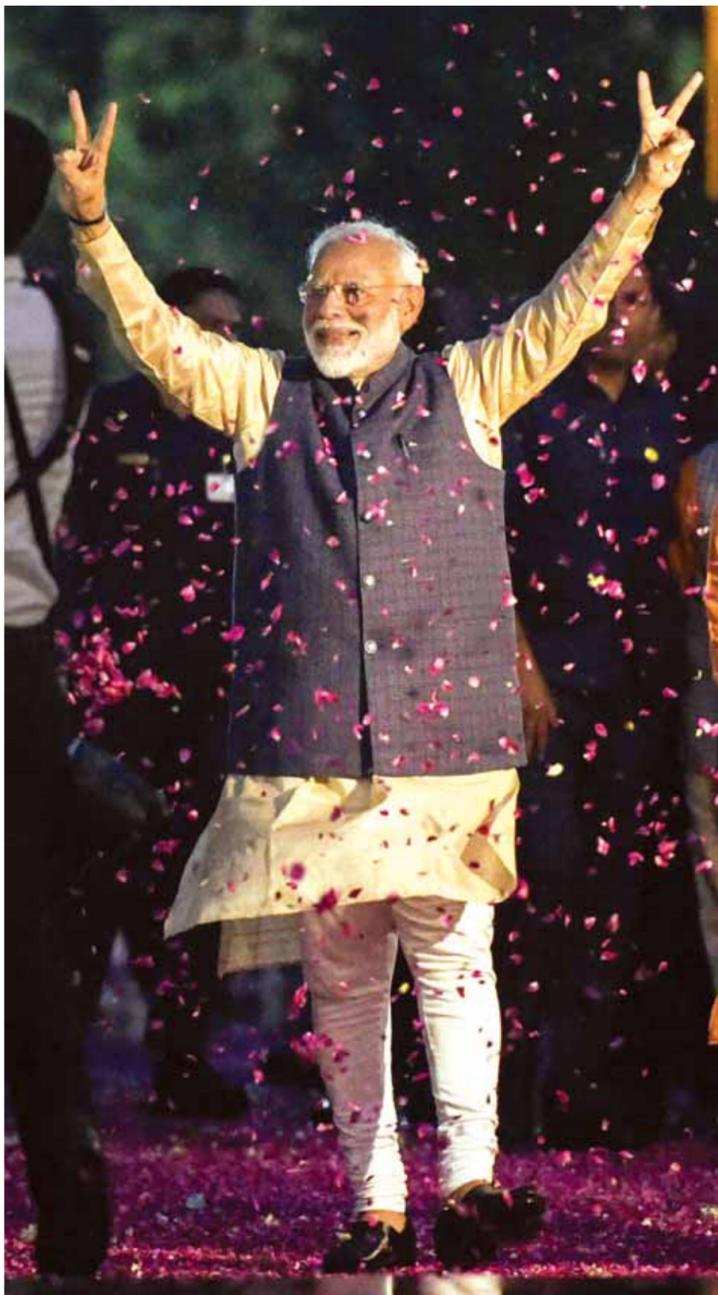
The Congress will have a lot to think after its pathetic show. Rahul Gandhi may have

won from Wayanad with a record margin, but his humiliating defeat at the hands of Smriti Irani in the family pocket borough of Amethi is the cruelest blow the BJP has inflicted on the Congress chief. The results show that in direct contest with the BJP, the Congress has no chance to survive. The two parties were locked in direct contest on 184 seats, of which 174 went to the BJP.

There is no denying the fact that Hindutva and nationalism were the two most prominent agenda for the BJP. No surprise Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur was able to vanquish veteran Digvijaya Singh despite calling Nathuram Godse a nationalist. Giriraj Singh's massive victory over Kanhaiya Kumar is also reflection of the success of the party's Hindutva agenda.

The BJP victory is undoubtedly fuelled by the support of all sections and caste, but it is believed that even a significant section of the Muslim voted for the saffron outfit. Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi put this number to 30 per cent.

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BJP workers welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he arrives at the party headquarters to celebrate the party's victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in New Delhi on Thursday  
Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

## It is victory of people, avows Prime Minister

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that the landslide repeat mandate has surprised the whole world and put forward a "new narrative" for India for waging a decisive battle against poverty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday promised that he would go all-out to live up to the "big trust" reposed on him by the people. The PM said he would carry all political parties along to make the country prosperous and strong.

Modi, who walked into the BJP headquarters in the evening along with party chief Amit Shah to a tumultuous welcome with thousands of workers chanting "Modi-Modi", "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram", said the ultimate victor in the elections are people of India who "fought the polls".

He said political pundits will have to re-visit their tools to analyse the repeat "prachand bahumat" (massive mandate) saying "this is new India".

Taking a dig at political parties deriving their sustenance from the "tag of secularism", Modi said they were silenced by the big political victory of BJP in 2014. "2014 tak us jamat ne bolna band kar diya", he said saying they were "de-masked".

Vowing that he would go beyond caste-based considerations, the Prime Minister said, "Caste-based political parties received a big shock this election", adding, "with the spirit which prevailed during freedom movement we can remove poverty during 2019 to 24".

Detailing his welfare schemes which fulfilled aspirations of youth, farmers, labourers and middle-class, Modi said his Government would fast-track its war against

poverty next five-year. Taking a dig at Left parties and their alleged commitment to the welfare of workers, he said the BJP Government provided pension to 40 crore labourers in the unorganised sector.

Even as Shah in his address to workers directly attacked dynasty, caste and politics of appeasement and the setback they got in the poll results, the Prime Minister said he would let go of what happened during polls and run the Government with the consensus of all.

"Governments are formed by majority but run by consensus of all", he said adding "we have to look ahead" and taken even our political rivals with us for making India a prosperous and strong country.

Thanking all party workers for their "selfless work", Modi said "aapne is fakir ki jholi bhar di" and it is time "I fulfil my promises". In 2014, he said people did not know him but trusted and "now you trusted after knowing me".

Shah, in his speech, said BJP won more than 50 per cent votes in 17 States including in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. He said this (50 per cent) vote was achieved by shaking up the traditional caste calculations.

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## Southern comfort for red-faced Rahul

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

After its success in the three Assembly elections last year, the Congress once again performed miserably against the BJP at the national level. The party president Rahul Gandhi faced the mortification of a humiliating defeat at the hands of Smriti Irani in the family bastion of Amethi.

The party scored a duck in 18 States and saw nine of its former Chief Ministers biting the dust. For the second time, the grand old party did not get enough number to bag leader of Opposition post in the Lok Sabha.

While Rahul lost from Amethi, there were no takers for sister Priyanka Gandhi in UP. The party lost all the seats where Priyanka campaigned or conducted road-shows.

The only face saviour for Congress was Kerala (15) and Punjab (8) which helped the party reach a tally 51 (till 8pm) seats which is merely seven more from the tally of 2014

General elections.

The States where the Congress could not even open its account include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Jammu Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Apart from these, the Congress also has no presence in Andaman and Nicobar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura.

The UPA which has Congress as its main constituents could not even touch three digit figure with its major alliance partners like NCP, JD(S) and others showing a dismal performance.

Senior Congress leaders who lost included Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge from Kalaburgi in Karnataka, former Delhi CM Shiela Dikshit from North East Delhi, former Madhya Pradesh CM Digvijay Singh from Bhopal, former Maharashtra Chief Ministers Ashok Chavan from Nanded.

Continued on Page 4

## OVERALL 542/543

NDA	UPA	OTHERS
348	81	97

Following a clear lead on over 300 Lok Sabha seats, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday addressing BJP party workers at the BJP Headquarters said, "Even a single political party could not mislead the country by wearing a mask of secularism." He emphasised how the Opposition could not make inflation or corruption an election issue

## BJP storms Mamata's citadel

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Left and Congress were blown off, TMC lost much of its roof in the Saffron Fani as 2019 election results on Thursday saw BJP seriously denting Mamata Banerjee's stronghold.

In an extraordinarily polarised atmosphere, the Lok Sabha poll results found BJP making massive inroads into TMC "green fort" of Bengal apparently getting a huge chunk of Left Front votes to swing its way.

According to BJP 18 Congress 2 TMC 22 being counted — the ruling Trinamool Congress was leading in 22 seats conceding 12 seats to the BJP which was leading in 18 seats.

The Congress which won four seats in 2014 was leading in only two seats with former PCC president and sitting MP Adhir Chowdhury clinching the Behrampore seat and AH Khan Chowdhury lead-

ing from the Malda South seat. Making a record of sorts the Left Front not only transferred 23 per cent votes to the saffron outfit but also for the first time since 1955 drew a blank sending no MP from the erstwhile Red citadel. Percentage-wise the TMC polled about 43 per cent votes while the BJP got about 41 per cent votes wresting almost 23 per cent votes from the Left which got just about 8 per cent.

Continued on Page 4

## BJP stuns Cong in Chhattisgarh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

India's ruling BJP produced a shocker for Congress in Chhattisgarh on Thursday winning nine of the State's total 11 seats, just five months after it suffered a comprehensive defeat in the Assembly elections.

After the party's defeat in 2018 assembly polls, it was largely speculated that the BJP would not get more than three seats in parliamentary polls even in the best case scenario.

The Congress managed to win only Bastar and Korba constituencies, while BJP registered victory by massive margins in Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Kanker, Mahasamund, Surguja, Raigarh and Janjgir seats.



BJP national vice-president and State's former Chief Minister Raman Singh offers sweets to party's State president Vikram Usendi on Thursday after the party registered a stunning victory by winning nine out of the 11 Lok Sabha seats

short of 10 seats it had won in 2014 and 2009 parliamentary polls in Chhattisgarh.

The poll results came as a total surprise for the Congress and it shook up the confidence

of the party's state leadership, who had taken people's support for granted after ending BJP's 15-year regime in the state late last year.

BJP national vice president and former Chief Minister Raman Singh reacting to his party's spectacular performance in the Lok Sabha elections said, "It is the victory of India under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the triumph of people of the country."

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday said that he accepts the public mandate with humility.

He further congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for victory of BJP in the general elections.

## Jagan shatters Naidu's dream, sweeps Andhra

L VENKAT RAM REDDY ■ HYDERABAD

The YSR Congress Party wiped out the ruling TDP from Andhra Pradesh with a landslide victory in Assembly as well as Lok Sabha elections on Thursday.

This is almost like repetition of 1983 election results. In 1983, the TDP had won 201 seats out of 294 in the Assembly and secured 46.3 per cent vote share. Then Opposition Indian National Congress had won 60 seats, with 33.58 per cent vote share.

In that way, Jagan has rewritten the history by secur-

ing 145 plus seats, out of 175 Assembly segments. In his own words, this is unprecedented in the history of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. The TDP was confined to just 24 seats.

Actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena suffered humiliating defeat as Pawan himself lost both the seats he contested from Gajuwaka and Bhimavaram Assembly seats. Jana Sena won just one seat.

The YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy will take oath as new CM of Andhra Pradesh on May 30 in Vijayawada.

Continued on Page 4

## BJP wins Delhi, 3 AAP nominees forfeit deposit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is on course to retain all the seven seats that it had won in 2014 in Delhi. BJP candidates continued to dominate the trends

with five of its candidates taking the lead by the highest margins ever. BJP's roller coaster victory that remains a mere formality now, saw BJP 7 Congress 0 AAP 0

into with jubilant supporters of the saffron party starting to burst crackers and shouting slogans at various counting centres. Singer-turned-politician Hans Raj Hans was leading in the Northwest Delhi constituency with a whopping margin of 5.04 lakh votes. He is pitted against AAP's Gagan Singh, who is on the second position and Congress' Rajesh Liothia at the third spot.

The poor performance of AAP in Delhi was complete after it failed in security lead in

the 67 Assembly seats that it had won in 2015 Delhi Assembly elections.

Its candidates were placed third in vote share in 48 Assembly constituencies.

Even Gole Market and Patrapagan seats held by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia voted poorly in favour of AAP candidates.

The BJP already went into celebratory mode with jubilant supporters of the saffron party starting to burst crackers and shouting slogans at various counting centres. Singer-turned-politician Hans Raj Hans was leading in the Northwest Delhi constituency with a whopping margin of 5.04 lakh votes. He is pitted against AAP's Gagan Singh, who is on the second position and Congress' Rajesh Liothia at the third spot.

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Snippets

The PM aspirants or the probable kingmakers could not save their own turfs — from Chandrababu Naidu to Mamata to Sharad Pawar to Mayawati to Akhilesh — they all shared a common fate

Out of the total 13 seats in Punjab, Cong romped home to impressive victory on eight seats, surprising both the SAD-BJP combine and the AAP and improving its tally from three in 2014

How the families fared: Gandhi family's Rahul lost while mother Sonia won in UP, Hooda father-son duo lose in Haryana, Yadav clan's Mulayam and Akhilesh win, Ajit Singh, Jayant Chaudhary had mixed results, Maneka, Varun win in UP

Motormouths and controversial leaders from the BJP like Anantkumar Hegde (Uttar Kannada), Nalin Kateel (Dakshin Kannada), Sadhvi Pragya Thakur (Bhopal), Sakshi Maharaj (Unnao), Giriraj Singh

Congress' young turks fail to deliver, while those from the BJP ride on Modi wave to register wins: Jyotiraditya, Jitin Prasada, Gaurav Gogoi, Sushmita Dev all have lost but Anurag Thakur, Poonam Mahajan, Varun Gandhi have won

# ASPIRING KINGMAKERS' BASTIONS BREACHED

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

**Mamata Banerjee:** The most vocal and combative, TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister nursed Prime Ministerial ambitions; launched a blistering campaign against Narendra Modi and was averse to backing Congress president Rahul Gandhi as the UPA's PM candidate. Given her complete supremacy in the state, even pundits were skeptical about the BJP's chances. However, the saffron brigade stunned everyone by storming her citadel. Having failed to stop the BJP from making strong inroads in a big way into her bastion, she will have to rethink her strategy to defend her turf in the 2021 Assembly polls.



**N Chandrababu Naidu:** Ahead of the results, Andhra Pradesh chief minister and TDP chief Naidu was the most active in trying to forge an Opposition alliance in case the NDA did not get past the post. Besides Mamata, he had been the most critical of Modi. He must be ruing his decision to quit the NDA. Despite his political acumen, he could not decipher the public mood with Jaganmohan Reddy's YSR Congress Party sweeping the polls in the state. TDP has been almost wiped out from the Lok Sabha too dealing a massive blow to his political clout. Naidu's problems could compound in the coming days if Jagan join hands with the NDA.

**Akhilesh Yadav:** Having taken over the mantle of SP from his father and veteran politician Mulayam Singh Yadav, Akhilesh's plans to play a major role at the centre - even burying the over-two-decades-old hatchet with BSP supreme Mayawati in the process - have come to a naught with the party faring badly in its stronghold Uttar Pradesh. Though the young leader never openly aired his political ambitions, he was eyeing a kingmaker's role. He vigorously campaigned for the 'Mahagathbandhan' to put up a united front against the BJP. Facing a drubbing for the second consecutive time in the Lok Sabha polls, the SP will have to reinvent itself to remain relevant in fast changing political dynamics.



**Mayawati:** The BSP supreme and former chief minister of UP had made no bones about her Prime Ministerial ambitions and hence, did not even allow Congress to join the 'Mahagathbandhan' to ensure she had a larger share of seats to fight in UP. She also gave no-holds-barred speeches against Modi during the campaign but the frontal attack failed to spin magic in her favour. Her caste combinations failed to trump Modi's charisma. Along with the SP, the BSP also fared badly. The stunning reversal brushing aside caste and other related factors will make it all the more necessary for Mayawati to present a new image for her party to survive in the most politically-crucial State.

**K Chandrashekar Rao:** Having swept the Telangana state assembly polls last year, the TRS chief and chief minister was nursing ambitions to project himself at the national stage. He met several leaders including DMK chief M K Stalin and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee. However, as Rao was busy with his efforts to forge a federal front, the BJP breached his fortress to make a debut from the State in the Lok Sabha. Even the Congress managed to make inroads in the State. Though Rao played the most important role in the creation of Telangana, the voters, however, preferred to vote for Modi at the national level.



**HD Deve Gowda:** The former Prime Minister and JD(S) chief has a lot on his plate now after his party which in coalition with the Congress is running Karnataka with his son H D Kumaraswamy as the chief minister could not withstand the Modi wave. Deve Gowda was considered to be one of the king makers in case of fractured mandate due to his seniority and stature. Trailing in the electoral battle till last trends came in, Deve Gowda like other aspirants Akhilesh, Mayawati and Pawar is now on a very weak wicket to play a role at the state and national level. Coming days will see the JD(S) chief definitely taking stock where his electoral strategy failed even as the BJP's win could impact the survival of his son's government too in the State.

**Sharad Pawar:** The Maratha strongman and NCP chief, rated to be one of the most astute and shrewd politicians of the country, was a PM candidate even as he sought to play the mentor's role in bringing together the opposition camp to face the BJP. But the Modi juggernaut, with the Shiv Sena, simply brushed aside any challenge posed by the NCP along with the Congress. Pawar's clout nationally has taken a severe beating. The NCP has already blamed the Congress for not performing upto expectations.



## BJP's young guns sail through

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Congress' young turks failed to deliver, while those from the BJP rode on the Modi wave to register win in the high-voltage Lok Sabha polls.

Sitting Congress MPs — Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sushmita Dev and former Union Minister Jitin Prasada, Milind Deora, who all are in the close circle of party chief Rahul Gandhi, lost badly. They had been the most vocal inside and outside the Parliament on every issue.

On the other hand, sitting BJP MPs Anurag Thakur, Poonam Mahajan, Dushyant Singh and first timer Tejaswi Surya registered win from their respective Parliamentary constituencies.

Amongst the losers, the biggest one is Jyotiraditya Scindia, who was seeking his fifth term from his family bastion Guna Lok Sabha seat. He lost to BJP's Krishna Pal Singh. Prior to Jyotiraditya, his father Madhavrao Scindia, the erstwhile titular ruler of Gwalior, had won the seat in the 1999 elections. Madhavrao died in 2001 and since then Jyotiraditya Scindia has represented the seat. In 2014, he was among the only two leaders from MP who were able to hold on to his seat.

Another surprise loss was Mahila Congress President Sushmita Dev, who lost to BJP's young gun Rajdeep Roy from the most high-profile Silchar Lok Sabha seat of Assam. Both Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi campaigned for her. Sushmita's father late Santosh Mohan Dev, won Silchar seat five times. Both Jitin Prasada and Milind Deora who's father Jitendra Prasada and Murlidhar Deora, too lost.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav lost in Jodhpur to BJP's Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. In Rajasthan's Barmer, Manvendra Singh, son of Jaswant Singh, founding member of BJP lost by over 3.2 lakh votes. Manvendra



was contesting on a Congress ticket. Ajit Pawar's son Parth, and Shankarrao Chavan's son Ashok Chavan too lost in Maharashtra to BJP candidates.

On the other hand, Anurag Thakur retained Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat along with her another party colleague Punam Mahajan in North Mumbai. While Thakur is son of former CM of Himachal Pradesh Prem



Dhumal, Punam is daughter of late BJP's strategist Pramod Mahajan.

Another big win registered was by Tejaswi Surya, BJP's youngest candidate from Bangalore South, against Congress heavyweight BK Hariprasad.

Former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje's son Dushyant Singh too



emerged victorious from the Jhalawar-Baran Lok Sabha seat who defeated his Congress rival Pramod Sharma. Sharma, a BJP rebel, had joined the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha election and contested the polls for the first time. Raje had represented the seat for five terms from 1989 to 2004 after which her son was elected from the seat.

## 9 former Cong CMs bite dust

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

What's common for Sheila Dikshit (Delhi), Bhupinder Singh Hooda (Haryana), Harish Rawat (Uttarakhand), Digvijaya Singh (Madhya Pradesh), Ashok Chavan and Sushil Kumar Shinde (both from Maharashtra), Mukul M Sangma (Meghalaya), Nabam Tuki (Arunachal Pradesh) and Veerappa Moily (Karnataka)? They are all Congress stalwarts and former Chief Ministers. And they have all bit the dust in the Lok Sabha Election 2019.

Dikshit, who is Congress Delhi Chief and the only party veteran having donned the Chief Ministers' cap thrice from Delhi (from 1998 to 2013), lost to her rival and city BJP chief Manoj Tiwari from North East Delhi seat while Moily (former Karnataka Chief Minister) was defeated by BJP's B N Bache Gowda in Chikkaballapur, a Congress stronghold. Moily, a former Union Minister, was the joint candidate of the ruling

Congress-JD(S) coalition. He was first elected from Karkala in Udupi district as an MLA in 1992. He won from there six consecutive times.

