





# Maoists trigger IED blast at West Singhbhum



## ULTRAS ASK PEOPLE TO BOYCOTT LOK SABHA POLLS

**Jamshedpur:** The ultras belonging to the outlawed outfit CPI-Maoist triggered IED blast at the left wing extremism (LWE) affected West Singhbhum district in the wee hours of Friday. A rebel squad has blown up three under-construction forest guard quarters at Kuida village under Goelkera forest range under Kolhan forest division in West Singhbhum district. After blowing up the quarters, the rebels have pasted posters on a tree, calling upon the people to boycott the Lok Sabha polls in the region. The rebels have also urged the people residing in the region to ensure that no government officials may enter into the forest division area. West Singhbhum district superintendent of police,

Chandan Jha confirmed about the IED blast at Goelkera forest range by a squad of CPI-Maoist squad. "As per our probe the rebels have blown up an under-construction forest department structure at Goelkera forest range. We have started combing operation of the area soon after getting information," said Jha.

The SP said they have pressed CRPF personnel in the Goelkera forest range for carrying out a search operation for the rebels and their supporters, adding that as this is the election period the rebels have tried to make their presence for triggering a sense of fear among the electorate as well as the polling personal with a view to disturb the Lok Sabha elections in that region.

Divisional forest officer, Kolhan, Abhishek Bhushan had rushed to the spot where the naxals have carried out the blast, razing the three under-construction forest guard quarters.

"Before triggering the blast, the rebels had abducted two forest guards from the Kuida village, but later the duo was released at the dawn. The rebels have not inflicted any injury to the two forest guards during their stay in their custody," said Bhushan.

In the last few days anti insurgency operation in the West Singhbhum has been intensified following intelligence reports that suggest rebels are camping in the pockets.

The administration has increased police patrolling on the bordering areas connecting to West Bengal and has also deployed adequate number of paramilitary personnel on areas potential to rebels attack.

Meanwhile intelligence sources maintained that the rebels have once again started influencing the local residents to come to the fold of Maoism," said a senior intelligence officer. He said the rebels are targeting areas in Sonua, Goelkera and Porahat region of West Singhbhum. **PNS**

# Celebrating 'Shubho Naba Barsha' like a true Bengali

## Hotels and social organisations gear up for occasion

**PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR**

Food and culture are still the two most important things for the Bengali community to celebrate their New Year's Day to be celebrated on April 15. From hotels to social organisations, all have already geared up for the occasion.

The Bengal Club will organise a cultural programme with a mixture of dance and music by a local cultural group.

The Jharkhand Banglabhashi Yuba Morcha and Kadma New Farm Area Durga Puja Committee are all set to organise a cultural extravaganza on April 15 with a series of dance and performances to celebrate Bengali new year. The evening will also showcase a tribal dance and contemporary styles.

One of the senior members of the community, Shekhar De, president of socio-cultural organisation The Milanee said that Bengalis of non-divided Bihar has a past history of about 700 years. However, the Bengalis started arriving in the city with the establishment of Tata Steel plant. "Poila Baisakh is an important day for us. No celebration in a Bengali home can be complete without the mouthwatering dishes and sweets. The aroma of deliciously prepared delicacies added up to the festive mood. Life is incomplete without culture especially for the Bengali speaking community and so, this is a getaway from the mundane life to enjoy your new year," said Joydeep Bannerjee, a social activist. The day starts

on a ritualistic note. Members of all Bengali families woke up before dawn to offer prayers to Goddess Durga for the well-being of one and all. "We pray for the wellbeing of society," said Mouli Ghosh, a young girl.

City hotels on the other hand have geared up for food festivals. Hotel J K Residency and the Sonnet have decided to serve mouthwatering Bengali delicacies. The festival starts from April 13 to 16.

Yashwee International will offer delicacies like bhapa ilish, bhapa bhetki and murg. The vegetarian platter will also have a wide variety ranging from aaloo posto, dhokar dalna, potoler dorma, echor and aaloo phul kofir tarkari etc. The hotel has prepared a different a-la-carte menu for the three day festival.

The Yashwee has an elaborate menu. It has three varieties of dal, three varieties of bread and five kinds of desserts. Also it is served with paan.

# Denied ticket, 5-time BJP MP may join BSP

**SURESH NIKHAR ■ BERMO**

Former MP of Giridih parliamentary constituency, Ravindra Kumar Pandey may join hands with the BSP (Bahujan Samaj Party) after being denied ticket by the Bharatiya Janata Party from Giridih in Jharkhand.

Pandey has already resigned from all the posts he holds in the party after the party decided to nominate AJSU party leader and minister in Raghubar Das's cabinet Chandra Prakash Chaudhary in its list of 14 candidates.

When asked about possibility of him joining BSP if given a respectable offer, Pandey said, "Many political parties have contacted me to join them but first I will quit BJP and then decide further. Since the party has no place for its five time winning candidate, I have decided to quit.

Sources said that five times former Lok Sabha member Ravindra Kumar Pandey has decided to quit the BJP over denial of ticket from Giridih seat. "Though he has not made it clear what he will do after quitting BJP, possibility of him joining BSP cannot be ruled out," the source said.

