

**MONEY 6**  
3 FIRMS TO BID FOR  
BUILDING 6 SUBMARINES**WORLD 7**  
ZARIF ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD  
TO MEET WITH IRAQI OFFICIALS**SPORT 8**  
NZ BEAT INDIA IN WC  
WARM UP GAME

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# sunday pioneer

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**USUAL SUSPECTS**  
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## Anti-Modi intellectual elite fights for survival

It is bad form to focus on the losers after an election that has produced a clear winner. Yet, this election was rather strange in many respects. And it is the oddities that need some casual attention.

At one level there was the BJP, blessed by a leader that had all-round acceptance and enormous popularity, whose strengths were complemented by a well-oiled machinery manned by motivated people. The BJP won the battle quite resoundingly and emphatically. Nor was it a narrow victory. The margins of victory in northern and western India, not to mention Bihar, Karnataka and Assam made two things clear.

First, and most important, that the verdict constituted a popular uprising in favour of Modi and involved far more people than the BJP was capable of mobilising. How else is it possible to explain victories in constituencies – Kolar in Karnataka, Nagaur in Rajasthan and Hooghly in West Bengal come to mind – where the BJP presence is at best nominal?

Secondly, the only real fightback to the BJP (except in Kerala and Punjab) was courtesy the regional parties. The Telangana Rashtriya Samiti, the YSR Congress Party, the Trinamool Congress, the Biju Janata Dal and, to a lesser extent, the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance were the only forces that had the capacity to withstand the Tsunami. However, even the TMC and BJD were adversely affected.

The real irony of this election was that the real competition to Modi was relegated to the background – in terms of exposure at least – by the Congress and its ecosystem. Last week's election was different from the 2014 vote that gave the BJP a clear majority for the first time. In 2014, the intellectual opposition to Modi was formidable. However, it operated as an autonomous force, not linked to the hugely discredited UPA Government. This election, there was a marked convergence between the intellectual

The weighty professors from distinguished US and European universities who confidently predicted the grand success of the mahagathbandhan on the basis of intricate calculations and alleged anecdotal evidence will possibly try and remove all traces of their blinkered partisanship from social media. But people will remember. The coming months and the next five years will be challenging to the Government. The challenge has to be confronted coolly and without losing sight of the main objective – the marginalisation of the unelected elite that doesn't respect democratic mandates

opposition to Modi – the term 'liberal opposition' is an over-simplification since the group also consists of Marxists – and the Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi. The direct involvement of prominent non-resident intellectuals, Raghuram Rajan is just the most prominent, and a large section of the media in the Congress' attempted challenge to Modi, was one of the more interesting sidelights of the campaign. Then there were the retired bureaucrats who advised the Congress on facets of Government policy and dealings with the Election Commission.

In hindsight, all these may appear irrelevant but it is important to remember that a sustained attempt was made in the months before the election and even during the campaign to paralyse the Government and make it look a lame-duck outfit. Politics always involves dealing with the Opposition but this was different. An attempt was made to fuel a

Constitutional crisis and undermine important institutions such as the Election Commission and judiciary. An attempt was made to make a mockery of the very office of the Chief Justice of India. These were not normal politics. An exceptional bid to paralyse governance was undertaken. It is a different matter that the conspiracy was thwarted by the resolve of the Prime Minister and his associates. It is also crucial to remember that a section of the media went beyond the call of professional duty or even normal partisanship and became central to this conspiracy.

Since the election results were declared, there have been agonised outpourings in the social media and the newspapers about how Indians let India down and how the country is now on an irreversible road to disaster. There are people who genuinely feel that Modi is another Hitler and that it is only a matter of time before all democratic rights are terminated. There are also angry outbursts against the Congress and particularly the ineptitude of Rahul Gandhi. It is now said that Rahul lacks fire in his belly and that dynasty is helping Modi destroy the very Idea of India.

Being wise after the event is also a democratic prerogative and one that the media habitually takes shelter behind. The weighty professors from distinguished US and European universities who confidently predicted the grand success of the mahagathbandhan on the basis of intricate calculations and alleged anecdotal evidence will possibly try and remove all traces of their blinkered partisanship from social media. But people will remember.

They will also remember that it is this intellectual elite that were hand in glove with the Congress establishment, sustained it and nurtured the illusion that Modi was in imminent danger of losing.

Will this subterfuge end now? Already there are whispers that Modi has been conferred too much authority by the elections and must be brought down a few notches. There are suggestions that in the absence of a proper parliamentary Opposition, institutions such as the media and the judiciary must constantly intervene so that an agenda blessed by the electorate will be subverted. The intellectual elite is defiant. They are confronted by its own irrelevance and will fight for survival.

The coming months and the next five years will be challenging to the Government. The challenge has to be confronted coolly and without losing sight of the main objective – the marginalisation of the unelected elite that doesn't respect democratic mandates.

## Modi aims to win minorities



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by Rajnath Singh upon his arrival at Parliament in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

**DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI**

Making it clear that his second innings would break many new grounds in governance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday vowed to demolish the web of deception, illusion and false fear created around minorities

by the 'traders of vote bank politics' and usher in an era of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas". Elected unanimously as the leader of BJP Parliamentary party and of National Democratic Alliance at the central hall of the Parliament, Modi came up with his set of commandments to drive home

his message to the MPs of the ruling coalition – the primary being that the Constitution of India, before which he bowed before beginning his address, is supreme and the only reference point of governance.

Maintaining that minorities were used in politics, Modi said "we need to win the confidence of the minorities" and sought to revive the spirit of 1857 when all communities together waged the war of Independence against the British. "We fought for 'Swaraj' then, today we can together fight for 'Suraj'", he said.

He also pointed out how his previous tenure had been

### Seeks to revive the spirit of 1857 when all people together waged war of Independence

able to penetrate through the deceptive poverty eradication slogans and illusion perpetuated by the previous regimes. In his second term, he said he would strive to shed the tag of "developing country" associated with India.

In a stern warning to motormouths, Modi advised MPs not to be tempted by cameras and media and derail the government's vision, plan and policies. "Rashtra ke naam sandesh dene ki jaroorat nahin hai", he quipped referring to those who love to see their face on TV screens. He also advised them to check the facts before opening their mouths, if it was utmost necessary.

"Do not give time to media, inko 70 saal se aur logon ne pala hai", he said apparently charging past regimes of giving patronage to a section of the Press. Ahead of the Cabinet formation of his Government, the Prime Minister also warned MPs against trusting media reports on the probable Ministers. "It will be done according to norms," he maintained adding there are many who claim that they have knowledge as to who is being included in the Cabinet.

Cautioning that arrogance should be resisted, he said the MPs should be treating all those who voted for them and those who oppose equally. "You are representatives of all," he said and reminded them of the ubiquitous BJP 'mantra' of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

### MODI SWEARING-IN ON MAY 30

- Narendra Modi elected BJP and 353-MP-strong NDA Parliamentary Party leader, NDA allies like SAD, LJP, Shiv Sena back him as the Prime Minister; Modi's swearing-in likely on May 30
- NDA delegation, led by BJP president Amit Shah, met President Ram Nath Kovind. Handed over letter stating Modi has been elected leader of the BJP Parliamentary Party. Letters of support from NDA constituent parties also handed over to Kovind
- Delegation comprised of Parkash Singh Badal, Rajnath Singh, Nitish Kumar, Ram Vilas Paswan, Sushma Swaraj, Uddhav Thackeray, Nitin Gadkari, K Palaniswami, Conrad Sangma and Neiphiu Rio
- Subsequently, Modi met the President and staked claim to form Government. The President appointed Modi to the office of Prime Minister of India
- President requested him to advise him about the names of others to be appointed members of the Union Council of Ministers and to indicate the date and time of the swearing-in-ceremony to be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan
- On Sunday, Modi will make his first visit to his home State Gujarat after the poll results to seek blessings of his mother Hiraba Modi at her residence
- Modi and BJP president Shah will be felicitated by the Gujarat unit of the party in Ahmedabad
- Prior to his swearing-in, Modi will also visit his constituency Varanasi to thank voters
- Earlier, President had dissolved the 16th Lok Sabha



## 'Hurt' Didi offers to quit as Bengal CM, TMC says no

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

Wounded by the electoral reverses suffered by the Trinamool Congress, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday offered to quit her office but "found myself hopelessly alone in trying to do so as all the leaders of my party forced me to continue as the CM."

Lashing out at the BJP for "squandering cash and creating a totally communal atmosphere to purchase votes," an apparently emotional Chief Minister said: "I loathe being the Chief Minister of an electorate where votes can be purchased and elections can be won by communal polarisation."

The TMC, which she built up bit by bit after coming out of the Congress in 1998, suffered a colossal defeat, biggest since 2006 conceding 18 out of 42 Lok Sabha seats to a surging BJP which reportedly capitalised on a huge chunk of shifting Left votes.

"I don't want to continue as

the Chief Minister of a State where the votes can be sold and purchased. I have information on how votes were purchased for ₹5,000 per head. Many families were approached with such offers," she said.

### Naveen to take oath as CM on May 29 for 5th time in a row

**BHUBANESWAR:** Biju Janata Dal (BJD) chief Naveen Patnaik will be sworn-in as Odisha Chief Minister on May 29 for a fifth consecutive term after a thumping win in the State Assembly elections, the party said on Saturday.

Naveen Patnaik has continued his grip over Odisha with his party, BJD, winning 112 Assembly seats in the 147-member House.



Delhi BJP president and MP Manoj Tiwari meets Sheila Dikshit at her residence in New Delhi on Saturday Pioneer photo

## YSRCP chief Jaganmohan to meet Modi on Sunday before swearing-in as CM

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Chief Minister-elect of Andhra Pradesh Jaganmohan Reddy had a hectic day spread over the two Telugu-speaking States on Saturday. After chairing two meetings with his newly elected Assembly and Lok Sabha members, Reddy flew to Hyderabad from Gannavaram in his private chopper.

The day culminated with ESL Narasimhan, Governor for both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State, clearing the YSRCP-LP letter requesting to invite him (Reddy) to form the Government in Andhra Pradesh. He will be sworn-in at the refurbished Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada on May 30 at 12.23 pm, as per a Raj Bhavan communiqué.

Apart from his wife, party leaders Botsa Satyanarayana, Dharmana Prasad Rao and Adimulapu Suresh accompa-



YSRCP chief YS Jaganmohan Reddy being offered sweets by K Chandrasekhar Rao in Hyderabad PTI

nied Reddy to Raj Bhavan. They also met Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) in his camp office. KCR has agreed to be present at Reddy's swearing-in. Meanwhile, the CM-elect, along with Chief Secretary LV Subrahmanyam will head to New Delhi on Sunday to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and invite him to his swearing-in ceremony. Sources said Jagan could also offer the YSRCP's issue-based support to the NDA.

## Rahul adamant to quit but CWC asks him to reshape party



Congress president Rahul Gandhi and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Rahul Gandhi is said to be insistent on resigning as the Congress president despite the Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Saturday unanimously rejecting his offer to put in his papers taking responsibility for the party's Lok Sabha poll debacle.

The CWC authorised him to carry out an overhauling and restructuring of the party at all levels but Rahul is learned to have asked the party to look for another chief.

This is the second time in five years that Rahul has offered to resign. Following the drubbing in 2014 Lok Sabha, Rahul, who was the Congress vice president then, along with party president Sonia Gandhi had offered to resign which too was rejected by the CWC.

AICC sources said Rahul was adamant on resigning

and also rejected the few suggestions that favoured his sibling, General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, to take over as the chief of the grand old party.

When the name of his sister came up as an option, Rahul reportedly said, "Don't drag my sister into it. It is not necessary that the Congress president should be from the Gandhi family." Both Rahul and his sister Priyanka campaigned extensively across the country in this election.

If not Rahul, then who, this question rankled the minds of the Congressmen as Rahul remained unmoved with Priyanka and his mother Sonia's efforts to see him reason too failed.

Rahul informed the 52-member CWC that he would like to exit as its top boss. He had taken over from Sonia a year and a half ago.

### CAPSULE

**2 ASSAM RIFLES JAWANS MARTYRED IN GUNFIGHT**  
New Delhi: Two Assam Rifles jawans were martyred and four others injured during a gunfight with a group of terrorists in Mon area along the Indo-Myanmar border in Nagaland on Saturday, military sources said.

**PEACOCK RESCUED FROM IGI AIRPORT T-3**  
New Delhi: An injured peacock was rescued from Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport here, an NGO said. On Friday afternoon, a team of Wildlife SOS rushed to the airport after getting information that a peacock with battered wings was found near the arrivals area.

**SIX PAK MEN HELD FOR SNUFFLING NARCOTICS**  
New Delhi: Six Pakistani nationals have been arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) for smuggling 218 kg of narcotics at Gujarat's Jakhau port, according to an official statement issued on Saturday.

**TWO BEATEN UP FOR CARRYING BEEF IN MP**  
Seoni/Bhopal: Suspected cow vigilantes thrashed two persons in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni with sticks, accusing them of carrying beef, following which five accused have been arrested, police said on Saturday.

**ALKA SLAMS KEJRIWAL FOR LS POLL DEBACLE**  
New Delhi: Disgruntled AAP MLA Alka Lamba launched a veiled attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over AAP's crushing loss in elections, asking shouldn't the person who took decisions in a closed room own the responsibility and quit.

**6 HELD FOR MANIPULATING EXAM OF BITS, PILANI**  
New Delhi: The CBI has arrested six people, including the managing director of a Delhi-based education consultancy firm, for allegedly manipulating an online entrance examination of BITS, Pilani, officials said on Saturday.

SHOW TIME

# Will Smith is charming



**ALADDIN**  
\*ing: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott, Marwan Kenzari, Navid Negahban, Nasim Pedrad, Billy Magnussen  
Rated:5.5/10

Now we know why Will Smith decided to shake a leg for two-seconds in *Student of the Year 2*. It was to prepare us for the dance sequence in *Aladdin*. Not that he is bad. But then it is a Disney movie. They know how to charm even those who don't like movies based on folk tales. And this one is from the tales in *The Book of One Thousand and One Nights*.

Those who were looking for something different or new will be disappointed. Director Guy Ritchie has stuck to the original story as much as possible with just a twist or two. What he has counted on is for Will Smith to create his magic and he delivers this with aplomb.

While the big blue top-knotted genie may only grant three wishes, the film delivers on a lot more platforms especially for the kids. They will love the action, the drama, the song, the dancing and most importantly a funny genie.

It has been years since Will Smith did something that was fun. *His Men In Black* series showed us glimpse of how he can be entertaining. *Aladdin* proves that he still has charm in place and can make you laugh with his one-liners and sarcasm.

The good is that the film talks about woman empowerment through Jasmine. The sad part is that the director has not been able to improve on the original animation film. Given what one can do with technology, the CGI could have been better. But this doesn't mean that the movie is not visually impressive.

Overall, it is a fun film that your kids will thoroughly enjoy.  
— Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Day

**Mango Festival**

Venue: Multiple outlets of Cafe Delhi Heights  
Date: May 15 to June 15, 2019  
Timings: 10:30 pm to 12 am  
Cost: ₹2,000 plus taxes for two

The warm, young and vibrant All-day Neighbourhood café and diner Café Delhi Heights is celebrating a Mango month with its specially curated mango menu called Mangolicious 2019. From drinks like No hangover Mango Mojito to Homemade Avocado toasts with mango twist and Hummus with Mango Salsa and more. Enjoy Mango quesadillas, pizzas, and desserts like Mangomisu and Mango cheesecake.



**Noor-e-Punjab**

Venue: Punjab Grill Janpath and Ambience Mall, Gurugram  
Date: Till June 15, 2019  
Cost: ₹2,000 for two (plus taxes)

It is time to delve deeper into the kitchens of Punjabi homes as Punjab Grill has curated a special menu for its guests. Savour the depth and diversity of Punjabi cuisine as the specially curated menu features never-heard-before dishes for a unique and wholesome culinary experience.

The restaurant is all set to welcome its guests with the appetisers such as *kala chana shorba*, *patialawale singhada tikke* and *barrah kebab*. Moving on to the main course, guests can indulge in a delicious affair such as *keema matar masala*, mutton *kharoda curry*, and tawa keema parantha.



# 'I look for challenging roles'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with DEEPIKA SINGH about her transition from playing a cop to a devoted wife and how doing supernatural shows affect actors

**Tell us about your character in Kawach Mahashivratri.**

I play Sandhya, a Bharatnatyam dancer. She is a simple, loving and caring girl. She believes in true love and supports her family. She believes in God but not in the supernatural. She is a dignified woman and knows how to carry herself. On Mahashivratri, during an inauspicious hour something happens to her which creates a havoc in her love life. She is torn between who to be with, Angad (who she loves) or Kapil (who will enter her life at a later stage).

**Did you have to do a lot of preparations for the role?**

Yes, I am learning Marathi and working on my accent. I have to get the language right. For dance, I didn't have to do much because I am an Odissi dancer. But still I make sure to take some time out and practice my steps. I also do yoga because a lot of body work is involved in dance so we have to prepare our body for that.

**What prompted you to play Sandhya?**

This role is completely different from my previous work. I was patiently waiting for a long time for the right role to come and this was what attracted me and what I wanted. Also, it is a big show and a big production house — Balaji Telefilms. I am glad that I get to work with them.

**Are you affected personally because you are part of a supernatural show?**

No, not

exactly. But yes, if you are playing a character and shooting for 12 hours then you need a couple of hours to calm yourself. We can't just finish shooting and go back to sleep. It is not that easy. We need some time to calm our mind. This is what I love about my work. I love taking challenges and whenever I find myself in my comfort zone, I get bored of it. These challenges wake me up for the next day and bring in that motivation to reach the sets even before the call time and go through the script and find out what new or different I can do today.

**From Sandhya in Diya Aur Baati Hum to Sandhya in Kawach Mahashivratri, do you find any similarities in your roles except for the name?**

It is a mere co-incidence that I have got the character with the same name again. Other than this there are no similarities in my roles. Sandhya (Rathi) in *Diya Aur Baati Hum* was an independent and a career-oriented girl but Sandhya in *Kawach...* is loving and caring. She is more inclined towards her family while the previous Sandhya was not. Sandhya is madly in love and will do anything to get the love of her life back while Sandhya (Rathi) was not fond of love. Both the roles are different from each other. While playing this Sandhya, every day comes as a challenge. I have to start afresh each day.

**How did acting happen?**

While I was in college, I saw a stage play and I got infatuated with acting. I used to imagine,

how people perform on stage and they get to perform different characters in one life. This idea always excited me. I wanted to experiment with different roles. I was doing B Com Honours at that time and my family was not in favour of me doing acting. But the idea of becoming an actor took root in me. I started doing events and got my portfolio. Then I won Miss Delhi title. This kept on adding to my career and I started getting calls for ads. I would say acting never left me. I was not interested in getting selected for any role but I just wanted to act. Then, I auditioned for *Diya Aur Baati Hum* and I was selected.

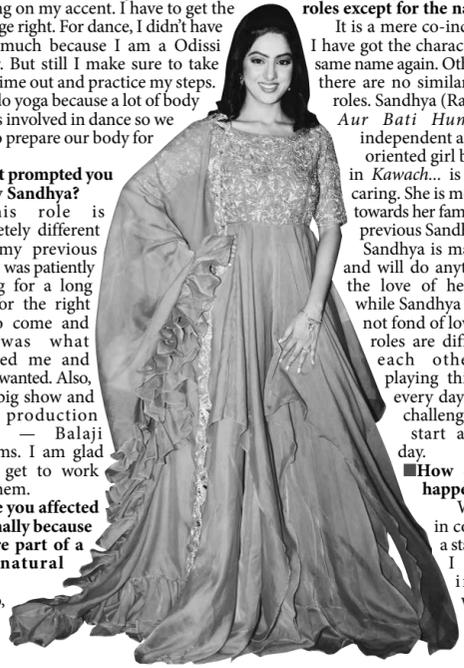
My family was in shock when they got to know that I have been selected. For them I was a shy person, who has not even held a mic in her hand, which definitely was the case, I used to get nervous on stage. When I used to get on stage to give speeches, my hands used to shake for the first five to 10 seconds while holding the mic. My family never saw me acting so they were worried that I was taking a risk in my career. They thought: *Iss ko kisi ney bol diya hai ki yeh sundar dikhti hai isliye isko acting karni hai*. When they saw the first episode of my show, my father immediately called to tell me that this is the right profession for me and this is where I belong.

**How has the journey been thus far? Were there more highs or more lows?**

The journey has been amazing. I am a positive person. I don't know what are downs. I can find positivity in the worst of situations. I trust God and I believe even if I am going through a bad phase in life, it is just a ladder to success. I see difficulties as a way to get prepared for the next level.

**Do you have a checklist when it comes to signing projects?**

Not at all. I see opportunities as God's blessings. I go with the first thought that I get after reading the scripts. If it appealed to me in the first go and I feel excited to do that work, I just go for it without giving it a second thought.



TELLYTALE



**REKHA GOES DOWN MEMORY LANE**

Sony Entertainment Television's kid dance reality show *Super Dancer Chapter 3* has reached a milestone where top 10 contestants are striving hard day and night to win next 'Dance ka Kal'. While the show is judged by Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Geeta Kapoor, and Anurag Basu the upcoming weekend episode will see celebrity guest judge Rekha encouraging the contestants in a Jashn-e-Rekha episode.