Two-time Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Nabam Tuki lost to Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju of the BJP. He has been seeking a third term from the State's West Parliamentary constituency. For his part, former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Congress candidate Ashok Chavan lost to Pratap Chikhlikar of BJP in Nanded Lok Sabha seat.

In Uttarakhand, ex-Chief Minister and Congress leader Harish Rawat faced a humiliating loss to BJP's State chief Ajay Bhatt in the Nainital-Udhamsingh Nagar constituency. The BJP swept all the seats in the Hill State.

In Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal, Congress leader Digvijaya Singh suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of BJP newcomer and controversial leader Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, who won the high-profile Bhopal seat. The Malegaon blast accused had

earned a public reprimand from none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself for her controversial remarks against Mahtama Gandhi.

Yet another CM to have lost in the hustings is former Union Home Minister and Maharashtra CM Sushilkumar Shinde, who was defeated by Lingayat Swami from Solapur Lok Sabha seat.

In neighbouring Haryana, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, a sitting MLA from Rohtak, was defeated in Sonapat which was retained by sitting BJP MP Ramesh Chander Kaushik.

Another former Congress Chief Minister who found himself in the list of losers was Mukul M. Sangma. A former Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Sangma is the current Leader of Opposition in the State Legislative Assembly. The Congress candidate from Tura lost to National People's Party (NPP) candidate Agatha Sangma, a veteran politician and former Lok Sabha Speaker late PA Sangma's daughter.

## Dynasts get mixed results

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a poll pitch against parivarwad by the BJP, the political dynasts had a mixed fate during the Parliamentary polls. While some political families have managed to secure their bastions, others like Congress president Rahul Gandhi lost their prized seats.

While former UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi is projected to win in Rae Bareilly, her son Rahul lost out to BJP's Smriti Irani in his so called pocketborough Amethi. Rahul has already conceded defeat against Irani and congratulated her.

However, the Congress president is all set for a comfortable victory in Wayanad constituency of Kerala where he is leading by over 4 lakh votes.

The other mother-son duo from the Gandhi family — Maneka and Varun — who are contesting on BJP tickets from Sultanpur and Pilibhit respectively are heading towards a victory in their respective con-



A deserted view of National Congress headquarters during the day of counting for 2019 Lok Sabha elections in New Delhi on Thursday

stituencies. Union Minister Maneka Gandhi who was engaged in a see-saw battle in Sultanpur eventually won defeating BSP's Chandra Bhadra Singh "Sonu".

In the Samajwadi Party, patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav led in Mainpuri while Akhilesh looked comfortable to win in Azamgarh. However, Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav was trailing in Kannauj constituency and that could be bad news for the Yadav clan.

As per the available trends,

the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) — a constituent of the BSP-SP led 'mahagathbandhan' is projected for a mixed outcome. While RLD chief Ajit Singh is moving ahead in Muzaffarnagar, his son and party vice-president Jayant Chaudhary is trailing from Baghpat.

In Haryana, former State Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is trailing in Sonapat. Bhupinder, a sitting MLA from Rohtak district who contested the Lok Sabha polls after a gap of 14 years, was behind sitting MP Ramesh

Chander Kaushik.

The performance of Bhupinder Hooda, who had defeated former deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal from the Rohtak LS seat earlier, is a major setback for the Congress.

However, Bhupinder's son Deepender Hooda is engaged in a sea-saw battle in Rohtak, where fortunes are fluctuating between Deepender and his nearest BJP rival Arvind Sharma as the figures are changing with each round of counting.

Down South, former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda was trailing in Tumkur against BJP's G S Basavaraj. His grandson and Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil was also trailing against independent candidate-Sumalatha Ambareesh, supported by the BJP, in the bitterly fought Mandya constituency.

However, Gowda's other grandson Prajwal Revanna, son of minister H D Revanna, is leading in Hassan against A Manju of the BJP.

## BJP crossed 50% vote share in 17 States: Shah

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

BJP chief Amit Shah's game-plan of targeting over 50 per cent vote share has succeeded in over 17 States. Comparatively, the Congress managed to do that in just Puducherry, where it recorded about 57 per cent.

As per the Election Commission's preliminary estimates, the BJP has got more than half of the total votes polled. And BJP chief Amit Shah gave these statistics, saying the party crossed the 50 per cent vote share mark in 17 States.

It bagged 69 per cent votes in Himachal Pradesh, 62 per cent in Gujarat, 60 per cent in Uttarakhand, 59 per cent in Rajasthan, 58 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 57 per cent in Haryana, 57 per cent in Delhi, 57.7 per cent in Arunachal

Pradesh, 51.5 per cent in Karnataka, 51 per cent in UP, 51.7 per cent in Goa, 51 per cent in Jharkhand and 50.5 per cent in Chandigarh among others.

It was Shah's strategy to have an eye over 50 per cent vote share to trump any caste politics, played by the Opposition alliances. Of the total 90 crore voters, the BJP was eyeing the 50 crore beneficiaries who benefited from the 133 schemes of the Modi Government. The BJP had fought some Assembly elections last year based on the same strategy.

As a result, the BJP has significantly improved its national vote share from 31.34 per cent in 2014 to a new record high, while there seems to be only a marginal change in case of the Congress from its 19.5 per cent score of the last elections. The

Congress was shown to have bagged 22.5 per cent votes till the reports last poured in.

The BJP had got 7.74 per cent vote share in 1984 when it got two Lok Sabha seats, after which it consistently saw an increase till 1998 (25.59 per cent) and then slipped for three consecutive national elections till 2009 (18.8 per cent), before surging again in 2014.

In contrast, the Congress could get a vote share of just about 6 per cent in UP and Bengal, and a little higher at about 7 per cent in Bihar. The score is even worse as just about 1 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim. Even in Punjab, where the Congress led the way, its vote share is about 40.10 per cent. It is 37.3 per cent in Kerala, where it was on course to win 15 of the 20 seats. The Congress,

which secured 45 per cent votes in the first parliamentary elections in 1952, saw its voting percentage remain in 40s till the 1971 elections. After a slump to 34.5 per cent in 1977, the Congress again returned to 42.7 per cent in 1980 and then to a record high of 48.1 per cent in 1984/85.

After Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, the Congress record a vote share of 49.1 per cent, it got 32.14 per cent votes in delayed polls that were held in Punjab and Assam in 1985 — resulting in an overall figure of 48.1 per cent.

The Congress vote share, however, began to dip after that with its voting percentage dropping to 39.5 per cent in 1989 and further to 20s between 1996 and 2009, and even below that mark in 2014.

## Exit polls predict finale right

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

They predicted and they stood vindicated! Nine out of nine exit polls on May 19 had predicted an outright victory for the BJP and six of them had projected the party winning more than 300 seats. The pollsters had also projected the UPA's dismal performance in the wake of the rolling BJP juggernaut. And some had forecast that the Opposition alliance will not touch the three-digit mark.

It made the ruling dispensation (BJP and its allies) gung-ho but invited criticism from the Opposition Congress and others who called it were paid for, unreliable, inaccurate and gossip.

While the BJP looks set to cross the 300-mark on its own and the NDA hogging 350 seats, the UPA tally was pegged at 85 seats, as per the trends and results last available.

It was also, perhaps, the first time that the pollsters were unanimous in their projections.



All the exit polls gave the BJP a clear mandate and showed the UPA at a distant second.

The India Today-Axis and News 24-Chanakya exit polls have been bang on target. Most pollsters also correctly forecast the BJP's performance in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — where the Opposition Congress recently won the Assembly polls.

Take the case of Rajasthan. Almost all exit polls predicted a clean sweep for the BJP in the Western State, with some exit polls handing them all 25 seats

in the State. The News18-IPSOs exit poll said the BJP is set to get 22 to 23 seats in the desert State, while Today's Chanakya exit poll predicted all 25 seats to fall in BJP's kitty. The latter hit the bull's eye.

Ditto is the case of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah's home state Gujarat, where BJP, as per the India Today-My Axis India Exit Poll, is set to make a complete sweep in the Gujarat Lok Sabha elections possibly winning all 26 seats.

Axis My India was among those who had successfully

predicted not only the winning party but also the range of their mandate.

The Congress-led alliance was projected as gaining in Punjab, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. And it did. Some pollsters gave Congress a tally as low as 38, less than the 44 it won in 2014. The Congress fared a shade better than 44 but turned true the projections that it would not cross the three-figure mark this time round too.

In the politically crucial Uttar Pradesh with 80 Lok Sabha seats, the pollsters has come up with a mixed bag of results indicating the complexities involved at the ground level. If India Today-Axis gave the BJP-led NDA a maximum of 68 seats and News 24-Today's Chanakya said its tally could even cross the 70-seats mark, then ABP-Nielsens gave NDA as less as 22 Lok Sabha seats and the SP-BSP-RLD alliance a high of 56 seats. As things stand, the Axis and Chanakya estimates were the closest.

## Saffron motormouths pass voters' test

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Motormouths and controversial leaders from the BJP like Anantkumar Hegde (Uttar Kannada), Nalin Kateel (Dakshin Kannada), Sadhvi Pragya Thakur (Bhopal), Sakshi Maharaj (Unnao), and Giriraj Singh (Begusarai) are set to register big wins.

Sadhvi Pragya Thakur was leading against Congress' Digvijaya Singh by over 3.5 lakh votes and was projected to win the constituency by a significant margin. Pragya had hit the headlines in the run up to the polls by claiming that IPS officer Hemant Karkare was killed in the 26/11 attacks due to his karma and that he was a traitor. She had to later apologise for the remarks. She had also stoked a controversy by terming Nathuram Godse, who had killed Mahatma Gandhi, as a nationalist. She had to again tender an apology after the remarks generated a nationwide outrage.



Another BJP leader Anantkumar Hegde, known for making controversial remarks, won the Uttara (North) Kannada seat in Karnataka, defeating his nearest rival Anand Anasotikar of the Janata Dal (Secular) by a massive margin of 4.79 lakh votes, according to the results declared by the EC on Thursday.

Hegde held the portfolio of junior minister in the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry during Narendra Modi's first term as PM. Hegde had also made headlines for wrong reasons when he had said the Constitution would be changed. He had to later tender an apology in the Parliament.

And amid reports of his controversial remarks on Twitter

about Nathuram Godse, Hegde claimed his account was "hacked". But later asserted there was no question of justifying Mahatma Gandhi's killing.

Before that, Hegde had called Congress chief Rahul Gandhi a "hybrid breed", wondering how can the son of a 'Muslim' father and a Christian mother be a Brahmin.

"...They have no sense about religion. See how much they lie, father is a Muslim, mother a Christian, son is Brahmin. How did it come?" You cannot get such hybrid breed in any laboratory in the world, it is available in our country's Congress laboratory only," he had said, attacking Rahul, at an event in Uttara Kannada district.

Nalin Kumar Kateel (Dakshina Kannada), who had backed Pragya Thakur on the Godse issue, also won by 2.74 lakh votes, as per the results announced on Thursday.

For his part, the vocal Sakshi Maharaj won from Unnao with a record margin of four lakh votes. He had recently stoked

controversy by stating this would be the last election in the country and there would be none in 2024.

Ahead of the nomination for the Unnao constituency, he had warned the BJP that "results would not be good" if he was not re-nominated from Unnao. The BJP had been contemplating dropping him.

In his election affidavit, Maharaj has listed 34 criminal cases promoting enmity among communities, criminal intimidation, robbery, dacoity, murder, forgery, cheating and criminal breach of trust besides rape.

Union Minister and another firebrand leader Giriraj Singh retained the Begusarai seat trouncing his nearest rival Kanhaiya Kumar of the CPI by a huge margin of over four lakh votes.

Singh, who had moved to Begusarai from Nawada, after initial reluctance, polled 6.88 lakh votes out of a total of 12.17 lakhs polled on the elections held April 29.

# It's victory of common pepole: Raman

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

BJP national vice president Dr Raman Singh reacting to his party's spectacular performance in the Lok Sabha elections said, "It is the victory of India under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the triumph of people of the country."

Extending greetings to people of Chhattisgarh for making BJP candidates victorious in most of the seats, Raman said, "Within five months the people have rejected the Congress-led government of Bhupesh Baghel. People have disowned the state government dashing the hope of Chief Minister who had expected that just by being in the state government, the party could win."

Singh further said five years of Modi government has worked for common man.

"The indications have been shown in exit polls that people



are going to elect a government that represents self-esteem," the former CM said. In the context of Chhattisgarh, he said, "We knew people would be giving us more support than what exit polls had predicted. Ultimately, our faith was vindicated."

He assured people that the BJP-led NDA government during its second term would make India as a leading and strong economic power in the world. Chhattisgarh BJP state presi-

dent Vikram Usendi said, "People have done 'NYAY' (justice). During assembly elections, Congress had allured people with false promises but within 5 months, real picture has come out. "People have restored faith in truth. The rights of people are protected under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. People of Chhattisgarh have given overwhelming support, thus restoring faith in the BJP and the leadership of Modi," he added.

## Lok Sabha Elections 2019

### We accept people's mandate with humility: CM Baghel



RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday said that he accepts the public mandate with humility. He further congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for victory of BJP in the general elections.

Baghel while addressing a press conference here at Party's state headquarters Rajiv Bhawan on

Thursday evening said, "All Congress workers under the leadership of party president Rahul Gandhi worked hard to succeed in the elections and I thank them too. They need not be demoralized. We need to strengthen democracy and will continue to work in this direction," he said.

"The general election was fought on issue of 'Nationalism' and people of the country accepted it. They gave mandate to BJP and we accept the wish of the people of the country," he said.

"We had hoped that we would win all the 11 Lok Sabha seats in the state but are disappointed that we could not succeed," he added.

## Baghel won't be able to sleep tonight: Soni

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Victorious BJP candidate from Raipur Lok Sabha constituency Sunil Soni in a statement on Thursday said "the results will be no less than a nightmare for Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and he will not be able to sleep properly tonight".

Soni while talking to The Pioneer said he was confident of his victory with such a huge margin as the people of the country had overwhelmingly rooted for Modi in this election. Thanking people of the constituency, he said it was Modi wave all over which helped him register the victory with a record margin.

"Modiji brought laurels to the country and had fetched honour for it at the global platform. Apart from these, more than 135 public welfare schemes were launched by him in five years' tenure. These were reasons for the BJP getting such a response from the people all over the country," he said.

On the other hand accepting defeat,



Congress candidate Pramod Dubey asserted that there was an undercurrent wave in favour of BJP and Modi all over. He admitted that he had never ever thought that he could face defeat with this huge margin.

He, however, denied that there was any lacking on their part in making efforts. He further said that the issue of nationalism coined by BJP actually worked in its favour and the Congress in Chhattisgarh failed to explain to the voters about achievements of Baghel government.

## People have shown the mirror to Baghel government: Kaushik

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Leader of Opposition and former BJP state president Dharamlal Kaushik said the historic win for the party has been possible due to hard work of dedicated workers and blessings of the people.

In 2014, people had voted for (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi's name and this time they voted for his works.

"Within five months people have shown mirror to Bhupesh government. (Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel-led government). It is a befitting reply to the Congress government. In maximum assembly constituencies, the

BJP's vote percentage is higher, which means defeat for the Congress," he said.

Raipur South MLA and former minister Brijmohan Agrawal termed it as a victory of nationalist forces, who have accepted the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has paved the path of inclusive development.

He lauded the dedicated party workers for reaching out to people with schemes of Modi government. "Now the country has changed. The voters do not fall for any allurements and they vote only after giving a proper thought. During campaigning, opposition used abusive language against Prime Minister, which had hurt the

sentiments of people," he said.

BJP Scheduled Tribe Cell National president and Rajya Sabha member Ramvihar Netam said it is a mandate for new India. People have restored faith in leadership of Modi.

He hoped that new government will take care of the aspirations of the people of the country and Chhattisgarh. BJP national secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Saroj Pandey said people have voted for the strong leadership and development.

The Opposition had been involved in mud-slinging, appeasement, anti-national activities but people chose development and nationalism.



Congress's state headquarters Rajiv Bhawan wore a deserted look on Thursday evening after its humiliating defeat in the Lok Sabha elections. Photo Santosh Sahu

## Baij defends Rahul after Congress's humiliating defeat

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Congress candidate from Bastar seat Deepak Baij, who won the seat for the party after a gap of 20-long years, said his party president Rahul Gandhi could not be blamed for the party's dismal performance across the country.

He said the entire party was responsible for the debacle.

"Rahul Gandhi should not be blamed for party's defeat but the entire party will have to share the responsibility," he said.

Baij is a popular leader from Bastar and was elected as legislator from Chitratok seat in the recently concluded state assembly elections.

"I dedicate this victory to the party workers and our MLAs from Bastar

who worked for me in a very devoted manner," he told reporters.

Baij got 4,02,527 votes while his nearest contender Baiduram Kashyap of the BJP got 3,63,545 votes. Interestingly, NOTA (Non of the Above) got 41,667 votes.

"I will raise the issues of Bastar in the Parliament and my focus will be on health and education sectors. My party and I will strongly work on it," Baij said.

Reacting over NYAY (Nyuntam Aay Yojana) under which his party had promised Rs 72,000 per annum for the poor people, he said in some places NYAY factor worked while in other it failed.

According to Baij BJP had contested the election only on the nationalism issue.

## FICCI hopeful about economic reform getting further push

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh chapter of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has hailed the results of general elections announced on Thursday.

While congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi for winning absolute majority to form the next government at the Centre, Chairman of Chhattisgarh chapter of the FICCI Pradeep Tandon said: "The continuity and stability at the Centre will not only allow the government to continue with the pace of economic reforms set by GST, IBC and RERA, but it also brightens the prospect of expanding the reform mode to other critical areas like land and labour laws."

There is an urgent need to bring investments on track and boost consumption to better GDP growth from the current around 7% level, which will help in generating more jobs and taking care of the rural distress, Tandon said.

**"The continuity and stability at the Centre will not only allow the government to continue with the pace of economic reforms set by GST, IBC and RERA, but it also brightens the prospect of expanding the reform mode to other critical areas like land and labour laws."**

"FICCI from its side has submitted a robust agenda for growth to the government comprising measures to achieve these objectives and we are hopeful that the measures recommended by the chamber will certainly help in this endeavor," he added.

According to Tandon, the six key points of the agenda are passage of the pending Bills, announcement of policies (including E-commerce, Industry, Retail and E-pharmacy), simplification of GST, lowering of interest rates, addressing farm distress and creation of an eco-system that promotes employment.

## Jubilant BJP workers celebrate party's victory in state



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Jubilant BJP workers celebrated the party's excellent performance in the Lok Sabha polls at the party's state headquarters Ekatma Parisar on Thursday evening.

A huge cheer went up from among the crowd of BJP supporters gathered in front of the television at Ekatma Parisar as the trends showed

an impressive landslide victory for the party just before noon.

The party's state headquarters quickly became a stage for impromptu celebrations as the supporters started gathering there by the noon. Firecrackers were busted and 'laddoos' distributed outside the office to celebrate the moment.

Former chief minister Raman Singh and state president Vikram Usendi also reached the Ekatma Parisar and boosted the morale of enthused workers to celebrate the moment.

Pro-BJP and pro-Modi slogans rent the air after television channels started airing news of the party's likely victory. Thousands of workers gathered at the office, raising slogans amid sound of drum beats.

By the evening the number of supporters gathered at the party office spilled onto the street, blocking traffic on the busy Great Eastern Road, a major arterial road of the capital city. They were waving party flags, busting crackers, dancing to drum beats and chanting slogans such as ranging from 'Fir Ek Bar Modi Sarkar', 'Jai Shri Ram, Jai Shri Ram' to 'Har Har Modi, Ghar Ghar Modi'.