If Pandey joins BSP, he could be fielded from Giridih seat, which he won on BJP ticket in 2014.

Pandey's name was among the list of three probable candidates, which included



**Many political parties have contacted me to join them but first I will quit BJP and then decide further. Since the party has no place for its five time winning candidate, I have decided to quit**

Ravindra Rai and Ramtahal Chaudhary.

Ravindra Kumar Pandey has won as BJP candidate from Giridih seat continuously since 1996, barring once in 2004. "I did request the BJP leadership to review their decision several times," he said.

Announcing the alliance on March 9, BJP had said it would contest 13 seats, leaving one for the AJSU party, which has been kept on both Hazaribagh and Giridih seats.

Ravindra Kumar Pandey had won from Giridih seat in 2014 with 3.91 lakh votes, closely followed by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's Jagannath Mahto.

## कार्यालय, नोडल पदाधिकारी, प्रशिक्षण कोषांग, सिमडेगा (11 खूँटी ST लोकसभा आम चुनाव 2019)

आदेश				
लोक सभा आम चुनाव 2019 के लिए प्रतिनियुक्त मतदान पदाधिकारियों एवं माईक्रो ऑब्जर्वर का प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम निम्न प्रकार निर्धारित किया जाता है :-				
क्र०	तिथि एवं समय	प्रशिक्षण स्थल	प्रतिभागी	अभ्युक्ति
1	15.04.2019 (10AM-2PM)	संत अन्ना बालक प्राथमिक विद्यालय, सामटोली, सिमडेगा	माईक्रो ऑब्जर्वर+छुटे हुए PrO, P1	
2	16.04.2019 (10AM-2PM)	संत अन्ना बालक प्राथमिक विद्यालय, सामटोली, सिमडेगा	P2+P3 (सभी पुरुष मतदान पदाधिकारी)	
3	17.04.2019 (10AM-2PM)	संत अन्ना बालक प्राथमिक विद्यालय, सामटोली, सिमडेगा	सभी महिला PrO, P1, P2, P3	

नोडल पदाधिकारी,  
प्रशिक्षण कोषांग  
11 खूँटी ST लोकसभा  
आम चुनाव 2019

P.R.205572 District(19-20):D

## उपायुक्त-सह-जिला दण्डाधिकारी का कार्यालय, खूँटी (परिवहन शाखा)

**आवश्यक सूचना**

एतद् द्वारा सभी बसों, ट्रकों एवं अन्य वाहन स्वामियों को सूचित किया जाता है, कि दिनांक 13.04.2019 को 2:00 बजे अपराहन से रात्रि 11:00 बजे अपराहन तक एवं दिनांक 14.04.2019 को 3:00 बजे अपराहन से पूरी रात्रि रांची से खूँटी की ओर आने वाले सभी वाहन पतराटोली-बिरहु से दाहिने मुड़ते हुए कुंजला होते हुए तोरपा एवं गंतव्य तक जायेंगे। इसी प्रकार तोरपा की ओर से रांची की ओर जाने वाले सभी वाहन कुंजला मोड़ से बायें मुड़ते हुए बिरहु पतराटोली होते हुए रांची की ओर जायेंगे।

चाईबासा से रांची की ओर जाने वाले सभी वाहन प्रखण्ड कार्यालय, खूँटी के समीप माहिल के रास्ते कुंजला होते हुए पतराटोली बिरहु-रांची जायेंगे। इसी प्रकार रांची से चाईबासा की ओर आने वाले सभी वाहन पतराटोली-बिरहु-कुंजला मोड़ से माहिल होत हुए चाईबासा / गंतव्य की ओर जायेंगे।

रामनवमी पर्व के अवसर पर खूँटी नगर अंतर्गत बिरहु-पतराटोली-मेनरोड़, सुभाष चौक (ऊपर चौक) से भगत सिंह चौक(नीचे चौक) तक उपरोक्त अंकित तिथि एवं समय के अनुरूप में सभी वाहनों का प्रवेश निषेध रहेगा।

जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी  
खूँटी

P.R.205579 District(19-20):D

## जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी - सह - उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, गुमला (निर्वाचन शाखा)

**सूचना**

निर्वाची पदाधिकारी 12-लोहरदगा (अ0ज0जा0) लोक सभा आम निर्वाचन 2019 के द्वारा निर्वाचन लड़ने वाले सभी अभ्यर्थियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि आय व्यय जाँच से संबंधित पंजी का सत्यापन अंकेक्षण दल द्वारा किया जाना है। जो निम्नवत है:-

क्र० सं०	अंकेक्षण कि तिथि	स्थान	समय
1	15.04.2019	भविष्य निधि कार्यालय प्रांगन समाहरणालय गुमला।	10.00 AM -5.00 PM
2	20.04.2019		
3	25.04.2019		

निदेश है कि निर्वाचन लड़ने वाले सभी अभ्यर्थी उक्त तिथि को आय व्यय से संबंधित पंजी को जाँच करना ससमय सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी  
-सह-उपायुक्त, गुमला

PR 205591 (Gumla)19-20#D

# BJP sets up office to oversee polling work

**PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR**

In order to reach out to individual voters and party workers, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Saryu Roy and BJP candidate from Jamshedpur Bidyut Baran Mahto inaugurated party's office in the city. After launching, Mahto said that this is yet another hi-tech initiative by the party. The office is based at Sakchi.