During the performance of a nine-year-old contestant, Tejas Verma and Tushar Shetty from Maharashtra on Rekha's popular song *Rang Barse* all the judges and the audiences enjoyed celebrating Holion the sets. The colorful performance of Tejas made Rekha go down the memory lane who shared some stories. Tejas' out of the world expressions made Rekha relate him to Shahrukh Khan. She mentioned: "Tejas reminds me of Shah Rukh Khan. The way he smiles exactly resembles Shahrukh's smile. Tejas has the same eyes and lips which makes him look like Shahrukh's twin." She further added that the way he dances is beyond her imagination. It will take her almost two-three lives to do *riyaz* and then perform in front of such perfectionist kids.

Appreciating the Guru Tushar Shetty Rekha mentioned, "While training Tejas you have come a long way in the entire Super Dancer journey. Tejas is your key to your future who will take you to milestones ahead."

**FAISAL TRANSFORMS INTO WARRIOR**

Sony Entertainment Television's historical show *Chandragupta Maurya* is all set to witness a five year leap where viewers will see Faisal Khan as the charismatic and charming, Chandragupta Maurya. After attaining love and fame from his fans and viewers in and as Maharana Pratap, the



young and talented actor is all set to take over the small screen with his strong and impactful performance as Chandragupta Maurya. To fit into the character, the actor is leaving no stone unturned to get the act right. He has been learning sword fighting under experienced trainers to refine his skill.

A source from the show revealed: "Faisal Khan has already started his prep for the role a month back and he was super excited to play another historical warrior character. Also, he has been asked to grow a stubble and shed some weight for the part and he is working hard to fit the role perfectly."

On the context Faisal Khan shares: "I am super excited playing another strong character like Chandragupta Maurya after essaying an iconic warrior Maharana Pratap. I feel very privileged to receive opportunities where I get to portray such impactful characters at an early stage of my career. Currently, I am learning sword fighting and soon audience will see me entering into the battle field."

**HARSH TAKES AWAY BHARTI'S RING**

Colors' *Khata Khatra Khatra* has proved to be one of the most entertaining shows. In an upcoming episode, a couple special, TV's most renowned jodi — Abhinav and Rubina joined the cast for



some fun. Amidst all the dares and games, Aditya was the only contestant who was single. Harsh later advised him not to get married and rather should stay single and be happy. The statement made Bharti angry and then she did something which shocked everyone.

Bringing her quirkiness to the screen and controlling her anger, Bharti in a fit of rage told Harsh to get engaged to Aditya as both seemed to have bonded over Harsh's statement. Harsh seized the opportunity and removed Bharti's engagement ring from her hand and made Aditya wear it. Harsh's spontaneous act left Bharti appalled. The duo's rib-tickling comedy act made the audience laugh their guts out. How will Bharti react to this situation?

**CELEBRATION OF FRIENDSHIP**

B-town's newest BFFs and bonafide hotties Jacqueline Fernandez and Kartik Aaryan, appeared on the Colors Infinity chat — *BFFs with Vogue*. Indulging in a game segment on the show Dunk and Dare where the actors had to dunk the ball in the other's



cup. If they failed to do that, they'd have to do a dare that their BFF picks and the crazy fun that unfolded won our hearts.

Not only did Jacqueline teach the chocolate boy of B-town, a ballet routine and belly dancing, on a dare, Jacqueline she also revealed the celebs she'd like to date and block. She shared: "Ranveer Singh, I think he'd be really cool to date. And someone I'd like to block, KRK (Kamaal Rashid Khan)."

That's not it, Kartik was dared to play the game round with one hand on his head, and in another dare, he gave the gorgeous actress Jacqueline a piggyback ride with one hand on his head for full 30 seconds!

This is one BFFs Jodi we definitely are looking forward to watching in their most unfiltered and uncensored avatar.

**CELEBRATING DOUBLE CENTURY**

Sony SAB's magical fantasy show, *Aladdin: Naam Toh Suna Hoga*, has successfully reached the 200-episode milestone as it takes its viewers on a fascinating journey through the magical world of fictional Baghdad.

As the show completes 200 episodes of programming, the cast of the show marked this joyous occasion with a celebratory event, thanking viewers for their endless support and love.

Siddharth Nigam, essaying the role of Aladdin said: "I cannot thank our audience enough for showering so much love upon our show and loving each and every character. I can never get tired of performing all stunts being in the character of Aladdin, have loved every bit of it from the beginning. It feels amazing to have come so far along on this journey. This love and support from our viewers will keep us going, motivating us to give our best and creating more magical memories for our lovely viewers."



# Salman's walk down memory lane

The upcoming weekend's episode of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs* are bound to be exciting with Bollywood superstars Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif gracing the sets to promote their much-awaited film *Bharat*. While the duo enjoyed all the performances, Salman Khan was left smiling when a beautifully curated video of all his visits to the sets through all the seasons of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* was played for him. One of the most hilarious moments showcased in the montage was Salman compelling former contestant Aneek Dhar to take off his shirt before he performed his superhit song *O O Jaane Jana*.

With Aneek still around in the course of Salman's latest visit to the sets, this time having graduated to a jury member, the Bollywood



superstar took to the stage and recreated the iconic moment with him, where he compelled Aneek yet again to take off his

Katrina performed the hook step and raised the entertainment quotient a notch higher.

Kudos to handsome superstar for being a sport and recreating a sweet moment that took us back in time.

The musical evening will see oodles of fun and entertainment. Contestant Anushka Patra's performance on *Yeh mera dil* entertained all thoroughly. Yodelling queen Pickosa Moharkar's performance to *Ek do teen* mesmerised all and the young dynamite taught her iconic moon-walk step to Salman and Katrina too. Moreover, the contestants came together to sing popular song *Jag Ghoomeya* and our favourite star Salman left everyone speechless when he did the hook-step.

# Surprises in store for Abeer

The popularity of Sony Entertainment Television's show *Mere Sai — Shradha Aur Saburi* is increasing every day. Many new viewers are joining the club to religiously tune in to watch the show. The audience loves the simplicity and the teachings of Sai Baba and watching it come alive on screen is a visual treat. Abeer Soofi the lead actor is making waves and becoming very popular as he is brilliantly portraying Sai Baba. The fan base of Abeer is widening every day and they keep surprising him with uniquely showing their love and affection every time.

Abeer celebrated his birthday on May 6 with his extended family — the cast and crew of the show this year. Abeer's birthday became special when his fan from Delhi surprised him. A lady named Punita Sahani Trikha travelled all the way from Delhi and visited the sets to meet Abeer and wish him. She not only surprised Abeer with her warm presence but also made Abeer's birthday special by pampering him with gifts like his mother. Punita gifted him a gold chain as the birthday gift and wished for his growth and success. Abeer took this warm gesture of her to his Instagram and thanked her by recognising her as *Maa* for the love she showered on him.

When contacted Abeer, he confirmed, "Punita is such a warm lady, she travelled all the way from Delhi to Mumbai specially for my birthday. She came directly from airport to the sets and brought so many gifts for me and one among



them was the gold chain. Though I didn't want to take such expensive gifts but she insisted and said that it is her motherly love for me on my birthday and this is not the first time Punita has visited the sets to meet me, we have met before too. I still remember when she first came to meet me on sets and told me that how watching *Mere Sai* has changed her way of thinking and perspective of life, how she adores me, my work and who doesn't like to be loved and my fan's love is a bunch of blessings they shower on me. My fans are *Sai baba's* blessings for me."

# Kumar Sanu & Sameer spill secrets

This weekend will one of the most melodious one's on Sony Entertainment Television's *The Kapil Sharma Show* where Guinness World Record holders and the best singer and lyricist of Bollywood, Kumar Sanu will be seen with Sameer who has written around 3,500 songs. While talking about the famous 1990 cult movie, *Aashiqui*, Sameer made an interesting revelation about ace director Mahesh Bhatt and the Late Gulshan Kumar.

While conversing with Kapil, lyricist Sameer revealed that Gulshan Kumar didn't want to produce the movie *Aashiqui* but was more interested to produce the music album of the same movie. To which, Sameer requested Mahesh Bhatt to step in as he was finalised to direct the film. Sameer added, "When Bhatt *sahab* and I reached Gulshanji's office, we tried and convinced him to produce the film as the songs were very good, but he still didn't agree. So, Bhatt *sahab* went to the extent of saying that if the film becomes a hit and if the songs does wonders, it will be the best thing to happen in the history of his music label. But if it's the opposite, Mahesh *ji* vowed never to direct any film and that's what led to an agreement given by Gulshanji that he will be producing *Aashiqui* as a film and will do the best marketing."

Further revelations in the show were made — Kumar Sanu gets scared of sleeping alone in a bedroom as he thinks that there are super natural powers in the room.



# Chhattisgarh in financial mess, says Raman Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

BJP national vice president and former chief minister Raman Singh on Saturday in a scathing attack on the Congress government said the state's financial condition is in the doldrums.

The government has failed in fiscal management and is blaming others for its failures. Instead, government should concentrate on the developmental works.

He was talking to media before leaving for New Delhi along with all the newly elected BJP Members of Parliament from the state.

The people have totally rejected the five-months rule of the state government, he added.

On allegations of the Congress that the BJP won Lok Sabha elections on 'Modi' factor, Singh said then why the Congress



candidates lost.

The election was fought in the name of Prime Minister and people had given full support to it. All the BJP MPs are able leaders and they will keep their views before the Prime Minister, he added.

On Rahul Gandhi, he said, "He has lost everything the resignation (the Congress president had offered in the CWC meeting)

is just an excuse." A meeting of the newly elected candidates of the BJP and its allies meeting is scheduled in the evening where the party will elect Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again as its leader, he added. BJP has won nine seats from Chhattisgarh in 2019 Lok Sabha polls while Congress won two. In 2014, BJP had won 10 seats and Congress one.

# Congress flays Raman Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Congress on Saturday severely criticized the performance of the previous BJP government headed by Raman Singh.

The party said farmers of the state got their loans waived off under Bhupesh Baghel government, while "during Raman-Raj" farmers had to commit suicide.

In a press statement, the Congress questioned when Baghel-led government could increase the paddy procurement rate to Rs 2,500 per quintal, waive off irrigation taxes and slash power tariff to half in Chhattisgarh, why Raman Singh's government could not do the same?

"This is the difference between Bhupesh Baghel and Raman government. The inten-

tion of the Congress government is to ensure financial prosperity of majority of the population and so farmers and poor people are given priority," the statement said.

Admonishing Raman Singh, the statement further said the previous government in the state had launched schemes to benefit only few individuals.

"Raman Singh should look into his past and see that his 15 years rule shrunk his party's tally to 15 seats," it said.

The central leadership of the Congress party reposed confidence on Bhupesh Baghel and hence he was sent to other states for canvassing.

If Raman Singh was not found useful by the BJP leadership despite him being the national vice president, then it is his weakness, the statement claimed.

# 21 officers, employees issued show-cause notices



STAFF REPORTER ■ BEMETARA

Bemetara Collector Mahadev Kaware on Saturday conducted surprise inspection in different departments from 10.30am and found around 21 officers-employees were absent.

Collector also found that several employees have not arrived at the office during the scheduled office timing. He then directed to issue show-cause notices to all the absentee officers

and employees. Collector had conducted inspection of District Transport Office, ITI, Janpad Panchayat and Municipal Council office. The surprise inspection was conducted after several complaints were received against the officers and employees are either not attending the office or coming late. Collector has also issued warning of disciplinary action if officers and employees show laxity in government duty.

# Congress pays tributes to leaders martyred in Jheeram valley incident

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Health minister T S Singhdeo said Jheeram incident was a conspiracy and that the NIA probe could not reveal a few points, which left many questions unanswered.

Each aspect of the incident will be thoroughly probed, he added.

He was talking to media on the sidelines of the condolence meeting organised on the 6th anniversary of the Jheeram valley killing, which was observed as 'Martyrdom Day' by the Congress.

Congress leaders paid rich tributes to its party



leaders killed in the incident at the function held at Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters, Rajiv Bhawan, Raipur on Saturday.

On May 25, 2013 the Congress leaders Nand

Kumar Patel, Vidyacharan Shukla, Mahendra Karma, Uday Mudiliyar, Dinesh Patel, Yogendra Sharma along with others came under Naxal attack in Jheeram Valley, while participating in a political rally. Many leaders died on

the spot, while others succumbed to their injuries later.

Cabinet minister T. S. Singhdeo and senior Congress leaders and ministers such as Shivkumar Dahariya, Dr Premsai Singh, Anila Bhedia, Rajya Sabha member Chaya Verma, MLAs Satyanarayan Sharma, Amitesh Shukla among others were present.

The leaders offered floral tribute on the portraits of the slain leaders and observed two minutes silence in prayer.

The Congress leaders then visited village Tekari-Mandhar native village of late Yogendra Sharma and paid tributes.

# RMC sets up service centres for filing PACL refund claim applications

RAIPUR: To facilitate investors of Pearl Agrotech Corporation Limited (P.A.C.L) in getting refund, the Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) has started service centres at its headquarter and all zone headquarters for online application.

The last date for filing of refund is July 31 and investors with all necessary documents can file their application.

RMC Commissioner Shiv Anant Tayal said that at each service centre a trained computer operator has been appointed. The investors can individually, with all documents, apply for the refund. They have to bring along P.A.C.L voucher and certificate, PAN number, cancelled cheque, photograph of applicant and bank pass-book.

He said the centres will operate from 10.30 AM to 5.30 PM. The date for filing of refund application was recently extended from April 30 to July 31, 2019.

# Raipur-Jharsuguda-Raipur flight service to commence from June 1

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Under the regional air connectivity scheme christened as Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagarik (UDAN), the Air India will commence Raipur-Jharsuguda-Raipur flight service from June 1.

According to information received from the Air India sources, online ticket booking has begun.

As per the scheme, the Alliance Air will commence flights to/from Jharsuguda to Raipur. Earlier, the flight services to Kolkata, Ranchi and Bhubaneswar were started. Now, it will begin from Raipur.

As per the flight schedule announced, the flight 91 720 will fly from Ranchi to Raipur on daily basis at 1.50 PM/3.15 PM and from



Raipur to Jharsuguda at 3.45 PM/4.50 PM daily (New flight). The timing of the 91 728 Jharsuguda/Raipur new flight will be 5.15PM/7.55PM. Similarly, flight 91728 Raipur/Ranchi new flight timing on daily basis will be 6.30 PM/7.55 PM.

The UDAN scheme was launched to provide connec-

tivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports under the new Civil Aviation Policy. The passenger fares for flight have been capped at Rs 2500 per hour of flying for around 500 kilometres. It has been rolled out on January 2017 for a period of 10 years.

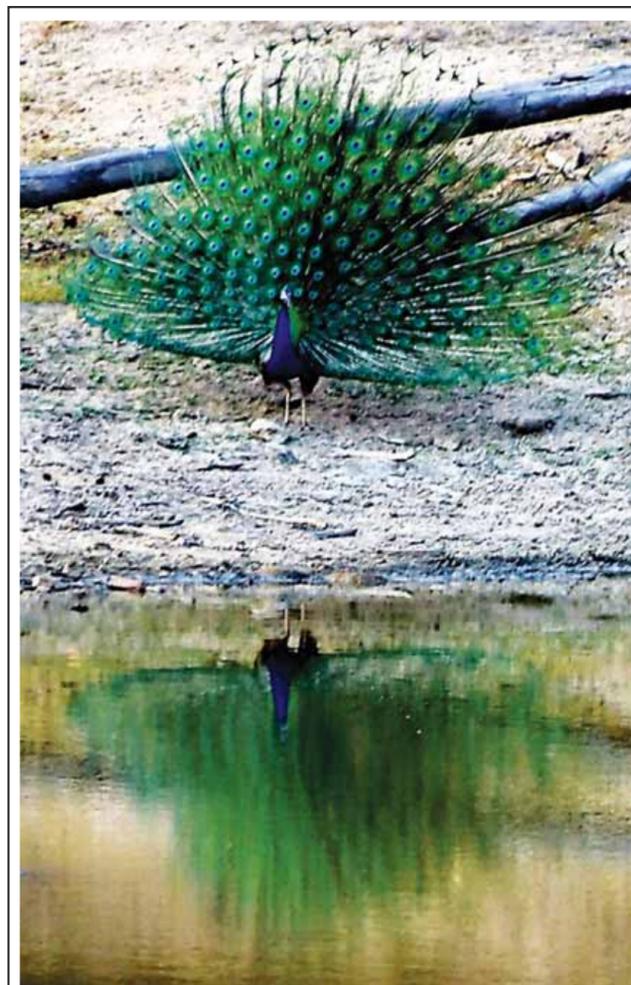
# Police recover arms, ammunition after encounter with Naxals

KANKER: Arms and ammunition, along with other items, purportedly belonged to Naxals were recovered by security forces after separate encounters with the ultras in a forested patch of Kanker district, police said here on Saturday.

According to police a team of Special Task Force (STF) had started from Kanker on an anti-Naxal operation. On Thursday police had face-off with the armed Naxals in a forested patch near Chhindkhadak village and at Parredodo village.

"In both encounters police forces easily dominated Naxals who had to flee in the jungles," a local police officer said.

After searching the encounter spots, pressure cooker bombs, electric wires, live rounds of 303 rifle, INSAS with live rounds, Naxals dress, Maoist literatures and other items of daily use were sized, police said.



Splendour of national bird: A peacock dance was shot in the jungles of Barnawapara by The Pioneer's lensman Santosh Sahu.

# UPSC prelims on June 2

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Preliminary examination for Civil Services Examination-2019 organised by the Union Public Service Commission will be held on June 2 in two sessions.

The first session will be held from 9.30 AM to 11.30 AM and second session from 2.30 PM to 4.30 PM.

Raipur will have 31 examination centres where 12,728 candidates have registered for the examination.

Examination observer and Raipur division Commissioner G. R. Churendra reviewed the preparation with all the centre heads. Commissioner directed all the examination centre heads to ensure adequate cleaning, toilet, fan, furniture, light and generator facilities along with potable and cold water.

Churendra said candidates can download their admit card from the UPSC website and take a print out. They should come along with original identity card to sit for the exam.

The candidate can only use black ballpoint pen. The entry time for candidate is 9.10 AM to 9.20 AM for the first session and for the second session it is 2.10 PM to 2.20 PM.

The cell phones, electronic gadgets, Bluetooth devices, slip, copy, books along with other materials are not allowed inside the centres. Candidates will have to undergo checking before entering into the examination centre and banned materials will be kept in separate room.

A control room has been made at the district collectorate.

# Forest department intensifies vigil to curb illegal tendu-leaf trade



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

With tendu-leaves collection season coming to an end in Chhattisgarh, the illegal transportation has spiked in border areas of the state.

Recently illegal tendu leaves smuggled into the state from outside were seized as the law enforcers increased vigil to curb the illegal trade.

Principal Chief Forest Conservator Rakesh

Chaturvedi held a video-conference with all the forest division officials, wherein he directed them to take stern action against illegal consignment of tendu leaves entering from other bordering states.

During night patrolling in Raghunathpur range, bordering Uttar Pradesh, around 25 people was caught with more than 10 motor-cycles loaded with illegal tendu leaves.

Similarly, at Dhamni range also bordering UP, a TATA magic was intercepted with around 52,000 bundles of illegal tendu leaves worth around Rs 2 lakh.

In Balrampur district, Ram Nagar Kala village of Balrampur range near Jharkhand border, 5 motor-cycles were seized for illegally transporting tendu leaves.

Legal action is being initiated in the cases.

# Hardcore Naxal held, 5 IEDs defused

STAFF REPORTER ■ SUKMA/KONDAGAON

Police arrested a hardcore Naxal, who carried a cash award of Rs 1 lakh on his head in Sukma, while in another incident five IEDs were defused in Kondagaon.

In Sukma, a joint team of 227 CRPF battalion and district police while on a search operation, received intelligence input from Tongpal police station about the presence of Maoists in a hilly terrain near Junglepara, Marjum village.

The team swung into action and nabbed the Maoist identified as Mahavir Nag (25), a resident of Junglepara Marjum.

"Mahavir was a member of Maoist Katekalyan LGS (Local Guerrilla Squad) and was involved in an attack on a police party in April 2016 in Tongpal where a jawan was killed and another was injured," a local police officer said.

State government had declared a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh on his arrest, the officer said.

In Kondagaon, according to police,



five IEDs (improvised explosive device) each weighing 10 kg and packed in pressure cookers were unearthed from a dirt track near a well between Uparchandeli and Khalichandeli villages under Keshkal police station. They were detected and defused by a joint team of security forces carrying out a de-mining operation.

Acting on specific inputs, the operation was carried out by the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and local police in Uparchandeli and Khalichandeli area, located around 250 km away from the state capital Raipur.

# Woman charred to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

In a tragic incident, a 32-year-old woman was charred to death on Saturday after a fire broke out in her house near Telghani Naka locality, Raipur.

According to police, the victim was identified as Suniti Bai Sahu, hailing from Kesla village of Bemetara district.

"The fire broke out on Saturday when Suniti was cooking a meal in the kitchen. While Suniti's husband Chintaram Sahu, who works as a labourer had gone out for his work," a local police officer said.