Parliamentary constituencies		
BJP candidates	Congress candidates	
<b>Surguja (ST)</b>  <b>Renuka Singh Saruta</b> Won: Votes 663711 Margin: 157873	 <b>Khel Sai Singh</b> Votes: 505838	
<b>Raigarh (ST)</b>  <b>Gomati Sai</b> Won: Votes 658335 Margin: 66027	 <b>Laljeet Singh Rathia</b> Votes: 592308	
<b>Janjgir-Champa (SC)</b>  <b>Guharam Ajgalley</b> Won: Votes: 572790 Margin: 83255	 <b>Ravi Bharadwaj</b> Votes: 489535	
<b>Korba</b>  <b>Jyotianand Dubey</b> Votes: 497061	 <b>Jyotsana Mahant</b> Won: Votes: 523410 Margin: 26349	
<b>Bilaspur</b>  <b>Arun Sao</b> Won: Votes 634559 Margin: 141763	 <b>Atal Shrivastava</b> Votes: 492796	
<b>Rajnandgaon</b>  <b>Santosh Pandey</b> Won: Votes: 662387 Margin: 111966	 <b>Bholaram Sahu</b> Votes: 550421	
<b>Durg</b>  <b>Vijay Baghel</b> Won: Votes 849374 Margin: 391978	 <b>Pratima Chandrakar</b> Votes: 457396	
<b>Raipur</b>  <b>Sunil Soni</b> Won: Votes 836211 Margin: 3348238	 <b>Pramod Dubey</b> Votes: 488515	
<b>Mahasamund</b>  <b>Chunnalal Sahu</b> Won: Votes: 616580 Margin: 90511	 <b>Dhanendra Sahu</b> Votes: 526069	
<b>Bastar (ST)</b>  <b>Baiduram Kashyap</b> Votes: 363545	 <b>Deepak Baij</b> Won: Votes 402527 Margin: 38982	
<b>Kanker (ST)</b>  <b>Mohan Mandavi</b> Won: Votes: 546233 Margin: 6914	 <b>Biresh Thakur</b> Votes: 539319	

**Disclaimer:** The trends displayed are based on the data entry done by ARO/RO as when they complete each rounds and is subject to change, till final declaration of result.

# Odisha chooses Neveen again

- BJD wins emphatic majority in State Assembly
- BJP's '120+' brag turns laughable
- Split vote for Modi pushes number of BJP LS seats



Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supporters wave the party flags as they celebrate party's victory in the Lok Sabha elections in Bhubaneswar on Thursday

a belated Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) surge, was leading in 115 Assembly seats out of the 146, for which elections were held in four phases ending on April 29. In the 2014 polls, the BJD had a tally of 117 out of the total 147. However, the Modi wave across the country had a significant effect in the State as the BJP was leading in eight Lok Sabha seats against only one it had won in 2014, and a limited impact on the Assembly polls, in which the saffron party was in the lead in 20 seats against 10 it had got last

time. For the first time, Odisha witnessed a split voting, "one for Naveen for the State and one for Modi for the Centre". BJP national president Amit Shah's bravado of "120+" Assembly seats fell flat as the voters seemed to bring the BJD back to power again in appreciation of Naveen Patnaik's pro-people welfare policies and programmes. Prime Minister Modi's assertion on the last day of his campaigning in the State that Patnaik's time is up as Chief Minister has also been scoffed at by the voters. Besides, the BJP had not named a Chief Minister candidate. Though Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was the party's informal Chief Ministerial face, he was evidently taken as no comparison to the giant figure of Naveen Patnaik, who this time won from the two seats he had contested. Pradhan did not contest in the elections, which was not generally appreciated. As for the Congress, it was decimated to leading in a mere nine Assembly seats against its winning figure of 16. In the Lok Sabha polls, the party, like in 2014, may come out a cropper.

# BJP storms Mamata's citadel

**From Page 1**  
 The Congress polled 5 per cent votes shedding 5 per cent to BJP and TMC. Among the notable winners were BJP State president Dilip Ghosh who defeated senior TMC leader Manas Bhunia.

Union Minister Babul Supriyo who won the Asansol seat trouncing cine star Moon Moon Sen by more than 1.75 lakh votes. Supriyo had won this seat in 2014 by about 70,000 votes. Sen a sitting TMC MP had been shifted by Mamata Banerjee from Bankura to take on the Bollywood singer-turned BJP MP from Asansol. A three-time North Malda MP Mausam Benazir Noor who switched sides from the Congress to the TMC ahead of the elections was trounced by BJP Khagen candidate Khagen Murmu a former CPI(M) MLA.

Another big loser from the TMC was State Minister Subroto Mukherjee who lost to BJP's Subhas Sarkar from Bankura. Senior TMC leader and former Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi also lost from Barrackpore seat to Arjun Singh, a former TMC MLA and strongman who joined the BJP a month before the polls. From Hooghly seat BJP candidate Lockett Chatterjee defeated two-time TMC MP Ratna Dey Nag while from neighbouring Serampore seat TMC's Kalyan Banerjee defeated his nearest BJP rival. Senior TMC leader and Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee won the Diamond Harbour seat by a massive margin of more than 3 lakh votes. Both the seats from Kolkata however went to the TMC as veteran party MP Sudip Banerjee defeated BJP heavyweight and national secretary Rahul Sinha. Among the known faces from the CPI(M) losing the battle were outgoing Raiganj MP Md Salim and former Kolkata Mayor Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya who lost to TMC's Mimi Chakrabarty, a Bengali cine star from Jadavpur seat. The BJP left quite an impression in the Assembly by-elections too winning four out of eight seats that went to polls. The TMC won three seats while the Congress managed to win only one seat. The CPI(M) drew a blank here too.

Even as a pall of gloom descended near the TMC supremo's Kalighat residence with no leader coming out to address the press, Mamata Banerjee came out with a brief tweet "congratulating" the "winners" and asserting that her party would assess the reason of the debacle saying this was a setback and not a defeat. Offering the "excellent performance to the people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and our workers" Dilip Ghosh said "this victory is the result of Modi's good works", adding the victory also "shows the amount of disgust and desperation against TMC's goonda raj that they had perpetrated in Bengal for the past several years. They would not only allow the people to vote but also they would throw hundreds of our workers in jail on false charges". This was backed by Babul Supriyo who said, "Despite our workers being beaten up and voters being threatened the people of Asansol came out in great numbers to vote for us. We thank them from deep of my heart".

TMC's Saugato Roy who won from Dum Dum seat, however, blamed the Left Front for transferring their votes to the BJP. "Do you think that there is any BJP in Bengal. The people of this State can never accept that culture. Bengal is different. Still the BJP did well because the Left Front transferred their votes to them. The way the Left transferred its votes to the BJP only speaks volumes of the erosion in value-based politics". When asked to comment on his victory Adhir Chowdhury said, "Mamata Banerjee brought BJP to Bengal, allowed it flourish by creating a cloaked communal atmosphere which was used to the full by the BJP. This vote was not a proper vote but a result of complete polarisation. The results are also the outcome of TMC's repressive politics and goonda raj". The CPI(M) also was as calm as the TMC with its senior party leaders privately wondering whether "there is a need to bring in new young leaders and relieve old ones".

# JD(U), LJP ride on Modi wave

**RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI**  
 Riding high on the Modi-Shah magic, the formidable BJP-Janata Dal (United) alliance won 39 out of 40 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in Bihar.

The grand alliance, which includes RJD, Congress, RLSP, HAM Secular, and VIP managed to win only one seats in the State. Congress candidate Dr Mohd Jawed defeated JD (U) candidate Syed Mohd Ashraf by a margin less than 1,000 votes in Kishanganj.

People of Bihar voted for the BJP and its alliance JD(U) and LJP, rising above caste, class, creed and religion.

Majority of Yadav and Muslim areas also voted for BJP-JD (U) alliance in the State. Lalu's absentee from active politics impacted the prospects of the RJD.

Lalu is currently in jail. BJP-JD (U) alliance got 53.35 per cent vote share while the Grand Alliance led by RJD and Congress managed to get only 27.1 per cent vote share. The BJP managed got 23.63 per cent votes while its alliance JD (U) got 21.36 per cent and LJP 8.28 per cent votes in the State. The RJD got 15.7 per cent vote share while its alliance Congress got 7.9 per cent vote share. Interestingly, RLSP led by Upendra Kushwaha got only 3.56 per cent vote share. Kushwaha has threatened of 'bloodshed' in the State if he could not win the seat.

All prominent leaders of the grand alliance - Shatrughan Sinha from Patna Sahib, Sharad Yadav from Madhepura, Upendra Kushwaha from Karakat, Mira Kumar from Sasaram, Tariq Anwar from Katihar and Kanhaiya Kumar from Begusarai lost their seats.

In Patna Sahib seat, BJP leader and Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad got over 62 per cent vote against former actor turned politician, Shatrughan Sinha (Congress), who managed only over 31 per cent votes. The seat was previously held by Sinha, who moved from the BJP to the Congress in April.

In Begusarai, BJP leader Giriraj Singh won the seat by a margin of over 4.16 lakh votes against CPI(ML) candidate Kanhaiya Kumar got only 2.67 lakh votes. Singh secured 56.48 per cent vote while Kumar 22.2 per cent vote. RJD candidate got only 16.20 per cent votes.

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Lalu Prasad's daughter Misha Bharti is trailing her seat against BJP Ram Kripal Yadav in Patliputra. Misha got 43.07 per cent vote while Yadav obtained 48.14 per cent vote. Sharad Yadav also trailing in Madhepura. The ruling BJP-Janata

# Left parties at historic low, may lose national tag

**J GOPIKRISHNAN ■ NEW DELHI**

Trounced humiliatingly, the Left parties are at their historic low winning just five seats in the Lok Sabha polls. This could lead to the cancellation of their national party status. Among these five seats, except the lone seat from Kerala, the rest four seats managed by the Left parties are from Tamil Nadu simply due to their alliance with DMK. While the CPM bagged three seats, the CPI got two seats in total. In fact, in West Bengal, a state ruled by the CPI(M)-led Left Front for 34 uninterrupted years, the party looked set to draw a blank in its worst performance ever losing its space to the BJP which has emerged as the TMC's main opponent. CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury took the responsibility on Thursday for his party's dismal performance in the Lok Sabha polls, saying as the chief of the party, he was the "first" person who was

accountable for its poor show. Speaking at a press conference here after the trends showed that the Left Front was virtually routed in its bastions of Kerala and West Bengal, Yechury said it was time for the entire opposition to introspect. "The people of the country have given a decisive verdict in BJP's favour in this highly-polarised election and it is now time for us to introspect and analyse what went wrong. We will hold a politburo meeting on May 26-27 and a central committee meeting from June 7-9. "As the general secretary of the party, the first responsibility of the loss is with me. There will be accountability," he said, when asked if heads would roll in the party after the dismal poll performance. Refusing to reply to queries on the reason behind the Left Front's route in West Bengal, Yechury said no conclusive explanation could be given before analysing the results thoroughly.

# Southern comfort for red-faced Rahul

**From Page 1**

The list also includes Sushil Kumar Shinde from Solapur, former Uttarakhnd Chief Minister Harish Rawat from Nainital, former Meghalaya CM Mukul Sangma from Tura, former Haryana CM Bhupinder Hooda from Sonapat and Verrappa Moily from Chikkballur in Karnataka. The Congress poor show has once again exposed the structural weaknesses in the party organisation on the ground. The real cause of concern for the Congress is the reverses in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh where it had defeated the BJP in the Assembly elections just six months ago. Even Karnataka, where the Congress is in alliance with the JD(S), has been a big disappointment. Congress failed to convince the voters about its promise of Nyay (Nyuntam Aay Yojana) through which the party promised a minimum income guarantee scheme of Rs 72,000 a year to the country's 20 per cent or five crore poorest of the poor families. Similarly, Rahul's campaign focussing on alleged irregularities in the Rafale deal and his "Chowkidar chor hai" slogan directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi failed to impress upon the voters mind as compared to BJP's campaign narrative of nationalism, national security and decisive action

against terrorism.

At a Press Conference, Rahul said he did not want to discuss the possible reasons of the defeat because "the people of India have already decided".

"I frankly do not want to get into what might have gone wrong. The people of India have already decided and that's it. I want to congratulate Modi and the BJP," said Rahul.

The future course of action and introspection will be done at the Congress Working Committee meeting sooner, he said.

"To the sympathisers of Congress I just want to say 'don't lose heart and hope'. This is a fight of differing ideologies and we will continue the fight".

Party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi too said the party fully respects the decision of the people and congratulated Modi and the BJP for their victory in Lok Sabha polls.

Rahul's announcement to contest from Kerala's Wayanad district in addition to his Amethi stronghold had surprised many and raised important questions about the strategy.

The results is significant for Rahul as the 2019 poll is the first general election the party is contesting under his leadership.

The grand old party's idea of coalitions seemed to have not worked in State like Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra amongst others.

# Jagan shatters...

**From Page 1**

The results delivered a deadly blow to TDP chief and Andhra CM N Chandrababu Naidu, who was vigorously involved in cobbling up anti-BJP Front at national level for the past few months. Jagan's victory is likely to change political dynamics in Telugu States. The relations between both the States which turned sour after the bifurcation due to political rivalry between TDP and TRS, are expected to become cordial due to proximity between Jagan and KCR.

Interesting discussions at the incumbent CM Jagan's residence at Tadepalli revealed that Jagan's top priority is Special Status to Andhra, which he will take up with the Union Government immediately after swearing-in ceremony, according to party sources. Party national general secretary V Vijaysai Reddy, ideologues Ajay Kallam and Ummareddy Venkateswarlu are assigned with the task of developing a cohesive atmosphere between State and Union Governments, as Jagan wants the smooth handling of special status issue. State finances are in a bad shape, which has been worrying the YSRCP leaders. As the ruling party YSRCP has to address the fiscal issues on priority basis, as there is dearth of funds even to meet the salaries of the State Government employees. Jagan's second most priority is to ensure cordial relations with Telugu State Telangana, and hence it is likely that he would set up an Inter-State Coordination committee, to address the water disputes and assets distribution issues, between the two States.

# It is victory of...

**From Page 1**

He said Congress "ko karari haar mili hai" and pointed out that Congress has collected a big zero in 17 States including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Lakshadweep and Chandigarh.

"The 50 per cent mandate today buried Congress and Opposition's caste, dynasty, appeasement politics", he said. Shah said Opposition's defeat and a big win for the BJP underlines the victory of the ideology of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' vis-à-vis "Tukde-tukde gup". BJP headquarters Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg wore a festive look with constant beating of drums and sounds of fire crackers. No sooner as the picture emerged about the astounding performance of the BJP, party workers started gathering at the headquarters atop which the saffron flag fluttered in the air.

# BJP wins Delhi, 3 AAP nominees...

**From Page 1**

BJP's incumbent MP from West Delhi Parvesh Verma got over 8,48,555 votes against his nearest rival Mahabab Mishra of Congress. Verma had won this seat with margin of 2.68 lakh votes in 2014 Lok Sabha polls. Confident of retaining the seat, Verma has maintained an unassailable lead.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, who contested from the Northeast Delhi constituency against Congress veteran and former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit and AAP's Dilip Pandey, was also leading with securing 7,85,262 votes.

Tiwari said they (BJP) were sure of victory but did not expect such a "huge" margin. "We were confident of the victory but were not expecting this kind of huge margin. I am indebted to the voters for imposing their faith in us.

"The kind of treatment that AAP has meted out to me always, the public has always observed it and voted accordingly. We have crossed the first hurdle in Delhi and will now gear up for the second one in

February (Assembly elections)". Cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir, who is making his electoral debut from East Delhi constituency, was also leading. He got over 6,95,109 votes. Gambhir is locked in a contest with Congress' Arvinder Singh Lovely and AAP's Atishi.

Incumbent MP from New Delhi Meenakshi Lekhi is also ahead of Congress' Ajay Maken. South Delhi's incumbent MP Ramesh Bidhuri was leading with a margin of over 3.31 lakh votes on the seat with AAP's Raghav Chadha on the second spot.

Chandni Chowk was the only seat where the BJP candidate's margin was the lowest at 1.49 lakh votes. Union Minister Harsh Vardhan is locked in a close fight with Congress veteran Jai Prakash Agarwal from the constituency.

Counting is underway for seven Lok Sabha seats in the national Capital. "The counting is going on smoothly in all the seven counting centres. Till now we have not received any complaints or any information

of disturbance at the counting centres. Also the law and order situation is normal in the city," Delhi Chief Electoral Officer Ranbir Singh said.

The elections for the seven parliamentary seats were seen largely a triangular contest among the incumbent BJP, a spirited Congress and the AAP - the ruling party in Delhi but the results is different as the BJP seemed to have a clear edge from the beginning of counting. While the BJP, which had won all seven seats in the 2014 polls, is keen to regain the turf, the Congress that ended up at the third spot in the last Lok Sabha elections, is looking to bounce back.

Results of all the seven seats are delayed since the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) will be taken up later in the night by the respective returning officers. As per the established norms, VVPAT slips from five booths from each Assembly segment. There are 70 Assembly seats in Delhi and that will take some time, final results are likely to be declared on Friday, poll officials said.

# Incredible Modi-fied...

**From Page 1**

The overall result shows that Modi's personal charisma has once again shattered traditional caste barriers and caught the imagination of the young generation, impressing upon them that their future lies with a powerful India that is both a strong economic and military power -something that could only be achieved by leaving the baggage of narrow caste politics behind.

The BJP capitalised on the horribly mismatch of JD(S)-Congress alliance in Karnataka, rode on Modi wave in Gujarat and regained lost ground in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to leave the Congress licking its wound in the four crucial States where Rahul Gandhi and his managers had pinned great hope to take their tally into three digits.

Similarly, the BJP and its ally Janata Dal(U) trounced Bihar Opposition alliance into smithereens clearly showing that the powerful wave of Hindutva had also converged with massive mobilisation of anti-Yadav OBC votes in their favour.

If the consolidation of the anti-Yadav OBC vote in favour of the BJP was the story of the Cowbelt, then the success of the BJP in wooing the Dalits to its fold was near pan-India story. The preliminary analysis of the voting pattern even in UP suggests that non-Jatav Dalit went majorly with the BJP.

The poll outcome also shows that despite their grievances with the BJP over demonetisation and ill-implementation of the GST both the middle class and trader community continued to side with the BJP, which expanded its support base by effectively implementing the slogans of "catch them young".

Initial data showed that majority of the first time voters across caste divide preferred Modi over the rest. Modi's war cry against Pakistan and "ghar me ghus kar marenge" type slogans endeared him into younger generation that saw him a real hero that would settle score with a villain (Pakistan) that has been hurting them for years.

The result leaves the Congress literally into dog-house and raises serious question mark over the leadership of Rahul Gandhi. The fact that the Congress has not even got enough number of seats to claim the position of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha is something that Rahul cannot brush aside.

The party may go into a huddle or introspect on what went wrong, but its faces serious existential dilemma now. Knowing the way Amit Shah functions, it is anybody's guess how long the Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka will survive.

Rahul is going to face flak over going alone in Uttar Pradesh where the party only helped the BJP by cutting into the SP-BSP votes. There is belated realisation in the party that instead of focusing on UP where the Congress had nothing to gain, Rahul and Priyanka should have tried to focus their energy on Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka where the Congress could have done far better.

The poll outcome also shows that the country is changing and changing very fast. A change that wants to see India emerge as a 'muscular' power that also caters to the needs of its poor. If the BJP exploited the Balakot strike by displaying the muscular strength of the Modi Government, it also went to town counting the pro-poor schemes like Ujjwala, housing for poor, Jandhan Yojna, Ayushman and Mudra schemes, etc. The fact that Rahul's "chowkidar chor hai" attack on the PM failed miserably shows that the Modi has been able to convince the nation that he led a regime which is far different from the corruption-ridden regime of the past.

Before Modi's glittering package of a 'muscular', pro-poor, pro-development and honest pro-Hindutva regime, the Opposition looked like hawking the same stale goodies of social justice and secularism. In changing India, voters clearly preferred the former.

# SP-BSP-RLD alliance fails to 'caste' its spell

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The Congress was in for its biggest setback as party chief Rahul Gandhi lost to BJP's Smriti Irani by over 50,000 votes. However, Congress bagged sole seat Rae Bareilly of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

It was mixed fortune for the Yadav clan of the SP. Top SP leaders Mulayam Singh Yadav won Mainpuri with 95,000 margin, and Akhilesh Yadav won by 2.5 lakh votes in Azamgarh. But his cousins and sitting MPs Dharmendra Yadav and Akshay Yadav lost Budaan and Firozabad seats.

Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress was in for its biggest setback as party chief Rahul Gandhi lost to BJP's Smriti Irani by over 50,000 votes. However, Congress bagged sole seat Rae Bareilly of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

WORLD CONGRATULATES MODI

IMRAN EXTENDS HEARTFELT WISHES Expresses desire to work with him for peace in South Asia

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday congratulated his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on his electoral triumph and expressed desire to work with him for peace and prosperity in the region.

the course of Indo-Pakistan ties, which were pushed to a new low after the Pulwama terror attack. In April, Khan said he believed there may be a better chance of peace talks with India and settle the Kashmir issue if Modi's party BJP wins the general elections.

Faisal said at his weekly media briefing here. He was responding to a question about the outcome of Indian elections and Pakistan's expectations from the new government in New Delhi.

B'desh's Hasina calls Modi to congratulate him on his victory

Dhaka: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday telephoned her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to congratulate him on his victory in the general elections during which the two leaders pledged to raise the India-Bangladesh relationship to unprecedented new heights.