The centre is equipped with laptops, phones, which will enable the party to reach to the voters and help them in locating their booth and voter's serial number.

Spread in 5000 sq ft area the election office would monitor party activities for the Jamshedpur Lok Sabha seat, said Anil Modi, the party spokesperson.

"We have made a lobby where the party leaders can brainstorm and chalk out strategies," he said adding that the election office would be equipped with a LED television and that it will have a place earmarked for social media. Jamshedpur will go to polls on May 12. Bidyut Baran Mahto who will try his luck for the second term said members from each of its facilities down to the booth level would not only fan out to inform voters about the achievements of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre but also try and stop false propaganda spread by the Opposition.

"The office would help people as they can complain



Food and Civil Supplies Minister Saryu Roy and BJP candidate from Jamshedpur Bidyut Baran Mahto inaugurating party's office in Jamshedpur **PNS**

and also give suggestions. The people will be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Modi government," he said.

Roy said the party election office will prove to be effective in helping the party workers and leaders during campaigning and planning strategies.

"This office will help in coordinating work and sharing various responsibilities. I think this is one of the most innovative steps taken by any political party in the eastern zone. The idea is to reach to the maximum voters. People can seek number of information by just

telling their voter ID number and serial number," noted a party worker.

The senior party functionaries will oversee, among other things, the party's social media campaign, publicity and distribution of election materials to different con-

stituencies.

The distribution of publicity materials would also be done from the office. A social media team to prepare social media posts and manage social media profiles of BJP candidates will also be working in this office.

# Security tightens amid Ram Navami celebrations

**PNS ■ BOKARO**

The district administration has made elaborate security arrangements for Ram Navami, to be celebrated today.

"Aerial Drones are being used to put the city under foolproof security cover during the procession," said Hema Prasad, SDO Chas.

SDO convened a meeting of peace committee members, representatives of various Ramnavami Akharas committees and DJ operators and asked them not to play indecent songs during the procession or festivity.

"Display of arms has been

## Aerial drones are being used to put the city under foolproof security cover during the procession

banned during procession. Sale of liquor has also been banned for the day," SDO said.

Traffic has been diverted on various routes while the entry of traffic is completely banned on NH 23 from Balidih to Ukrid More from 2 pm to 10 pm, she informed.

Besides, Aerial Drones CCTV cameras have also been

installed on several spots to conduct surveillance and maintain strict vigil across the city, SDO said.

The administration granted permissions and issued licenses to the organisers for taking out rallies and procession ahead of the festival. SDO asked for the licensed Ramnavami Akhara Committee

to ensure that procession must be on the scheduled time and according to the route chart prescribed by the district administration.

"The non-licensed Ram Navami Akhara committees are instructed not to take the procession," added SDO.

During the procession, CCTV footages will be used to identify trouble mongers and those indulging in rash driving or bike stunts during the procession.

"The administration might deploy more police forces, including RAF if the situation demands," said P Murugun, SP Bokaro.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**TENDER FOR REPAIRING WORK**

Tender Notice No.01/MC/SWL/DHN/2019-20, Dhanbad, dated 10/04/2019.

E-Tender in Single Packet System are invited for execution of the following work by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), East Central Railway, Dhanbad:

1. Name of work with its location: Repairing of Surface Wheel lathe machine, Model LW-140B4 SI No. 727.018, Make-HEC, Ranchi under SSE(C&W)/IC/BRWD.
2. Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 8.59,465/- (Rupees Eight lakh fifty nine thousand four hundred sixty five) only.
3. Earnest money to be deposited: ₹ 17,200/- (Rupees Seventeen thousand two hundred) only.
4. Date & Time for submission of tender: 17/04/2019 to 01/05/2019 up to 17.00 Hrs.
5. Date & Time of opening of Tender: At 12.30 hrs. on 02/05/2019
6. Website particulars: <http://www.irops.gov.in>

No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

ADME (C&W), E.C. Rly./ Dhanbad  
PR/80/DHN/MECH/19-20/32



# Family feuds rock State politics



ROSHAN KUMAR ■ RANCHI



SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER, KALI CHARAN WHO HAD REPRESENTED TAMAR SEAT TWICE IN ASSEMBLY (THEN BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY), IS TRYING HIS LUCK IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS FOR FIRST TIME, HOWEVER, STANDING AGAINST HIM IS NEELKANTH SINGH MUNDA THE SENIOR BJP LEADER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER IN CHIEF MINISTER RAGHUBAR DAS'S CABINET

Family feuds in Lok Sabha elections in the State have resurfaced again with several instances of members of same family being in different political parties, supporting different candidates.

Last week, Congress party announced the name of Kali Charan Munda as party candidate from Khunti seat against BJP heavy weight and former chief minister Arjun Munda.