At the time of the incident the victim's daughter and her nephew were at the home.

The kids were watching television in another room, they heard Suniti's scream and saw her engulfed in fire, police officer added.

The kids ran out of the house and informed neighbours about the incident. After being informed, fire tenders and police personnel rushed to the spot. They managed to douse the flames, which took about three hours of hectic efforts.



The exact cause of the blaze was yet to be ascertained, police said.

The victim's body was sent for autopsy by the police. A case has been registered and further investigation is on.

Meanwhile, district administration has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh for the family members of the deceased.

# Capt thanks voters, partymen for Congress' good show in Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday expressed his gratitude to voters for the impressive victory of the Congress in the state in this Lok Sabha polls.

He also thanked Punjab ministers, party legislators and Congress workers for the good show they put up in the state. "I express my gratitude to all workers of Youth Congress and NSUI for their support and hard work which led to such a good showing in the Lok Sabha

polls," he tweeted.

"I also thank people of Punjab for placing trust in us by giving such a mandate," the chief minister tweeted, reiterating his commitment of making Punjab "number one again".

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Congress won eight out of total 13 seats in Punjab, bucking the pro-Modi trend seen across northern and central India in this general election.

The Congress romped home to impressive victory on eight seats, surprising both the



SAD-BJP combine and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and improving its tally from three in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. It had won Gurdaspur in a bypoll in 2017.

The Akali Dal-BJP alliance won four seats. The lone seat won by the AAP was of Sangrur, a constituency retained by Bhagwant Mann.

**CONGRESS VOTE SHARE JUMPS TO 40 PER CENT**

The vote share of the Congress in Punjab jumped to 40 per cent in the 2019 Lok

Sabha polls in which it won eight out of total 13 parliamentary seats in the state.

The vote share of the Aam Aadmi Party which could manage to win just one seat, nosedived from 24 per cent in 2014 Lok Sabha polls to 7.38 per cent in the present elections.

The Shiromani Akali Dal's vote share also rose to 27.45 per cent despite the party winning only two seats, Ferozepur and Bathinda, out of 10 it contested.

The BJP, which won

Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur seats, also witnessed an increase in its vote share to 9.63 per cent, as per the Election Commission data.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress party's vote share was 33.10 per cent and the SAD's 26.30 per cent. The vote share of AAP and the BJP stood at 24.40 and 8.70 per cent respectively.

Another surprise in the elections was the Bahujan Samaj Party getting 3.49 per cent of the polled votes. BSP candidates who contested from

Anandpur Sahib, Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar constituencies managed to get more than one lakh votes in each segment.

The Aam Aadmi Party was almost routed from Punjab, winning sole seat of Sangrur out of 13 it contested. The AAP had surprised many in 2014 Lok Sabha polls when it won four seats in Punjab.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, while the SAD-BJP combine had won six seats, the AAP and Congress had bagged four and three seats respectively.

## NOTA highest in Faridkot, Taksalis Bir Devinder lost to NOTA

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Even as various political outfits and individuals put their best foot forward to win the recently-concluded elections, there were as many as 1,54,423 voters in Punjab who rejected all the candidates at one go by pressing the NOTA (none of the above) button on the EVMs (electronic voting machines) in May 19 elections.

In fact, NOTA occupied the fifth spot on almost all the constituencies of the state.

The figure has increased from 0.4 per cent (58,754 votes) in 2014, when the NOTA was first introduced in the state, to 1.12 per cent in 2019.

Faridkot Lok Sabha witnessed the maximum electors choosing NOTA — 19,246 which is 1.97 per cent of the total votes polled — from where Congress' Mohad Sadique defeated SAD's Gulzar

Singh Ranike, and Aam Aadmi Party's sitting MP Prof Sadhu Singh.

If that is not enough, SAD (Taksali), a splinter group of SAD led by the Badals which contested elections on just two seats, faced a major embarrassment in Sri Anandpur Sahib because of NOTA.

Its candidate Bir Devinder Singh, the former Deputy Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha, was lagged behind NOTA which secured 1.58 per cent (17,135 votes) of the total votes polled. Bir Devinder, whose early declaration of candidature forced Taksalis to turn down the coalition offers by the AAP, Punjab Democratic Alliance (PDA) and the BSP, could managed just 10,424 (0.96 per cent) votes, not even one per cent.

Sehajdhari Sikh Federation president Dr Paramjeet Singh Ranu, who contested as an independent from Sri

Anandpur Sahib, could garner just 1,316 (0.12 per cent) votes.

In Ferozepur, from where SAD president Sukhbir Badal won the elections, 14,891 voted for NOTA, while 13,323 voters opted for NOTA in Bathinda, from where his Union Minister wife Harsimrat Badal secured a hat-trick.

As many as 13,045 voters voted for NOTA in Fatehgarh Sahib, followed by 12,868 in Hoshiarpur, 12,324 in Jalandhar, 11,110 in Patiala, 10,538 in Ludhiana, 9,560 in Gurdaspur, 8,763 in Amritsar, 6,490 in Sangrur and 5,130 in Khadoor Sahib.

Interestingly, the percentage of NOTA votes was more than the vote percentage of some political parties like CPI and CPM in the state. As against 1.12 per cent of votes in favour of NOTA, the vote percentage of CPI and CPM was just 0.31 and 0.08 respectively.



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur with the newly elected M.P.s from the state—Kishan Kapoor from Kangra, Ram Swarop Sharma from Mandi, Anurag Thakur from Hamirpur and Suresh Kashyap from Shimla at New Delhi on Saturday

## 248 lose deposit in Punjab, including 5 MLAs

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Two sitting MPs and three MLAs are among 248 candidates in Punjab who lost their security deposit in the Lok Sabha elections, the results of which were announced on May 23.

The five legislators were Aam Aadmi Party candidates or those who left the party and contested the elections under the banner of the Punjab Democratic Alliance (PDA), a grouping of several parties.

Among political parties, the worst hit were the AAP candidates. Twelve of their candidates failed to get the one-sixth vote share needed to save the deposit.

Among the MPs whose deposit was forfeited was Nawan Punjab Party candidate from Patiala, Dharamvira Gandhi. He was polled around 1.61 lakh votes. He was elected to the Lok Sabha on the AAP ticket in 2014.

AAP's sitting Faridkot MP Sadhu Singh also lost his deposit. He lost the contest to Congress' Mohd Sadique.

AAP's Talwandi Sabo MLA Baljinder Kaur lost her security deposit from Bathinda.

Punjab Ekta Party (PEP) founder and Bholath MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira, who fought from Bathinda under the banner of the PDA after quitting AAP, too lost his deposit.

PEP candidate and Jaitu MLA Baldev Singh, who contested as a PEP nominee after quitting AAP, was too among the legislators whose deposit was forfeited.

The BSP candidates from Hoshiarpur and Anandpur Sahib also failed to save their deposit, so did the CPI candidates from Amritsar and Ferozepur, CPM contestant from Anandpur Sahib and Lok Insaaf Party nominees from Bathinda and Fatehgarh Sahib. Bir Devinder Singh, the lone candidate fielded by the SAD (Taksali), a breakaway faction of the Shiromani Akali Dal, also lost his security deposit from Anandpur Sahib.

Shiromani Akali Dal (Mann) chief Simranjit Singh Mann faced a similar fate from Sangrur. Twenty-eight candidates lost their deposit from Amritsar, the largest number among the 13 constituencies in the state. Of the 10 sitting MPs who contested the Lok Sabha polls, five were re-elected. They were Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Bathinda), Santokh Chaudhary (Jalandhar), Bhagwant Mann (Sangrur), Gurjeet Aujla (Amritsar) and Ravneet Singh Bittu (Ludhiana).

## One trekker dead, four missing in Himachal's Kinnaur

PNS ■ SHIMLA

A trekker died, another sustained injuries while four were missing in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district, even as large scale rescue and relief operation were launched by the authorities.

The deceased trekker had been identified as Roopak from Kolkata, Kinnaur Deputy Commissioner (DC) Gopal Chand said. He died reportedly due to breathing issues at a high altitude. Efforts are underway to locate the missing trekkers.

The help of an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter and a team of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) were being taken to trace them, the DC added.

Two teams of trekkers—seven from Rohru in Shimla and four from Uttarakhand—had gone towards Kinnaur, Kalpa SDM Surendra Thakur said.

The four-member team from Uttarakhand is missing. They were feared to be stuck at Ropin Pass, the SDM added. All trekkers were from West

Bengal.

Roopak was part of the seven-member team, which was going towards Barua Pass through the Janglik area.

Another trekker from the team sustained injuries during the expedition. He was airlifted to a Sangla hospital, where he was given first aid. Later, he was shifted to Chandigarh.

As per information, four members of the Rohru team experienced breathing issues and decided to return, whereas three of them reached the Barua Kande camp in Shogade area. Later, one of them (Roopak) died and the other sustained injuries. The third trekkers is reported to be safe.

Those who returned due to breathing issues informed the Rohru administration about the entire incident. The Rohru administration informed the Sangla tehsildar about it.

Subsequently, an IAF helicopter and a rescue team of the ITBP were sent to the Barua hills, where they located the three trekkers. The body of the deceased trekker is being brought back by the Sangla police.

## After worst ever drubbing, Cong leaders fight again in HP

PNS ■ SHIMLA

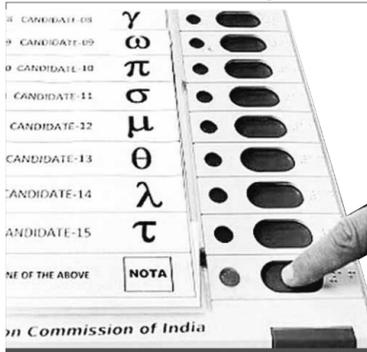
Failing to learn their lessons despite the worst ever defeat of the Congress in Himachal Pradesh, the state leaders are targeting each other for the poor show.

Differences between former chief minister Virbhadra Singh and former state Congress president Sukhvinder Sukhu again resurfaced after the party's defeat in which it trailed in all the assembly segments of the state for the first time.

After Arki MLA Virbhadra Singh said that Sukhu should have been changed much earlier for better results, the former state Congress chief, who is the Nadaan M.L.A., said, "This is not the time for blaming others for political motives."

In a press statement, Sukhu, without naming Virbhadra Singh, said, "Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones on others (sheeshe ke gharo mei rehne waale doosro par pathar nahin fenkte)." Sukhu said, "Instead of levelling allegations and counter allegations against each other, this is the time to go ahead unitedly."

He also thanked the Congress workers for their work during the elections. "There is no need to get disap-



**As many as 33,008 voters chose the NOTA option. In this way, 0.87 per cent voters opted for NOTA out of the total 38,01,793 votes polled in the state on May 19, an election official said. Besides, 8,208 (0.22 per cent) votes were rejected for the four Lok Sabha seats of the hill-state**

pointed with the election results. We should learn from the results. Time keeps on changing. One emerges victorious after defeat," he told the workers.

Virbhadra Singh had earlier said all was not well with the organisation for long.

Had the party president been changed earlier and good people included in the organisation, the Congress would have not been defeated like this (agar pradhan ko pehle badal diya jaata aur achche logo ko sangathan mei shamil kar liya jaata to is kadam party ki haar nahi hoti)," he had said.

Kuldeep Singh Rathore had replaced Sukhu as the state Congress president a month

before the declaration of the poll schedule.

The ruling BJP Thursday swept the Lok Sabha elections in Himachal Pradesh, winning each of the four seats with a record margin of over 3.25 lakh votes. The BJP secured 69.11 per cent of the polled votes.

**OVER 33000 VOTERS OPTED FOR NOTA IN HIMACHAL**

Over 33,000 none of the above (NOTA) votes were polled in Himachal Pradesh, where the ruling BJP swept the Lok Sabha elections winning all four seats in the state.

The saffron party won Mandi, Shimla, Hamirpur and Kangra with record margins of

about four lakh votes in each of the constituencies.

As many as 33,008 voters chose the NOTA option. In this way, 0.87 per cent voters opted for NOTA out of the total 38,01,793 votes polled in the state on May 19, an election official said. Besides, 8,208 (0.22 per cent) votes were rejected for the four Lok Sabha seats of the hill-state, he added.

The highest 11,327 voters chose NOTA in Kangra, followed by 8,357 in Shimla, 8,026 in Hamirpur and 5,298 in Mandi, the official said. He said a total of 29,032 voters (0.9 per cent) had opted for NOTA in the 2014 parliamentary elections.

The highest 3,322 votes

were rejected in Hamirpur, followed by 2,567 in Kangra, 1,777 in Mandi and 1,542 in Shimla.

He said as electronic voting machines (EVMs) were used for general voters, there was no chance to get votes rejected. But, the votes of the soldiers, generally known as service voters, and those of the poll staff, who use ballot papers to exercise their franchise, may be rejected if not properly cast, the official added.

Of the total 53,30,154 registered voters in the four constituencies, 68,028 (1.27 per cent) are service voters.

The highest service voters 24,245 are in the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat, followed by 21,836 in Kangra, 13,474 in Mandi and 8,473 in Shimla, a state electoral officer said.

The ballot papers had been electronically transmitted to record offices/units of service voters on May 3 itself with envelopes to ensure their voting. Subsequently, the service voters were required to reach the concerned Returning Officer before the start of the counting.

There were 46,000 employees deputed as polling staff and they were also eligible to use ballot papers in case they were on poll duty outside their respective parliamentary constituency.

## INBRIEF

**HARYANA TRANSFERS 2 IAS OFFICERS**  
Chandigarh: Haryana Government has issued transfer and posting orders of two IAS officers, with immediate effect. Ashok Kumar Meena, Chief Vigilance Officer, HSPV, Panchkula and Deputy Commissioner, Hisar has been given additional charge of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Hisar. Mukesh Kumar Ahuja, Administrator, HSPV, Panchkula and Additional Director, Urban Estate, Panchkula, Director and Special Secretary, Urban Estates Department has been posted as Deputy Commissioner, Charkhi Dabri vice Ajay Singh Tomer. The orders of posting of Ajay Singh Tomer will be issued later on.

**HRY BOARD GIVES OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE MARKS**  
Chandigarh: Haryana Board of School Education, Bhiwani, on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee, is providing another opportunity to students who had passed Secondary or Senior Secondary exams ten years ago, to apply for improvement in one subject. Such candidates could download the application form from Boards' website www.bseh.org.in. A spokesman of Board said that those who have passed their Secondary or Senior Secondary examination between March-2009 to July-2018, they are being provided another opportunity to improve their marks in one subject.

**NBA ACCREDITATION TO 3 MORE ENGINEERING PROGRAMS**  
Chandigarh: J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad has added another feather to its cap as three more engineering programs of the University have been received accreditation from National Board of Accreditation (NBA). The accreditation granted by the NBA to University programs reflects the quality of Technical Education being imparted in the University and strengthen the University's vision to become globally acclaimed Institute in Technical Education. Vice-Chancellor, Dinesh Kumar has congratulated all the staff members for this great achievement and expressed gratitude towards the Governor, Satyadeo Narain Arya, who is also Chancellor of the University for extending full support to the University due to which University is supporting State Government's mission to set high standards in Technical Education.

## Punjab DGP sets priorities for police officers to control crime

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Director General of Police, Dinkar Gupta on Saturday set the priorities for the Punjab police and stressed upon to put effective control on terrorist crimes, gangster activities, drive against drugs and heinous crimes in the state. In addition to this, he also directed the field officers to prevent and control the crimes against women and redress the public grievances on priority.

Stipulating 'Mission CCTV cameras' to check criminal activities in the state, DGP asked all the range officers and SSPs to put all out efforts for installations of such cameras at each entry and exit points into all cities/towns besides covering all vulnerable locations.

For quick disposal of old vehicles belonging to case properties, Gupta asked the senior officers concerned to develop data based applications for priority areas to streamline disposal of old vehicles at range level and police districts offices at the earliest. In addition to this, he directed the officers to update all data pertaining to arms licenses, arms dealers, man-

**For quick disposal of old vehicles belonging to case properties, Gupta asked the senior officers concerned to develop data based applications for priority areas to streamline disposal of old vehicles at range level and police districts offices at the earliest. In addition to this, he directed the officers to update all data pertaining to arms licenses, arms dealers, manpower, vehicles and driving licenses on such online software applications by coordinating with district police chiefs**

power, vehicles and driving licenses on such online software applications by coordinating with district police chiefs.

Chairing a state level meeting of all CPs and SSPs, he also suggested to simplify Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) forms, computerization of police station records and timely updating of all types of crime data on the platform. He also asked all the CPs and SSPs to hold weekly crime meetings on every Wednesday to take stock of progress reports of their subordinate officers.

Presenting his progress ADGP IT&T, Kuldeep Singh informed in the meeting that Punjab is a leading state in the country for fully utilizing,

update and data base records on CCTNS. He advised the district heads for timely synchronizing the daily data and records on the system at police station level.

On his action points for SSPs during the meeting, DGP advised them to deploy lady inspectors to investigate all sexual assault cases and listing of top 100 criminals at each police station.

He also advised to appoint liaison officers for all schools and colleges besides mapping of policemen to villages. Besides this, the DGP also directed the field officers to constitute various crime specific teams, social media teams, investigation and technical teams at district level to trace the crimes.

## BSP improves performance in Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Bahujan Samaj Party may not have won any seat in the Lok Sabha elections in Punjab but it has surprised many by finishing third on the three seats it contested, doing better than the AAP.

Facing the erosion of its vote bank over the past several years in Punjab, the BSP garnered vote share of 3.49 per cent as against 1.9 per cent in 2014. The party polled 4.79 lakh votes in the state this general election.

The BSP stitched an alliance and became a part of Punjab Democratic Alliance, a conglomeration of several political outfits for contesting the elections.

As part of the seat-sharing pact, the BSP fielded three candidates from Anandpur Sahib, Hoshiarpur (reserve) and Jalandhar (reserve) seats in Punjab.

In 2014, the BSP had contested all 13 seats and still got only 2.63 lakh votes. The party was on fourth spot on seven seats, sixth on two seats and ranked fifth on two seats.

On all the seats it contested this Lok Sabha polls, the BSP contestants finished third, as per the election results. The candidates of the AAP, which is the main opposition party in Punjab, finished fourth on these seats.

What surprised many was that its Jalandhar candidate Balwinder Kumar got more than two lakh votes or 20 per cent of total votes polled, though he could not win.

In Hoshiarpur, BSP nominee Khushi Ram secured over 1.28 lakh votes, prompting Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to blame the defeat of the Congress candidate to the shift of votes to the BSP. He said this has been a deciding factor for this constituency and has also affected the winning margins in some others.

From the Anandpur Sahib constituency, BSP nominee Vikram Singh Sodhi secured 1.46 lakh votes and finished third.

As per the election commission data, the vote share of the BSP was 3.49 per cent (4,79,788 votes), way ahead of several parties including the CPI and the CPM.

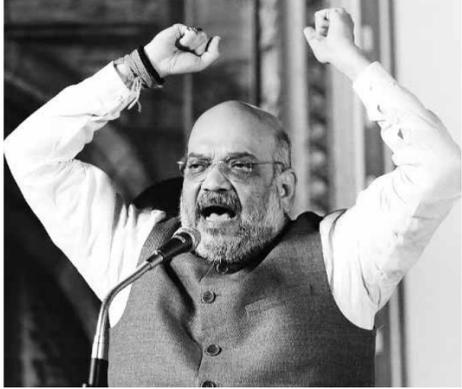
# Voter rejected dynastic politics: Shah

PNS/AGENCY ■ NEW DELHI

Listing out the biggest takeaways from the just-concluded Lok Sabha election, where the BJP and NDA inflicted a humiliating loss on the Opposition, BJP chief Amit Shah on Saturday said one of them was that the electorate voted out dynastic, casteist and appeasement politics.

Addressing the NDA MPs, who elected Narendra Modi as their leader, he also pointed out that it was after 1971 that for the first time a PM is returning to power after serving a five-year term and that this time round, the voters elected a 'leader', who happens to have taken not single day's off in the last 20 years he has seen of him.

He further said that people's mandate in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections underlined that Governments will be elected on the basis of their performance, not dynasty, caste politics or appeasement politics.



He said when Modi became the Prime Minister for the first time in 2014, ordinary citizens were filled with hope that a person from a modest background could be elected to the highest office.

"With that hope, the people have trusted Modi. The suc-

cess of the extension of Gujarat model to the whole country was an experiment and people have blessed Modi once again. What Modi promised, he has been able to deliver, and this trust has been shown by the people in him," he said.

Shah added that the 22

crore poor who have been the beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's welfare schemes have shown their faith in him.

Shah added that he has toured the country from Kashmir to Kanyaumari and Kamarkhya to Kutch, and people in all parts of the country have unanimously voted in favour of Modi. "There has been a Modi 'Tsunami' in the country," he said.

"Without any taint, he (Modi) has been elected as the country's Prime Minister for the second term. This has been possible because he governed the country by rising above vote bank politics. In the last five years, he took many tough decisions, but none that did not benefit the country," the BJP President said.

"The citizens I have spoken to want the country to become a global super power and 'Bharat Mata' be accorded her proper place on an international scale. I wish that Modi

is able to take forward the strong foundation of a 'New Bharat' that he has placed and is able to fulfil the dreams of the whole world will admire," Shah concluded.