China's Xi Jinping extends 'heartfelt congratulations' to Modi on victory

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping Thursday extended his "heartfelt congratulations" to Narendra Modi for winning the general elections, in a rare gesture of greeting a foreign leader well before the official announcement of the results. In a letter delivered by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi to the Ministry of External Affairs amidst the counting of votes, Xi said: "on the occasion of the National Democratic Alliance winning the 17th Lok Sabha elections of India under your leadership, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations."

are the two largest developing countries and emerging economies in the world. In recent years, China-India relations have shown strong momentum of development under the joint efforts of both sides". Significantly, Xi in his letter to Modi highlighted the "good" coordination and cooperation between the two countries on multi-polarisation, economic globalisation and multilateralism.

China, which is battling a bruising trade war with the US, has emerged as a bitter critic of President Donald Trump's policies putting America first, undermining the process of globalisation which had benefited the developing countries. PTI

GLOBE TROTTER

GERMAN DIPLOMAT IN TEHRAN FOR TALKS

Berlin: A senior German diplomat is in Tehran to press Iran to continue to respect the landmark nuclear deal, despite the unilateral withdrawal of the US and increasing pressure from Washington.

UK POSTPONES BREXIT VOTE: OFFICIAL

London: The British Government on Thursday postponed a crucial Brexit vote scheduled for the week starting June 3, following an outcry from hardline Brexiters over concessions made by Prime Minister Theresa May.

US PLANS TO SEND 10K TROOPS TO WEST ASIA

Washington: US officials say the Pentagon will present plans to the White House to send up to 10,000 more American troops to the West Asia to beef up defences against potential Iranian threats. Defense leaders told Congressional officials on Tuesday that the US doesn't want to go to war with Iran and wants to de-escalate the crisis.

Abe Shinzo congratulates Modi on victory

PTI ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo on Thursday congratulated his counterpart Narendra Modi for his resounding electoral victory in the general elections and vowed towards further strengthening the India-Japan special strategic ties.

Prime Minister Modi led his Bharatiya Janata Party towards what is certain to be a resounding victory for a second term in office as it led in 302 seats, according to trends released by the Election Commission for all 542 seats that went to polls.

"Prime Minister of Japan, Abe Shinzo called Prime Minister Narendra Modi and congratulated him for the resounding victory of his party in the 2019 General Elections," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

US LAWMAKERS CONGRATULATE MODI, SAY LOOKING FORWARD TO WORK WITH INDIA

Washington: Top American lawmakers on Thursday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his impressive victory in the general elections, saying they were looking forward to continue working with his government to strengthen the Indo-US ties.

Prime Minister Modi led his BJP towards a huge victory for a second term in office. "As co-chair of the Senate India Caucus, I want to congratulate the Indian people on today's historic election - the largest democratic election in history," Senator Mark Warner, Co-Chair of the powerful Senate India Caucus in his congratulatory message to Modi.

"I look forward to continuing our work with PM Modi's administration to strengthen our important alliance with India," said Warner. PTI

Russia's Putin congratulates Modi on victory

PTI ■ MOSCOW

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the convincing victory of his Bharatiya Janata Party in the parliamentary elections and expressed his readiness to work together to build up the full range of bilateral relations.

"I am convinced that, as the Prime Minister of India, you will further strengthen the centuries-old friendship between our peoples and the all-round development of a particularly privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India," Putin said in a congratulatory message. The Russian leader expressed his readiness to continue fruitful personal contacts with Prime Minister Modi and to work together to build up the full range of bilateral relations and constructive interaction in international affairs, the Kremlin said in a statement. PTI

French President Macron extends wishes to PM

PTI ■ PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his electoral victory and the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work together towards further strengthening of the bilateral Strategic Partnership.

Prime Minister Modi on Thursday led his Bharatiya Janata Party towards a victory for a second term in office.

Macron congratulated Modi over telephone and the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work together towards further strengthening of the Strategic Partnership between India and France, an official statement said.

Modi thanked France for her steadfast support to India on critical issues.

Indian-Americans celebrate Modi's electoral victory

Washington: Indian-Americans from across the US on Thursday celebrated the electoral victory of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by distributing ladoos and watching election results in movie theatres and restaurants.

Election watch parties were held in restaurants and in homes where scores of Indian-Americans, along with their friends and families, gathered late Wednesday night to watch election results live either on Indian new channels or Facebook.

The election results were shown live in at least two theatres, including one in Minneapolis. PTI

NEPAL PRIME MINISTER CONGRATULATES MODI FOR POLL WIN

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Thursday congratulated his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for a "landslide victory" in the general elections and hoped to work closely with him in future.

As the early trends in the vote count indicated a resounding victory for Modi, Oli posted a tweet wishing him a successful tenure. "I extend warmest congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi ji for landslide election victory in the Lok Sabha Elections 2019. I wish all success ahead. I look forward to working closely with you," he tweeted.

Israel's Netanyahu congratulates Modi on huge poll victory

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday became the first world leader to congratulate his counterpart Narendra Modi for scripting an "impressive victory" in the elections and vowed to strengthen their "great friendship" as well as bilateral ties.

Riding on a massive Modi wave sweeping through most parts of India, the BJP was set to return to power Thursday as it led in 292 seats while the Congress trailed far behind with 51, according to trends released by the Election Commission for all 542 seats that went to polls.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince congratulates PM Modi on victory

PTI ■ DUBAI

Dubai: Mohammed bin Zayed, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE's Armed Forces, on Thursday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his election victory, saying he looked forward to working with him to deepen the strong bilateral ties.

Prime Minister Modi on Thursday led his Bharatiya Janata Party towards a super-sized victory for a second term in office.

"I was pleased to talk to my dear friend Narendra Modi, India's PM, over the phone to congratulate him on his party's election win," said Mohammed, colloquially known as MbZ. PTI

National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096. PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019. Includes Income, NPA Excess Provision, Total (A), EXPENDITURE, Total (B), and Profit after Tax.

National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019. Includes CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES, PROPERTY & ASSETS, Contingent Liabilities, and Unclaimed Account held with RBI - DEAF Account.

Grover, Lalla & Mehta CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS. To, The Members National Urban Co-Operative Bank Ltd. C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar Phase III, Delhi.

National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096. Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts. 1. General Financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

ICICI Bank Limited. Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakki Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra - 390 007. Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051. Notice for sale of immovable property. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Memorandum of Changes (Summary). a. In respect of Income Yes/No, b. In respect of Expenditure Yes/No, c. In respect of Assets Yes/No, d. In respect of Liabilities Yes/No, e. In respect of Gross NPAs Yes/No, f. In respect of Provision on NPAs Yes/No, g. In respect of Classification of Advances Yes/No, h. In respect of Risk Weighted Assets Yes/No, i. Other Items (if any) Yes/No.

# NAYA BHARAT

As traditional planks, issues and even grassroots politicians get blown away, Modi 2.0 has managed to change the idea of what India wants

This is undoubtedly a Pied Piper election, where Narendra Modi has emerged not just as an emboldened Prime Minister but a thought leader who has the nation's belief system wrapped up in a new cloak of nationalism and in a corporatised world, as a superbrand that has the trust, factory-manufactured or otherwise. Rather, he has overturned existing mindsets and their expression, freed up many boxes that so far held the characteristics of India and laid down a narrative sold on the promise of India reclaiming its place in the sun. Simply because civilisationally it was so once but the will to wake up to that truth was lost in our sub-consciousness and the burden of history. He seems to have stoked a sense of purposiveness, now that new-age aspirations have also reached saturation point, and has created a post-truth matrix. It is, therefore, the emergence of *Indusisation* rather than globalisation and a new idea of India. The reality of this may be unpalatable to existing liberal thought simply because it serves an alternative constituency, which has crept up from the fringes and whitewashed the mainstream. This new cultural awareness is based on the extreme polarity of all kinds of otherness. For some, it is religion, the most virulent kind, as evidenced by the landslide acceptability of a Sadhvi Pragya Thakur. For some it is majoritarianism, which sees minorityism as an encroachment that denies more rights due to itself and, therefore, feels it is losing relevance by its own complacency. For some it is about rewriting history and crossing out the invaders, the most contemporary manifestation being Pakistan-sponsored terror. For some, it is about anti-elitism, an assault of middle India into spatial templates set and appropriated by the Western-educated intelligentsia. For others, it is about inclusivity of opportunity, goals and crucially empowerment — be it village roads and electrification, the Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, toilets and LPGs for women, space age dreams for the young and a tough-as-nails leadership that won't succumb to any global Trump-card. And the most important, it is the willingness to self-correct despite the skids, the disbursal of ₹6,000 to farmers' accounts, blunting the face of farm distress and sending a message that it would be attended to, no matter what the *nyay* crusades of others might promise. Of course, beyond the man is the BJP's organisation which has not let up on its groundwork, treating both old and new territories as the same, and not allowing to slip itself into a comfort zone. In fact, the only question that surfaces is if Modi had under-read his own ability and, therefore, pushed his muscular nationalism a bit too far during the campaign, indulging in a dark, divisive propaganda. But that, too, was probably scripted cinematically to gloss over any talk of issues or his inadequate performance and set up a threat so real that even plurality was seen as an enemy of national identity. Or was it a ruse to simplify India's complexity into an easily readable unitary structure? That alone can explain why Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, for all his gentlemanly sincerity, lost his home seat of Amethi. For Modi didn't want to be an aspirational choice of 2014, he wanted to be an absolutist destiny's child in 2019. Almost hypnotically and spiritually ordained.

This nationwide chemistry has beaten arithmetic, even when it was crafted and test-piloted in the electoral laboratory called Uttar Pradesh. That's why the SP-BSP-RLD alliance has not been able to convince each other's voter bases that it would pay to invest in joint winnable candidates than bleed out. However, apart from Yadavas and Jatavs, it seems the larger arc of most backward castes and Dalits, some of whom have broken basic livelihood barriers, have migrated to a national party and are staking larger dreams on continuity than standing out with a limiting casteist tag. And Modi has made the right noises by announcing quotas for the poor than caste groups and emphasising on raising rural incomes by 2022. The second big takeaway is that of eastern India, which so far had stood out as a bloc like south India, beginning to give way to a pan-India narrative albeit with adaptations. So while Biju Janata Dal's Naveen Patnaik has been voted for the State level, the voter has told him he is good only for Odisha and doesn't qualify for a national role except being a symbiotic partner. The Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee had probably understood it a bit earlier and though she helmed the *mahagathbandhan* initially, took a step back when she realised her State was in trouble. Quick to sense that a nationalist surge could ultimately decimate even her regional relevance, she has just about held on. Of course, she has lost the battle of perception and has to rework strategies from this moment on. Assam and the Northeast, have, meanwhile shown that for all the anxieties about the Citizenship Amendment Bill, they do not want to be left out of mainstream development. Not that regional leaders have not stood tall. This election's biggest story has been scripted by YSR Congress' Jagannathan Reddy, who has overturned the charisma of Telugu Desam chief Chandrababu Naidu, silently and fervently. Much credit should also be given to DMK chief Stalin who has lived up to his father's legacy and occupied the vacuum in Tamil Nadu created by the deaths of his father and J Jayalalitha, both demi-gods of their time. Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar, however, failed, losing his turf and sugar belt to the saffron deluge. Does that have something to do with chasing prime ministerial ambitions like KC Rao of Telangana, who, too, has paid for overgrowing national ambitions?

That brings us to the Congress itself, thoroughly emaciated and beaten, where even a younger leadership, despite being Instagram pleasures, could not shake off the burden of dynastic entitlement. Even organisationally, the Gandhi scions, Rahul and Priyanka, haven't concentrated on strengthening structures and have relied on empty rhetoric. While Rahul gifted the BJP a slogan by calling the Prime Minister "chowkidaar chor hai", and rivals spun it on its head justifying why *chowkidaari* was needed, he failed to retain the gains he made. Who would have believed Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, where the Congress earned a hard-won fight in the Assembly elections last winter, would cave in completely? Was it arrogance, complacency or its most telling weakness — old school coterie durbars at the exclusion of well-meaning local leaders? Capt Amarinder Singh scripted the Punjab win despite a Balakot, simply because he acts on his own. Besides, the party played saboteur of the grand alliance, becoming a vote cutter, and could not convert a single issue-based rant into an alternative movement. Nor could it claim authorship of schemes that were implemented successfully by Modi. If the Congress wants to get back its axis, it has to nuke itself and rebuild or else be vapourised. As for Modi, he has had the advantage of being granted time beyond the incubation period of a regime change (yes five years may be theoretically too little). He has clearly the numbers and a seeming hold of the national imagination. He has already spoken of embarking on economic reforms. Question is does he want a legacy based on admiration or fear? For there is a huge sense of fear among the others akin to being second class citizens. Or will he discard the tools of political trade and really set an imaginative and progressive agenda? Will it be about order or disorder? Will it be Modi's India hereon? Or Kedarnath's? Only time will tell.



PARMANAND PANDEY

This Lok Sabha election has broken many myths not only at the national level but in Uttar Pradesh (UP), too. This is for the first time that a Government at the Centre has not only warded off the anti-incumbency factor but has, in fact, improved its position in many decades. It's an oft-repeated saying that the road to Delhi's seat of power passes through UP and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) proved that its pan-India weight could fill any trough, even the one in UP.

Most political pundits had predicted not more than 30 seats for the BJP in this State, particularly after the *gathbandhan* of the Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Rashtriya Lok Dal came into existence. These parties were heavily enthused by the bypoll results of Kairana, Gorakhpur and Phoolpur, where castes like Jats, Yadavs, Dalits and Muslims played a vital role to defeat the BJP. Parties thought that this time, too, the same formula would work and the BJP would be decimated.

UP comprises more than 25 per cent Dalits, nearly 18 per cent of Muslims and 15 per cent of Yadavas and Jats. Their alliance would have been lethal to finish the BJP but this formula did not work in 2019. Belying all expectation, the BJP romped home with 60 seats. Many journalists and analysts, who analysed the outcome of the Lok Sabha election, keeping in mind the caste angle, ignored something that clearly worked in this election — the politics of emotion, one which helped Prime Minister Narendra Modi project himself as the do-gooder who was being obstructed by greedy power players. And for all the polarisation, he seems to have cut across the masses in terms of appeal and acceptability as a worthy choice in a national bet.

So while in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, there was a discernible Modi wave sweeping across the country, in 2019, there was a complete denial of this wave by most parties and political commentators as well. The SP and BSP are, without doubt, casteist parties. While SP depends heavily on the Yadavas and Muslims, BSP claims the monopoly over the Dalits votes plus some Muslim votes. It is an unacknowledged fact that by and large, Muslims have been against the BJP and in this election were expected to vote against the BJP. Muslims are considered to be politically very wise and vigilant and they vote in favour of the candidate who can defeat the BJP, irrespective of the party he/she belongs to. This was the reason why the *gathbandhan* was overconfident of pulverising the BJP this Lok Sabha election. It was considering itself to be invincible but all the planning proved to be day-dreaming. The reality is that in this complicated deal, vote transference didn't happen among partners across the State though it had worked at the bypoll level.

The Congress has almost no presence in UP. It has been non-existent for all practical purposes for nearly three decades. Yet for all the concentrated focus by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi to wean the upper castes away with her temple run and boat

## Farmers back in the fold

BJP's resounding victory in UP signals a triumph of developmental politics over the casteist variant. The pre-election payment to sugarcane growers worked too



rides, the bottomlines are disastrous. Except for Rai Bareilly, the grand old party has not been able to retain even Amethi from where its national president Rahul Gandhi was contesting. These two seats have been the pocketborough of the Congress and except for 1977, both have always been held by the party. The so-called Congress *Brahmastra*, too, failed.

Now let us consider how the BJP was able to shatter the dreams of the *gathbandhan*. Results show that while the SP-BSP combine could not make any significant change in the political contours of Uttar Pradesh, the BSP has been quite lucky. In fact, it has ridden piggyback on the larger appeal of a front. In the last Lok Sabha elections of 2014, the BSP had drawn a blank. On the other hand, SP could secure five seats last time, mainly held by family members, including one by Mulayam Singh Yadav. This time, it has held just nine seats. However, the BSP under Mayawati has improved its tally from zero to 12. This shows that despite getting full support of Muslims and Yadavas, the SP has not been able to get the Dalit votes transferred in its favour. It is also alleged that Mayawati did not send her message to the Dalits in favour of the SP candidates because in her heart of hearts, she does not like the Yadavas. This was enough for Dalits to not transfer their votes in favour of the SP, which is dominated by the Yadavas and who are considered to be the musclemen. In the last Assembly election, Mayawati had coined the slogan "Chadh Gundan ki Chhati Par, Mohar Lagao Haathi Par." She used to say that Yadavas are the cruel oppressors of the Dalits and this slogan silently resonated in this election, too.

While the *gathbandhan* parties were mainly dependent on the votes of Jat, Yadavas and Muslims, the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, was telling the people about their achievements. There is no denying the fact that the pace of development in Uttar Pradesh has been very

IT IS ALSO ALLEGED THAT MAYAWATI DID NOT SEND HER MESSAGE TO THE DALITS IN FAVOUR OF THE SP CANDIDATES BECAUSE IN HER HEART OF HEARTS, SHE DOES NOT LIKE THE YADAVAS

fast. Almost all villages in the State are now connected with motorable roads, every household has electricity, every family avails gas connection under the Ujjwala Yojana. There is hardly any house even in the remote countryside, which does not have a toilet facility. So much so that those, who did not have a house to live, are living in *pucca* houses today. There is hardly any member of any family who does not have a bank account under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. Almost everyone has been ensured under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

These schemes have been implemented without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and religion. There was a constant crisis of urea but now it is available in plenty. Soil health cards have been distributed to all farmers, which have helped them. Hence, casteist factors could not cut any ice.

Another important factor that led to the BJP's win is that it was, perhaps, for the first time that the farmers got timely and proper payment for their produce, particularly sugarcane grow-

ers. This is something that was unthinkable at a time when the SP or BSP ruled the State. Further, the Yogi Government also banned illegal slaughterhouses, thus winning the support of the Hindus. To top it all, not even one communal riot has taken place in the State during the period of Modi and Yogi. There was no peace, no security during the SP/BSP era. Anti-social elements used to have a field day and the police was made pliant to the MLAs and MPs belonging to the castes of the Chief Ministers of their time.

Distribution of electricity has considerably improved in small villages. Thus, the slogan of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas', has gone down well with the people of the State. Another factor which has worked in favour of the BJP is a direct transfer of the subsidy amount in the accounts of the beneficiaries. This successfully eliminated the army of middleman and contractors, who never allowed the farmers and poor to be benefited by the numerous welfare schemes. Going forward, Balakot and surgical strikes worked heavily in favour of the BJP too, particularly in rural areas. The BJP also sold it properly to the people.

On the other hand, the Opposition, mainly the leaders of the *gathbandhan*, failed to raise any issue before the electorate as they were heavily dependent on caste factors. Mayawati got so desperate that she showed the audacity of presenting Mulayam Singh Yadav as the genuine backward and Modi as the fake backward. People realised that only the family members of Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati have reaped the fruits of power in amassing a huge amount of money. Corruption had become a byword during the tenures of Mayawati and Mulayam, which has been completely unheard of during the Modi and Yogi regime. This has been the reason why caste politics of *gathbandhan* has been buried deep and the politics of development has been preferred in Uttar Pradesh.

(The writer is Advocate on Record at the Supreme Court of India)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Failing the test

Sir — It is shocking that Gomathi Marimuthu, the athlete from Tamil Nadu, has failed the dope test twice and it is even worse that the Anti-Doping Agency did not report the fact that she tested positive a month ago. This amounts to cheating. Sports persons must realise that they let down fans and the country when they test positive for performance-enhancing drugs.

NR Ramachandran  
Chennai

### Respect Dutee's decision

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Love has no boundaries" (May 22). Indian sprinter Dutee Chand has shown tremendous amount of courage to make the admission of being in a same-sex relationship. It is unfortunate that the revelation has led to a storm, most importantly on the part of her family members. Dutee's elder sister Saraswati Chand, herself an athlete, did not approve of this relationship and said that Chand's partner had "pressurised and blackmailed" her for her wealth and property. Its strange that in today's times even after the Supreme Court's historic decision to decriminalise Section 377, which pro-

### The onus is now on Modi

The massive win registered by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 17th Lok Sabha elections was unexpected. Before the polls, the general impression was that the country may be heading towards a hung Parliament. That the BJP has defied all predictions to win handsomely can be attributed to the gigantic factor: Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister's direct connect with the people of India has clicked big time. His tireless work, reasonable success story in the last five years, especially in rural India, his unmatched international repute, broad vision,

love for the country and its security and visible and tough measures against terror perpetrators have all worked in the BJP's favour. The Odisha election results have proved beyond doubt that people know their preferences well. Otherwise, results to the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka cannot be explained. The Modi-Amit Shah duo has had a keen eye on some regions considered anathema for the BJP, Northeast and West Bengal and worked hard to make deep inroads in these areas. Their efforts have paid off. Of course, the anti-Modi campaign by the Opposition



backfired. People did not seem to take some jibes like 'chowkidaar chor hai' against Modi lightly.