Senior Congress leader, Kali Charan who had represented Tamar seat twice in assembly (then Bihar Legislative Assembly), is trying his luck in

parliamentary elections for first time, however, standing against him is Neelkanth Singh Munda the senior BJP leader and rural development minister in Chief Minister Raghubar Das's cabinet. Neelkanth Singh Munda, the sitting MLA from Khunti has been assigned the job to prepare election strategy for Arjun Munda in Khunti.

Not only, Khunti, the BJP has once again fielded minister of state civil aviation Jayant Sinha from the Hazaribag seat—the seat which his father, Yashwant Sinha had represented earlier. However, for Jayant the problem is that his father is

against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and on several occasions he had even shared his reservation with Saffron party. Ranchi sitting MP Ram Tahal Chaudhary who was denied ticket from BJP is contesting election as Independent and is sure to spoil BJP's prospect in the Ranchi parliamentary seat. However, his son Randhir Chaudhary is still with BJP. Randhir is president of Ranchi rural BJP. On Wednesday the day on which

Ram Tahal Chaudhary announced to quit BJP contesting election as Independent talking to media persons he said, "There is no problem if my son is with BJP. There may be political differences within the same family. In national politics too there are several instances where two members of same family are in different political parties."

Political experts claim that two member of same family working in different political

parties is nothing but family strategy, however, many a times it is also ideologies which works. VP Sharan, former Vice Chancellor Ranchi University and political expert said, "Members of same family working in same political families is with strategy so that whosoever political parties' government is formed at least one member from family is in government."

Sharan also gave the example of JB Kripalani who was with opposition, but his wife Suchetra Kripalani was with Congress.

Also, Vijaya Raje Scindia was with BJP and one of the founding members of party, but his son Madhav Raje Scindia was with Congress.

In national politics, family feud is also prevalent in Gandhi family. While Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi heads Congress, Sonia Gandhi's sister-in-law, Maneka Gandhi and her son Varun Gandhi are with BJP.

However, there are examples where two members of same family within the same political parties. BJP incumbent MP from Palamu VD Ram is relative of party legislator from Chhatrapur Radha Krishna Kishore.

# School merger to be a major issue in LS polls

ROSHAN KUMAR ■ RANCHI

School merger will be one the important issues in upcoming Lok Sabha elections in State this time. The issue gains importance as both opposition as well members from ruling parties have raised the issue time and again with State Government putting on hold the merger plan to shed its negative image during the upcoming elections.

The Jharkhand Government in fiscal year 2016-17, decided to merge schools with low enrolment an exercise undertaken by Rajasthan and Jharkhand in the country with the support of the Union Government and NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog. In two phases the Jharkhand government merged 1200 and 4600 schools, but brakes were applied in third phase of merger of 6466 schools due to protest of opposition as well ruling parties.

All 12 members of Parliament belonging to the ruling BJP representing Jharkhand in the Lok Sabha opposed the Government's

merging primary and middle schools in the State. The MPs, in a combined letter in 2018 addressed to Chief Minister Raghubar Das, spelt out several reasons in the support of their demand.

State Congress spokesperson, Lal Kishore Nath Shahdeo said, "The BJP Government plans to merge schools with low enrolment ratio was a decision taken by the Government without any planning and home work. With the merger of schools students had to travel long distance. The state government to hide their failure that there is shortage of teachers decided to merge schools, but the reality is that in last four and half years the government had not carried out teachers recruitment."

Echoing the views of Shahdeo, JVM (P) spokesperson, Yogendra Pratap said, "The State government by closing schools has tried to apply brakes on welfare schemes of government. Education, healths are welfare schemes and in democracy welfare schemes doesn't have loss and profit motive." The opposition leaders' claim that due to

merger of school the dropout rate of students in school will go up, also with the government going for merger of schools had not arranged any transportation facilities for students. The Opposition leader claims that with merger of schools around 4500 posts of teachers will be abolished which will once again lead to shortage of teachers. Shahdeo said that their party will raise the issue of school mergers as leaders have been asked to raise the issue in their election campaign.

A senior BJP leader requesting anonymity said, "The State Government reading the pulse of people and after collecting feedback from across the state decided to hold the decision to merge schools. 12 MPs from State had written a letter to CM Das stating that the drive to merge schools was becoming a cause of resentment among people. The MPs in their letter had mentioned that closed government school buildings may become hangouts for anti-social elements if they are left vacant." The government reason for schools merger was to provide quality education to students in a better educational ambience.

# US Consulate promotes entrepreneurship

Ranchi: A day long workshop on Entrepreneurship was organized by US Consulate Kolkata and Banglanatak.Com in association with Atal Bihari Vajpayee Innovation Lab (ABVIL) at Jharkhand Rai University on Friday. The event was organized as a workshop on pitch sessions for new emerging Startup ideas in the State in which students from electrical department of the university presented their ideas.

The programme was the part of a youth entrepreneurship initiative - Catch Them Young: Promoting Business as a Career Choice in Ranchi by the US Consulate General in Kolkata, in collaboration with Kolkata-based

social enterprise Contact Base (banglanatak dot com). The programme, launched to promote entrepreneurship among youth and encourage them to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career choice, is funded by the US Department of State.

This program aims to leverage entrepreneurship training and the Nexus Startup Hub at the American Center in New Delhi will provide mentorship and expertise to the selected young entrepreneurs in Jharkhand along with Bihar and West Bengal.