Shah also pointed to the air strike in Pakistan's Balakot in response to the Pulwama terror attack as a reply to those who had dismissed the cross-LoC surgical strike of September 2016 as fluke.

Shah said the surgical strike and the Balakot air strike proved that India had a leader who could target the terrorists in their den.

"During the 90s, when terrorism raised its head and shook the country, people felt that the then Governments were not serious about the safety and security of the country. For the first time under the Modi government, people have confidence that here is a leader who can hit the terrorists in their den," he said.

# EC submits newly-elected MPs' list to Prez Kovind

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A couple of days after the Election results, the Election Commission on Saturday submitted a list of newly-elected MPs to President Ram Nath Kovind, setting in motion the process for constituting the 17th Lok Sabha.

The full Election Commission — comprising Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Election Commissioners Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra — called on the President and submitted a copy of the notification issued by the EC containing names of the members, a Rashtrapati Bhavan communiqué said.

While the EC notification sets in motion the constitution of a new Lok Sabha, the list given to the President enables

him to formally initiate the Government formation process.

Earlier in the day, the President dissolved the 16th Lok Sabha on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet. On Saturday evening, the newly-elected MPs of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance are likely to elect Narendra Modi as the alliance's leader.

After this, a delegation of leaders of the BJP and its allies is expected to call on the President and convey to him their choice of Modi as Prime Minister, following which he will be invited to form the Government.

The counting of votes in elections to the 17th Lok Sabha was taken up on May 23 and the BJP scored a resounding victory, winning 303 seats in the 543-member House. Its

arch rival, Congress, managed on 52 seats.

Elections were held for 542 of the 543 seats. The election in Vellore Lok Sabha seat was cancelled by the EC citing abuse of money power. A fresh date is yet to be announced.

The President congratulated the Chief Election Commissioner and the other Election Commissioners on the successful completion of the electoral process in the largest democratic exercise in the human history.

On behalf of the entire country, the President lauded the efforts of the EC, public officials and security personnel in successfully completing a free and fair election, the statement said.

The President also commended hundreds of millions of voters who participated in the election process.

# IAS officer set to spread 'Swachh Ganga' message from Mount Everest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Having already conquered the Mt. Everest in 2013, Ravindra Kumar, an IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, will undertake yet another mission to scale the peak this summer with the aim to spread awareness amongst people towards the urgent need of controlling water pollution, saving rivers and Ground Water Acquirers besides ensuring availability of Clean Water to All.

Kumar told *The Pioneer* he has termed his expedition as "Swachh Ganga Swachh Bharat Everest Abhiyaan 2019" with Ganga symbolising all rivers of India as one of the main sources of water.

Kumar is the first and only IAS officer of India who has climbed Mt. Everest. Ravindra Kumar is presently on a Central deputation Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Begusarai (Bihar) born Ravindra Kumar has also authored two motivational books on his previous journey. His first scaling of the



Everest was inspired by the Sikkim Earthquake of 2011, where mountaineers were called for search and rescue mission post earthquake in the State.

His second Everest Expedition in 2015 could not be completed due to the earthquake in Nepal. That mission to spread awareness about importance of Sanitation in India through 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "In the present scenario,

focus on water sector, especially drinking water, is need of the hour. As per World Bank estimates 21 per cent of communicable diseases in India are linked to unsafe water. Rivers are nearly dying due to discharge of pollutants and lack of continuity due insufficient water. Ground water table is declining and creating ground for future water crisis. Therefore, this sector needs immediate through people's involvement in addition to Government's effort," said Kumar.

## LS POLLS

# Majority of candidates lost deposit in J&K

Jammu: Barring the Ladakh parliamentary constituency, majority of the contesting candidates lost their security deposit in five other Lok Sabha constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir where 51 of them even failed to get one per cent of the valid votes.

The BJP retained three parliamentary seats of Jammu, Udhampur and Ladakh, while the National Conference swept the polls in the Kashmir valley, winning all the three seats of Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla.

A total of 79 candidates were in the fray for the six parliamentary seats, but 63 of them lost their security deposit of Rs 25,000 and Rs 12,500 (for schedule tribe and scheduled caste candidates) as they failed to get the minimum required one-sixth (16.67 per cent) of the total polled valid votes, according to official data by the Election Commission of India.

The Ladakh parliamentary seat which was won by 33-year-old BJP leader Janyang Tsering Namgyal -- the youngest among the six

winners from the state -- was the only constituency where rest of the three candidates managed to save their deposits.

Namgyal got 42,914 votes (33.94 per cent) and defeated his nearest rival and independent candidate Sajjad Hussain who secured 31,984 votes (25.3 per cent).

Congress rebel candidate Asgar Ali Karbalai came third with 29,365 votes (23.23 per cent) followed by Congress' official candidate Rigzin Spalbar who polled 21,241 votes (16.8 per cent).

The Ladakh Lok Sabha constituency is the largest in India in terms of area but has the lowest number of over 1.71 lakh voters in the state. A total of over 1.26 lakh voters had exercised their franchise with 922 of them preferring None Of The Above (NOTA), which was 0.73 per cent of the total voting.

The voting trend in the Jammu parliamentary constituency, where the highest 24 candidates were in the fray, revealed a direct contest between BJP's Jugal Kishore

and senior Congress leader and former minister Raman Bhalla.

While Kishore retained the seat for the party by getting 8,58,066 votes (58.02 per cent), Bhalla got 5,55,191 votes (37.54 per cent).

The rest of the 22 candidates, including patron of Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party Bhim Singh, Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan (DSS) founder and former BJP minister Lal Singh and BSP leader Badri Nath got below one per cent votes.

The constituency had recorded the highest 72.16 per cent polling in the state and only 2,618 among 14,78,795 voters pushed the NOTA button.

Similarly, the Udhampur parliamentary constituency, which was retained by union minister Jitendra Singh by a huge margin of 3.57 lakh votes defeating Dogra scion and Congress leader Vikramaditya Singh, saw 10 candidates losing their security deposit.

The BJP's candidate got 7,24,311 votes (61.38 per cent)

against the Congress candidate who polled 3,67,659 votes (31.1 per cent).

Two other Rajputs in the fray -- JKNPP chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh and DSS founder (Lal Singh) -- got 2.06 and 1.61 per cent votes, respectively.

In Srinagar, where only 14.1 per cent of over 12.94 lakh electorate exercised their right, 10 of the 12 candidates lost their deposits with eight even failing to reach one per cent mark.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah retained the seat by getting 1,06,750 votes (57.14 per cent), defeating Aja Syed Mohsin of the PDP, who got 36,700 votes (19.64 per cent).

People's Conference candidate Irfan Raza Ansari was the only other candidate who managed double figures with 15.4 per cent (28,773 votes).

The Anantnag parliamentary constituency, where the second highest 18 candidates, including former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, were locked in a multi-cornered contest, saw 15 candi-

dates losing their security deposits.

The seat, where election was held in three phases due to security concerns, registered the lowest voter turnout of only 8.76 per cent in the state. It was won by National Conference candidate and former judge Hasnain Masoodi.

Mufti, who had won the seat in 2014 before resigning to become the first woman chief minister in 2016, polled only 30,524 votes (24.44 per cent).

The Baramulla parliamentary constituency was won by senior NC leader Mohammad Akbar Lone after securing 1,33,426 (29.29 per cent) votes, defeating Raja Aijaz Ali of the Peoples' Conference, who got 1,03,193 (22.65 per cent). Engineer Rashid managed 1,02,168 votes (22.43 per cent).

The constituency has recorded the highest 34.71 per cent voting in the Valley. Six of the candidates, including from the PDP, the Congress and the BJP, got only 11.75 (53,530), 7.58 (34,532) and 1.73 per cent (7,894 votes), respectively. **PTI**

# BJP mocks Mamata's offer to quit the CM post as 'drama'

Kolkata: The BJP on Saturday described TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's offer to quit as West Bengal Chief Minister as "drama" and claimed her Government will fall on its own and the saffron party will not need to topple it.

Banerjee offered to quit as chief minister following her party's drubbing in the Lok Sabha polls, but the TMC rejected it.

"It is good that at least she has accepted defeat. But her offer to quit is nothing but a drama to garner sympathy," BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya told PTI.

Reacting to Banerjee's comment that BJP will commit a mistake if it tries to topple her

Government, Vijayvargiya said it will fall on its own.

He said, "We will not topple it. It will fall on its own. TMC leaders have lost confidence in her. They are fed up. If they come to us and crib about her misrule and authoritarian approach, what can we do?"

Bengal witnessed a saffron surge in the Lok Sabha polls as the BJP inflicted a blow to ruling TMC by winning 18 of total 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state. The TMC won 22 seats, down from 34 in 2014. Addressing her first press conference after the election results were declared, she on Saturday accused the BJP of polarising people on religious lines to garner votes in West Bengal. **PTI**

# Jaganmohan Reddy invites KCR to attend swearing-in ceremony

Hyderabad: YSR Congress president Jaganmohan Reddy, who was invited to form the next Government in Andhra Pradesh by the Governor, on Saturday called on Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu here and invited him for the swearing-in ceremony at Vijayawada on May 30.

A release from the CM's office said Reddy extended his personal invitation to Rao to attend the ceremony.

There was no official word on Raos response, but TRS sources indicated that it was likely to be positive.

After he was elected leader of the YSRC legislature party, Reddy met the Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, ESL Narasimhan at the Raj

Bhavan in Hyderabad and staked claim to form the government.

The swearing-in ceremony would be held at Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation stadium, Vijayawada, on May 30 at 12.23 PM, a Raj Bhavan communiqué said.

Reddy called on Rao after meeting the governor.

During the meeting, Rao told Reddy that his government would like to have cordial relations with Andhra Pradesh, the release said.

"Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu made it clear that the policy of Telangana is to maintain cordial relations with neighbouring States in a give and take manner, and same would be followed in case of

Andhra Pradesh State also," the release said.

Rao said he visited Maharashtra to meet Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis to sort out water disputes between undivided Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The disputes reportedly held up irrigation projects in Telangana.

Maharashtra cooperated after the initiative and this has led to Telangana being able to construct irrigation projects like Kaleshwaram, Rao told Reddy.

"Our policy would be to maintain similar relations with the present Andhra Pradesh state also. Let us act in such a manner so that both the states are benefited," the release quoted Rao as saying. **PTI**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses NDA parliamentary board meeting at the Central Hall in Parliament House, New Delhi on Saturday **PTI**

# Nothing worse than being alone: Polio victim

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Having missed her polio vaccine in her childhood, Nimmi is crippled for life. Her disability restricted her to the four walls of her home as well on the wheel-chair, gradually pushing her into depression. "After my mother died, I felt all alone. There is nothing worse in the world than being lonely," she says.

With the timely intervention of Delhi-based 'Yes, We Can' NGO, the 35-year-old today actively participates in range of social activities like watching movies to quizzes conducted by the organisation throughout the year, particularly during special occasions like festivals.

Meenu Arora Mani, a wheelchair-user herself and head of the 'Yes, We Can', notes: "Usually, specially-abled people don't interact with a lot of others. Neither do they have enough exposure to the outside world. So they barely meet new people. We want it to be changed and try to provide a platform to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities besides physical disabilities to let them enjoy the



sense of freedom and mingle with others.

"With the help of philanthropists and volunteers, we also organise workshops to focus on their financial empowerment so that they can lead a dignified life."

In fact, Meenu's is just one of the NGOs in the sector which are trying to give the 'wings' to the specially-abled

people. For instance, Bengaluru-based Anuprayas is trying to make India a blind-friendly nation. Founded by Pancham Cajla, the NGO has installed Braille signage at Mysuru, Mumbai and Bengaluru railway stations.

Says Cajla, "In India, accessibility at public places is still a distant dream for people with disabilities. Hence, travelling becomes difficult. We are here

to change all this."

Similarly, Chennai based Vidya Sagar has started a project called 'Get Going' to enable people with disabilities to travel and feel empowered whenever they need to. Larsen & Toubro (L&T), has donated two wheelchair-friendly vehicles to help the NGO to reach out to people with disabilities.

The transport will make travel for disabled people easier and will be available to people with intellectual as well as physical disabilities, said S N Subrahmanyam, CEO - Managing Director, L&T.

Planet Aabled NGO is engaged in providing accessible travel solutions and leisure excursions for people with different disabilities. With a tagline — "Together let us make the planet accessible for everyone to travel, one trip at a time", the organisation run by Neha Arora — whose parents are differently-abled — has developed more than 35 destinations including Leh-Ladakh across the country around various themes. It is almost a hit among the people who love travelling despite their disabilities.

# Two Assam Rifles jawans killed in ambush by militants in Nagaland

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two Assam Rifles personnel were killed and four others injured on Saturday in an ambush by insurgents in Mon area of Nagaland near the India-Myanmar border. The injured were given medical treatment immediately and their condition was stable. Efforts were on to identify the militant group responsible for the attack and combing operation was launched to track them down.

Giving details of the incident here, military sources said it took place at about 1.30 pm when a patrol of the Assam Rifles in two vehicles was subjected to an improvised explosive device (IED) blast. The militants then opened fire and in the ensuing gun fight a junior commissioned



officer (JCO) and a soldier were killed while four others were wounded. The attack took place near border pillars 147 and 148 in Mon area of Nagaland along the India-Myanmar border.

This attack comes days after Arunachal Pradesh MLA Tirong Aboh and his son besides eight others were killed in an ambush by suspected

National Socialist Council of Nagaland (IM) insurgents on Tuesday last in Tirap district of the State. The Indian Army along with the State police has launched a massive operation to hunt down the perpetrators of this incident which saw a group of more than 15 to 20 insurgents waylaying the four-vehicle convoy of the MLA.

# 3 firms to bid for building 6 submarines

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) and two other public sector undertakings have come together to float a consortium for building submarines.

The two other PSUs are Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd (Midhani).

Indigenous construction of six conventional submarines is envisaged by Ministry of Defence, a Press release from HSL said here on Saturday.



**Indigenous construction of six conventional submarines is envisaged by Ministry of Defence, a Press release from HSL said here on Saturday**

Representatives of HSL, BHEL and Midhani signed an MoU on Friday in the presence of HSL chairman and managing director Rear Admiral LV Sarat Babu, the release said. The MoU is a step to keep in line with the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government in the Defence

sector, it said. The agreement aims to harness the complimentary expertise of the three companies and provide the country with a credible, domestic alternative for construction of the submarines. The consortium would jointly stake claim with the Ministry for being considered as a prospective bidder for the proposed project of the Navy in partnership with OEM (foreign technology provider) for building six submarines at the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, the release added.

## Business Corner

### NTPC Q4 PROFIT JUMPS

**New Delhi:** The country's largest power generator — NTPC Ltd. which along with its group companies, has an installed capacity of 55,126 MW, declared its audited annual financial results for FY19 along with the unaudited financial results for Q4 FY19 on 25 May 2019. The Gross Generation of NTPC Group for FY19 was 305.90 billion units as against 294.27 billion units during the previous year. On consolidated basis, in FY19, the Total Income was ₹97,537.34 crore as against the Total Income of ₹89,641.59 crore during previous year, registering an increase of 8.81%. For NTPC Group, Profit After Tax for FY19 was ₹12,633.45 crore as compared to ₹10,501.50 crore in the previous year, registering an increase of 20.3%. On Standalone basis, the Gross Generation of NTPC for FY19 was 274.45 Billion units as against 265.80 Billion units in the previous year thereby registering an increase of 3.26%.

### NIIT LTD Q4 NET PROFIT UP 18 PC TO RS 23 CR

**New Delhi:** NIIT Ltd on Saturday said its consolidated net profit rose 18 per cent to ₹23.2 crore in the March quarter, helped by increased productivity and turnaround in its skills and careers (SNC) business. The skills and talent development firm had posted a net profit of ₹19.7 crore in the year-to-date period. Its revenue grew 8 per cent to ₹239.7 crore in the quarter under review from ₹222.8 crore in the year-to-date period. NIIT said in a statement. NIIT Ltd, which had announced selling its shares in NIIT Technologies in April this year, said the company received gross proceeds of ₹2,020.4 crore in cash from the transaction. "The Board constituted a committee to make recommendations for utilisation of proceeds for rewarding shareholders in the most efficient and judicious manner, subject to statutory limits and necessary approvals, and after providing for transaction related costs, taxes, retirement of debt, growth capital and a prudent Indemnity reserve. The committee shall provide its recommendations to the Board prior to the declaration of audited results for Q1," it added.

## Adani Solar aims at 50% marketshare

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Adani Groups solar manufacturing arm Adani Solar is expecting to get 50 per cent marketshare in two years, a top company official said on Saturday.

As 80 per cent of solar panels available in the country were made in China, the company was manufacturing module and panels, which were cheaper and durable, for Indian markets, general manager (business development) of Adani Solar Cecil Augustine told reporters here.

With a marketshare of 10 per cent and expected growth, the company was sure to capture 50 per cent marketshare in

another two years, Augustine said.

The company official was here to announce the launch of its retail distribution business in Tamil Nadu with K Powers Solar, an exclusive channel partner for the region.

In a span of three months, Adani Solar has expanded the retail distribution of its solar panels in seven regions, helping over 500 cities across the country meet their renewable energy requirement, he said.

The partnership with K Powers is a stride towards facilitating the switch to sustainable solar power, across consumers, SMEs, MSMEs and institutions in the state at the lowest capex costs, he added.

## India should cut interest rates to help exporters take advantage of US-China trade war: Ficci chief

PTI ■ BEIJING

India should cut interest rates further and adopt consistent policies for the export of agricultural produce to enable Indian exporters to take advantage of the current US-China trade war, industry body Ficci's President Sandip Somany said Saturday.

Currently on a business trip to China, Somany also said the NDA government in its second term should focus on getting big ticket investments from China, specially in the capital goods sector, and motivate Chinese machinery manufacturers to set up plants in India.

The bruising US-China

trade war, under which both countries have slapped billions of dollars worth of tariffs on each other's exports, offers a big opportunity for some category of Indian exports to make a dent in both the US and Chinese markets, Somany told PTI here.

Somany, who is the vice chairman and managing director of HSIL Limited, the second largest glass manufacturer in India, also met the Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Misri and the Secretary of China's Boao Forum for Asia, Li Baodong.

If the US-China trade war continues, it offers good opportunities for Indian exports in certain areas, he said.

## Manpasand Beverages' top executives arrested for GST fraud

**IANS n Vadodra (Gujarat):** The entire top deck of Gujarat-based Manpasand Beverages including the company's Managing Director have been arrested on allegations of GST fraud.

According to a BSE filing by the company, the Commissioner of Central GST and Customs carried out search and seizure proceedings at various premises of the company on May 23 and further inquiry was conducted on May 24 at the GST Bhavan office here.

## WhatsApp confirms Status Ads coming in 2020

**San Francisco:** Ads are coming to WhatsApp, finally, and the intrusion into the popular ad-free mobile messaging platform would begin from Status page. At a Facebook Marketing Summit in the Netherlands, Facebook revealed a 2020 launch date for WhatsApp Status ads. "WhatsApp will bring Stories Ads in its status product in 2020," tweeted Olivier Ponteville who attended the conference this week.

The news first came in October when media reported that the Facebook-owned messaging app is planning to allow advertisements to be displayed in the "Status" section of the app.

## Air Asia India drops plan to take Jet's grounded B737s

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Low-cost carrier Air Asia India has dropped its plan to lease B737 aircraft of grounded Jet Airways as the Tata group venture carrier wants to continue with one type of aircraft.

"Air Asia India had informed the aviation regulator about their plan to lease some of the B737 airplanes that were operated by Jet Airways. But later it did not follow up. Now, the idea has finally been dropped," said an industry source.

**Office of the Chief Engineer, Electric Maintenance & Rural Electrification Wing, Jammu Power Development Department**  
Tel No. 0191-2554426 / Fax No. 0191-2505708  
Email: cemrejammu2@gmail.com

e-NIT No: CEMREJMU/STREET LIGHT/04 of 2019 Dated: 23-05-2019

**1. INVITATION:-**  
For and on behalf of the Governor Jammu and Kashmir State, Chief Engineer EM&RE Wing, Jammu invites online e-bids from reputed companies or Class 'A' registered contractors for "SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF HIGH MAST LIGHTS AND ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR STREET LIGHT IN JAMMU MUNICIPAL AREA" under the jurisdiction of Chief Engineer EM&RE Wing, Jammu.