The Opposition's unabashed, one-point and unwavering 'Modi-hatao' mission has been shown the door. The country's people obvious-

ly want a strong, dominant and decisive leader at the Centre, who can hold his own against internal and external challenges and threats. The Opposition parties' tendency to take the voters for granted with regard to caste and religious equation has flopped badly as is evidenced in Uttar Pradesh where the *mahagathbandhan* was acting as if it had routed the BJP even before the elections. People may also have wanted to give Modi another five years to take a relook at his unfulfilled promises.

Ganapathi Bhat  
Akola

hibited same-sex relationships, many still live with an old orthodox mindset.

Dutee Chand's decision is purely personal and we should judge her as an athlete and how she performs on the track. This personal matter must not come in the way of her intense preparations for the Olympics.

Bal Govind  
Noida

### Water woes

Sir — Now that we are staring at a crisis, we are beginning to think of solutions to the water scarcity that is plaguing our cities when we should be implementing an action plan. Now we have to act in mission mode, recharging wells, setting up new ones and perhaps make rainwater harvesting a

mandatory practice. The judicious use of water must be encouraged and field awareness is crucial. The Government should consult and take the support of non-governmental organisations and domain experts.

Smita Pandey  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## Becoming agents of change

With more and more women taking up unconventional modules, they are making farming more productive and commercially viable



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Harshada Zanje always yearned for a house of her own. But with her husband being the lone bread-winner in a household of nine members, she knew it would be difficult to move out of the two-room mud house in which they all lived. The small paddy field in their Vadan Zanje village in Pune district of Maharashtra was their only source of income and production was not enough to yield profits. But she didn't give up on her dreams. One day, she saw a photo of a house in a nearby shop and liked it so much that she bought it. She kept the photo near her bedside, hoping against hope that one day she would have a similar house. When a chance meeting with voluntary organisations working in the area led her to plant marigolds, little did Zanje know that she was sowing the seeds of her dream. Early this year, two years after she began growing marigolds, Zanje moved into a pucca five-room house of her dreams.

In an area where farm incomes are dependent on the vagaries of climate, Zanje has shown that problems like water scarcity and undulating terrain can be overcome with hard work and some hand-holding and guidance. So good has been her yield that Zanje is now able to employ labour at the time the flowers need to be picked. It is no wonder that many other farmers, both women and men, have followed her example and begun growing marigolds. "They have all begun to dream like me. If I could do it, they, too, can increase their incomes and fulfil their hopes and wishes," says Harshada.

But much of this would not have been possible had she not met members of CybageAsha, the Pune-based charitable trust and philanthropic arm of Cybage. The organisation, which was working to improve infrastructure in a few villages in Velhe cluster where Zanje lives, realised that in addition to the existing work, more needed to be done to address rural distress and that economic development and income security of the farming community could be accelerated through improved sources of livelihoods. "We also realised that one shoe would not fit all. It was important to tailor these livelihoods according to their needs while ensuring that empowerment of women remained an integral part of our intervention by giving equal economic opportunities," says Ritu Nathani, head, CybageAsha.

So in 2017, CybageAsha, in collaboration with BAIIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development, conducted a study of the geographical conditions in 11 villages in Bhor and Velhe cluster in Pune district. An assessment of the climatic and soil conditions revealed that rainfall was unevenly distributed because of the angle of slope of the hilly topography in Velhe. This in turn affected the moisture content of the soil and rate of erosion. Since Velhe's high degree of topographical slope had led to high soil erosion, growing marigolds was found to be an ideal option to counter this as it can be grown in a wide range of soils. It was also found that although marigolds were being grown here, it was not yielding enough benefits. Therefore, they decided to introduce the Kolkata variety of marigold instead of the Kapri variety traditionally grown here. Being far superior to the Kapri variety, the new variety would not only promote climate-resilient farming and help in natural resource management but boost incomes as well, revealed Pankaj Katte of BAIIF.

When these benefits and the need to switch to a more productive variety were discussed in village meetings with farmers as a way to improve incomes during lean times, Zanje was among the first to volunteer to a trial plot in her field. She understood that in comparison to the Kolkata variety, the Kapri marigolds not only had lower productivity but were less attractive and, therefore, had less market value. Zanje's decision to take the risk of planting the new variety, despite initial opposition from her family, paid off when the first harvest of this trial plot showed that the size of the flower was five times bigger and its productivity was four times more. This led Zanje to plant marigolds in her entire field and her first harvest yielded 150 kg and a profit of ₹15,000.

Interestingly, 60-year-old Hirabai, the mother-in-law of Zanje's sister-in-law, who worked alongside Zanje during harvesting, has also been inspired by her success. Having learnt from Zanje that she could adopt a new technique to overcome water scarcity and the uneven topography in her village, Hirabai has taken to wadi or tree farming. This form of farming helps convert unproductive waste lands into productive mango and jamun-growing plots. Although CybageAsha and BAIIF don't work in her village, Hirabai has planted mango trees in her barren patch after hearing about wadi farming from Zanje. Clearly, women like Zanje are the cornerstone of the intervention. Not only has she fulfilled her dream but is helping others to do so. "Our aim is to help farmers, especially women, transform their lives. As partners in sustainable development, together we are bringing change," says Nathani.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

I AM STARTING A WEEKLY SERIES WHERE I WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM AROUND FOUR MILLION NEPALESE FOLLOWING THESE SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES.

—US AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL  
RANDY BERRY



WE THINK SUCH KIND OF ENGAGEMENT IS NOT NEEDED. IF THE EMBASSY HAS ANYTHING TO SAY, IT CAN DIRECTLY TALK TO THE GOVERNMENT.

—NEPAL'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
PRADEEP KUMAR GWAWALI

# Living dangerously

In 2007, Pakistan spiralled downwards amid violence, political polarisation and economic recession. However, some normalcy was restored. Is it heading that way again?



NADEEM PARACHA

On September 30, 1965, the Communist Party of Indonesia — Parti Komunis Indonesia (PKI) — attempted a *coup d'état* through a clandestine organisation embedded within the Indonesian armed forces. The PKI was close to the Indonesian nationalist hero and first ruler President Sukarno. PKI's embedded organisation, the 13th of September Movement, believed that a large portion of the country's armed forces was anti-Communist and under the influence of the US, which was planning to topple Sukarno.

Sukarno was not a communist himself. In her book, *Maoism: A Global History*, Julia Lovell writes that he had kept the large PKI on his side to neutralise the influence of the military. Nevertheless, in the early 1960s, as tensions between the military and PKI mounted and the economy began to unravel, Sukarno made an alarming speech in August 1964. Alluding to the developing crisis, Sukarno stated that the country was "living dangerously."

The 1965 coup attempt was brutally thwarted by anti-communist military factions. The coup was crushed by Major-General Suharto. Adrian Wickers, in his 2013 book, *A History of Modern Indonesia*, writes that the military gave far-right Islamic and Catholic groups ample space and impunity to carry out some of the worst massacres of the 20th century. A 1977 Amnesty International report suggests that "about one million" Indonesians — believed to be PKI members or sympathisers — were mercilessly slaughtered and these included pregnant women and children.

The Australian novelist Christopher Koch dramatised the carnage in a 1978 novel. The title of the novel, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, was inspired by Sukarno's speech. Since the novel was turned into a film in 1982, the expression "year of living dangerously" is often used by writers and journalists to describe a tumultuous year in the life of a country and/or a particularly violent period in which a country spirals into anarchy and unprecedented bloodshed.

If one sets aside 1971's bloody civil war in former East Pakistan, then the year in which Pakistan lived dangerously (in the context of the mentioned expression) has to be 2007. It is remarkable that the country actually came out of it all.

The year got off to a terrible start when, in January, an Al Qaeda suicide bomber killed 12 policemen in Peshawar. Then in February, military chief and president Pervez Musharraf suspended the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Iftikhar Chaudhry, accusing him of corruption.

The lawyers' community rejected the suspension and began a movement. It was soon joined by both big and small Opposition parties, whose rallies were often attacked by riot police. As the movement transformed into a populist anti-Musharraf drive and spread from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, its leaders decided to take it to Sindh's capital city, Karachi. Karachi's then largest party, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), was a staunch ally of the Musharraf regime.

The MQM wasn't happy when the suspended judge and his supporters arrived in Karachi



on May 12, 2007. As the judge was waiting at the city's airport, riots and open gun battles between MQM activists and those belonging to the anti-Musharraf alliance such as the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) and Awami National Party (ANP), erupted on the roads and streets of the city. Government buildings, media outlets, cars and buses were fired upon and torched. Snipers took positions on overhead bridges and mowed down opponents with bullets.

The city came to a standstill as armed men roamed the streets amid dead bodies, abandoned cars and burning motorbikes and buses. According to a May 13, 2007 report by CNN, 33 people were killed and dozens were wounded. The MQM and the Musharraf regime accused the Opposition parties for the violence, whereas the former and most local and foreign news outlets put the blame on the latter and Musharraf.

Then in June, unprecedented monsoon rains in Karachi killed over 200 people. The very next month on July 3, militant clerics and their 'students' fired at security forces posted outside Islamabad's Red Mosque. The mosque and its seminary had been taken over by radical clerics and their supporters, who for months had been harassing the people of the locality on the pretext of "vanquishing anti-Islamic activities." As tensions between the clerics and the state rose, security forces moved in after it was confirmed that the clerics and their "students" were heavily armed. The major siege took place on July 10 and 11 when Pakistan military commandos entered the building and eliminated the militants.

On July 13, newspapers reported that 102 people had been killed. These included 91 civilians (most of whom were militants holed up in

ON NOVEMBER 3, MUSHARRAF DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY. THE SAME MONTH, SECTARIAN VIOLENCE IN KURRAM AGENCY KILLED 80 PEOPLE AND ISLAMIC MILITANTS BEGAN TO TAKE OVER BUILDINGS IN SWAT. ON NOVEMBER 22, PAKISTAN WAS SUSPENDED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FOR REFUSING TO LIFT THE EMERGENCY. ON NOVEMBER 26, PML-N CHIEF NAWAZ SHARIF RETURNED FROM EXILE

the mosque), 10 soldiers and one ranger. As the political and economic situation continued to deteriorate, while terrorist attacks by Al Qaeda-affiliated outfits increased in number, the exiled chairperson of the PPP Benazir Bhutto, returned to Pakistan in October. A large rally in Karachi that was escorting her from the Jinnah International Airport was attacked by suicide bombers and 124 people were killed in the carnage. Al Qaeda-affiliated groups were suspected of carrying out the attack.

On November 3, Musharraf declared a state of emergency. The same month, sectarian violence in Kurram Agency killed 80 people and Islamic militants began to take over buildings in Swat. On November 22, Pakistan was suspended from the Commonwealth for refusing to lift the emergency. On November 26, PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif returned from exile.

On December 13, Islamist militant groups formed the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which would go on to kill thousands of Pakistanis in the following years. On December 27, suicide bombers assassinated Benazir Bhutto. Dozens perished with her and dozens more were killed in the riots which spread across Pakistan for three days. Enraged mobs ran amok, setting fire to buildings and automobiles, especially in Punjab and Sindh.

Things almost completely fell apart in 2007. However, the country managed to limp back to some "normalcy" but the economy continued to plummet and terrorist attacks became endemic. Things in this respect began to somewhat improve from 2015 onwards. But an economic downturn, the recent spike in terror attacks and intense political polarisation, are once again threatening the country. Are we once again moving towards a year of living dangerously?

(Courtesy: The Dawn)

## Guard against an apocalypse

Human influences on climate change have heralded a new epoch — anthropocene — that is a clear threat to the Himalayas. There's a strong need to establish synergies between climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development goals



SANDEEP KUMAR DUBEY

The human influence on the planet and its environment, leading to global warming, are no more hidden. However, there can also be several natural factors that cause climate change and variations in global temperatures. In fact, increased volcanic eruptions and periods of few sunspots may lead to a drop-off in the temperature as it happened over the Northern Hemisphere for about a thousand years, known as Little Ice Age, which lasted roughly till the mid-18th Century. Climate variations are, therefore, generally induced by a mix of natural and human factors. Precisely because of this, climate scientists find it difficult to define the phrase "2°C above pre-industrial levels" as referred

to in the sub-clause 1 (a) of Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, 2015, and fix a numerical baseline for the average global temperature.

The challenge is to separate and quantify human influences on climate change from that of nature. This will help convince and stimulate decision-makers throughout the world for taking up the much-needed climate change mitigation actions as stated in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, 2015, "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels...to significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change."

The geological era dominated by human influences on climate is considered as anthropocene. A recent special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) titled, "Global Warming of 1.5°C" attempts to trace the temporal extent of anthropocene. The report says that anthropocene has geological merit to be regarded as a formal epoch in the geological time scale and that it begins from the mid-20th century and continues. Scientists, artists and documentary makers are all trying to capture and

map the trajectory of Anthropocene and associated global greenhouse gas emission pathways.

In the face of huge human influence on the earth system, pursuing the efforts to limit the temperature increase above 1.5°C is an ambitious task. Unchecked, the temperature rise above 1.5°C may have significant, long-lasting and irreversible impacts on human and natural systems. Among the many impacts and the cascading risks that changing climate and increase in global temperature will lead to, one is on the Himalayas (to be specific, Hindu Kush-Himalaya region) and the natural resources thereof.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) described the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region the "Third Pole" as it "stores more snow and ice than anywhere else in the world outside the polar regions." The HKH ecosystem is already showing signs of human influences. Changes in cryosphere are an important indicator of climate change. In February 2019, the ICIMOD came out with a landmark study titled, "The Hindu Kush Himalaya

Assessment', delineating the impacts of climate change and increasing global temperature on HKH and its resources. According to the report, glaciers have been shrinking since the mid-18th century, the exception being from 1920 to 1940. The ICIMOD warned of dire consequences if the global climate response fails to contain the rising temperature and said that "current emissions would lead to five degrees in warming and a loss of two-thirds of the region's glaciers by 2100."

Though commonly described as 'Water Tower of Asia', water crisis is looming large over countries in the HKH region. The unfolding water crisis is likely to get worse in the coming years, aided by human drivers such as climate change. The per capita water availability has drastically gone down, thus compromising on the developmental needs, especially of the poverty-stricken population.

Rapid rate of urbanisation (often unplanned), ever-growing population and fast-paced industrialisation in the HKH region stress upon the already depleting natural resources, including water. In the face of competitive sectoral

demands for water, administering equitable distribution of water resources for different sectors and needs can be even more challenging for the existing water governance structures in the region.

Hydro-politics played out as a subset of regional geopolitics often ferments competition among countries which undercuts the prospects of cooperation. In the geopolitical tug of war, it is no denying that countries may be inclined to use water as a geo-strategic weapon. Establishment of effective transboundary water governance structures and constant dialogues to achieve trade-offs between upstream and downstream water uses may preclude such a scenario. It is important for nations to understand that cooperation on water issues leads to a win-win situation. Efforts must be on to promote regional dialogue and multi-stakeholders partnership on water issues for effective water resources management and conflict mitigation in the region.

About two billion people living in the basins of the 10 major rivers, which originate from HKH, benefit directly or indirectly from its resources, espe-

cially water. To ensure water security for the region, understanding localised variations will be the key. For example, in the hilly areas of the region, the main source of water is the springs. Thus, in this case, relevant geographical units for effective water resources management will be the springsheds and not the river basins. Augmenting water resources, rejuvenating water bodies and strengthening water governance institutions will be vital for the development of the region, human security and achieving sustainable development goals, especially Goal 6.

It is also important to develop institutional capacities at multi-level governance structures for adaptive and effective governance, build cross-scalar interfaces among the various knowledge-based systems and strengthen the resilience of the communities. As the IPCC special report on "Global Warming of 1.5°C" suggests, there is a strong need to establish synergies between climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development goals.

(The writer is a freelance commentator)



FOREIGN EYE



### NOWHERE LEFT TO FAIL

May lacked the courage and vision to articulate compelling answers to the many questions, still less to persuade the public and Parliament to trust her judgment. That profound and protracted failure is in large part the reason why the whole Brexit process has broken down, why British voters will participate in European parliamentary elections on Thursday, and why that poll is certain to administer a brutal verdict on the prime minister and her party.

(The Guardian Editorial)



## WINNERS & LOSERS

 RAHUL GANDHI	 SMRITI IRANI	 AKHILESH YADAV	 ANURAG THAKUR	 DHARMENDRA YADAV	 GIRIRAJ SINGH	 GURJIT SINGH AUJLA	 JAYANT SINHA	 KANIMOZHI	 KARTI	 HEMA MALINI	 MULAYAM YADAV	 PRAGYA THAKUR
 ATISHI	 DIGVIJYA SINGH	 DIMPLE YADAV	 HARDEEP SINGH PURI	 HD DEVE GOWDA	 KANHAIYA KUMAR	 KRITI AZAD	 MEHBOOBA MUFTI	 MILIND DEORA	 URMILA MATONDKAR	 MISA BHARTI	 POONAM SINHA	
 SAMBIT PATRA	 SANJAY NIRUPAM	 RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD	 ASADUDDIN OWAIISI	 JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA	 SHATRUGHAN SINHA	 SUNNY DEOL	 SHIVPAL YADAV	 SHEILA DIKSHIT	 SUNIL JAKHAR			

## Most Union Ministers ride Modi wave

### Smriti Irani emerges giant killer

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Except Union Minister Manoj Sinha, Hardeep Singh Puri and KJ Alphons, a record number of Union Ministers won their seat due to Modi-Amit Shah wave in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani emerged as a giant-killer against Congress president Rahul Gandhi who conceded defeat from Amethi in one of the most keenly watched contests in the country. The official announcement on most of the seats was awaited as matching of electronic voting machine (EVM) counts with voter verifiable audit trail (VVPAT) slips was in progress. Prime Minister Narendra Modi retained Varanasi by over 4.79 lakh votes. He increased his victory margin as compared

to 2014 by over one lakh votes, trouncing Samajwadi Party's Shalini Yadav. Giriraj Singh, who was up against Kanhaiya Kumar, former JNU president and CPI(M) candidate, in Begusarai, was leading by 4.22 lakh votes. Radha Mohan Singh fielded from Purvi Champaran was ahead of his rival Aakash Singh by a margin of nearly two lakh votes. In Arrah, RK Singh led against his nearest rival of CPI(M) by a margin of over one lakh votes. Ravi Shankar Prasad was leading against Congress' Shatrughan Sinha on Patna Sahib seat by nearly 2.83 lakh votes. Firebrand leader and Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey too sailed through against RJD's Jagadanand Singh, leading by around 1.5 lakh votes. Cabinet Minister KJ Alphons was facing a humiliating defeat in Kerala. He trailed at the third place behind Congress' Hibi Aeden and CPI(M) candidate P Rajeev on Ernakulam seat. His colleague and Union

**The big winners included Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari. The official announcement on most of the seats was awaited as matching of electronic voting machine (EVM) counts with voter verifiable audit trail (VVPAT) slips was in progress**

Housing and Urban Affairs minister Hardeep Puri lost in Amritsar by a margin of over 99,000 votes. Another big loss of the BJP was Union minister of state for Railways Manoj Sinha who was down by around 1.15 lakh votes against BSP's Afzal Ansari on Ghazipur seat. The big winners included Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari. Singh led against Samajwadi Party candidate and Shatrughna Sinha's wife Poonam Sinha in Lucknow by over 3.45 lakh votes. Gadkari won from Nagpur by a margin of around 1.97 lakh votes. He was up against Congress' Nana Patole. On Chandrapur (Maharashtra) seat Union minister of state for Home Affairs Hansraj Gangaram Ahir had a tough contest on the platter and he was trailing behind Balubhau by over 50,000 votes.