The Campus Ambassador campaign, which is a part of the Catch Them Young initiative,

looks for motivated college students to lead the initiative in their respective institutions. Role of educational institutions is of utmost importance in developing and fuelling entrepreneurship amongst youth. Funded by the US Government, the selected candidates will get the opportunity to learn from experienced faculty, experts, various facets of starting a business, financial and market knowledge.

The US Consulate Kolkata, in collaboration with US based non-profit "Transformational Sports" also organized a leadership workshop titled "Bridging the Gaps: Social Action Lab" in

Ranchi, Patna and Kolkata. The project used the combination of art and sport to catalyze innovative projects that promote gender equality and aims to combat gender-based violence and human trafficking and promote entrepreneurship.

Some of the major sessions in the workshop included topics like start ups are about creating a business, how did Start Up start, you need to have a technology, product is the centre-piece, build a great product and simple problem: awesome solution.

Jay Treloar, deputy director of American Center in his address to the aspiring entre-

preneurs motivated them to start a business and build a Startup ecosystem in the State. He also encouraged the local startups to leverage local resources and to create employment and become an entrepreneur.

Suman Mukhopadhyay of banglanatak.com mentioned that the Jharkhand is blessed with natural resources, manpower and many more. He appreciated the college initiatives and focus to empower the entrepreneurship. He emphasized on importance of modern technology to create an ecosystem to the extent to which the potential of entrepreneurs can be defined. PNS

# Ranchi all decked up for Ram Navami today

Tableau set to adorn streets

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi is geared up to celebrate Ramnavami on Saturday and the streets are all decked up for the grand festival. Temple committees here are busy preparing their respective tableaus for the historic procession that has adorned the streets of the city every year since 1929.

This year, the Sankat Mochan Sri Hanuman Mandir on Mahatma Gandhi Road has decided to offer an award of Rs.21,000 to the best tableau, Rs.15,000 to the runners up and Rs.11,000 to the second runners up. The grand display of war-craft will be one of the key attractions of the procession, and the devotees have been busy practicing at different Akharas across the city.

While the tableaus will compete among each other, the city will also witness a competition among the flags. According to sources in temple committees, the devotees in the procession will carry a flag as tall as 51 meters this time around. The most popular tableaus will start from Mahavir Chowk, Sankat Mochan Sri Hanuman Mandir and Piska More.

The district administration too has beefed up security to ensure a peaceful Ramnavami this year.

Committees involved in organizing Ramnavami processions had to get their list of devotional songs approved by the local police station before playing them on loudspeakers. The police have also made it clear that any person found guilty of playing objectionable



People purchasing Mahaviri flags on the eve of Ram Navami festival at road side in Ranchi on Friday



Devotees perform rituals ahead on Manda Puja festival in Ranchi on Friday. Manda is a unique festival celebrated by both tribal and non-tribal communities of Jharkhand. Tedious rituals such as walking bare footed on burning coal, hooking one's body with iron-hooks and hanging on high-poles called Charka Dag Machan, are included in this festival. This fair is usually organised at night

# Former JVM GS returns to party

Ranchi: Former Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (JVM) General Secretary Pravin Singh returned to his cadre after a gap of four years on Friday.

Addressing a press meet on the day of his return to the party, Singh said that the victory of Grand Alliance was necessary in protecting the democratic structure of the country.

"At present the reigns of the state is in wrong hands. We need to dethrone them in a bid to preserve the democratic values of the country," he said.

Singh added that he has been in active politics since 1980 but had to take a break since the ideology with which he entered mainstream politics was now at risk.

"When JVM lost election in 2014, I raised question on the party leadership and said



that the leadership had weakened. But now I have realised that no one can be more suitable than Babul Marandi for the State," he said.

Singh was a part of the party since its formation and played an active role in JVM's rise.

He said that the Grand Alliance may face difficulties due to rift over Chitra constituency. PNS

songs during the festival will be booked under section 295 A of Indian Penal Code and put behind the bars.

Ranchi has had a history of communal clashes caused over objectionable songs and fuelled on social media during Ramnavami. In 2017, communal tension simmered in Ranchi during Ramnavami festivities after objectionable lyrics of a song led to clashes between two groups on Mahatma Gandhi Road, which has a Hanuman temple and a mosque at a stone's throw to each other. The District Administration had to issue prohibitory orders and turn MG Road into a fortress after two groups started pelting stones at each other.

In a bid to avert such clashes this Ramnavami, the administration has held meetings with all the DJs in the city and asked them to keep a check on the quality of the songs played during the festival.

"We have taken all necessary measures to avert any clashes during the festival. Social media will also be under our watch and our men will be

deployed across the city to maintain law and order," said Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police, Anish Gupta.

The District Administration has also come up with traffic routes to ensure smooth flow of traffic on Saturday.