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

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

**A. Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date :- 23.05.2019;**  
**B. Tender Document Sale/Download End Date :- 03.06.2019;**  
**C. e-Bid submission (start) date & time :- 24.05.2019; 10:00 AM**  
**D. e-Bid submission (end) date & time :- 03.06.2019; 04:00 PM**

Sd/- (Er. Sudhir Kr. Gupta)  
Chief Engineer Electric M&RE Wing  
Jammu

No. DIP/J-700-P/2019  
Dated : 24-05-2019

**PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED**  
CIN : L50102UP1982PLC015532  
Regd. Office: Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Distt. Moradabad (U.P.)  
Corp. Office: M-14, Connaught Circus (Middle Circle), New Delhi-110 001  
Tel.No. 91-11-47627400. Fax No. 91-11-47627497; Email: delhi@pasupatiacrylon.com  
Website: www.pasupatiacrylon.com

**STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019 (Rs. in Crores)**

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended (Audited)		Year Ended (Audited)	
		31.03.2019	31.03.2018	31.03.2019	31.03.2018
1.	Total Income from operations	215.54	177.45	834.66	578.84
2.	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	10.03	16.36	43.12	50.19
3.	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	10.03	9.85	43.12	43.68
4.	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5.98	6.34	27.38	28.01
5.	Total comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	5.93	6.26	27.14	27.81
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs.10/-)	89.14	89.14	89.14	89.14
7.	Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve)			87.56	60.42
8.	Earnings Per Share (Rs.10 each)				
	Basic:	0.67	0.71	3.07	3.14
	Diluted:	0.67	0.71	3.07	3.14

NOTE: The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Company's Website ([www.pasupatiacrylon.com](http://www.pasupatiacrylon.com)) and BSE Limited ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)).

For Pasupati Acrylon Limited  
Sd/-  
Vineet Jain  
Managing Director

Dated: 25 May, 2019  
Place: New Delhi

**ANSAL CONDOMINIUM LIMITED**  
CIN U45200DL2006PLC155235  
115, Ansal Bhawan, 16 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi Delhi - 110001  
FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR/HALF YEAR ENDED ON THE 31ST MARCH 2019  
[Regulation 52(8), read with Regulation 52(4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		6 months ended (31/03/2019) (Un Audited)	6 months ended in the previous year (31/03/2018) (Un Audited)	Previous Year ended (31/03/2019) (Audited)	Previous Year ended (31/03/2018) (Audited)	6 months ended (31/03/2019) (Un Audited)	6 months ended in the previous year (31/03/2018) (Un Audited)	Previous Year ended (31/03/2019) (Audited)	Previous Year ended (31/03/2018) (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(158.90)	(169.33)	(323.42)	(335.50)	(158.90)	(169.33)	(323.42)	(335.50)
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(158.90)	(169.33)	(323.42)	(335.50)	(158.90)	(169.33)	(323.42)	(335.50)
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(158.90)	(169.33)	(323.42)	(335.50)	(158.90)	(169.33)	(323.42)	(335.50)
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(105.37)	(1,350.07)	(105.37)	(1,352.05)	(105.37)	(1,350.07)	(105.37)	(1,352.05)
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(2,119.59)	(1,690.79)	(2,119.59)	(1,690.79)	(2,119.59)	(1,690.79)	(2,119.59)	(1,690.79)
8.	Net worth	(2,114.59)	(1,685.79)	(2,114.59)	(1,685.79)	(2,114.59)	(1,685.79)	(2,114.59)	(1,685.79)
9.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	(90.33)	(28.39)	1,352.92	1,457.53	(90.33)	(28.39)	1,352.92	1,457.53
10.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	(0.23)	0.15	(0.43)	(0.72)	(0.65)	0.17	(0.43)	(0.72)
12.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -								
	1. Basic:	(317.80)	(338.67)	(646.85)	(670.99)	(317.80)	(338.67)	(646.85)	(670.99)
	2. Diluted:	(317.80)	(338.67)	(646.85)	(670.99)	(317.80)	(338.67)	(646.85)	(670.99)
13.	Capital Redemption Reserve	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.00)
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.04)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.04)	(0.00)

NOTE:

(a) The above audited financial results (Standalone and Consolidated) were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on Saturday, the 25th May, 2019.

(b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Yearly/half yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and in terms of SEBI Circular (CIR/IMD/DF/169/2016) dated August 10, 2016. The full financial results are available on the websites of the Bombay Stock Exchange at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and also on Company's website at <http://www.ansalapi.com/>.

(c) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange, BSE Limited and can be accessed on the URL <http://www.ansalapi.com/>.

(d) The Above results of the Company have been Audited by the Statutory Auditors and they have issued an unqualified audit opinion on the same.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
For Ansal Condominium Limited  
Sd/-  
Sumit Bansal  
Director  
DIN:07415139

Date: 25th May, 2019  
Place: New Delhi

**OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED**  
CIN No. L26219HR1989PLC030347  
Regd. Office: Plot No. 17-18, Rock-Meow Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District Mewat, (Haryana)-122103

**NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the following Share Certificates issued by the Company are stated to have been lost or misplaced or stolen and registered shareholders (the legal heir/s) thereof have applied to the Company for issuance of Duplicate Share Certificates:

Shareholder Name	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.
Nitin Nahar	9029	19874	3841901 - 42000

The public is hereby warned against purchase or dealing in any way, with the above mentioned Share Certificates. Any person (s) who has/have any claim in respect of the said Share Certificates should lodge such claim with the Company at its registered office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, after which no claim will be entertained and the Company will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

for OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED  
Sd/-  
Rajjan Handa  
Managing Director

Date: 25.05.2019  
Place: New Delhi

**M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED**  
CIN: L67120DL1992PLC049038, Tel No. 011-49800900, Fax: 011-49800933  
E-mail: [commodities@bharatbhushan.com](mailto:commodities@bharatbhushan.com), Website: [www.bbinvestments.in](http://www.bbinvestments.in)  
Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001  
AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER / YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	For quarter ended 31.03.2019	For Year Ended 31.03.2019	For Year Ended 31.03.2018	For quarter ended 31.03.2018
	UNAUDITED	AUDITED	AUDITED	UNAUDITED
1. Total Income from operations	30.16	106.65	103.33	29.87
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	21.92	77.04	74.79	22.36
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	21.92	77.04	74.79	22.36
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	17.65	62.16	59.51	17.07
5. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
6. Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) (as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year)	NA	575.72	558.38	N.A
7. Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
- Basic	0.52	1.84	1.76	0.50
- Diluted	0.52	1.84	1.76	0.50

NOTE:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results vide Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Audited Financial Results are available on the website of the stock exchange ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and on Company's website ([www.bbinvestments.in](http://www.bbinvestments.in)).

2. The above Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and Audited Financial Results for the year ended March 31st, 2019 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on May 24, 2019.

3. The Board of Directors have recommended a dividend @ 6% i.e. Rs. 0.60 / - per equity share of Rs. 10 each for the Financial Year 2018-19.

4. The figures for the last quarter are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and published year to date figures up to the third quarter of the respective year.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Sd/-  
Nisha Ahuja  
Director  
DIN : 90091875

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 24.05.2019

**R.K.S.D.(PG) COLLEGE, KAITHAL**  
A Grade NAAC Accredited  
Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

Applications are invited for the posts of Assistant Professor in Commerce-3, English-1, Economics-2, Computer Science-2, Music (Vocal)-1 and Mathematics-2 under Self-Finance Scheme. All the posts are in General Category. Apply within 21 days from the date of publication on prescribed application form available from the College Website i.e. [www.rkscollege.com](http://www.rkscollege.com) and attach a Bank DD of Rs. 500/- . Send a copy of the application to the Dean of Colleges, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. Enclose attested copies of all the Certificates.

Qualification/Pay Scale/Terms and Conditions of appointment/ Relaxation in Age /Criteria for Selection etc. as per latest DGHE/KUKUCG norms/rules (Under Self Finance Scheme).

Saket Mangal, Advocate  
President, Governing Body 01746-222368

Dr. S.K. Goyal  
Principal

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
NOTICE FOR DISCONTINUATION OF NIT IN NEWSPAPER

"All the Stores Tenders issued from the office of the Principal Chief Materials Manager, Central Railway, CSMT, Mumbai and from all the offices of Depots/Divisional Stores Officers under PCMM Central Railway are published on Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) only. Notice of tender invitation will not be published in Newspaper any more. The website address on which the tenders are published and documents are available for participating in E-tender is [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)"

RPF Security Helpline 182 | All India Passenger Helpline 138

**HDFC BANK** Department for Special Operations, 5th Floor,  
Ansal Classique Tower Rajouri Garden, New Delhi - 110027

**POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Sanctionization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 1.12.2018 calling upon the borrower M/s Variations Designs P. Ltd, Pursharth through its Directors/Guarantors/Mortgagors Mr. Bharat Bhushan Bhardwaj, Ms. Rashna Sareen Bhardwaj, Mr. Santosh Kumar Sharma and Ms. Sheela Sharma to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 2,75,84,261.77 (Rupees Two Crores Seventy Five Lacs Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixty One & Paise Seventy Seven only) thereon w.e.f. 01.12.2018 together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor/mortgagor and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 24th day of May, 2019 at Vasant Kunj, Delhi.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower's/Mortgagor, in particular, and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with this property and any dealings with this property will be subject to the charge of HDFC Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 2,75,84,261.77 (Rupees Two Crores Seventy Five Lacs Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixty One & Paise Seventy Seven only) and interest thereon w.e.f. 01.12.2018 as aforesaid along with expenses and charges etc.

Description of property	Date & Time of Possession
Residential Flat No 1544, First Floor, Sector C, Pocket 1, Vasant Kunj, Delhi	24.05.2019 10.00 AM onwards

Note: The above notice be also considered as 30 days notice for sale under rule 6, 8 and 9 of the Act.

Date: 24/05/2019 Place: New Delhi  
Authorized Officer  
For HDFC Bank Ltd.

# US orders new troops to West Asia to counter Iran 'threat'

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States said it was deploying 1,500 additional troops to the West Asia to counter "credible threats" from Iran in a move denounced by Tehran on Saturday as "a threat to international peace".

"Increased US presence in our region is very dangerous and a threat to international peace and security and must be confronted," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told the official IRNA news agency.

The escalation of the US military presence follows a decision in early May to send an aircraft carrier strike force and B-52 bombers in a show of force against what Washington's leaders believed was an im-

minent Iranian plan to attack US assets.

And it comes as the Trump administration is planning to bypass congressional restrictions to sell arms to Saudi Arabia, a close US ally and Iran's arch-enemy in the region.

"This is a prudent response to credible threats from Iran," acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said Friday.

President Donald Trump, who approved the deployment, called it "protective." "We want to have protection in the Middle East," Trump told reporters as he prepared to set off on a trip to Japan.

"We're going to be sending a relatively small number of troops, mostly protective," Trump added. "It'll be about 1,500 people."

The new deployment includes reconnaissance aircraft, fighter jets and engineers. Six hundred of the personnel belong to a Patriot missile defense battalion that had its deployment in the region extended.

Pentagon officials said the move was necessary after multiple threatening actions and several small-in-scope attacks in May by Iranian forces, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, and "proxy" forces.

Those include a rocket launched into the Green Zone in Baghdad, explosive devices that damaged four tankers in Fujairah near the entrance to the Gulf, and a Houthi drone attack against a Saudi oil installation.

Iran has denied involvement in any of the attacks.

"Americans make such claims to justify their hostile policies and to create tension in the Persian Gulf," Zarif said.

The initial threat came at the beginning of May, according to Rear Admiral Michael Gilday, director of the Pentagon's Joint Staff.

**The escalation of the US military presence follows a decision in early May to send an aircraft carrier strike force and B-52 bombers in a show of force against what Washington's leaders believed was an imminent Iranian plan to attack US assets**



strategy by Iran to threaten global trade and to destabilize the region."

"We believe with a high degree of confidence that this stems back to the leadership of Iran at the highest levels, and that all of the attacks... Have been attributed to Iran through their proxies or their forces," Gilday said, citing still-secret US intelligence.

US officials said the aim of the deployment was both to extend greater protection to the 70,000 US forces in the Middle East and Afghanistan, and to deliver a message to Iran to refrain from attacks.

"We think that through a combination of a very measured deployment of assets as well as public messaging, we are again trying to underscore that

we are not seeking hostilities with Iran," he said.

Gilday said the US moves have had some impact. When Washington first learned of Tehran's alleged intent to launch attacks, it delivered a stern warning to Tehran "within hours" through an unnamed third party.

Since then, the threat of the missile-bearing dhows appears to have subsided.

However, the Trump administration continues to draw criticism that it has not clearly shown the need for an escalation.

Members of Congress were also angered that Trump was overriding their block on delivery of lethal weapons to the Saudis.

"More tactics with

absolutely no strategy," tweeted Democratic Senator Chris Murphy.

"All that is happening now is escalatory move after escalatory move. Trump has ZERO plan for how this ends, and that should scare the hell out of everyone." But Pentagon officials stressed that the US does not seek war with Iran.

"We do not see these additional capabilities as encouraging hostilities. We see them as defensive in nature," said acting Assistant Secretary of Defense Katie Wheelbarger.

"Our policy remains an economic and diplomatic effort to bring Iran back to the negotiating table to encourage a comprehensive deal that addresses the range of their destabilizing behavior in the region."

## Zarif arrives in Baghdad to meet with Iraq officials

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iranian media are reporting that the country's Foreign Minister has arrived in Baghdad to meet with Iraqi counterpart and other officials.

The official IRNA news agency reported Saturday that Mohammad Javad Zarif will meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed al-Hakim, Iraqi President Barham Salih, and Prime Minister Mohammed al-Halbousi during his two-day visit.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman says Zarif will discuss the situation and ways of finding common ground. On Friday, Zarif was in Pakistan and met officials there as tensions



Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed al-Hakim, right, shakes hands with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building in Baghdad, Iraq. AP | File

## US troop boost 'threat to international peace': Iran

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Saturday a US decision to deploy 1,500 additional troops to the Middle East is a "threat to international peace," state media reported.

"Increased US presence in our region is very dangerous and a threat to international peace and security and must be confronted," Zarif told the official IRNA news agency before heading home from a visit to Pakistan.

Washington says the reinforcements, which come after the deployment earlier this month of an aircraft carrier task force, B-52 bombers, an amphibious assault ship and a

missile defence system, are in response to "campaign" of recent attacks approved by Iran's top leadership.

"Americans make such claims to justify their hostile policies and to create tension in the Persian Gulf," Zarif said.

The United States this month ended the last exemptions it had granted from sweeping unilateral sanctions it reimposed after abandoning a landmark 2015 nuclear agreement with major powers and Iran in May last year.

The move dealt a heavy blow to Iran's already reeling economy as even vocal critics of the renewed sanctions, like Turkey, announced they had stopped buying Iranian oil.

## UK leadership hopefuls vow to succeed where May failed on Brexit

AFP ■ LONDON

The race to become Britain's next premier opened Saturday with an array of hopefuls promising to succeed where Theresa May failed and finally pull the divided country out of the EU.

But European leaders insisted they had made their final offer during months of acrimonious negotiations that resulted in an unpopular compromise for which May ended up paying with her job.

The British prime minister's voice broke on the steps of her Downing Street office when she told Britons on Friday that she was quitting on June 7.

May is bowing out with her legacy in tatters and the coun-

try in agony over what to do about voters' decision in 2016 to abandon the European integration project after nearly 50 years.

The markets view the risk of Britain crashing out of the bloc when the twice-delayed departure date arrives on October 31 as uncomfortably high.

The pound has been steadily losing value since May 6 and British business lobbies are raising the alarm. Their main concern is that current frontrunners to head May's Conservative Party say they will get Brexit done at any cost.

"We will leave the EU on October 31, deal or no deal," said former foreign minister Boris Johnson in a speech delivered Friday in Switzerland.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

1. Mrs. Mandep Kaur, age about 46, D/o late Davinder pal Singh, W/o Mr. Kamaljit Singh, R/o: 63, Ashoka Crescent, DLF Phase I, Gurgaon, Haryana 122002, do here by solemnly declare as under.

1. I have lost the original Title deed documents of Ownership and Builder Agreement etc. of Plot no-127B/5, Area 171 Sq. Feet at Somdatt Chamber-1, Bhikaji Kama Place, New Delhi-110066 in the name of my father Late Davinder Pal Singh

2. Those documents could not be traced out of the best of my knowledge.

3. Those documents are not impounded by any authority / Department.

DEPONENT



From left, Betty Hilderbrand, and her daughters Sandy Cover, center, and Dixie Meredith, of Bremerton, Washington, visit the grave of Hilderbrand's late husband, Alfred Hilderbrand Jr., who served in World War II in the US Navy, at Tahoma National Cemetery on Friday in Kent, Washington. Monday is Memorial Day, a US federal holiday to honor those who died while serving in the military. AP

### S. E. Railway Tender

Tender No. : (1) E-KGP-BRIDGE-07-2019; (2) E-KGP-BRIDGE-06-2019, dated 20.05.2019. e-Tender invited by the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. SI. No., Description of work, Tender Value, Earnest Money, Completion period of the work are as follows : (1) Strengthening/replacement of cracked worn out and corroded members of 300' span of Br No. 57 UP (2x100'+7x300') at KM 54/3-37 in between station DTE-KIG of HWH-KGP section (6th call), ₹ 1,20,65,458.31, ₹ 2,10,400/-, 12 (twelve) months. (2) Rehabilitation by providing new steel member with metalizing of FOB-MRGM, SRC-Station and SRC Yard, BSBP, Port-facility of EOT crane at EL/SRC and TPKR, metalizing of welded girder at UL B station yard under SSE/BR/KIG and strengthening of FOB/MCA SSE/BR/KGP under AXEN/BR/L of Kharagpur Division (4th call), ₹ 57,58,401.84, ₹ 1,15,200/-, 08 (eight) months. Cost of Tender documents: ₹ 5,000/- for each work. Date of opening : 27.06.2019 for each work. Date of submission : from 13.06.2019 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 27.06.2019. Interested tenderers may visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for full details/description of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. NB : Prospective Bidders may regularly visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to participate in all other tenders. PR-199

### NORTH KOREA MISSILE TESTS VIOLATED UN RESOLUTIONS: BOLTON

Tokyo: US national security adviser John Bolton on Saturday called a series of short-range missile tests by North Korea earlier this month a violation of UN Security Council resolutions and said sanctions must be kept in place.

Washington's position on the North's denuclearisation is consistent and a repeated pattern of failures to rid North Korea of nuclear weapons should be stopped, Bolton said, defending the recent U.S. seizure of a North Korean cargo ship. The US, however, is willing to resume talks with North Korea at any time, Bolton said.

Bolton was speaking to reporters in Tokyo ahead of President Donald Trump's arrival for a four-day visit to Japan.

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O. : "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax No.: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com)

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Time Extension-03**  
(EIA/EMP Study)

Notice No. : 12/EE(Civil-I)/LMP/2018-19

UJVNL Limited invites "Expression of Interest" from firms accredited by NABET/QCI for River valley projects for collection of 3 season baseline data as per EIA notification 2006 to be used in "Carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan (EIA-EMP) Study of Lakhwar MPP" in the state of Uttarakhand. The Terms and Conditions of invited Notice modified 5(ii) as: "Bidder should have prepared EIA/EMP study report for at least one no. of project Hydro-electric Power Projects/Irrigation project in India, for which Environmental Clearance is received (copy of Environmental Clearance received and order of developer) during last 7 years ending last day of month previous to the one in which this bid is invited". All other Terms and Conditions shall remain same.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bid: 03.06.2019 upto 16:00 Hrs. in the Office of EE (C-I), Lakhwar Project, Dakpathar, Dehradun.

Date of opening of bid: 04.06.2019 at 15:30 Hrs. in the Office of EE (C-I), Lakhwar Project, Dakpathar, Dehradun.