In UP's Baghat, Satyapal Singh was also engaged in a keen fight with RLD candidate Jayant Chaudhary. Singh was trailing behind with 1068 votes. Sanjiv Balyan was engaged in an intense contest in Muzaffarpur seat in UP. He was leading over his rival and RLD chief Ajit Singh by thin margin of 3,782 votes. Maneka Gandhi, who switched to Sultanpur (UP) seat, was leading by a slender margin of 13,859 votes against BSP's Chandra Bhadra Singh. BJP's biggest winners included VK Singh who led over his rival from SP Suresh Bansal by a margin over five lakh votes in Ghaziabad constituency. Rajyavardhan Rathor was leading against Olympian Krishna Poonia of Congress by 3.89 lakh votes on Jaipur (Rural) seat. Arjun Ram Meghwal was

sailing on Bikaner seat by 2.5 lakh votes. Anant Kumar Hegde (Uttara Kannada) was leading by nearly five lakh votes against JD(S) candidate Anand Asnotikar. Union minister Mahesh Sharma was leading on Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) seat by over two lakh votes, against BSP's Satyapal. In Bareilly, Santosh Gangwar sailed through with around 1.5 lakh votes. Other ministers of Modi government including Jual Oram (Sundargarh), Sadanand Gowda (North Bengaluru), Shripad Yesso Naik (North Goa) Ram Kripal Yadav, Jitendra Singh (Udhampur), Rao Inderjeet Singh (Gurgaon), Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena), Babul Supriyo (Asansol), Ajay Tanta (Almora) among others, were on the victory march.



BJP workers light firecrackers as they celebrate the party's victory in Srinagar on Thursday

# BJP-SENA REPEATS 2014 SHOW

# Opp blames Rahul for poll debacle

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a virtual repeat of its spectacular performance in the 2014 polls, the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance on Thursday swept the Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra, by either winning or establishing unassailable leads in 41 out of the total 48 seats in the State, decimating once again the Opposition Congress and limiting the tally of NCP to five.

On a day when senior Congress leaders Sushilkumar Shinde and Ashok Chavan bit electoral dust, the saffron alliance both humiliated the Congress further by reducing its embarrassing 2014 tally of two seats to one seat.

In a surprise outcome, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMM) legislator and former TV journalist Imtiaz Jaleel was poised to bag Aurangabad by defeating four-time MP Chandrakant Khaire of the Shiv Sena.

The ruling saffron alliance's superlative performance has come as a big boost to the BJP-Shiv Sena combine ahead of the State Assembly polls to be held in October this year. With its stunning performance achieved after bucking the severe anti-incumbency faced by the Devendra Fadnavis gov-

ernment, the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance has dimmed the hopes of the Congress-NCP alliance returning to power in the State.

The BJP-Sena alliance performed well in all the regions in the state. While the saffron alliance won all the six seats (BJP-3 and Sena-3) in Mumbai, walked away with nine seats in western Maharashtra, six seats in north Maharashtra, six seats in Konkan region, eight seats in Marathwada and eight seats in Vidarbha region.

Though it increased the 2014 tally by one seat, the NCP had nothing to gloat about its electoral performance. For, NCP chief Sharad Pawar's daughter and two-time MP Supriya Sule managed to retain the home seat of Baramati, while his grand nephew and former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar suffered an embarrassing defeat at the hands of Shiv Sena's sitting MP Shrirang Appa Chandu Barne by a margin of 2,15,913 votes.

Incidentally, both the BJP and Shiv Sena retained their 2014's winning tally of 23 and 18 seats respectively. The only difference this time around was that the BJP contested 25 seats in the 2019 polls against 26 seats it had contested in



2014 election, while the Shiv Sena contested 23 seats as against 22 seats it had contested in the previous polls.

Both the BJP and the Shiv Sena have been contesting the Lok Sabha polls as an alliance since 1989. In both the 2014 and 2019 polls, the BJP romped home with its best-ever winning tally of 23 seats as against 18 it had won in 1996, while the Sena improved its previous

tally of 15 seats, by winning as many as 18 seats. However, with its winning tally having been reduced to mere one seat, the Congress' stock has hit its nadir in Maharashtra which was long-considered its bastion. The only seat that the Congress won was Chandrapur, where its candidate Balubhai alias Suresh Narayan Dhanorkar trounced

Union Minister of State Hansraj Ahir by a margin of 50,288 votes.

The Congress' embarrassing electoral debacle can be gauged from the defeats of its two former chief ministers Ashok Chavan in Nanded and Sushilkumar Shinde fell by way side. While Chavan was trounced by Prataprao Patil Chikhlikar of the BJP, Shinde suffered a defeat hands of Jai Sideshwar Shivchary Mahaswamiji.

The annexing of Chavans' home turf of Nanded is of extreme political significance considering that barring four terms, Nanded was under the control of the Congress since 1952. While late S B Chavan represented the constituency twice (1980 and 1984), Ashok Chavan himself was elected to Lok Sabha once in a bye-election in 1987, following the resignation of his father. Late S B Chavan's son-in-law and Ashokrao's brother-in-law Bhaskarrao Khatgaonkar has represented the constituency thrice (1998, 1999 and 2009).

Chavan, who was incidentally one of the two Congress candidates (out of its 26 candidates) had been elected to Lok Sabha in 2014 polls from Maharashtra in the face of a fierce Modi wave.

The other highlights of the polls were the victories of BJP's Union Minister Nitin Gadkari (Nagpur), state president Raosaheb Danve-Patil (Jalna), late senior party leader Gopinath Munde's daughter and sitting MP Pritam Munde (Beed), late party leader Pramod Mahajan's daughter Poonam Mahajan (Mumbai north-central).

Bollywood actress Urmila Matondkar, who contested the polls as a Congress candidate from Mumbai north constituency, suffered a massive defeat at the hands of BJP's sitting MP Gopal Shetty.

In the initial stages of counting in the morning, Matondkar had created a stir by lodging a complaint with the Election Commission of India alleging 'changed' EVM, here on Thursday.

"On the form of EVM 17C from Magathane, the signatures and the machine numbers are different. A complaint has been filed with the EC," Matondkar had tweeted.

However, later in the evening, Matondkar conceded the defeat through a tweet: "Congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodiji and his team on a stupendous victory... one that can only be applauded with a mighty vigour!"

# Modi 3<sup>rd</sup> PM to retain full majority

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Spearheading the NDA to a thumping victory, Narendra Modi is the third Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi to retain power for a second term with full majority in the Lok Sabha.

As counting is on across the country on Thursday, trends indicate the Modi-led BJP will garner more than 302 seats on its own thereby easily going past the halfway mark of 272 seats in the 17th Lok Sabha elections. In 2014, the BJP had won 282 seats out of the total 543 in Lok Sabha.

Jawaharlal Nehru won around three-fourth of the Lok Sabha seats in the first elections in the country during 1951-52. Subsequently, he was able to win 1957 elections as well as 1962 elections with full majority. Since the elections were taking place for the first time in independent India in 1951, the polling had to be spread over a period of five months from October 1951 to February 1952.

While the Congress dominance was insurmountable in 1951, various other political strands such as Bhartiya Jana Sangh, Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, Scheduled Caste Federation and Socialist Party had started to take shape by then. The Congress was able to win 364 out of 489 seats during 1951-52 elections. The party polled around 45 per cent of the total votes then.

In 1957, when Nehru was up for re-election, India was going through a difficult phase as the Prime Minister was battling the right wing inside and outside his party after passage of the Hindu Marriage Act in 1955.

The country was facing many language disputes. Consequently, after establishment of States Reorganisation Committee in 1953, many states were formed on the basis of language. The country was also feeling the heat due to food insecurity.

However, among all

this, Nehru was able to win a spectacular victory of 371 seats in 1957 elections. The Congress's vote share even increased from 45 per cent in 1951-52 to 47.78 per cent in 1957. In 1962 elections, Nehru won again bagging 361 seats out of total 494 seats in Lok Sabha.

After 20 years of Independence, the Congress's hegemony in the country's politics finally started breaking down in 1967 when it lost six state assembly elections. Out of this six, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal was lost by the Congress for the very first time.

However, in 1967 elections, Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi was able to get 283 seats out of total 520 seats. This was Indira's first electoral victory in general elections. In 1969, Indira expelled the old guard of the party, which were called as Congress (O). This section of Congress was led by Morarji Desai.

It was during this time that Indira coined the slogan "Garibi hatao", which found a wide emotive appeal among the Indian voters. As a result, she was able to increase her tally to 352 in 1971 elections for her second term.

In between 2010 and 2014, with UPA Government facing multiple allegations of massive corruption scandals, the BJP decided to appoint the then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi as their Prime Minister candidate for 2014 general elections.

With a promise of development (vikas) across India, Narendra Modi won his first ever general elections with full majority in 2014 with 282 seats.

# 23 turncoats to retain power! ACCORDING TO EC'S DATA, 13 TURNCOATS ARE LEADING THEIR CONSTITUENCIES WHILE REST OF THEM ARE SET TO LOSE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 23 turncoat politicians of 76, who had switched over from one party to other ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, are in a position to win their seats as per the trends so far. According to the Election Commission's data, 13 turncoats are leading their constituencies while the rest of them are set to lose.

Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha, who joined Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha election, lost to rival Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad from Patna Sahib constituency in Bihar.

In nearby Madhepura, former JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav, who joined RJD before polls, was lagging by over 1.30 lakh votes from Dinesh Chandra Yadav of JD(U). Tariq Anwar, who switched from Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to Congress, is also trailing by over 40,000 votes from Katihar.

Cricketer-turned-politician Kirti Azad is trailing from Dhanbad by nearly 1.6 lakh votes. He had joined Congress from BJP.

Son of former Union Minister Jaswant Singh, Manvendra, who is contesting on a Congress ticket from Barmer is also trailing by about 3.12 lakh votes. Meanwhile, Bhojpur actor Ravi Kishan Shukla, who had contested on Congress ticket in the last general elections but joined the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, is leading by over 2.80 lakh from Gorakhpur constituency.

In Karnataka, three political leaders changed affiliations from Congress to BJP, with two of them leading in vote counts. While Umesh Yadav and Y

## Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha, who joined Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha election, lost to rival Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad from Patna Sahib constituency in Bihar

Devendrappa are leading from Gulbarga and Bellary, respectively. BJP candidate from Hassan A Manju is behind by 1.42 lakh votes from Prajwal Revanna, grandson of former Prime Minister HD Devegowda.

Sujay Vikhe Patil, son of senior Congress leader Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, had switched to BJP from Congress. He is ahead by over 2.30 lakh votes in Ahmednagar constituency of Maharashtra.

Suresh Dhanorkar, who joined Congress leaving Shiv Sena, is ahead of sitting BJP MP Hansraj Gangaram Ahir in the Chandrapur seat from the state.

In Nanded, Pratap Chikhlikar, a turncoat from Shiv Sena to BJP, is leading against state Congress chief Ashok Chavan by about 37,000 votes.

Bajayant Panda who was expelled from the BJD and is contesting from Kendrapara on BJP ticket is lagging behind by 40,000 votes.

Former Union Minister Panabaka Lakshmi who changed sides from Congress

to TDP is trailing by 1.5 lakh votes in Tirupati constituency of Lok Sabha seats.

Among other major turncoats, AAP candidate Dharamvira Gandhi from Patiala, Congress candidates Naseemuddin Siddiqui from Bijnore, Savitri Bai Phule from Bahraich and Babu Katarata from Dahod, are also trailing.

In West Bengal's Alipurduar seat in north Bengal, Dasarthi Tirkey the sitting TMC MP from Alipurduar, who was once a sitting RSP MLA, is staring at his defeat. Manas Bhunia, Apurba Sarkar, Kanialal Agarwal, all former Congress MLAs, who contested from Midnapore, Baharampur and Raiganj respectively on TMC tickets are trailing. Paresh Adhikary and Mafuja Khatun, former MLAs of Forward Bloc and CPI(M) who contested on TMC and BJP tickets respectively, are trailing in Coochbehar and Jangipur Lok Sabha seats.

# I don't blame EVMs, but accept defeat gracefully, says Pawar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

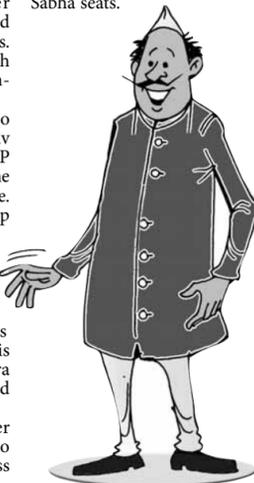
Accepting the Lok Sabha poll outcome gracefully, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday chose not to blame the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for the party's poor performance in Maharashtra.

Talking to mediapersons after the poll outcome that saw his party win five seats in the State, Pawar said, "Yes, there were doubts about EVMs. There were some suspicions in the minds of people about EVMs. But, I don't want to blame the machines now, since the results are out. Once the verdict is out, we have to accept it gracefully... I am accepting it gracefully."

"We will definitely examine the reasons for our defeat in the polls. We will increase our contact with people in the run-up to State Assembly polls due in October. Verdict is out now... State is reeling under severe drought, we will have to reach assistance to drought-affected people. Whatever drought relief programme we have undertaken will continue," Pawar said.

Pawar's daughter and two-time MP Supriya Sule retained the Baramati seat, while his grand nephew Parth Pawar suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Shiv Sena's irang Appa Chandu Barne by a margin of 2,15,913 votes.

Alluding to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to a cave near Uttarakhanda's Kedarnath temple for meditation during the last phase of the Lok Sabha polls, Pawar said: "In the last phase of polling, we saw a 'chamatkar' (miracle) of (prime minister Narendra Modi) sitting in a cave. This was something we had never seen before in this country. We did not expect such things. We will have to see how much it benefited (the BJP). We don't want to jump to the conclusion," he said.



# Social media erupts with memes!

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media was flooded with opinions, debates, jokes, memes especially aimed to the Opposition and the Congress. One of the most noticed developments was Prime Minister Narendra Modi removing Chowkidar from his twitter handle. He had prefixed it to counter Congress president Rahul Gandhi's attack against him saying 'Chowkidar Chor Hai'.

Ever since the vote count commenced, netizens began their day with a video clip showing television journalist Arnab Goswami mistakenly referring to Sunny Deol as Sunny Leone.

The clip was shared in such a huge number that it convinced actor Sunny Leone to post, "Leading by How many votes?????" on Twitter with mul-

tiple emojis. Soon, the memes on Congress President Rahul Gandhi and other politicians began making the rounds.

BJP candidate Smriti Irani's win over Rahul Gandhi in Amethi further stirred the meme broth.

One trending meme showed Rahul Gandhi's face photoshopped on Deepika Padukone's body in the Padmavat poster that read "Sadmavati".



A meme collage showed multiple images of Smriti Irani, saying: "Smriti Irani looking for some competition from Rahul Gandhi".

Citing a famous scene from the film "3 Idiots" a creative meme showed Prime Minister Narendra Modi telling Rahul Gandhi, "Neeche se check kar, neeche se!" A rendition of another scene from the same film, showed a picture of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and Army Chief Qamar

Javed Bajwa along with the dialogue: "Hum dukhi the, par humse bhi zyada 2 log aur dukhi the."

An old picture of the Gandhi family — showing Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi sitting near a lotus-bud clad pond — resurfaced again with the caption: "Kamal khilne ke intezar mein".

One picture showed Rahul Gandhi addressing a media campaign captioned, "Aree haarna jeetna chhoro, manoranjan mei toh koi kami nahi hui na?"

One viral meme on Smriti Irani's victory in Amethi read: "If 'Ghar mein ghus ke marna' has a face!"

Don't miss this hilarious one for the Opposition: "Bade dukh ke saath soochit karna pad raha hai ki esh desh ne ek saath 22 pradhan mantri kho diye hai".

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pressures within the Opposition camp emerged within hours of the BJP-led NDA looking set for a stupendous win, with the CPI and the NCP blaming Congress and its president Rahul Gandhi for the poor performance in the elections.

Soon after the trends were out, CPI national secretary Ati Anjan came out in media criticising Rahul for the wrong decisions which led to the current pathetic stage. He even blamed Rahul for opening up doors for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's grand victory.

NCP MP Majeed Memon also vented his anger against Congress in TV channels' debates, blaming the "not upto mark performance of the grand old party."

"The BJP fought these elections on the basis of social and religious divisive policies and the agenda was set by them on this basis. But more significant is the fact that the unity of the Opposition has been damaged by the Congress. The policies and decisions of Rahul Gandhi has weakened opposition unity, led to divisions and opened the doors for Modi's victory," said Anjan.

The party's other National Secretary, D Raja told PTI that although now was not the time to blame any individual party or leader for the dismal performance of the Opposition, it is also true that it was because of the unity among the allies that in states like Tamil Nadu, the BJP wave did not have any effect. "Every political party should introspect and analyse how this situation happened. We have to rework strategies, reorganise party and reconnect with the people."

Secretary, D Raja told PTI that

although now was not the time to blame any individual party or leader for the dismal performance of the Opposition, it is also true that it was because of the unity among the allies that in states like Tamil Nadu, the BJP wave did not have any effect. "Every political party should introspect and analyse how this situation happened. We have to rework strategies, reorganise party and reconnect with the people."

"With BJP capturing power, they will now aggressively pursue Hindutva agenda and cultural nationalism. The secular democratic parties have failed to form a credible alliance and that has been our failure," Raja said.

CPI general secretary Sudhakar Reddy also blamed Congress for its reluctance to ally with Left parties in West Bengal. "Sabarimala undercurrent" helped the UDF electorally in Kerala, where Rahul Gandhi contesting from Wayanad also consolidated the minority votes behind the Congress, he added.

Memon, for his part, said: "We have some setbacks and we find that unfortunately the Congress didn't perform up to the mark."

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. 1, JAMMU**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
**e-NIT No. CD-1/18 of 2019-20 Dated 20-05-2019**

Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1, Jammu on behalf of Governor of J&K State, invite tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. upto 1630 Hrs on 07-06-2019 for the following work.

**S.No. 1 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1870 & 1883) (Part-I) on roads from :-  
1/ Sai Khurd to Sardari Camp (Bidhipur Bana) Length = 2.00 Kms.  
2/ Kotli Charkan to Bye-pass road Bishnah via Dhinday Khurd (Including links) (Length = 2.00 Kms)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 148.89  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 297780  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 02 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 2 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1875 & 1876) (Part-II) on roads from :-  
1/ Gondla to Shamsan Ghat at village Agwan (Length = 1.75 Kms).  
2/ Baspur to Samka (Length = 1.80 Kms)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 132.36  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 264720  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 02 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 3 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1872 & 1873) (Part-I) on roads from :-  
1/ Kalapul Satrayian to Chowala Fattu Chak (Length = 1.15 Kms).  
2/ Mana to Shamsan Ghat (Length = 2.10 Kms).

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 130.07  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 264740  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 02 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 4 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1874, 1877 & 1879) (Part-II) on roads from :-  
1/ Tali Morh to Darsopur Ganda (Length = 1.50 Kms).  
2/ Nari Khaper (Length = 1.10 Km)  
3/ Krishna Nagar to Gazian (Murallian) upto Shamsan Ghat (Length = 1.00 Km)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 121.28  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 242560  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 02 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 5 Name of Work :-** Construction of road from Tando to Chowala Fattu Chak by way of Providing and laying WBM Grade-II (Shingling), WMM, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC (Length = 3.00 Kms) Under Languishing Scheme (LUP 1884) (Part-II)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 113.48  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 228960  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 01 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 6 Name of Work :-** Construction of link road from Devighar to Jabawal by way of Providing and laying 150mm thick WBM Grade-II (Shingling), WMM, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC (Length = 2.20 Kms) Under Languishing Scheme (LUP 1888) (Part-II)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 96.65  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 1000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 193300  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 01 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

**S.No. 7 Name of Work :-** Construction of road by way of Providing and laying of WBM Grade-II (Shingling), Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC Under Languishing Projects (LUP 1882 & 1886) (Part-II) on roads from :-  
1/ Biaspur Parlah to Talad road (Length = 1.40 Kms).  
2/ Pindi Sarochan to Garore Nallah (Length = 0.96 Km)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu  
**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 87.50  
**Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 1000/-  
**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 175000  
**Time Allowed for completion :-** 01 Months  
**Time & date of opening of tender :-** 08-06-2019 At or after (1400 Hrs)  
**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class  
**Position of Funds :-** Sanctioned under JKIDFC (Languishing Project)

1/ Date of Publishing from 21-05-2019  
2/ The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1000 Hrs on 21-05-2019 to 07-06-2019 (1630 Hrs)

No. DIP/J-665-P/19  
Dated: 22.05.2019

Sd/- (Er. S. A Wani)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1 Jammu

# US corporate sector hails re-election of PM Modi

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US corporate sector on Thursday congratulated Narendra Modi on his "commanding victory", saying the Prime Minister has the potential to transform India and forge opportunity for all Indians.

Prime Minister Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appears set to post an emphatic victory in the Lok Sabha election, bringing Modi back into office for a second term. "Congratulations to" Modi and the BJP "for a commanding victory," said Nisha Desai Biswal, president of US India Business Council (USIBC).

The Prime Minister "has the potential to transform India and forge opportunity for all Indians," she said, adding that the USIBC looks forward to work with the BJP government.

Commenting Modi on his electoral success, Biswal said the first five years of Modi's government saw good progress on reforms.