## PhD Awarded

Raj Kumar Singh S/o Prof. (Dr.) Shyama Nand Singh, Former Dean and Chairman, Faculty of Commerce, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag, Grand Son of Late Rajbara, Thana Fulidumar, Dist.-Banka (Bihar). Resident of 'Adityam' Professor's Colony Malhan Dam, Dhanbad, Jharkhand is declare to have passed and awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degree from Faculty of Commerce, Department of Management, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag, Jharkhand. Under the Guidance of Dr. Md. M. Alam, Assistant Professor, University Department of Commerce and Business Management, V.B. University, Hazaribag, Jharkhand on 05.04.2019. The Topic of The Thesis was: "ERP AND GLOBALISATION: EFFECT OF SAP AFTER IMPLEMENTATION IN CORPORATE WORLD."

# CBSE introduces arts as compulsory subject

PNS ■ RANCHI

In an attempt to make classroom learning a more joyful experience the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to integrate Art with the teaching and learning process of all academic subjects from classes 1 to 12. Beginning with the new academic session 2019-20, the Board has directed all its affiliated schools to introduce Arts as a mandatory subject.

As per the directives issued, all facilities for art education from standard 1 to 12 will be provided by the school. Schools will compulsorily reserve a minimum of two periods per week to cover all the four main streams of arts such as music, dance, visual arts and theatre. Emphasis will be given on learning rather than teaching with the sessions being very participatory and interactive. Theory, practical and project work will be the basic components of all art forms taught.

The Board has also recommended that students of upper primary classes- standard 6 to 8 should also be introduced to culinary art by establishing multi-disciplinary links across their subjects so that they can learn the value of nutritious food, crops and spices grown in India, how oil is extracted from various seeds, different agricultural practices, pesticides etc. Schools may



also introduce a few cooking classes where girls and boys participate equally keeping their safety as a priority and also making it a fun activity.

"Art classes were always held in our schools. Now the Board has done a very good thing of making it compulsory till class 12. This will be implemented from the coming session 2019-20. Children have

a lot of untapped creativity. Art has various forms, students who want to continue with drawing and painting can do so even in senior classes. Drama, music and dance will also be a part of the classes depending on the child's interest", said Manohar Lal, CBSE Coordinator Ranchi.

The Board held discussions with several stakeholders

including schools, principals, teachers, NCERT, art professionals and concluded that integration of Art with education will lead to better learning in the class rooms.

A press note issued by CBSE said, "Art integration is necessary because it will help the child apply art-based enquiry leading to investigation, exploration, critical thinking and creativity for a better understanding of the concept or topic. It will also enhance experiential learning enabling the students to derive the meaning and understanding directly from their learning experience."

It will help in developing a child's communication skills, reflection and enquiry, boosting their confidence levels and self-esteem and also inculcate an appreciation for aesthetics and creativity. Broadening their minds, it will enable the students to see the multi-disciplinary between the various subjects, topics and real life.

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[anupamsheshank@gmail.com](mailto:anupamsheshank@gmail.com)



# Shelter home children tell stories through theatre



Hockey players from interior areas of Jharkhand with the team of US Consulate in Khunti on Friday

PNS

KELLY KISLAYA ■ KHUNTI

Sensitive issues like child abuse, witch hunting, domestic violence and child marriage were showcased through performative story telling by none other than the survivors themselves in Khunti district on Friday.

As many as 72 girls, living in three different shelter homes of the district including Sahyog Village, Asha Jyotishka and Asha Kiran, performed the story of their lives or the lives of people around them through theatre, dance and music.

The programme was organized in aegis of US Consulate, Kolkata, supported by child welfare committee and district child protection officer of Khunti.

Theatre artists and dancers from Kolkata trained the girls in various art forms for three days, from April 10 to 12, to prepare them for the performative story telling.

Shriradha Paul, a professional Indian classical dancer who was in the team of train-

ers said, "It was difficult to get these girls open up about their problems as they are survivors and so very reserved about the problems they have faced. It took us a day to get them speak up about the problems and when they did we taught them to channel their energy and tell their story through theatre."

Suman Das, a theatre artist and resource person from Kolkata said that this activity will help strengthen the voice of these girls. One of the performers from a shelter home said, "We never thought we could actually do this until we performed." Friday also marked the finale of Field Hockey Project of Eastern India organized by US Consulate and Delhi Based organization Shakti Vahini in December 2018, wherein 106 girls from the interior most villages of the State were coached in Hockey by a seven-member team of Middlebury Athletics College in Vermont, US.

The final match was played by 30 girls of Khunti, Simdega and Gumla. Deputy Director of

American Centre, Jay Treloar said, "US Consulate is lucky to work in Jharkhand. The theme of the field hockey game is to provide overall development to the youth of the State."

Talking about the future plans of the Consulate on field Hockey, Treloar said, "We are working on phase two of the programme with our partners at Middlebury College who are very much interested to continue this programme further. The programme is likely to be scheduled in January 2020 in which eight people will come from the US to coach the girls here."

The president of Middlebury, Laurie L. Patton, who is a Sanskrit Scholar herself and has translated Bhagawat Geeta in English has also showed her interest in coming to Jharkhand for the programme, the deputy director informed.

Treloar said that the team from Middlebury has written letters to each of the 106 girls and the girls are enthusiastic to write back.

# 2 undercurrents marked phase-I elections!

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the polling for the first phase of polling ending on Thursday, the three major parties, BJD, Congress and BJP claimed that they have "performed well".