Bidder are advised to regularly visit UJVNL website [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com). Executive Engineer(Civil-I) 239/UJVNL/Adv.I Dated 24-05-2019 Lakhwar MPP UJVNL, Dakpathar

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

## NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

No. CID/SLR/Tender/2017 Date : 24.05.2019  
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-tender for the contract of leasing of SLR/SLRD space in the following trains originating from various stations over Delhi Division :-

Tender Opening Date : 26.06.2019										
S. No.	Train	Station From	Station To	Comptt. (SLR/SLRD)	CC (Tonnes)	Days of operation	R.P. (Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Cost including GST @18% (in Rs.)	Tender No.
1	54413	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54413-May19
2	54413	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-54413-May19
3	54413	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54413-May19
4	54309	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54309-May19
5	54309	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-54309-May19
6	54309	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54309-May19
7	54085	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54085-May19
8	54085	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-54085-May19
9	54085	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54085-May19
10	54035	Delhi	Jakhai Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	840	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54035-May19
11	54035	Delhi	Jakhai Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	840	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-54035-May19
12	54035	Delhi	Jakhai Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	840	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54035-May19
13	54033	Delhi	Narwana	4	F-I	Daily	756	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54033-May19
14	54033	Delhi	Narwana	4	F-II	Daily	756	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-54033-May19
15	54033	Delhi	Narwana	4	R-I	Daily	756	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54033-May19
16	54005	Delhi	Bhiwani	4	F-I	Daily	1227	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54005-May19
17	54005	Delhi	Bhiwani	4	F-II	Daily	1227	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-54005-May19
18	54005	Delhi	Bhiwani	4	R-I	Daily	1227	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54005-May19
19	14731	Delhi	Fazilka Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	5675	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-14731-May19
20	14731	Delhi	Fazilka Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	5675	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-14731-May19
21	14731	Delhi	Fazilka Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	5675	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-14731-May19
22	14164	Meerut City	Allahabad Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	6632	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-14164-May19
23	14164	Meerut City	Allahabad Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	6632	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-14164-May19
24	14164	Meerut City	Allahabad Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	6632	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-14164-May19
25	54303	Delhi	Kalka Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	5619	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54303-May19
26	54303	Delhi	Kalka Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	5619	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-54303-May19
27	54303	Delhi	Kalka Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	5619	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54303-May19
28	12013	New Delhi	Amritsar Jn.	3.9	F-I	Daily	6154	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-12013-May19
29	51909	Delhi	Saharanpur	4	F-I	Daily	3856	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-51909-May19
30	51909	Delhi	Saharanpur	4	F-II	Daily	3856	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-51909-May19
31	51909	Delhi	Saharanpur	4	R-I	Daily	3856	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-51909-May19
32	51913	Delhi	Saharanpur	4	F-I	Daily	3856	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-51913-May19
33	51913	Delhi	Saharanpur	4	F-II	Daily	3856	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-51913-May19
34	51913	Delhi	Saharanpur	4	R-I	Daily	3856	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-51913-May19
35	12481	Delhi	Shri Ganganagar	4	F-I	Daily	6944	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-12481-May19
36	12481	Delhi	Shri Ganganagar	4	F-II	Daily	6944	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-12481-May19
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38	54471	Delhi	Rishikesh	4	F-I	Daily	5390	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54471-May19
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40	54475	Delhi	Haridwar	4	R-I	Daily	4902	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54475-May19
41	54475	Delhi	Haridwar	4	R-I	Daily	4902	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54475-May19
42	22454	Meerut City	Lucknow NE	4	F-I	Daily	5133	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-22454-May19
43	51911	Delhi	Saharanpur	4	F-I	Daily	2722	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-51911-May19
44	51911	Delhi	Saharanpur	4	F-II	Daily	2722	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-51911-May19
45	51911	Delhi	Saharanpur	4	R-I	Daily	2722	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-51911-May19
46	22110	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Lokmanya Tilak T.	3.9	F-I	Wednesday	13767	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-22110-May19
47	12457	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Bikaner	4	F-I	Daily	7272	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-12457-May19
48	12457	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Bikaner	4	F-II	Daily	7272	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-12457-May19
49	12457	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Bikaner	4	R-I	Daily	7272	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-12457-May19
50	12455	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Bikaner	4	F-I	Daily	8312	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-12455-May19
51	12455	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Bikaner	4	R-I	Daily	8312	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-12455-May19
52	12981	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Udaipur City	4	F-I	Daily	6990	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-12981-May19
53	12981	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Udaipur City	4	F-II	Daily	6990	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-12981-May19
54	12981	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Udaipur City	4	R-I	Daily	6990	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-12981-May19
55	12459	New Delhi	Amritsar	4	F-I	Daily	5049	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-12459-May19
56	12459	New Delhi	Amritsar	4	F-II	Daily	5049	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-12459-May19
57	12459	New Delhi	Amritsar	4	R-I	Daily	5049	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-12459-May19
58	12047	New Delhi	Firozpur Cantt	3.9	F-I	Monday, Friday	5588	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-12047-May19
59	12011	New Delhi	Kalka	3.9	F-I	Daily	4834	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-12011-May19
60	12005	New Delhi	Kalka	3.9	F-I	Daily	4834	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-12005-May19
61	54417	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54417-May19
62	54417	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-54417-May19
63	54417	Delhi	Rewari Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	528	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54417-May19
64	54031	Delhi	JIND Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	645	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-54031-May19
65	54031	Delhi	JIND Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	645	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-54031-May19
66	54031	Delhi	JIND Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	645	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-54031-May19
67	14095	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Kalka Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	3966	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-14095-May19
68	14095	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Kalka Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	3966	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-14095-May19
69	14095	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Kalka Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	3966	100000/-	1180	SLR-RI-14095-May19
70	14681	New Delhi	Jalandhar City	4	F-I	Daily	4972	100000/-	1180	SLR-FI-14681-May19
71	14681	New Delhi	Jalandhar City	4	F-II	Daily	4972	100000/-	1180	SLR-FII-14681-May19
72</										

# SWINGING SHAKE UP

Boult led Kiwi attack exploit friendly conditions to expose Indian batting woes as Men in Blue face humiliating 6-wicket defeat in first warm up game

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian batting line-up's soft underbelly lay exposed in slightly favourable bowling conditions as New Zealand gave a rude wake-up call, winning the first warm-up game ahead of the ICC World Cup by six wickets here on Saturday.

Under overcast conditions, Trent Boult's (4/33 in 6.2 overs) incisive swing bowling was a test of technique for the Indian top-order batsmen and the Men in Blue never recovered from an early collapse, being bowled out for 179 in 39.2 overs.

It was a walk in the park for the 'Black Caps' as they reached the target in only 37.1 overs with Kane Williamson (67) and Ross Taylor (71) helping themselves to half-centuries.

While it was a warm-up game and the outcome of the result isn't something that India would be bothered too much but what certainly would keep them worried is the failure to find a solution to their problems.

KL Rahul failed at No 4, Dinesh Karthik's poor IPL form continued while Vijay Shankar and Kedar Jadhav's respective injuries in all likelihood would prevent the team management from checking them out against Bangladesh in the second warm-up game at Cardiff.

The two wrist spinners — Kuldeep Yadav (0/44 in 8.1 overs) and Yuzvendra Chahal (1/37 in 6 overs), who have gone off the boil in the past few months — also didn't make much of an impact.

A sub-200 total meant that Williamson and Taylor, during their 114-run stand, hardly took risk against the duo, getting run-a-ball with minimum fuss.

For India, Ravindra Jadeja's decent show (54 off 50 balls and 1/27 in 7 overs) was the only silver lining.

There was a possibility that after IPL, played on pitches devoid of any lateral movement and conditions that didn't aid swing bowling, the footwork would remain a touch iffy for Indian batsmen.

It was Boult's first spell which saw openers Rohit Sharma (2) and Shikhar Dhawan (2) along with No. 4 KL Rahul (6) being dismissed that proved to be decisive in overcast conditions.

The lack of footwork was evident as Boult trapped Rohit with a delivery that darted in while Dhawan had an inside edge to a delivery that had a shade more bounce. Rahul was



played on when Boult got one to rear up. On all three occasions, there was distinct lack of footwork.

Skipper Virat Kohli (18 off 24 balls) found his defence breached by Colin de Grandhomme's off-cutter trying to play across the line.

Jadeja's half-century ensured a 175-plus score for the 'Men in Blue' after being reduced to 115 for 8 at one stage. His 62-run ninth-wicket stand with Kuldeep Yadav (19) was the only saving grace for India in an otherwise disappointing batting performance.

Before Jadeja, it was Hardik Pandya (30 off 37 balls), who added 38 runs with Mahendra Singh Dhoni (17 off 42 balls) for the fifth wicket.

Dhoni's painful stay at the crease was cut short by Tim Southee when he was caught at short mid-wicket while trying to give the bowler charge.

Dhoni, who takes time to settle down, not for once looked comfortable and failed to rotate the strike during the partnership, consuming a lot of deliveries.

It was Jimmy Neesham (3/26 in 3 overs), who dismissed Hardik with a cross-seam delivery that moved a shade, inducing an outside edge.

Hardik was promoted ahead of Dhoni in adverse conditions and he showed positive intent with six boundaries.

Dinesh Karthik was gone in the same over, flicking a half-volley straight to fine leg and it was Jadeja, who resurrected the innings with Kuldeep for company.

When New Zealand batted, Jasprit Bumrah (4-2-2-1) bowled a testing first spell and Mohammed Shami (4-0-16-0) also found the right length, which will be a positive that Kohli and Co. can take from this game.



## Boos no bother to ton-up Smith

AFP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Steve Smith said he had no problems being jeered by spectators as he marked his first match against England following a year-long ban for ball-tampering with a hundred at Southampton on Saturday.

Smith's 116 was the centrepiece of Australia's 297 for nine against England in a World Cup warm-up fixture.

"I'm pretty chilled, everyone's entitled to their opinion," Smith told Sky Sports during the innings break when asked about the crowd's taunts.

"I'm just happy to be back playing. Fortunately, I was able to contribute today and hopefully I can take this form into the World Cup."

If the sound of Smith and team-mate David Warner being booed was a sign of things to come, England will hope the former Australia captain's innings is not an omen for a season that includes both the World Cup and a five-Test Ashes series.

Smith and Warner only returned to international duty earlier this month after they both completed 12-month suspensions.

Warner was booed first by spectators on Saturday when he walked out to open the innings with captain Aaron Finch after Australia lost the toss.

'GET 'EM STEVIE'

And when the left-hander arrived at the crease, one fan shouted: "Get off Warner you cheat."

Warner's dismissal for 43,

caught in the deep by Jonny Bairstow off Liam Plunkett, was greeted by immediate cheers from England fans.

But there were more boos as he returned to the pavilion to be replaced by Smith, coming in with Australia 82 for two in the 17th over.

The BBC reported there were a few chants of "cheat, cheat, cheat", although a lone Australia fan shouted "Get 'em Stevie!"

There was, however, the customary round of applause from the crowd for a batsman reaching his fifty when Smith got to the landmark.

Long a thorn in England's side, Smith went to 99 with a superb carved six over third man off Ben Stokes.

The next ball delivery saw Smith complete a 94-ball hundred, including eight fours, prompting yet more boos as well as clapping to acknowledge his century.

Smith's innings ended in bizarre fashion when, off the penultimate ball of the innings, third umpire Joel Wilson ruled he'd been caught and bowled by Tom Curran off what looked to be a bump ball.

Earlier, injury-prone England fast bowler Mark Wood could only manage 3.1 overs before going off with what a team spokesman said was "left foot discomfort".

The Durham quick then went to hospital for a scan.

Meanwhile Liam Dawson split the skin on his right finger, with England saying the spinner would not bat on his Hampshire home ground.

## No fracture detected in Shankar's scan reports

PTI ■ LONDON

The Indian team heaved a sigh of relief after scan reports revealed that all-rounder Vijay Shankar hasn't sustained a fracture on his right forearm after being hit by net bowler Khaleel Ahmed during a training session on Friday.

Shankar had left the field and was taken for a

precautionary scan, the reports of which came on Saturday.

"Vijay Shankar was hit on his right forearm during practice on Friday. He underwent scans and no fracture has been detected. BCCI Medical Team is aiding him in his recovery," BCCI posted on their twitter handle.

However, the Tamil Nadu all-rounder didn't

take part in the first warm-up game and is also unlikely to play in the second practice match against Bangladesh at Cardiff on Tuesday as there is a bit of bruise, which will take time to heal.

Shankar on Saturday took some throwdowns batting 'single-handed' during the net session prior to the New Zealand game.



## Pak seek recovery after Afghan defeat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan, who suffered a three-wicket loss to Afghanistan in their first warm-up game on Friday, will look to find winning ways against Bangladesh, before the real action unfolds at the Men's World Cup.

Things aren't looking great for Pakistan ahead of the World Cup as they've remained winless in their last 11 ODIs. Their three-wicket loss to Afghanistan in their first warm-up match only deepened concerns. At 203/4 in the 38th over, they were on course for getting an above par first innings total. But the lower middle-order collapse restricted their innings to 262 all-out in the 48th over.

Their bowling unit seemed much the same like it was in the recently concluded ODI series against England, failing to produce wickets for most part of the innings. Mohammad Amir went wicket-less in his six overs, bowling at an average speed of 82.6 mph, markedly slower than his normal pace. Wahab Riaz's late burst was the only significant positive but the game was far

gone by then. The Sarfaraz Ahmed-led side will look to capitalise their final chance to make amends, before they take on West Indies on 31 May in Nottingham in the tournament proper.

Bangladesh come fresh from a tri-series win in Ireland, after they beat West Indies in a rain-affected final. After being clean-swept in New Zealand earlier in the year, the series saw great results for them with significant contributions from their senior players like Shakib Al Hasan, Soumya Sarkar, Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim. New comer Abu Jayed, whose spot was uncertain in the final World Cup squad earlier, too produced a match winning spell of 5/58 against Ireland.

Bangladesh, who had caused the biggest upset at the World Cup 2015, knocking the current hosts England out of the competition, will look to maintain their good form and try to get a settled combination before their campaign gets underway against South Africa on 2 June.

(Venue: Sophia Gardens, Cardiff)

## WI look to announce themselves in style

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

West Indies' recent one-day international form isn't anything to swoon over, but with a full strength team at their disposal, they will hope to send a message as they take on South Africa in their first World Cup warm-up game on Sunday.

Windies come into their first official warm-up on back of mixed fortunes. While they trounced hosts Ireland in each of their two games in the tri-series, they were outclassed on all three occasions by Bangladesh, including in the final.

However, they were not playing their full strength side in that series and stalwarts like Chris Gayle, Andre Russell and Nicholas Pooran among others, were absent. With them back in the fold, Windies look a lot more well-rounded outfit although they were beaten rather convincingly by Australia in an unofficial warm-up fixture two days ago.

The Windies batting has a pretty robust feel about it. The likes of Gayle, Russell, Pooran, Shimron Hetmyer and Evin Lewis are able



to play big shots for breakfast, while Darren Bravo and Shai Hope are capable of holding things down.

It is their bowling that looks a touch off-colour. Skipper Jason Holder's recent rise in Test cricket hasn't reflected in his ODI numbers. Kumar Roach picked a whole bunch of wickets in the tri-series and while Shannon Gabriel was also among the wickets, not

too many of those came against Bangladesh.

They will be up against a confident South Africa, who come into the game on back of a resounding 87-run win against Sri Lanka in their first warm-up. The Proteas seem to have covered all bases, but will want their batsmen to get some more runs.

(Venue: Bristol County Ground)

## Collingwood takes field during warm-up game

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Former skipper and current assistant coach Paul Collingwood on Saturday was forced to take the ground as a substitute fielder after England pacers Mark Wood and Jofra Archer suffered injury scares in a warm-up game against Australia.

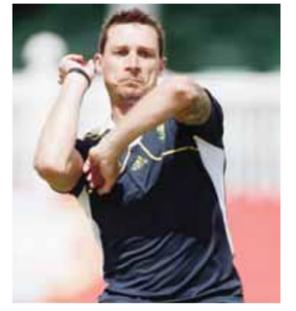
The 42-year-old, who had led England to 2010 T20 World Cup title, walked out to field after Mark Wood and his replacement Jofra Archer left the ground following injuries.

While Wood walked off the field after suffering a hamstring injury in his fourth over, Archer also left soon after injuring himself while fielding at the deep.

Collingwood, England's fielding coach, was then seen running around on the ground wearing Wood's World Cup jersey, giving ample display of his fitness.

Joe Root, who was rested for Saturday's warm-up match, was also asked to take the field.

England captain Eoin Morgan was missing in action Saturday due to a finger injury suffered during a training session, while spinner Adil Rashid skipped the warm-up game due to a shoulder injury, leaving the hosts with no option but to bring Collingwood onto the field.



## Steyn's fitness will decide SA composition

IANIS ■ CARDIFF

It was a cakewalk for South Africa as they registered a 87-run victory against Sri Lanka in a World Cup warm-up game on Friday, but more importantly it was their depth in squad that came to the fore.

Andile Phehlukwayo (35), Dwaane Pretorius (25 not out) and Chris Morris (26 not out) got important runs while Phehlukwayo (4/36) and Pretorius (1/34) bagged wickets too, strengthening their case for a spot in the starting XI.

Phehlukwayo was particularly impressive with the ball, as Hashim Amla (65) and skipper Faf Du Plessis (88) also got runs.

"I think there is quite good competition and good depth within the squad," Phehlukwayo was quoted as saying by www.crickworldcup.com.

"Personally, I am not looking in terms of those competitions. I just want to contribute for the team, whoever is playing in that all-rounder position is obviously the person in form and hopefully they can do the job for the team. Aside from that I don't think personally I have any agenda in terms of the all-rounder.

Skipper du Plessis said that at least one of those three players would have to sit out. "There is definitely not space for three of them," he said. "Depending on fitness, Dale Steyn is progressing. So, if he doesn't progress the way that he wants to then two all-rounders come into the equation. If our fast bowlers are all fit, we love that diversity in our attack."

## Former players urge Sarfaraz to bat higher up the order

PTI ■ KARACHI

Former Pakistan cricketers have urged skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed to bat higher up the order so that the team could post big totals in the upcoming World Cup, starting May 30.

"Sarfaraz does not have the big shots to justify his batting at number 5, 6 or 7. He needs to bat higher up so that he can build his innings and help Pakistan get big totals," former captain Shahid Afridi said.

"He is wasting himself coming lower than four and this doesn't help the team. If Pakistan is to do well in the World Cup, Sarfaraz has a big role to play as captain and player. He has to be the leader on and off the field," he added.

Sarfaraz's batting position has become a matter of debate as he has batted mostly lower down the order but moved up a couple of times in the recent ODI series against England but on Friday in the warm-up game against Afghanistan, he again came late at number six.

"He has to realise that his worth for the team is at number four or five. He is the sort of player who can change the momentum of the game with his rotation of strike and ability to keep the scoreboard moving," Pakistan's most successful Test captain Misbah-ul-Haq said.

Misbah noted that Sarfaraz coming up the order will allow the team to utilise the two senior most

players — Muhammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik — properly.

Former wicketkeeper-batsman Moin Khan said he had suggested Sarfaraz before the team left for England to open the innings if necessary.

"In the last World Cup I was the chief selector and I tried him out as an opener and he did well. He is someone who needs overs to pace his innings."

With openers Fakhar Zaman, Inam-ul-Haq and one down Babar Zaman having batting averages of 50 plus, number four is the best position for Sarfaraz followed by Hafeez, Malik, Asif, felt Moin.

Some of his critics have used Sarfaraz's reluctance to bat higher up in the order

as an excuse to blame him for letting the team down.

"A captain has to lead by example and if he comes at number four, the other batsmen will also respond and play sensibly," Test wicketkeeper-batsman Kamran Akmal said.

Enigmatic fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar also urged Sarfaraz to bat higher up the order and be more authoritative as captain on the field and in the dressing room.

"He has to marshal the innings and he has to play the team he wants not the eleven the chief selector and the head coach want. Only then will he be able to do well in the World Cup."



# the pioneer agenda



## Krishna's imprints on Jainism

Despite their rich theological tradition, the Jains assigned Lord Krishna equal status next to that of the Tirthankara



## Organise the mind for success

It is a fact that a relaxed mind is more productive. This offers ground to remain focused, which in turn, leads to success

I went through this realisation that acting, at its heart, is the ability to manipulate your own emotions  
Scarlett Johansson



FROM THE INSIDE

# A KALEIDOSCOPE OF HERITAGES



*Socioliterary Cultures in South Asia* studies five nations — Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka — which share not just national boundaries but also a history of diverse literary and linguistic practices, many of which have at different points in history overlapped, interacted or informed each other, writes AVANTIKA POKHRIYAL

That India is a land of diverse literary and cultural traditions has been used so often as to have become a truism. However, similar attention to the variegated nature of the socio-cultural as well as the literary landscape of the larger region of South Asia is missing. In fact, in the popular narratives of the self-congratulatory brand of nationalism, one tends to juxtapose the fluidity and multiplicity of India with the apparently static literary and social life of the nations in its immediate vicinity. Additionally, the use of markers such as 'South Asia' denotes a sense of homogeneity and uniformity which leaves little room for conceptualisation of a unique national identity, let alone of innovations and differences of each nation within the said area. It is only through an analysis of the entire region with an acute awareness simultaneously of what unites and also what gives each constituent country its distinctive identity can one truly begin to challenge the imposition of labels of Western origin. In spite of what they might suggest, labels are never wholly organic and they always create as much as they name a reality.

*Socioliterary Cultures in South Asia* by Anisur Rahman is an attempt towards understanding the "...self-evolved centrality of each location [in South Asia]" so that when "all of them [are] taken together", they "impart uniqueness to a broader South Asian identity". The book has a twofold aim, which is to celebrate the individual socioliterary identity of the nations comprising South Asia and to also understand that this microcosmic focus does not necessarily unravel the collective political identity. In other words, the book manages to maintain a fine balance between the local and the global.

Rahman, a former professor at the department of English in Jamia Millia Islamia University, is an author, poet, and translator and has various publications as well as edited/co-edited works to his credit, including *Hazaron Khawashen Aisi: The Wonderful World of Urdu Ghazals* (2018) and *In Translation: Positions and Paradigms* (2019). His latest book, *Socioliterary Cultures in South Asia*, is an ambitious literary enterprise which, as the name suggests, covers the rather expansive geo-literary territory of South Asia. The aim of undertaking this challenge is prompted by, as the author writes in the preface of the

book, the desire to resist the homogeneity imposed on the region through the use of the term 'South Asia'. *Socioliterary Cultures* studies five nations — Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka — which share not just national boundaries but also a history of diverse literary and linguistic practices many of which have at different points in history overlapped, interacted or informed each other. Through its nuanced analysis, the book stresses on the distinctive character of each of these countries without contesting or undermining the sense of a collective South Asian identity. There is a clear sense of co-sharing and co-development, which does not take away from an appreciation of the distinctiveness of each literary culture. In the author's own words, "In addition to their social, cultural, economic, and political variables, South Asian nations have had a shared history of underdevelopment... they have always impacted each other either directly and indirectly, but even while they have done so, they have maintained their intrinsic differences."

The book covers a wide expanse of time from the medieval period of the Sufi poet Rumi (1207-1273) and the Bhakti poet, Sant Kabir (c 1338-1448) to the contemporary era. It has a clear postcolonial emphasis in the ways it identifies the writers and texts as well as in its acknowledgement of the distinctive literary history of each region.