The establishment of a national Goods and Services



Tax, passage of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and a variety of legal and regulatory reforms catapulted India's Ease of Doing Business ranking from 142 to 77, she said.

"These reforms laid the foundation for India's strong record of economic growth. Still, much remains to be done to unlock the expansive growth potential of the Indian market. With a strong mandate from the Indian people, Prime Minister Modi will have an opportunity to usher in an era of global economic and strategic leadership for India," Biswal said.

A strong US-India commercial partnership will support these goals, helping India

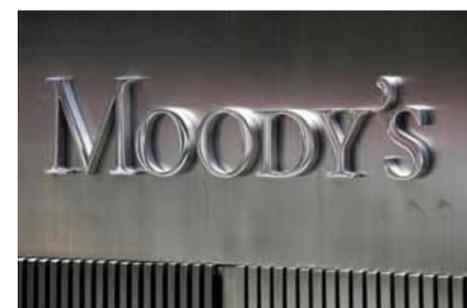
to grow into a \$5 trillion economy in the next five years.

"USIBC believes that trade and investment between the two countries is a critical element of India's future growth, and looks forward to working with Prime Minister Modi and his team to unlock new growth opportunities across the US-India corridor," Biswal said.

Biswal was the last diplomat to hold the position of Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia in the Obama administration.

She left the position on January 20. The important diplomatic post has been vacant in the 28 months of the Trump administration.

# Credit view on India hinges on policies of new Govt: Moody's



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's on Thursday said its credit view on India will depend on policies of the new government and expressed hope that the country would continue with its fiscal consolidation plan.

"Any credit implications of the outcome of India's general election will be determined by the policies adopted by the government in the next few years. These policies are yet to be formulated," Moody's Investors Service VP Sovereign Risk Group William Foster said.

Moody's expects the broad push towards fiscal consolidation to remain, although with greater policy emphasis on supporting low incomes, Foster added.

As per the trend, BJP-led NDA will form the government at the Centre for the second successive term with absolute majority.

In 2017, the US-based rating agency upped India's rating to 'Baa2' from 'Baa3', changing outlook to 'stable' from 'positive', and said reforms would help stabilise rising levels of debt.

Deviating from the fiscal consolidation path as per the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, the government in February's interim budget pegged the fiscal deficit for 2019-20 at 3.4 per cent of GDP, as against the original target of 3.1 per cent.

In 2018-19, the fiscal deficit was 3.4 per cent of GDP.

# Former Nissan chairman Ghosn appears in Tokyo court

AP ■ TOKYO

Nissan's former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, appeared in a Japanese courtroom on Thursday for a hearing ahead of his trial on accusations of financial misconduct.

It was the first of a series of hearings to iron out logistics for Ghosn's actual trial. The trial date has not been set, and experts say it could be months away.

Ghosn, who led the Japanese automaker for two decades, was arrested in November and charged with underreporting his income and breach of trust. He was released on bail in March, rearrested in April on fresh accusations and then released again on bail on April 25.

Ghosn insists he is innocent and says he was targeted in a "conspiracy" by others at Nissan Motor Co.

Nissan, which is allied with Renault SA of France, has seen profits nose-dive amid the fallout from Ghosn's arrest.

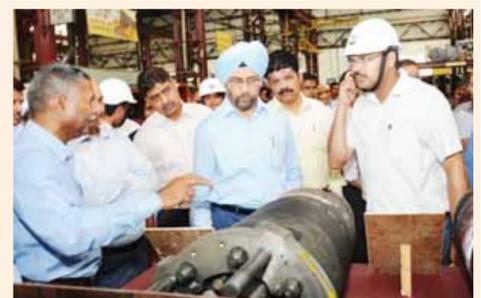
Ghosn has hired a strong legal team as he fights to clear his name. One of his top lawyers, Junichiro Hironaka, was seen walking into the courtroom Thursday with Ghosn.

One of the conditions of Ghosn's release on bail is that he is forbidden to contact his wife.

## Business Corner



The chairman of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Prof CB Sharma announced the fourth-semester exam result 2019 of Diploma in Elementary Education (DE.Ed) at an event — "Training of 12.11 lakh In-service Untrained Elementary School Teachers". Students can now check the same on the institute's website — www.died.nios.ac.in. NIOS D.El.Ed fourth-semester exam was conducted on March 15 and 16. The exam was conducted for three subject modules namely Learning in Art, Health, Physical and Work Education at Elementary Level (508), Learning Social Science at Upper Primary Level (509) and Learning Science at Upper Primary Level (510)



TP Singh, General Manager, Northern Railway, accompanied by SC Jain, Divisional Railway Manager, Delhi, & Principal Head of Departments of Northern Railway today inspected Diesel Locomotive Shed, Tughlakabad, a premier Locomotive Maintenance Center over Indian Railways and in its 50th year of Operations



Indian merchant service and UPI payments app, BharatPe announced the winners of its 2019 World Cup contest. 11 merchants from Bangalore, mostly independent business owners will be travelling to the UK for India vs Bangladesh match on July 2, 2019. The match will be played at Edgbaston Cricket Ground, at Birmingham, England

# Panasonic joins firms stepping away from Huawei after US ban

AFP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Panasonic on Thursday said it would stop supplying some components to Huawei, joining a growing list of firms distancing themselves from the Chinese telecoms giant after a US ban over security concerns.

Japan's Toshiba also announced it was temporarily halting shipments to Huawei to check whether US-made parts were involved, in order to comply with Washington's new restrictions.

The moves came a day after major Japanese and British mobile carriers said they would delay releasing new Huawei handsets, upping the pressure on the world's second-largest smartphone manufacturer.

"We've stopped all business transactions with Huawei and its 68 group companies... That are subject to the US government ban," Panasonic spokesman Joe Flynn told AFP.

Panasonic's business with Huawei includes the supply of "electronic parts," he said, declining to provide further details.

Washington's restrictions affect products made fully or partially in the United States, where Panasonic manufactures some of the components it supplies to Huawei, the Japanese firm said.

There was no immediate comment from Huawei on the move, and a Panasonic official declined to comment on what business the Japanese firm would continue to do with the Chinese company.

# China seeks support of Asia in trade fight with US

AP ■ BEIJING

China is seeking support from Russia and from its Central Asian neighbours in its escalating tariff fight with the U.S., while also stepping up protests against moves to penalize its technology sector.

Speaking Wednesday at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Kyrgyzstan, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said representatives of the eight-nation grouping had expressed "broad support" for China's position.

In comments reported Thursday, Wang reiterated China's stance that it would never accept unequal trading arrangements.

Beijing will match "extreme pressure" from the U.S. With its own measures, he said in remarks posted on the ministry's website.

The trade frictions have "aroused great concern from the international community," Wang said.

# US-China trade tension can jeopardise global growth in 2019: IMF warns

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The escalation of trade tension between the US and China has the potential to disrupt the global supply chains and jeopardise the projected recovery in growth in 2019, the IMF warned Thursday, over 10 days after President Donald Trump imposed 25 per cent tariff on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese imports.

The world's two largest economies are locked in a trade war since Trump imposed heavy tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items from China in March last year, a move that sparked fears of a global trade war. In response, China imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on billions of dollars worth of American imports.

The trade war escalated after Trump on May 10 increased the import duty on Chinese products worth USD 200 billion from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in a blog authored by Eugenio Cerutti, Gita Gopinath and

Adil Mohammad said that consumers in the US and China are unequivocally the losers from the trade tension.

Cerutti is currently the Assistant to the Director at the Research Department of the IMF, Mohammad is an Economist in the Research Department of the IMF and Indian-origin Gopinath is the Chief IMF Economist.

At the global level, the additional impact of the recently announced and envisaged new US-China tariffs, expected to extend to all trade between the two countries, will subtract about one-third of a percentage point of global GDP in the short term, with half stemming from business and market confidence effects, the IMF said.

Failure to resolve trade differences and further escalation in other areas, such as the auto industry which would cover several countries, could further dent business and financial market sentiment, negatively impact emerging market bond spreads and currencies, and slow investment and trade, it said.

"In addition, higher trade barriers would disrupt global supply chains and slow the spread of new technologies, ultimately lowering global productivity and welfare. More import restrictions would also make tradable consumer goods less affordable, harming low-income households disproportionately," the IMF said.

Noting that the US-China trade tensions have negatively affected consumers as well as many producers in both the countries, the IMF said the tariffs have reduced trade between the US and China, but the bilateral trade deficit remains broadly unchanged.

"While the impact on global growth is relatively modest at this time, the latest escalation could significantly dent business and financial market sentiment, disrupt global supply chains, and jeopardise the projected recovery in global growth in 2019," it said.

The research, using price data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on imports from China, found that tariff revenue collected has been borne almost entirely by the US importers.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDER)  
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1. Tender No.	197-S/224/Hiring-Mini Truck/PNP/19/MC-IV
2. Name of Work	Hiring of Mini Truck (Carrying Capacity-4.5 T) at C&W depot, Panipat for two years.
3. Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 16,60,893.41/- (Including GST)
4. Earnest money in favour of Sr. DFM/NR, New Delhi	Rs. 33,200/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
5. Date & time of submission of tender bid	Up to 21.06.2019 at 12:00 hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 197-S/224/Hiring-Mini Truck/PNP/19/MC-IV  
Date: 22.05.2019 1561/19  
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**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)  
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1. Tender No.	197-S/176/CAMC-Wheel Lathe/TKD/19/M-IV
2. Name of work	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Two Years of Surface Wheel Lathe (Make-HYT) of Wagon Care Centre, Tughlakabad.
3. Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 31,17,324.72/- (Including GST)
4. Earnest Money in favour of Sr. DFM/NR, New Delhi	Rs. 62,300/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
5. Date & time of Submission of tender bid	Up to 20.06.2019 at 12:00 hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 197-S/176/CAMC-Wheel Lathe/TKD/19/M-IV Date: 22.05.2019 1560/2019  
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**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vishal S/o Imran Khan R/o H. No. E-6/395/4. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under F.I.R. No. 955/16 U/s 408/120B IPC at PS Mehrauli, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Vishal can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Vishal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vishal of F.I.R. No. 955/16 U/s 408/120B IPC at PS Mehrauli, New Delhi is required to appear in this court to answer the said complaint on or before 27.06.2019.

By Order  
Sh. Vaibhav Mehta  
Metropolitan Magistrate, South Distt  
Room No. 210, Saket Court, New Delhi

**SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE**

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Tarun Sharma S/o Lt. Om Parkash Sharma R/o H. No. 1232, Kucha Pati Ram, Sita Ram Bazar, Delhi Aged - 40 Years has been reported missing since 18.05.2019 vide DD No. 32-A Dated 19.05.2019 registered at Police Station Hauz Qazi, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-  
**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'11", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Clothing:** White and grey coloured checked coloured shirt, black coloured pant & black shoes in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Hauz Qazi, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-  
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Hauz Qazi, Delhi.  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-23210414, 23212482  
DP/6295/CD/19 Mob.: 8750870425

**Appeal for Identification**

General public is hereby informed that one male Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 60 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Sex: Male, Wearing: Grey Colour Shirt-Black Pant was found dead on 15.04.2019. Place of Recovery: Found Dead body in front of Toilet near 901 Red Light, Y-Block, Kanjhawala Road, Mangol Puri, Delhi. In this regard FIR/DD No. 17-A, has been lodged at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi on 15.04.2019. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO  
PS. Mangolpuri, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-27921168, 27922186  
DP/2281/OD/19

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Namely: Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : 30 years, Height : 5'2", Complexion : Shallow, Wearing: Blue Sanda Baniyan & Black colour Lower has been found at opposite Central Bank of India, Hamilton Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 16.05.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 12 A dated 16.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:-  
SHO :  
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi  
North Distt., Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-23968730, 23967889  
DP/29/N/19

**Appeal for Identification**

General public is hereby informed that one male Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 35 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Sex: Male, Wearing: Grey Striped Trouser & Green Baniyan & Chappal in his feet was found dead on 18.05.2019. Place of Recovery: Found Dead at Ridge Jungle Near High Voltage Tower behind night Shelter, Kabir Basti, Subzi Mandi, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 120/19, has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi on 18.05.2019. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO  
PS. Subzi Mandi, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23823161  
DP/26/N/19

# US aviation regulator says Boeing hasn't submitted 737 MAX fix

AFP ■ FORT WORTH

The US aviation regulator has still not received Boeing's proposed fix for its 737 MAX aircraft, which have been grounded globally following two deadly crashes, the agency's chief has said.

Boeing has said it will patch the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) stall prevention system, which has been blamed for the two crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed a total of 346 people and caused the best-selling planes to be taken out of service.

Boeing said last week that it had finished making changes requested by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), but the agency's interim chief Dan Elwell told reporters on Wednesday that the agency hadn't yet seen the fixes.

"We are still waiting for Boeing to formally submit the software for approval," he said on the sidelines of a summit of

global aviation regulators in Fort Worth, Texas. Elwell said the FAA sent Boeing additional questions about its proposed fixes for the MAX planes, which caused the delay.

The summit set to begin Thursday will see the FAA attempt to re-establish trust with aviation regulators from 33 countries including China, Canada, the European Union, Ethiopia and Indonesia.

The regulator called the summit to walk through the steps taken to address concerns with the MAX aircraft after it was criticized for dragging its feet on ordering the jets grounded.

Canadian and American regulators have differed on the proper training for the 737 MAX 8, with Canada insisting pilots train in a flight simulator and the US saying a training course on a computer or iPad is enough.

"We haven't determined the final training yet," Elwell said.

# Sebi fines 5 entities ₹39 lakh for manipulative trade in BSE stock options segment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday levied a total fine of over ₹39 lakh on five entities for indulging in fraudulent trades in the illiquid stock options segment of BSE.

Among the five entities, Straight Line Food Products and Winsher Commercial were fined ₹5 lakh each, Shri Radha

Raman Alloys and Vindus Holdings were levied a penalty of ₹9 lakh each while ₹11.20 lakh was imposed on Subhlabh Fiscal Services, totalling ₹39.20 lakh.

After observing large scale reversal of trades in stock options segment of the bourse, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) conducted an investigation between April 2014 and September 2015.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDER)  
For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/C&W, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1. Tender No.	197-S/CAMC-EOT Cranes Tracks DLI Div/19/M&P-I
2. Name of work	"Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Maintenance & Alignment of Gantry Track of EOT Cranes of all Coaching Depot in DLI Division" for one year.
3. Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 13,39,724.80/- (Including GST)
4. Earnest Money in favour of Sr. DFM/NR, New Delhi	Rs. 26,800/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
5. Date & time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	Upto 14.00 hrs. on 22.06.2019 and opening of tender after 14.00 hrs. on same date
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 197-S/CAMC-EOT Cranes Tracks DLI Div/19/M&P-I Dated : 22.05.2019 1571/19  
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# MARY RULES

Six-time World Champion Kom defeats Nikhat in 51 kg semis to enter Indian Open summit clash

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Six-time world champion Mary Kom overcame some stiff resistance to beat promising Nikhat Zareen in a split decision to enter the women's 51kg category final, while the men pugilists dominated the ring by making it an all-Indian Gold-medal clash in seven categories in the India Open here on Thursday.

In the most-anticipated bout of the day, 22-year-old former world junior champion Nikhat of Telangana was at her aggressive best against her 'idol' Mary Kom who was happy to play the waiting game before taking the upper hand in the third round to win 4-1.

The 36-year-old Mary Kom, who was making her competitive debut at home in 51kg, took some blows initially but was quick to make amends as Nikhat was not able to connect her punches as the bout progressed.

Using her vast experience, Mary Kom regained her composure and dealt a few telling blows on the Strandja Memorial Gold winner Nikhat and that seemed to have clinched the issue in favour of the London Olympics Bronze medallist Manipuri in the third round.

Mary Kom will face Vanlal Duati of Mizoram in the Gold-medal bout on Friday.

In the men's section, 17 Indians stormed into the final in 10 weight categories.

Continuing his dream run, former world youth champion Sachin Siwach registered an upset win over reigning Commonwealth Games champion Gaurav Solanki in a unanimous decision to set up a 51kg gold medal clash against Asian Games Gold medalist Amit Panghal.

A day after he eliminated World Championship Bronze medalist Rogen Ladon in a well-calculated bout, the 20-year-old from Haryana had his task cut out against his sparring partner but he again emerged victorious.

Panghal, who had clinched a Gold in his new weight category in the Asian Championship, defeated national champion P.L. Prasad in the second 52kg semifinal. Panghal had won the Asian Games Gold in Jakarta last year in 49kg.

"Amit has improved a lot of late



## Kom tells Nikhat to prove herself in ring

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Aavid Mary Kom on Thursday asked her vanquished opponent Nikhat Zareen to prove herself in the ring instead of making irritating comments.

Mary was reacting to former world junior champion Nikhat's comments in the media that she was excited to take on her 'idol' and she would "put up a strong fight by using her brain" in the India Open 51kg semifinals which the celebrated Manipuri boxer won on Thursday.

"Every bout is a new experience for me. Even I don't know who this girl is. I've been fighting since many years now. I clearly

want to say I don't want all this. It has come out in the newspapers that she's challenging me," Mary Kom said after beating Nikhat to enter the 51kg final.

Mary Kom beat 22-year-old Nikhat 4-1 in a split decision.

"First you prove inside the ring and then speak out (against me). She has won just one medal at the international level and such is her ego and attitude! They feel proud and satisfied. This is a very bad habit," the 36-year-old Mary Kom said.

"How many years I've competed for the country? And how many times I've proved? It's better to say in a mild way. They are so lucky fighting with me. They

will get more experience," the London Olympics Bronze medalist continued.

Mary Kom, however, said Nikhat's comments made her more determined.

"I was so surprised to read her comments in the newspaper. It's so irritating. How can they say all this. Yes, everyone has the right to say and anyone can challenge. But I'm also a human being. It causes a lot of disturbance. Never mind, it made me more determined to do well."

Told that Nikhat considered her as her idol, May Kom said: "Why they challenge me then? Idol means you have to show respect, talk with respect."

**The 36-year-old Mary Kom, who was making her competitive debut at home in 51kg, took some blows initially but was quick to make amends as Nikhat was not able to connect her punches as the bout progressed**

but this is my big chance to show my prowess at a major competition. I hope to give my best and return winner," Siwach, who won a Bronze at the GeeBee Boxing tournament in Finland in March, said.

Shiva Thapa also remained on course to clinching a Gold at the same venue where he was crowned national champion three years ago as he fended off a strong challenge from his Polish opponent D Krystian Szczepanski to emerge 5-0 winner.

Szczepanski was at his aggressive best and kept hurling punches but Shiva cleverly kept frustrating his opponent by going out of his range.

"It made him tired at the end of every round. I was playing my style, did not give my 100 per cent. I was just trying to be tactical with him and let his punches go in the air and miss it so that he loses his control and confidence," Shiva said.

He will face Manish Kaushik in the 60kg final on Friday.

There was also a setback in store for India in the men's 75kg category, when Manjeet Panghal twisted his knee in the first round to be knocked out by his Filipino opponent Eumir Felix Delos Santos.

Santosh will face Ashish Kumar in the final.

Former Asian champion Chatchai Decha Butdee of Thailand also created an upset in the men's 56kg by ousting former World Championship Bronze medalist Gaurav Bidhuri in a unanimous decision. The Thai will take on Kavinder Singh Bisht in the final.

The 64kg category will also see a non-Indian in the final with Rohit Tokas taking on Colin Louis Richarno of Mauritius.

# FIFA drop plans for 48-team 2022 WC

AFP ■ LAUSANNE

FIFA shelved a proposed expansion of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar to 48 teams, dealing a blow to the world football body's president Gianni Infantino.

The 2022 tournament in the Gulf state will now be played with 32 nations taking part.

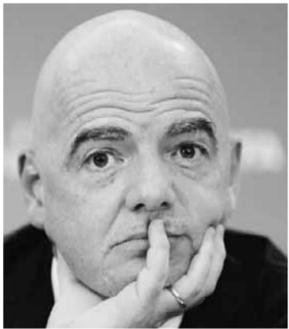
FIFA said it had abandoned the expansion plans "following a thorough and comprehensive consultation process" which led to the conclusion that "under the current circumstances such a proposal could not be made now".

"(The tournament) will therefore remain as originally planned with 32 teams and no proposal will be submitted at the next FIFA Congress on 5 June," FIFA said in a statement.

The expansion was a pet project of Infantino, who pushed the idea despite the likely need for Qatar's neighbours to put aside a two-year blockade and help to host an expanded tournament.

"The involvement of these countries in the organisation of the tournament jointly with Qatar implies the lifting of this blockade, in particular the lifting of restrictions on the movement of people and goods," said a feasibility study submitted to March's FIFA Congress in Miami.