However, many observers are of the view that there were two undercurrents flowing in the four Lok Sabha constituencies of Koraput, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Brahmapur and the 28 Assembly segments under them.

The two factors that may influence the outcome are: Naveen Patnaik's high popularity among women voters and young voters' support to Narendra Modi for India's airstrike in Pakistan.

Naveen's acceptability among the women voters

should not be ignored because women voters outnumbered their male counterparts in the first-phase polling.

On the other hand, younger voters within the age group of 35 and first-time ones seemed to be supporting Modi because of the IAF's bravery beyond the borders. "I expect the results to be better (for the BJD) than the 2014 polls," Patnaik told reporters. BJP State in-charge Arun Singh claimed that his party would win a two-thirds majority of the Assembly seats. PCC president Niranjan Patnaik said Congress candidates would win 18 out of the 28 Assembly seats. Notably, in the 2014 elections, the BJD had won all the four Lok Sabha seats. Of the 28 Assembly seats, the BJD had bagged 20 while, the Congress six and the BJP two.

# BJP betrayed Odisha for 5 years: Odisha CM

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday alleged that the BJP-led Government at the Centre betrayed the people of Odisha by for the last five years by not fulfilling promises the BJP made during the 2014 polls.

Patnaik stated this while holding marathon road shows at Sanakhemundi and at various other places in Ganjam district.

"BJP leaders visit Odisha during elections only. The party made many promises like giving Special Category State status to Odisha and create employments for youths. Though it came to power at the Centre, it didn't fulfil any of its promises. The party has betrayed the people of Odisha

in the last five years," said Patnaik said.

He slammed the Central Government on issues of Mahanadi water dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh and the Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh. The Central Government supported both the projects against Odisha's interest, he said.

Speaking about Khurda-Balangir railway line, Patnaik said, "Although we have provided land free of cost, the Centre is making inordinate delay in execution of the project." He asserted that the BJD would win 21 out of 21 Lok Sabha seats and continue to fight for fulfilment of the State's longstanding demands. "This is a good chance for all of us to teach the BJP a lesson," he said.

# Septuagenarian Chhath devotee run over by truck



A traffic violation checking drive being conducted in Ranchi on Friday

PNS

PNS ■ RANCHI

A septuagenarian woman died on Friday after a speeding truck run over her near LPN Shaheed Chowk in Ranchi while she was on her way to participate in Chhath Puja rituals.

Officer-in-charge of Gonda Police Station, Sapan Kumar Mahtha said that 75-year-old Lato Devi, a residence of Indrapuri area under Sukhdeo Nagar Police Station in Ranchi District was going to observe Chhath Puja with her son on a scooter.

The woman reportedly lost balance and fell on the road and the iron rod laden truck, coming from Ratu Road, ran over her. She died on the spot.

The truck driver fled soon after the incident, police said. The truck, they said, was owned by a resident of Hazaribag. Ranchi Traffic Superintendent of Police, Ajit

THE TRUCK DRIVER FLED SOON AFTER THE INCIDENT, POLICE SAID. THE TRUCK, THEY SAID, WAS OWNED BY A RESIDENT OF HAZARIBAG. RANCHI TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, AJIT PETER DUNGUNG SAID THAT THE TRAFFIC POLICE ARE DEPLOYED ON DUTY AFTER 8AM AND ANY INCIDENT PRIOR TO THAT IS INVESTIGATED BY THE CONCERNED POLICE STATION

Peter Dungdung said that the traffic police are deployed on duty after 8am and any incident prior to that is investigated by the concerned police station. "We try our level best to prevent such incidents. This mishap is unfortunate," he said. Secretary of a Non

Governmental Organisation, Rishabh Anand said that cases of accidents caused by rash driving have increased in the past five to six months.

"We do not have any data on this yet, but our survey is in progress," he added.

Anand said that the administration was only keeping an eye on traffic rules violations and not doing anything to prevent such mishaps. "They (administration) have installed CCTV cameras, which only stop people from breaking signals and crossing the white lines on the road. Why are the cameras not being used to check cases of rash driving?" he asked.

The entry of heavy vehicles in the urban territory has also been a concern for Ranchi-ites. Sources from the police department said that heavy vehicles were involved in a majority of accidents reported during the wee hours of the day.