*Socioliterary Cultures* is divided into three thematically arranged sections: 'Secular Traditions', 'Imaginary Landscapes', and 'Realistic Configurations', each of which moves across spatial/national boundaries. The book will certainly be an asset for anyone interested in literature, particularly because of the lucid writing style. The ideas have been explained well and the arguments are clear and devoid of any pedantic jargon which make it an engaging read for people across a wide spectrum. The thematic variety that the book explores — from Premchand to the cinematic representation of Muslims in India, and from the Sufi poet Rumi to contemporary women poets of Pakistan — ensures that there is something for all kinds of readers.

Through its 17 chapters, the book fulfills its promise of offering a broad and expansive layout of the literary landscape of the five nations under consideration. Chapters such as 'An Evolving Text: Tahmima Anam's A

*Golden Age* focus on the literary scenario of Bangladesh — an otherwise severely neglected area in South Asian studies — through the analysis of Anam's debut novel released in 2007. The novel depicts the struggles of a widowed woman, Rehana Haque, trying to raise her family in a country struggling to create its national identity. Anam's work is noteworthy for the way it weaves together the personal and the public, but also how it underlines a shared history of the subcontinent all the while maintaining its commitment to delineating the war for the liberation of Bangladesh.

As the author notes: "It has been generally argued that *A Golden Age* is a novel that draws essentially upon the experiences of war and liberation. To develop a larger and more Catholic view, I should like to posit that apart from drawing upon the idea and experience of war and liberation, this novel operates at two particular levels of time and space as it moves through the meandering motions of a historical period and the shifting locations in a given space. Even while it engages directly with Bangladesh, it also refers back and forth to two neighbours — India and Pakistan — that act as causes to many effects at the personal level of the characters involved and the political levels of the countries in question... This saga, which projects Bangladesh in a direct-indirect relationship with India and Pakistan, with all their parities and disparities, represents a major aspect of contemporary history of the Indian subcontinent."

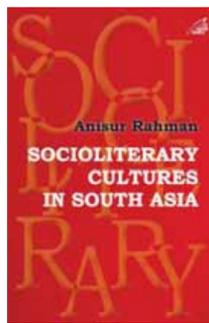
Keeping in tune with its broad thematic focus, the book covers a wide variety of genres from poetry to films. This, in turn, attests to the rich diversity of socioliterary output of the region under consideration. The author draws upon the printed text as well as the tradition of oral recitation, as in the case of Kajri. It is "a verbal and performance text", which was sung primarily when rain-bearing clouds were heavy in the sky. Traditionally, a harbinger of the rains, the singing of Kajri is not limited to the monsoon season. It is a highly flexible form of poetry, which can incorporate issues that are political/public in nature. For instance, Kajri has been employed by some poets, like Ustad Bismillah Khan, to suggest an environment of political turmoil and pressure. The Ustad, once invited to a musical gathering in Jammu, sang the Kajri in

spite of there being no indication of rains. For him, at that point in time, the clouds evoked in Kajri represented the atmosphere of political intrigue in contemporary Jammu. According to Prof Rahman, "The Ustad's offering may be taken as a folklorist interlude of hope, faith, and redemption that his music might bring to listeners."

Since this poetic form of expression is rare, it is pertinent to note what the author has to say about it, in greater detail: "Kajri may be read as eminent examples of secular poetry rooted in history, culture, region, spirituality, and patriotism. Apart from other constituents, nature and women remain at the centre of this composition. Kajri is an emotional and dramatic representation of village life... It represents individual history as forcefully as it does the history and geography of a people, its sociology, and its philosophy of existence... Kajri has had various forms since its origin at some point of time in the past and has passed through several variations in techniques of composition and styles of rendition... There are regional variations in the style of singing that may clearly be noticed in the way Kajris are sung in Ramnagar (Kashi) and Mirzapur. In this respect, Kajris may also be read as manifestation of the tones and tunes characteristic of a community of people living in two areas of the same region."

The book is a treasure trove of information for people who are interested in South Asian studies and who want a book that is simultaneously engaging and informative without being reductive. The writer's expertise in translation also comes to bear upon the chapters where he uses his own translation of Urdu verse as well as vernacular poetry. Other texts and writers discussed in the book include Sarojini Naidu, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, and Agha Ali Shah. It is clear that a great amount of research has gone on the part of the writer in the making of this book, which is never belied by the tone of effortless ease maintained by the writer. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in the social and literary traditions of South Asia, whether for academic purposes or otherwise.

*Socioliterary Cultures in South Asia* has been written by Anisur Rahman and published by Niyogi Books, ₹650



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THE BOOK STRESSES ON THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER OF EACH COUNTRY WITHOUT CONTESTING OR UNDERMINING THE SENSE OF A COLLECTIVE SOUTH ASIAN IDENTITY. THERE IS A CLEAR SENSE OF CO-SHARING AND CO-DEVELOPMENT, WHICH DOES NOT TAKE AWAY FROM AN APPRECIATION OF THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF EACH LITERARY CULTURE



**HIDDEN SOULS**  
PRAMOD PATHAK

## When the dust settles



The long-drawn seven-phase elections are over and the results have come. Needless to say that the elections this time were fought on emotive rather than rational plank. For some observers, though, elections are always based on emotional rather than real issues. But the Indian experience may prove otherwise on many occasions. Nevertheless, there is a need to focus on the core issues which were largely glossed over in the cacophony of noise largely created by motivated media campaigns that were premised on the "heavens will fall doctrine". So the two sides of the divide were both trumpeting the same sound — if not we, the heavens will fall. But the fact remains that heavens will not fall, because heavens cannot fall. Anyway, it is time to get on to the brass tacks right away. Interestingly, everyone is aware of what needs to be done. But immediate gains become important. So, there is a supplementary question that comes in the way: What is there for me? It is this question that makes all and sundry deviate from the issues as people are driven by the logic that in the long run, everyone is dead. Well, that does make sense for the present generation, but there is a need to think of the generations to come. History is replete with examples that suggest that even monarchs thought of the future and made plans that were strategic and long term in nature. Sher Shah Suri planted trees on both sides of the Grand Trunk Road, though he knew it would take years before they grow full length. The unfortunate part is that people, in their craving for power, occupy themselves with next elections rather than the next generation. There is an urgent need for statesmanship in the political dispensation that can address issues of realpolitik rather than abstractions that charge people for a short while, but do precious little to address the ground realities. As the new Government takes over, there is a need to broach over the basics, the real agenda. As many politics-watchers rightly pointed out, the most serious issue of our times — climate change — hardly found a mention in the electoral debate. The problem is serious and concerns all of us. It is the environment, the ecosystem, which sustains life. In the primary class geography books, we used to read about its critical nature. Unfortunately, no one is bothered about ecology these days. But the rate at which the mean temperatures are rising and pollutants choking the atmosphere, all those investments in technology may be rendered ineffective. Nature's disapproval of human ways are already loud and clear, only we need to read the writing on the wall. Addressing the sustainability of the ecosystem must then be the topmost item on the agenda of the Government. But it must also be understood that the physical ecosystem is too intricately connected with the social ecosystem. The trees, rivers, land all provide lifeline to the poor also. The plight of the underprivileged class which, despite the statistical jugglery, comprises a large section of the populace and is not less responsible for the damage to the environment than the big industries. It is equally important to think of income generation schemes for the poor and deprived. The rich man's greed and the poor man's need are both equally responsible. The physical environment and the socio-economic environment are parts of the same whole.

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# KRISHNA'S IMPRINTS ON JAINISM

Despite their rich theological tradition, Jains could not overlook Krishna's grand persona and assigned him equal status next to that of the Tirthankara, writes Dr ASHA GOSWAMI

Shri Krishna cast a magic spell over the minds of innumerable people from all parts of the world, belonging to many creeds and castes, who find themselves impressed with one or the other feature of his magnificent persona and character. In the same strain, the Jains in India were fascinated with Krishna's grand persona, so much so that they recast the Pauranic account of Krishna saga in their own way, as befitting their ideologies. In this context, it seems pertinent to note that in India, religious tradition flows through three major streams of thought — the Vedic or Pauranic, Buddhist, and Jainism.

The latter two streams of thought, however, originated and developed in India outside the pale of Pauranic tradition, but their main aim was confined to delineating and elaborating the theology and mythology surrounding popular Indian deities, such as Shri Krishna or Shri Ram, with the help of assigning different features in their personae character as suitable to their ideals. While pointing out three point of views on Krishna and His interaction with the Jains, let's not lose sight of the fact that from the very beginning, in India they emerged as an important section of Indian society and 8th century BC onwards have contributed a good deal of thought material of Indian civilisation, which is considered a substantial and genuine tradition of the Indian nation.

Similarly, the Jain tradition on Krishna holds great importance for understanding the arch-type of Krishna concept. It is found that the Jains not only included the Krishna concept within their religious fold, but also some other cults and beliefs in their own sect. According to some, the Jains were averse to the encounters of pastoral Krishna, for they hardly talk about it, rather, they relish talking about the oldest tradition on Krishna, which hails him as the Lord of Dwarka and not Gopala Krishna. Further for knowing the Jain tradition on Krishna, the Jain work such as *Jaina Hariyansha* and other Puranic works have to be traversed. These Jain works describe in detail the achievements of Krishna and name him not Krishna but Vasudeva, as is common practice with the Bhagavats.

Similarly, the Jains' other descriptions of Krishna's forefathers, Yadavas, and his last days on Earth are in agreement with those of the Puranas, likewise, most of the childhood encounters of Krishna almost find similar versions in the Jain sources. For instance, the Jains also treat Baladeva or Balaram as Krishna's brother and helpmate. The Jains,



however, preserve different lists of Krishna's ancestors and descendants. Besides this, even distorted version of Krishna's exploits as given in the *Mahabharata* and the *Puranas* is traceable in the Jain sources. According to the Jains, Jarasandha's killer is Krishna and not the Pandava brother Bhima; Krishna used to remain disgusted with the Pandavas and for that reason they were forced by him to leave Hastinapore and made to settle far off in south. The Jain sources similarly speak differently about Krishna's killer, who was an anonymous Fowler according to the *Puranas*, but according to the Jains, he was Jarakumar or Jarakumar and happened to be Krishna's half brother and a Yadava prince like him. Here it seems that the idea of an anonymous hunter killing a God could not be acceptable to the Jains, so they invented an idea of the killer of Krishna of equal royal rank and status as that of Krishna. Besides Balarama, Krishna's other nine brothers are referred to by the Jains along with their father, who is named as Andhaka-Vrishni.

With this general note on the transference and innovations in Krishna's personae by the Jains, it may be added that the Jains have provided us a peculiar type of informa-

AS A PREACHER OF GITA, KRISHNA FINDS A CHERISHED POSITION IN THE JAIN TRADITION. AMONG OTHER FEATURES OF THE JAIN TRADITION ON KRISHNA, HIS ROLE AS THE LORD OF DWARKA OR RAIVATAKA IS MOST ENDEARING TO THE JAINS

tion on Krishna tradition with which they became conversant and fascinated. So much so that they could not desist themselves from including Krishna and his brother among their 63 great personages of the era whom they cherish with great respect and honour. Shri Krishna finds the last position in their list of great personages, whom they call "*Shalaka Purushas*". They know him as Vasudeva Keshava, the son of Vasudeva. Besides, in Jain tradition, Krishna's 10 forms or incarnations are also popular along with the notions of cowherd Krishna in passing. Moreover, it is interesting to note that the Jains not only agree upon treating their first Tirthankara as Lord Vishnu's great *avatara*, but even recast the biography of the 22nd Tirthankara Arishtanemi on the pattern of Krishna Saga and declared him as the famous prince of Krishna's Yadava clan and as being related to him as his cousin. The Jains also treat Krishna's Preceptor Ghorangirasa as in the Bhagvata tradition on Krishna.

As a preacher of *Gita*, Krishna finds a cherished position in the Jain tradition. Among other features of the Jain tradition on Krishna, His role as the Lord of Dwarka or Raivataka is most endearing to the Jains. They abstain from associating Krishna

with Mathura and Vrindavan and neither cherish him as Bala Krishna or Gopala Krishna, rather are fond of calling him by the title "destroyer of the vanity of many powerful and proud ones like the wrestlers Charura and Kamsa". The Jains also admire Krishna as the destroyer of Putana, Shakuni bird, vicious bull, and Kaliya.

With regard to the other features of Jain ideology and notion on Krishna, it may be also stated that as they have included Shri Krishna among their 63 personages of high honour, it proves that they look upon him as the great and noble Kshatriya prince, who according to them, was a representative of the ninth black Vasudeva and always accompanied with white Vasudeva who was Baladeva. The Vasudevas, in alliance with the Baladevas, who are also held by the Jains to succeed overpowering the Vishnudvishas who in Krishna's case is Jarasandha and not Kansa. The Jains also know Krishna as having multitude wives numbering 16,000. The Jains also know Krishna as the son of Vasudeva, who had two wives Devaki and Rohini. Besides Baladeva or Balarama Krishna is said to have another younger brother, Gajasukumar.

Summing up the Jain tradition on Krishna, it can be ascertained that assigning him the role of the ninth Vasudeva and one of the 63 Shalaka Purushas, the Jains — although having their rich theological tradition — could not overlook Shri Krishna's manifold personae-features so much so that they included him among their great persons who were worthy of their worship and honour, and also assigned him equal status next to that of the Tirthankara. This Jain contribution towards Krishna concept goes to prove that Krishna's appeal was not only confined to the followers of the Vedic-Brahmanic tradition, but spread beyond among the non-Brahmanic believers and devotees belonging to other schools of thought and discipline like the Jains or others.

Besides accepting Krishna as one of the nine Vasudevas, the Jains liberally extend their support to the view which accepts Krishna as belonging to the status of the great chieftains of the age, and one who had obtained supreme glory and was very kind-hearted. Concluding the discussion on Krishna's interaction with the Jains, let us repeat verbatim their belief that "Shri Krishna would appear in the form of future 12th Tirthankara of the next world-period along with other members of his family like his parents, brothers who will also achieve similar position".

The writer is a noted Indologist and authority on Krishnaitic Studies

## Hurdles in democracy and how spirituality can help us

Spiritual people won't seek temporary populist measures, but ensure long-term good for all, writes RADHANATH SWAMI

India recently witnessed the quinquennial festival of democracy — the General Elections. Democracy has empowered people with choice. It is the right and responsibility of each citizen to vote. Almost all systems come with inherent faults, and it is our duty to reduce the faults and increase the efficiency of the system.

**So-called equality:** The common people vote to elect the next Government. Every vote counts and adds or subtracts chances of winning or losing the election. Candidates who receive maximum votes come to power. The votes of learned and ignorant are given equal preference. In a society where along with the innocent population, there are people like criminals, hate-mongers, addicts, abusers, debauchees, how can we expect them to cast their vote for the Government which will act in a direction they may not like? It is like an insincere student wishing to have a strict class teacher. Generally, this category of people will try to find a leader who matches their narrative of life. Spirituality teaches people to sober up in life and helps them overcome their negative habits. Such trained populace can definitely give better candidates, who can represent them and do better for society.

**Populist measures:** People go by what is good for their immediate future than long-term benefits. The populist measures corrode the economy in terms of investment in wrong things, burden on financial institutions like banks, degrades the attitude of people who always want to take from the state than



making contributions, make them lazy and always waiting for such kind of largesse. Spirituality teaches us to look beyond the immediate good. Austerity, which is an integral part of spirituality, is about voluntarily giving up certain pleasurable things for better spiritual prospects. Spirituality teaches that we are eternal beings, *atman*, and spiritual happiness comes when we disengage our senses from flickering pleasures of this world to the service of God. In this way, people experience higher inner bliss and they are able to develop distaste for immediate pleasures, which often rob people of their valuable health, wealth, and character. Such people won't go for temporary populist measures, but will see the greater, long-term good for all.

**Casteism:** Parties place their candidates based on the caste arithmetic,

considering where they can have winning candidates based on the caste of the mass population in that region. In such attempts and in the heat of elections, unnecessary communal tensions are aroused by provocative speeches of the leaders, which contribute to building fault lines between various castes and communities. *Atman* is beyond any physical conceptions of body like caste, religion, or nationality. Spiritual people identity unity among this external diversity on the spiritual platform. This unity helps them give up external differences.

**Winning chances than performance:** While selecting candidates, many times, the winning ability is prioritised over performance capability and character assessments. Even criminals get tickets to fight elections if they have a higher chance of winning. Scriptures are torchlights which highlight what the desirable traits are and what aren't. The torchbearer of truth can't be deceived by criminals hiding within the system.

**Shifts in ideologies:** Opportunism trumps ideological integrity. People shift their ideologies for desirable perks. Voters get deceived if after the elections, elected candidates switch to or align with the parties with opposite ideology. Spiritual people don't have egoistic hollow attachments to their ideologies, but they have reasons for things they value as sacred. In this way, spirituality can definitely help strengthen the democratic system for the benefit of the people in general.

The writer is a spiritual guru at International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

## The many benefits of *sadhana*

As we begin to experience the benefits of *sadhana*, done by meditation or chanting, we will fall in love with God but that will only happen gradually, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I am using the word *sadhana* because I did not find a suitable word for it in English. This Sanskrit word means worshipping an idol or an image of God like a photo. It also means wanting to please God by our sincere efforts. *Sadhana* can be done in many ways, like meditation, chanting, just feeling the presence of God, looking at a *murti* of God or even a photo. There are no restrictions placed on how you do it as long as it helps in becoming God-conscious. Some people regularly read spiritual texts.

Such *sadhana* has enormous benefits. I am detailing many of them herein, some of them I have experienced; these benefits accrue only gradually. What is our experience? That superior benefit takes time in coming. Once we get started, momentum will build slowly. As we begin to experience the benefits of doing *sadhana*, we will fall in love with God but that will take time. Life will become smoother. Not that one will be freed from all troubles, because that never happens in this impermanent place of miseries. (*Gita* 8.15) Most importantly, one will begin to enjoy life in various ways. God helps us realise that ultimately life is meant to be enjoyed only.

Initially, *sadhana* may appear difficult to do but it doesn't have to be. One should customise for self because doing *sadhana* is important, not how it is done. God has given us multiple options. We can choose our posture, sitting down or even lying down. The idea is to be able to



do *sadhana* not how, because being able to do regular *sadhana* qualifies us for God's grace.

I begin with the great benefit of being freed from negative emotions. Of course, this happens gradually only but one can never underestimate this boon. One is freed from debilitating fears related to one's body, near and dear ones, material possessions, etc. Even a habitual worrier can hope to be rid of this painful habit. One can sleep better as anxiety will not affect that much. Living in the material world in material bodies, it is impossible to be completely rid of anxiety, but it becomes manageable. And the mental faculty of such practitioners remains sound till the end of life. What a boon this is when mental health is becoming a very seri-

ous problem worldwide.

One realises spiritual truths. Personally, I have been very fortunate in this regard. The cosmic design begins to be revealed to us. This is a great boon; we know how we are placed vis-à-vis the creation. We learn about what we need to do to get all that God has to offer like guidance, help, *shakti/bala*, security, peace, happiness, support, etc. All we need to do is take God's shelter in all respects. Not only is the next birth guaranteed to be superior but the possibility of the present life ending badly is also eliminated. (6.40)

Connected with God, physical health becomes a beneficiary, because one comes under Lord's care. Even family members, ie the near and dear ones, get the ripple effect. One toler-

ates better. Remember no one is exempt from suffering. One must tolerate what cannot be avoided. (2.14) If someone comes to God consciousness, somehow, anyhow, God will give the strength to be able to continue to do so. Steady *sadhana* will ensure it. I can vouch for it. Faith will become stronger steadily.

In conclusion, I will state that we, small souls, are programmed to be highly self-centered, but most people don't realise where their self-interest lies. It is in Vasudeva, who is everything. (7.19) We must realise that we are small and, in the ultimate sense, quite helpless, and it is in our best interest to surrender to God. Regular *sadhana* will take us there.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

# America's Indian perspective on terror

The United States of America is a liberal nation par excellence and with the Trump regime, there has been an awesome impetus given to the Global War on Terror (GWOT). It was then President George Bush, who initiated the now extant terminology with the flock of the neo-conservatives, and the PNAC (Project on New America) GWOT group.

In academia, there are twin terminologies which hold much water in the context of both the global terror and the South Asian and West Asian visage of cross-border terrorism. The formulation comprises the idea of the suppressor state which aids, abet and imposes terror modules on a recipient suppressed state. Another facet includes the canny nomenclature of super terrorism which includes a deft utilisation of the nodes and internodes of the suppressed state. This terror methodology refers to the idiom that nodes can be construed as the urban centres, shopping malls along with the energy depots in any receptacle nation. On the other hand, the internodes are the vast swathes of highways, railways and air routes which connect these sequestered nodes of population and attendant infrastructure.

Thus, terrorists world over now utilise the state infrastructure to randomise the life and support systems of civilisational hubs and Defense facilities in India and South Asia, both being the staple targets of jihadi terrorism.