The study also claimed that a Qatar World Cup with 48 teams would generate "between \$300-\$400



million (265-354 million euros) of additional income".

Specifically FIFA was counting on an additional \$120 million in TV rights, \$150 million in marketing rights and \$90 million from ticket sales.

The news comes after Europe's top football clubs said in March they would boycott an expanded 24-team Club World Cup — also backed by Infantino — which is planned to take place in June and July 2021, replacing the Confederations Cup tournament.

An announcement of the final decision had not been expected until next month's FIFA Congress to be held in Paris ahead of the women's World Cup that takes place in France between June 7 and July 7.

# WC exile Hales will still cheer on England

AFP ■ LONDON

Alex Hales insists he will still support England at the upcoming World Cup despite his shock exile from international cricket.

The Nottinghamshire batsman was on course to feature for World Cup hosts England until a report in the Guardian newspaper last month revealed he was serving a 21-day ban following a second positive test for recreational drug use.

The England and Wales Cricket Board responded to the report by announcing that Hales, a member of the provisional World Cup squad, had been withdrawn from international duty.

Hales, 30, is now turning his attention instead to a stint with the Barbados Tridents in the seventh season of the Caribbean Premier League.

The hard-hitting batsman, speaking after being selected as the first pick in the draft for the Twenty20 franchise competition staged in London on Wednesday, said he still wanted England to win the World Cup in his absence.

"I'm still a fan and wish all the boys all the best. What we have done

over the last few years has been unbelievable," Hales said in an interview broadcast by Sky Sports.

"I will be (keeping an eye on the World Cup). The guys deserve to win it and I'll be sat there watching and cheering."

As for his feelings about his World Cup exile, confirmed when Hales was left out of England's 15-man tournament squad announced Tuesday, he simply added: "I'm not here to talk about that."

The CPL draft saw Hales selected ahead of West Indies captain Jason Holder and star batsman Chris Gayle, with the competition starting on September 4.

"I just want to get back playing what I love most and that's cricket," Hales, now a white-ball specialist, added.

"This is such a good opportunity to go and play at a ground where I have such fond memories of — the Kensington Oval — and play in a big tournament in some different conditions."

"I've got a few things to do with the English Cricket Board (ECB), there's obviously a process to go through and then I start training I guess."



# Favourites tag won't win India or Eng the WC: Shakib

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Hosts England and Team India have been touted as favourites to go the distance in the 2019 edition of the World Cup. But Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is keen to remind all that cricket is a game that is played on the field and not on paper.

Shakib said that while there is no doubt that Eoin Morgan and Virat Kohli's men are ruling world cricket at the moment in the 50-over format, the favourites tag alone doesn't win any team the coveted title in the 50-over World Cup.

"India and England are obviously favourites, but that doesn't get you the crown. You need to do the hard yards to win a tournament like the World Cup. Australia have been doing well recently and West Indies have peaked at the right time. To be honest, all the teams look like they are ready for a fight. Depends who on that day does well," he pointed.

Personally, Shakib got the perfect boost going into the showpiece event as he overtook Afghanistan star Rashid Khan as the No 1 all-rounder in ODIs. But for the star Bangladesh player, he wants the

trophy that ultimately decides who the boss is.

"This time I think we have a genuine chance of winning the tournament, but keeping the format of the tournament in mind, we must look to play well consistently. If we can do that, we can definitely look at qualifying for the knockouts and take it forward from there. I am confident that we will do well this time."

"Personally, obviously I wish that Bangladesh win the trophy this time. But a lot of factors need to click together for that dream to be realised. While I didn't play much in the IPL, I had been working hard on my game and was looking to prepare for the World Cup. Gave it my all in the practice sessions and tried to maximise the output in every training session," he explained.

While Bangladesh have in the last few years made a name for themselves in the big league by putting in far more consistent performances than before, but Shakib is still a bit worried with the team's bowling attack. The all-rounder though feels that the experience in the side will come to the rescue in crunch games.

"I think we have a very

good side, I am a little worried about the bowling, both new ball and the death. But I am very much optimistic that we can go the whole length. We have experience, have guys who have played 3 or 4 World Cups. It is a good thing as we know what we need to do. Need to get the momentum early on. I am confident. Anyone can beat anyone on their day. Consistency is an important factor to go all the way," he revealed.

With the advent of the various T20 leagues, Bangladesh players are now getting an opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the best players in the world. In fact, they also have their own T20 league and Shakib feels this has helped in getting quality players to play for the country as talent can be identified better now thanks to so many platforms.

"I feel playing in the T20 leagues around the world has really helped our boys in recent times as you gain in experience. Apart from building your own game, you also get to see other stars closely and try and learn from them as well. It has helped us become more competitive as a unit," he smiled.

# Ronaldo included in Portugal squad

Cristiano will lead Euro champions in UEFA Nations League semi final against Switzerland



LISBON: Captain Cristiano Ronaldo was included in Portugal's squad for next month's Nations League semi-final against Switzerland, head coach Fernando Santos announced on Thursday.

Ronaldo, 34, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner missed the group stages preferring to try and adapt to life in Juventus since moving from Real Madrid.

The Euro 2016 champions welcome the Swiss on June 5 in Porto and the Netherlands play England in Guimaraes a day later before a third place play-off and a final on June 9.

He lifted the Serie A title with his Italian club this season but failed to clinch a third straight Champions League after losing to Ajax in the quarter-finals.

Head coach Fernando Santos has chosen not to call up veterans Adrien Silva, Nani and Ricardo Quaresma and Sevilla forward Andre Silva misses out with a knee injury.

Highly-touted Benfica uncapped youngster Joao Felix is also included alongside three other club teammates who won the Portuguese league champions this season.

Portugal squad to face Switzerland on June 5 in the Nations League semis. AFP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jofra Archer, the England paceman, has come in for high praise from India captain Virat Kohli, who said he would be the "X factor" for England at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.

Kohli was speaking during the Captain's Day in London, alongside the skipper of the other 10 teams, when it was put to him that Archer, after being confirmed in England's final 15-man squad, had said he was eyeing the Indian captain's wicket. "I'd quite like to get Virat Kohli out because I wasn't able to in the IPL," he told Sky Sports.

Kohli wasn't aware of that, but the Indian captain made it a point to laud the all-rounder, who was fast-tracked into the England squad for the tournament, having not played an ODI prior to the naming of their preliminary squad.

"Did he say that? I had no idea - that's news to me. It's news to Morgs as well," Kohli said with a smile. "We don't really focus on these things. We don't really focus on whether an individual wants to get you out or whether you're spoken of more or things like that."

"Our focus is on contributing to the team. I take a lot of pride in performing for the team, and making impact performances in every game. If Jofra said that, it's a big compliment. Because he himself is a world-class bowler."

Kohli went on to describe his observations of Archer during their clashes in the Indian Premier League. "The way he's come about in the IPL the last couple of years I've seen

# Archer is England's 'X factor': Kohli



**"I think he's probably going to be their X factor, because he holds a skillset that's very different from anyone else. He can generate a lot of pace, which can be intimidating. You don't really expect that because of his run-up"**

him, there's good reason why he was fast-tracked into playing for England in a tournament like the World Cup," said Kohli.

"I think he's probably going to be their X factor, because he holds a skillset that's very different from anyone else. He can generate a lot of pace, which can be intimidating. You don't really expect that because of his run-up."

"And the way he's built, he's a great athlete. He's going to be a delight to watch in the World Cup. I personally would be watching his bowling as well - whatever I've seen of him, he's been very impressive."

Eoin Morgan, the England captain, who was sat right next to Kohli, concurred and added that it was a huge opportunity for Archer. "Nothing's surprised me about him. He's come in and performed exactly how he has been around the world," said Morgan. "He's impressive in all three parts of a 50-over game, he gives you an option in different areas, and obviously has that extra bit of pace."

"It is a huge opportunity. The guy is very young, very ambitious, very confident, wants to play international cricket for England. That's extremely exciting. He's at the very start of his international career, and it so happens that it's at the start of the World Cup and Ashes year, and he could potentially have lots of time playing. It's extremely exciting."

# Eng can reach 500 in WC: Kohli

Virat also says World Cup will see run fest but pressure will make even 260-270 hard to chase

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

England could be the first team to score 500 runs in ODIs, India captain Virat Kohli said in just as captains could not agree on the scoring trends in what is expected to be a high-scoring World Cup.

With 481 for six against Australia last year, England already hold the record of highest ODI total. In their build to the World Cup, they outplayed Pakistan 4-0 in a high-scoring series. At the captains' media interaction ahead of the mega event, Kohli was asked if the 500-run mark could be breached in this edition.

"I was just going to say it really depends on these guys. They seem to be obsessed with getting to 500 before anyone else," said Kohli while pointing to his English counterpart Eoin Morgan, who sat next to him.

Kohli conceded that the tournament will see a run-fest but pressure of playing in a World Cup will make even 260-270 hard to chase.

"It is going to be a high scoring tournament but back home too I said 260-270 will also will be as tough to get in a World Cup as chasing 370-380. I don't see many high scoring games in the later stages of the tournament, initially some teams might get on a roll but later on you will see 250 defended as well. That is the kind of pressure World Cup brings."

The Indian captain expects the teams to be more cautious as the tournament progresses.

"Not all the teams are going to be in a great position (in the later half). The ones who have to make sure that they get the result are going to be under pressure to chase even a small total. The fact that you are going to be close to a knock out berth will get you under pressure in the latter stages and all teams recognise that."

"Then you will not see many teams going gung ho from ball one. Generally both teams would like to start in a balanced way and look to capitalise on the moments. So I see pressure being a massive factor in the World Cup."

The same question was posed to



Australian captain Aaron Finch, who was also part of the 2015 World Cup winning squad.

"If you see the last couple of years, trajectory of scores has been going up and up in England. We have been at the receiving end of the highest one. I don't want to put a number on it. Hard to tell (what could be the highest-score in the tournament)."

"On small grounds with good pitches, if the top order gets going, the teams are so explosive these days and if they keep going till the end it (the total) could be anything."

Finch picked India and England as the teams to watch out though he said

it would be a highly competitive tournament with all teams playing each other at least once.

Kohli also agreed with Finch that England are going into the World Cup as the 'strongest' side.

"The marquee clash of the mega event will be on June 16 when India take on arch-rivals Pakistan at Old Trafford."

A question on that mouth-watering contest was always coming and when it came, Kohli and Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed were asked how they will approach the high-pressure game. And their reply was a stock one.

"Look India Pakistan is always a very very anticipated match but we keep saying again and again. If you ask the players it is very different from how the fans look at the game. Yes you feel the anticipation and excitement of the fans when you enter the stadium but as soon as you step on the field, it is very professional."

"For us it is just another game you need to win as a team. Yes it brings pressure because the atmosphere in the stadium is very different and as I said you only experience that till the time you start competing in the game. As soon as you get into it, it is a game of cricket for all of us," said the

India captain as Sarfaraz nodded in agreement.

"My answer is the same. I don't need to add," said the Pakistan skipper.

While many expect a bagful of runs in the World Cup, bowlers are bound to come into play at some point, said New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson.

"We have spoken about the batting but equally important is the bowling. I have no doubt that there will be venues who will be more suited to the bowlers. We will have to find a way to play well in all conditions," said Williamson.



## Spin will decide Aussies fate: Ponting

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former skipper Ricky Ponting believes defending champion Australia's ability to bowl and play spin will define their success in the upcoming World Cup.

"The thing that will define Australia's success in the World Cup is, one, how well they bowl spin and, two, how well they play it," Ponting was quoted as saying by the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"That's been their Achilles' heel the last 12 or 18 months. With [Adam] Zampa bowling well now, Nathan Lyon's obviously in the squad and Glenn Maxwell's done a good job with the ball whenever he's played."

Ponting said there were concerns about the middle-order's ability to play spin a year ago but the return of David Warner and Steve Smith has strengthened the team.

"And I think some of our middle order are probably slightly better players of spin now than they were 12 or 18 months ago," said the 44-year-old, who won Australia the 1999 World Cup as a player, before guiding the team to successive titles in the next two editions as a captain.

"With Warner there now and Steve Smith coming back

in, the middle order looks a lot better against spin bowling than it probably was."

Warner and Smith had served a 12-month ban and returned to competitive cricket at the Indian Premier League with Warner amassing 692 runs in 12 matches and Smith scoring 319 runs in 12 matches and leading Rajasthan Royals to three wins in five matches.

"They're both playing really well. Steve Smith still thinks he's not probably 100 per cent fit just yet — but he's not far away. And Warner's been the dominant batsman in the IPL," Ponting said.

There are concerns that Smith and Warner will be targeted by the crowd during the World Cup with English cricketer Moeen Ali urging the spectators to treat them with respect.

"Those two coming in, obviously they're class players — they'll have their fair share of issues to deal with from the crowds and stuff when they get over there," he said.

"But they're big boys. They've been there and seen it all before. I'm sure they'll be fine."

Australia will begin their campaign against Afghanistan on June 1 at Bristol.



## Amla hungrier than ever before

PTI ■ DUBAI

Time away from the game has made him "hungrier than ever before" says South Africa batsman Hashim Amla, gearing up for his third World Cup.

With more than 18,000 international runs under his belt, Amla was once a batting mainstay for Proteas but lost his place in the team due to a dip in form.

He missed the ODI series against Sri Lanka earlier this year, with Aiden Markram taking his place as an opener alongside vice-captain Quinton de Kock in the series.

Amla was also missing in action at the IPL and he says the long break helped him to sharpen his game.

"Things happen that you don't anticipate and I did not anticipate how things have gone recently. But I am a firm believer that when something happens, there is some good in it. I have had time away and now I am really looking back to wearing the green and gold again," Amla was quoted as saying by the ICC.

"I am hungrier than ever before, there is no doubt about that. I have been blessed to have this shirt for a while but the time off has made me want to come back stronger."

"This is my third (World Cup) so I know what it is all about. I have a strong record in England and I have always enjoyed coming here."

The 36-year-old has already featured in two World Cups for South Africa but New Zealand ended their run in both the editions — quarter-finals in 2011 and semi-finals four years ago.

South Africa will open their campaign against World No 1 England, a side tipped to win the World Cup, and Amla believes the underdog status will suit South Africa.

"It is the best first game we could have asked for. We have played England recently and had some success against them, I have done well against them too," he said.

"This year, you don't see the same big names and that is why the focus is not on us but that has some good in it. There has not been much chat about us winning in comparison to the past but I don't think that played a part in how we performed."

"At the end of the day, we always gave our best and played to win. The fact there has not been a lot of chat at this World Cup means there is less expectation but in the team we think we can do well."

# There's plenty to learn from Aus, says Root

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

England batsman Joe Root said that there is plenty to learn from Australia, whom they play in an official warm-up match on Saturday, 25 May, and their history in World Cups.

Australia have historically raised their game at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, displaying sustained excellence and ruthless professionalism. Those are the very traits that have given them four title wins in the last five editions of the tournament.

"Australia have always had strong squads," Root told Sky Sports. "They've gone into every

World Cup right up there in terms of the rankings and depth within their squad for a number of those World Cups and they've won pressure moments. So there's plenty to learn from them as a side."

Root was also excited by the challenge of taking on a rejuvenated Australian team at the World Cup. Australia have won their last eight ODIs on the trot, and that was even before the returns of Steve Smith and David Warner. With the two now back, it has only further shored up the side's strength and confidence.

"We've got two of the best players [Warner and Smith] back



playing for Australia now. It's bubbling up very nicely to be a very exciting series, and I'm sure that World Cup game won't disappoint either," Root said. "We want to beat Australia's strongest side and those two are definitely in that. It's a very exciting period for us, and we've got such a great opportunity to do something very special."

Reflecting on England's own transformation into a world-class ODI team, Root put it down to a lot of hard work and hoped they could enjoy the fruits of that labour at the World Cup. Since the 2015 World Cup, England have won 58 out of their 88 matches, making them the winningest team in the interim four-year period.

"I'd like to think that the way that we've improved over this four-year cycle, we are probably ahead of where we thought we would be at this stage," Root said. "We've worked really hard to deserve the tag of the No.1-ranked team going into the tournament; I think we should enjoy that. We should get a lot of confidence from that and really embrace that and enjoy what we've been doing and take it forward into the games."

"The best thing about it is that we are confident, but we are realistic that nothing is ever given to you in this game, and that you are going to have to continue to work very hard. To win a tournament, you have to be consistent as well."



## Afridi wants no excuse from 'balanced' Pak

IANS ■ LAHORE

Bowling has always been Pakistan's strength and the return of Wahab Riaz and Mohammad Amir has given the unit the much-needed balance feels former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi.

"We did quite a few experiments with the side. We rested the seniors in the series against Australia, giving chance to youngsters," Afridi said in a video posted by the Pakistan Cricket Board on its *twitter* account.

"Our bowling struggled before the World Cup I think because they lacked experience there. Now Wahab Riaz, (leg-spinner) Shadab Khan and Mohammad Amir are back and it's a well-balanced team. We should not have any excuse now."

Afridi said that the best part about this Pakistan team was that the batting — which has

always been an area of concern — has looked good this time round.

"I think this team has the right combination. The best thing is (that) batting used to be a constant worry for us but our batsmen are now in good form," he explained.

But Afridi warned that in a tournament like the World Cup, it will be very important to start well and gain momentum early into the event.

"It's very important to win the first couple of matches to build a momentum ... Our youngsters are capable of beating any team in the world."

"I see Pakistan as one of the teams in the semi-finals and, God willing, I'm confident they'll play the final too. Pressure is inevitable in international cricket. It tests a player and his mental strength. But World Cup is also a great opportunity to become a hero with the whole world looking at you."

## Marsh happy to be play as floater

NEW DELHI: Australia batsman Shaun Marsh said that he is not worried about his role, or the competition for spots, at the upcoming men's World Cup.

Marsh, who scored an unbeaten half-century in Australia's comfortable win over West Indies in an unofficial fixture on Wednesday said that he was happy with the acclimatisation the knock afforded him.

Marsh was one of Australia's biggest positives in their 5-0 defeat against England in June last year. The 35-year-old had scored 288 runs at an average of 57.60, which included two spectacular hundreds.

"It certainly does give you confidence if you've scored runs here in the past," Marsh told reporters. "It was nice to spend some time out in the middle and get my feet moving, I enjoy batting out here. Obviously, it's a different challenge. The wickets are slower [compared] to what they are back home, and it swings around a bit."

Marsh didn't sound worried about making the XI and also brushed aside concerns when asked if he thinks he will be competing with Usman Khawaja for a spot in the team. "I'm not really sure. I'd like to think I'm nice and flexible," he said. "I've batted from one to six throughout my career. I'm just going to try and enjoy the practice games and spend more time out in the middle. And see what happens."

PNS



## Bumrah among Lee's top 3 WC quicks

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australian pacer Brett Lee has picked India's Jasprit Bumrah as one of his top three fast bowlers for the upcoming World Cup.

"What a wonderful bowler," said Lee of Bumrah, who has taken 85 wickets in 49 ODIs. "He's got a good record, wonderful yorker, good pace," added the Australian.

Besides Bumrah, Lee picked compatriots Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins as the other two fast bowlers who will do well at the quadrennial tournament.

"You'd have to stick with Mitchell Starc," Lee told *cricket.Com.Au*.

Starc, a left-arter, had suffered a chest injury last February and is nearing peak



fitness. "He's still got that quality. When that pace is up he's hard to go past," Lee said of Starc, who was the 2015 Player of the Tournament for his 22 wickets at 10 runs apiece.

Heaping praise on Cummins, Lee said, "Pat Cummins: pace, accuracy, variations. He can do it all." In six matches this year, Cummins has taken 17 wickets at just 14.29.

## Khawaja survives 'scary' blow

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Australia suffered an injury scare ahead of the World Cup after opener Usman Khawaja suffered a nasty blow on the helmet while batting against West Indies in a warm-up match.

Khawaja was struck by a bouncer from Andre Russell in the second over while Australia was chasing 230, forcing the opener to retire hurt.

He looked in discomfort and walked off the field accompanied by Australian team doctor Richard Saw, sending a scare through the Australian World Cup camp.

However, scans on his jaw later cleared him of any serious injury as Australia



breathed a sigh of relief. "It was very scary," said Shaun Marsh, who hit an unbeaten half-century in the victory.

"It copped him on the side of the cheekbone ... The main thing is he is OK and can bounce back pretty quickly."

"(Khawaja was) a bit shaken, as you are when you get hit on the head. But he is a tough cookie, Uzzy, and he'll be ready to go." Khawaja didn't take part in the match again even as Australia went on to register a seven-wicket victory over West Indies in the first of their three warm-up games.

Khawaja is expected to be available for selection for Australia's next warm-up match against England on Saturday.