The manner in which the United States, the United Kingdom and France have ably sustained India's impetus to enlist Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar as a global terrorist speaks volumes about the success of New Delhi's counter-terror diplomacy with the recently constituted United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1267



Committee at the United Nations. Thus, the long French leave of the terror mongers has been curtailed by the United Nations. Even peacenik nations have to absolve themselves of the globally infused guilt of being hard nosed with the terror mongers in their infested terrains and populations. The United States issued a much needed warning to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan during the Pulwama incident which enervated Rawalpindi and Islamabad and secured blink quick release of Wing Commander Abhinandan in the throes of a dogfight.

There was a time in the early nineties that then US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Robin Raphael would ask India while visiting New Delhi about the imagined theme of human rights abuses by the Indian security forces in South Asia. Since the advent of the present world politics, the tide has turned the other way. Now, President Trump calls the Indo-US relationship as the

most prized and special relationship and both the nations are moving towards full-fledged alliance. Specially in the context of counter-terror cooperation, both the nations have attempted a clearly delineated definition of terrorism and sought recourse to the United Nations mechanism.

The UN mechanism comprises aiding the less resourced and developing nations in technology and training in the war against terror. As an attendant fact, in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, nations are required to submit an annual report to the UN Security Council in order to monitor the still evolving global mechanism of countering terror and its global machination. The recent decision in the heady portals of the UN Security Council to list Masood Azhar as a global terrorist is one of the initial mechanisms of the UN body aided by American support to ameliorate the concerns of New Delhi, especially in the aftermath of

the Mumbai terror attacks and the recent outrage on Uri and Pulwama, and the Indian response in Balakot in Pakistan. The impunity with which terror leaders such as Hafiz Sayeed and Masood Azhar roam around Pakistan mobilising jihad against the imagined Indian excesses has already been commented upon by scholars and media alike. Pakistan's deep state has always contested that its territory and resources are the hotbeds of terror training. But facts speak otherwise. The US has been pro-active with US Marines attacking terrorist hotbeds in the Af-Pak region with heavy bombs termed as MOAB, the mother of all bombs. The US has delayed the selling of weaponry to Pakistan on the charges of sponsoring terror and has always been following the diplomatic line of seeking and demanding qualified evidence from Islamabad that it has not aided the terror drag-net in the region and in India. The American legislation

COMCAST is another instance of placing unprecedented pressure on Islamabad to dismantle its terror infrastructure, primarily directed at India. Also, the US has initiated a move to invite India to play a more active role in the insurgency ridden Afghanistan and what is required is a heady response by the Indian interlocutors. Thus, countering terror in a manner reflects the American gumption and the Indian capacity to spread its arms to the region with New Delhi playing a global role in taking to task the terror machination directed against India, in the name of jihad for the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Thus, the US also through its new immigration policy has outlawed illegal entry from nations such as Pakistan to its homeland, that is, American territory; it is more than a symbolic impetus and a filip to the Indian stance on countering and targeting cross-border and other phoenix like ideas of terrorism. There is a whole body



**PULWAMA FIDAYEEN'S LAST MESSAGE BEFORE HE BLEW UP CRPF CONVOY:** "By the time this video reaches you, I will be enjoying in heaven... This is my last message for the people of Kashmir... Jaish has kept the flame alive and stayed put in adverse circumstances.. Come, join the group and prepare for one last fight"

of counter-terrorism jurisprudence which has been created by the UNSC.

The entire counter-terror jurisprudence involves the ambit of the following few United Nations Security Council Resolutions comprising the following UNSC Resolutions: 1267(1999), 1989(2011) and 2253(2015).

The United Nations Sanctions Committee has declared, "The entry specified below includes ISIL(Daesh) and Al Qaida Sanctions among the list of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 2368 (2017), and adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations." This is what the United Nations official web release declares in its May 1, 2019 release.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution no. 1267 passed in 2019 explains its concerns as, "Recalling the relevant international counter-terrorism conventions and in particular the obligations of parties to those conventions to extradite or prosecute terrorists, strongly condemning the continuing use of Afghan territory, especially areas controlled by the Taliban, for the sheltering and training of terrorists and plan-

ning of terrorist acts, and reaffirming its conviction that the suppression of international terrorism is essential for the maintenance of international peace and security."

Thus, the feel of the UN charter reverberates throughout the nomenclature and the language of the UNSC Resolution No. 1267. Afghanistan might be the centre of the sanctions regime but the extended overreach of counter-terror mechanisms comprise the terror spectacle spreadeagling across the Indian and South Asian region. Early on, the United States sought irreversible action on the scourge of terror in South Asia and India. The US office of Foreign Assets control has included the name of a few terror financial facilitators which reflects the political will on the part of the US to initiate a doughty mode of combat against the global terror infrastructure. The argument that India is provoking a war by isolating Pakistan is a dysfunctional approach, which only reflects the sympathy and empathy for the ministrations of global terror and nothing more.

*(The writer teaches International Relations at Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi)*

The manner in which the US, the UK and France convinced China to back India's impetus to enlist Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar as a global terrorist speaks volumes about the success of New Delhi's counter-terror diplomacy



MANAN DWIVEDI

## PERSPECTIVE

# Catalan separatist vows EU Parliament fight

When not attending trial as a defendant, Junqueras, a historian, says he spends his time at the Soto del Real prison writing a collection of stories for his son and daughter, who he estimates he has seen 'a total of 50 hours' since he was put behind bars in November 2017. "I tell (my children) that unfortunately we live in a country where I can be put in jail... My job consists precisely in ensuring that this doesn't happen again and that my children don't have to go through what their father has," says Junqueras

Blocked from pursuing his political crusade in Spain's parliament, the most prominent jailed leader of Catalonia's separatist movement is vowing to take his fight to the European Parliament.

The lower chamber of Spain's Parliament on Friday suspended Oriol Junqueras and three colleagues from their recently gained seats as national lawmakers because they are currently in jail during an ongoing trial at Spain's Supreme Court. They face up to 25 years in prison for rebellion charges that stem from a banned referendum and an independence declaration made by the separatist-controlled Catalan government in late 2017.

But Junqueras is also running for the European Parliament in elections that take place on Sunday, and polls say that he and his former boss, Carles Puigdemont, who unlike Junqueras fled the country to avoid arrest, have a high chance of being elected.

Even so, the Catalan separatists face several legal hurdles to be sworn in as European lawmakers.

"The sole fact that a European lawmaker and a candidate to the presidency of the European Commission is a political prisoner of one of the European Union's member states is a very powerful message in favour of democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms not only in Catalonia but in all Europe," Junqueras told The Associated Press on Friday. The Spanish Government has



The leader of the Catalanian ERC party Oriol Junqueras, centre, leaves after collecting his credentials at the Spanish parliament in Madrid on May 20, 2019. Junqueras and three other high-profile separatists won seats in the Lower Chamber, while Raul Romeva won a seat in the Senate. The five, along with other defendants, are being held in pre-trial jail. They face several years in prison if found guilty of rebellion AP

repeatedly rejected the term "political prisoner" to refer to the prosecuted Catalan separatists, pointing out that they were jailed by independent courts according to legal

provisions in the country. The Government also often reiterates that political parties openly advocating for secession are legal in the country, but the only way to

achieve independence for a region like northeastern Catalonia is by reforming the country's 1978 constitution, which currently prohibits the secession of a region unless all

Spaniards vote on it. Junqueras spoke via video conference from a jail on the outskirts of Madrid shortly before the widely expected announcement that he would be suspended as a Spanish lawmaker.

Speaker Meritxell Batet announced that the governing body of the Congress of Deputies had ruled for the suspension in line with the country's criminal code, which bans those indicted for rebellion or terrorism-related charges and in preventive custody from holding public office.

But the 50-year-old former number 2 of the Catalan regional Government, who was previously a European lawmaker between 2009 and 2012, told AP that the suspension in Spain doesn't affect him because he was planning to give up his seat anyway: Members of the European Parliament can't hold certain public offices in their home countries.

Junqueras is the lead candidate in the European elections of Ahora Republicans, a coalition of a Catalan and other small regionalist parties in Spain. Polls give it enough votes for him to claim one of the 751 seats in the chamber, but his possibilities to be sworn in are unclear given his legal situation.

Junqueras said he hopes Spain's Supreme Court will allow him to travel to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, for the opening session in July. "For me, it will be a pleasure to return to the European

Parliament," he said, because that would allow him to rejoin former colleagues in the bloc's assembly and "explain to them firsthand the deep injustice that innocent people are in prison."

If he succeeds in becoming a parliament member, Junqueras plans to launch a largely symbolic candidacy to become European Commission president as the contender for the European Free Alliance, a grouping of small regionalist and separatist parties from across Europe, including Scottish, Flemish and Corsican nationalists.

While Junqueras said that if his attempt to become a European lawmaker is blocked he will appeal it in court, Puigdemont faces even greater potential challenges to join him in the continental legislature.

According to an internal report by the European Parliament's legal services that the AP has had access to, Puigdemont would have to return to Spain to be officially included in the list of its elected European lawmakers and thereby face arrest.

Despite the chaos caused by the Brexit referendum in the UK, Junqueras is not wavering in his belief that the solution to the Catalan question is a regional vote on independence.

Election results and polls indicate that the 7.5 million residents of the Catalonia region are roughly split down the middle by the secession question. Junqueras and three fellow separatists from Puigdemont's

conservative JxCat party were elected last month to a new, fragmented Spanish lower house, along with another colleague who won a seat in the Spanish Senate.

Spain's Supreme Court granted them permission earlier this week to attend — escorted by police — the opening parliamentary sessions of the new legislative term. While Junqueras has made clear that he wants to give up his seat to another member of his left-wing separatist ERC party, all eyes in Spain are on what the three JxCat politicians will do.

Deciding to accept the suspension but not giving up their seats and leaving them empty would alter the number of deputies needed to form the next Spanish government. Caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's Socialist party won April 28 national elections but fell short of a majority and will need support to form a government.

When not attending trial as a defendant, Junqueras, a historian, says he spends his time at the Soto del Real prison writing a collection of stories for his son and daughter, who he estimates he has seen "a total of 50 hours" since he was put behind bars in November 2017.

"I tell (my children) that unfortunately we live in a country where I can be put in jail," Junqueras said. "My job consists precisely in ensuring that this doesn't happen again and that my children don't have to go through what their father has." Courtesy: AP



TWO OUT OF EVERY FIVE PEOPLE IN AMERICA ARE INTO TAROT READING AND VISIT A PSYCHIC READER FOR AN AVERAGE OF THREE TIMES EVERY YEAR



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

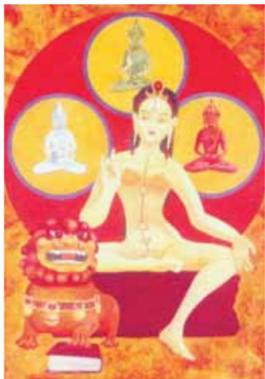
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week health looks good. Those of you who are dealing with any health problems are likely to recover soon. This week brings quick thinking and a persuasive communication style. Hence, it is an apt time for debating and public speaking. You can expect approving reactions and valuable assistance. The nature of your communication makes it a perfect time to defend yourself. Those in academics, this is a good time for studying and appearing for exams. Good concentration and attention to detail mean fewer chances of making mistakes. This is also a good time for taking important decisions and business dealings. Your relationship will be a little disturbed this week. You should maintain two-way communication with your partner to avoid any misunderstandings.

**Lucky number 21**  
**Lucky colour Pink**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week your health looks good. You are in a psychic and intuitive phase more than usual, so it's important for you to trust your instincts. On the career front, your mind will be very active, so express what is on your mind to your peers and colleagues. Fine-tune your goals and make clear plans and strategy to attain your goals. This is a good time to discuss your plans with others because you will get good feedback and support. You are likely to become a victim of confusion that will lead to insecurity, but the bad time shall pass. Romance is blooming this week. This is right time to take your relationship to the next level. Singles may have to wait for some more time, though.

**Lucky number 25**  
**Lucky colour Brown**  
**Lucky day Sunday**



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week your health will be at its best. Despite your hectic schedule, you will take out time to relax and enjoy. Those suffering from health issues are likely to find a way to recovery. People will notice your quality work and appreciate your efforts at your workplace. Continue with your work as you are on the right track. For investments, luck will be in your favour. Property dealings are likely to be resolved. On the personal front, this is a great time to relax with loved ones or party with friends. Your loving mood will make you more sexually attractive than usual. Studies and exams should go well, especially in technical areas like the sciences, computers, and mathematics. Some of you may take your partner to an exotic location.

**Lucky number 18**  
**Lucky colour Black**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

You are likely to have good health, but be careful while exercising as some injuries are indicated. On the career front, you'll be very professional and will follow the company policy. Travel due to business commitments is on the cards. On this trip, you are likely to make new friends and admirers. Dedication towards the task is important, but oversteering yourself may prove counterproductive. Do not hesitate to reach out to someone and ask for help. In your love life, the week indicates love, harmony, and friendship. This is a good time to relax and have fun with loved ones. Your loving and receptive mood will make you popular. This is a good time for dating because your charm and beauty will attract genuine and honest love.

**Lucky number 19**  
**Lucky colour Purple**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

Your emotional well-being will decide your health condition this week. Therefore, it is important to assess how you are feeling about things/others. It is important to channelise your energy in the right direction and you will find yourself in the pink of health. In your professional life, you are fairly clear of what your goals are and what you have to do to achieve them. A stimulating time with heaps of opportunities puts your determination and ambition at a higher level. Business dealings and negotiations are favoured, especially for long-term investments and real estate. Relationship wise, a sharp focus in your intimate relationship is indicated. It is highly advisable to be sensitive and passionate towards your partner. Singles may enjoy this time with a ray of hope.

**Lucky number 10**  
**Lucky colour Mustard**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week your health will be satisfactory. It's highly advisable to follow your daily exercise or yoga routine; if you have not yet started, then start now. You will feel driven to succeed at something with your strong sense of purpose. With the immense amount of courage, you will face all the challenges. Career-wise, this week you are able to finish a lot of work in a short time. Financial situations are not good, so you should avoid overspending. Personally, you will be more emotional and sensitive than normal. This is the time to talk about relationship issues because you will be in touch with your true feelings. You will generally know how people are feeling and will be more sympathetic and nurturing than usual. Listen to your inner voice.

**Lucky number 12**  
**Lucky colour Maroon**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

Your health is likely to remain good this week. You will be able to revive the inner childlike energy and will be active throughout. Things are looking good on your professional front as well. Luck will be in your favour and you will be able to fulfill your long-term ambition. Whatever you put your mind to should lead to lasting results and achievements. Therefore, people around are looking up to you for sound advice. With all these, you need to have a profound vision and a careful analysis of all the plans and strategies which will help you move towards success. Your love life will benefit from extra charisma and intellectual attractiveness. You may find yourself taking care of family matters, such as insurances and wills.

**Lucky number 30**  
**Lucky colour Peach**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Your health will be good this week. It is good if you continue your meditation and yoga routine as it will keep your mind fresh and connected to your inner soul. People who are dealing with health problems are advised to take things seriously and take proper medication. Your ability of quick thinking will make this week an apt time to prepare a long-term plan on the career front. Networking with some promising contacts will allow you to grow professionally. You will have increased mental energy and concentration, which will help you succeed in studies or researches. This week, luck is in your favour, so don't worry about taking risks. Your relationship life will be satisfactory and you may expect some exciting news. Try spending some quality time with your family.

**Lucky number 13**  
**Lucky colour Yellow**  
**Lucky day Thursday**



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

Your health looks good, but still you need to be careful. If you are facing some health issues, don't worry as things will get a lot better. On the career front, your innovative spirit will help you widen your horizons and reach new goals. You can expect exciting news and stimulating conversations with senior authorities, which will lead to a wise business deal. Some of you are expected to face competition at work. Maintain a healthy work environment. Try to keep a close eye as someone will try to frame you at work. This is a good time for relationships. You may have an enjoyable time going to parties, places of relaxation and entertainment. New friends can be made or a significant new romance may begin.

**Lucky number 11**  
**Lucky colour Silver**  
**Lucky day Monday**



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week your health is expected to be good. It is advisable to avoid ego conflicts and retreat to a safe place where you can develop your creative and spiritual nature. You will be smart and optimistic at work and will be able to complete all your pending tasks. Some interesting opportunities are on the cards. The task of waiting for some news on the domestic front will make you feel frustrated. The week, relationship life looks satisfying. You will maintain harmony in your relationships and will have a greater ability to express your love and affection towards your partner. Travelling to far off destination to meet someone is on the cards. Those thinking for investments, think and discuss with experts before taking any decision.

**Lucky number 28**  
**Lucky colour Sky blue**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

This week your health is satisfactory. Those dealing with some health problems have to check the root cause as it needs to be treated. Ignoring your health can lead to some serious issues. Talk about your health conditions with others; you may find some solution to it. It is a very positive new beginning in your career. Those who had a difficult time lately know that things will get better very soon. The new possibilities will increase your chance of making new discoveries and making new admirers. In a relationship, you will probably want to nurture and protect your partner. Most of all, you will want to express your love and affection towards your partner. Stay positive and maintain an open communication with your partner. Bonding with family is on the cards.

**Lucky number 15**  
**Lucky colour Grey**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This week your health will be good, but still, be careful with physical activities. Those suffering from health problems will recover soon. Keep a positive mindset and things will surely come easily to you. In professional life, your flair will help you distance yourself from negativities and you'll feel more optimistic than usual. You will obtain the confidence you've always dreamt of. New opportunities are on the cards. A few of you will choose to leave a job that is no longer productive for you. Those looking for promotion may get good news. It is a great time for socialising because of increased popularity and charisma. You are likely to have open and honest communication with your partner. The discussions you have now will be beneficial for the future.

**Lucky number 20**  
**Lucky colour White**  
**Lucky day Friday**

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**ASTROTURF**

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Organised mind ensures success

A young man, not being able to get through the qualifying examination for admission into a business school, grudgingly came asking me: "Why did you raise my hope when I was not destined to make it?" "My friend, when I talked about your potential, I also suggested a lesson in how to organise your mind. It would have helped improve your focus, which you lacked badly. Also, I aided you in bringing down your mental aberration that often disoriented your mind. Did you follow it in the right earnest," I countered. "Your process could have cost me at least half an hour every day. My focus was on covering the subject matter as much as I could. I put in eight to nine hours a day. Yet, if I could not score, would it not mean that I was not destined for it," he responded.

Remember, destiny plays a definite role in one's life, but it doesn't necessarily define in finite terms how it may exactly play out, as it can't involuntarily bear fruits. Bear in mind: Destiny indicators are there as an indwelling potential, just like a small seed carries within the essence of a fully grown tree. Keep the seed on your table, it will remain there in a still form. If, however, you

sow it in earth mass in a season favourable to its fruition, and nurse it, the seed will first sprout and then grow into a full-fledged tree. As per the established norms of Astrology, three factors need to be accounted for while looking at destiny pointers — *kala*, *patra*, and *samaya*. *Kala* is the overall environmental condition, which is available in equal proportion to all those competing with you. *Samaya* offers the timeline when your individualistic destiny pointers could bear fruits. *Patra* is about your individual worthiness and vulnerabilities, which matter the most in realising your potential. That defines how qualitative or otherwise would be your efforts. Invariably, unlike the negatives that play out involuntarily from the front, the positives need to be identified, acknowledged, honed and then backed by quality effort. Just physical effort would not suffice, which you did not in. Here, a brief run into the chemistry of mind becomes imperative. More the physical labour you put in tilling the land, larger area you may cover. On the contrary, a relaxed mind becomes more productive. That may, in the first place, offer ground to remain focused. You may



then be able to have a clear understanding of the subject matter. Second, it provides space necessary to absorb educative inputs. Third, it ensures proper coordination between conscious and sub-conscious levels of mind. Remember, all that you learn, their impressions get parked at the sub-conscious level. If conscious and sub-conscious coordinate well, you may be able to recall all the memory inputs in store of the latter in quick flashes, enabling you to correctly answer questions at hand.

In the above context, let me put forth the mirror image of your potentials and vulnerabilities in the astrological frame. The Sun conjunct Mercury speaks of your high intelligence and very good memory power. Higher education (beyond graduation) is identified with the 9th house. The 9th sign and cusp sub-lord Saturn occupies the 8th house, in the *nakshatra* owned by Mars, the 4th sub-lord posited in the 10th house, meaning professional education. Linkage of the 4th and 9th house promises higher education. Incidentally, Mars happens to be the lord of the 6th house identified with success in competition and 11th house signifying fulfillment of desires. So, in astrological terms, you carry the potential of pursuing professional course. More so,

because Karmic Saturn has a harmonious relation with Mars identified with efforts. Saturn being in the 8th house, your efforts may begin on a low note, but as you gain momentum, you may finally succeed in your endeavour. Now, towards negatives, the first marker is the Gemini *lagna* with Moon therein, conjunct Ketu and opposite mischievous Neptune as well as erratic Uranus. That speaks of a fertile but vacillating mind, continuously breeding imaginary thoughts, more often distanced from ground realities, and also an erratic behaviour.

Mars crossing path with Uranus makes you temperamental. Venus conjunct the Sun makes you emotionally touchy whereby you get over-exercised even on trivial matters. The energies lost thus, and with your cluttered mind space, you are not left with enough to put in your best towards the desired destination. And the result is there to see. Organise your mind, and I am sure you will make it.

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