**कार्यालय, जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक, राँची**

**सूचना**

प्राथमिक शिक्षा, निदेशालय झारखण्ड, के पत्रांक 203 दिनांक 29.01.2019 के आलोक में प्रारंभिक विद्यालयों में इंटर प्रशिक्षित, सहायक शिक्षक एवं स्नातक प्रशिक्षित शिक्षक की नियुक्ति के लिए वर्ष 2015-16 में क्रमशः प्रकाशित विज्ञापित संख्या 03/2015 एवं 04/2015 में से रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु पूर्व में चयनित एवं अचयनित (अभ्युक्ति के साथ) मास्टर सूची एवं औपबंधिक रूप से अंतिम काउन्सिलिंग में बुलाने हेतु चयनित अभ्युर्थियों की सूची कार्यालय के वेबसाइट [www.dseranchi.com](http://www.dseranchi.com) पर अपलोड कर दिया गया है। वैसे सभी अभ्युर्थी जिन्होंने राँची जिला में विज्ञापन संख्या 03/2015 एवं 04/2015 के आलोक में अपना अभ्यावेदन ऑनलाईन भरा था, से अनुरोध है कि कार्यालय के वेबसाइट पर अपना डेटा को देखकर संतुष्ट हो लें कि उनके नाम के सामने अंकित सभी डेटा सही भरा हुआ है। अपलॉड डेटा में यदि किसी प्रकार की आपत्ति है तो दिनांक 30.04.2019 तक प्रत्येक कार्य अवधि को झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना मध्य विद्यालय बी.एम. पी. डोरण्डा राँची में स्पीड पोस्ट/निबंधित डाक/ हाथों-हाथ अपनी आपत्ति दोस साक्ष्य के साथ दर्ज करा सकते हैं। निर्धारित तिथि के बाद कोई भी दावा/आपत्ति मान्य नहीं होगा।

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PR 205563 Ranchi (19-20)\_D

**कार्यालय जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त चतरा (लेखा-व्यय कोषांग, लोक सभा आम चुनाव-2019)**

**-:आदेश:-**

लोक सभा आम चुनाव-2019 के लिए निर्वाचन लड़ने वाले अभ्युर्थियों का दैनिक लेखे के रख रखाव का जाँच किया जाना है। निर्वाचन लड़ने वाले सभी अभ्युर्थी से अनुरोध है कि निम्नांकित तिथि को ससमय उपस्थित होकर दैनिक लेखे के रख रखाव का जाँच कराना सुनिश्चित किया जाय।

क्र०	दिनांक	स्थान	समय	अभ्युक्ति
1	18.04.2019	समाहरणालय सभाकक्ष, चतरा।	11.00 पूर्वाह्न से	
2	22.04.2019	समाहरणालय सभाकक्ष, चतरा।	11.00 पूर्वाह्न से	
3	26.04.2019	समाहरणालय सभाकक्ष, चतरा।	11.00 पूर्वाह्न से	

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त, चतरा

PR205567 (Election)19-20\*D

**जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त, गुमला का कार्यालय (वाहन कोषांग)**

**प्रेस-विज्ञापित**

आसन्न लोहरदगा लोकसभा निर्वाचन, 2019 के मतदान कार्य में शामिल होने वाले सभी वाहनों के चालक एवं सह चालक को इस प्रेस विज्ञापित के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि गुमला जिलान्तर्गत परिचालित सभी व्यवसायिक वाहनों का अधिग्रहण नोटिस वाहन मालिक को प्रेषित किया जा चुका है। गुमला जिला बस ऑनर एशोसिएशन एवं अन्य व्यवसायिक वाहन मालिकों के साथ दिनांक 10.04.2019 को सम्पन्न बैठक में प्रतिवेदित किया गया कि चुनाव कार्य में प्रयुक्त वाहनों के वाहन चालकों द्वारा चुनाव कार्य में अनावश्यक बहाना बनाकर वाहन को छोड़ दिया जा रहा है। वाहन स्वामियों से सभी वाहन चालकों/सह चालकों की सूची प्राप्त है, जिस भी वाहन मालिकों से आपक सम्बंध में ऐसी सूचना प्राप्त होगी, तत्काल उनका ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस को निलंबित करते हुए लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत विधि सम्मत कार्रवाई की जायेगी।

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वाहन कोषांग-सह-  
जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी, गुमला।

PR 205570 (Election) 19-20 (D)

**BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED**  
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**Notice Inviting e-Tenders**

The Executive Engineer (C), BSNL Civil Division-I, 3rd floor, Telephone Bhawan, Shaheed Chowk, Ranchi invites on behalf of BSNL online item rate tender for the work:-

**NIT No.:- 43/NIT/EE(C)/CD-I/BSNL/RCH/2018-19, Name of work : Retrofitting by gunniting method of special repair and rehabilitation work i/c other misc. civil works of Main TE building at Ranchi. (SSA-Ranchi) (Phase-II). Estimated cost - Rs. 19,76,813/- EMD - Rs. 39,536/- Period of completion - 4 months. Last date of submission of tender - 09.04.2019 at 6:00 P.M.**

The tender form and other details can be obtained from the website : [www.tenderwizard.com/BSNLKOL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/BSNLKOL) or [www.jharkhand.bsnl.co.in](http://www.jharkhand.bsnl.co.in)

**अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी का कार्यालय, खूँटी (गोपनीय शाखा)**

**आम सूचना**

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारणों को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 29.01.2019 को खूँटी जिला के अड़की प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत ग्राम तिरला से दक्षिण स्थित जंगली पहाड़ी क्षेत्र में (i) प्रभु सहाय बोदरा, पिता-स्व० करम सिंह बोदरा, ग्राम-जामदा, सियांकेल, थाना-मुरहू, जिला-खूँटी (ii) संत थोमस सोय, पिता-सबन सोय, ग्राम-नारंग, थाना-अड़की, जिला-खूँटी (iii) संजय ओडेया, पिता-सेलाय मुण्डा, ग्राम-डहकेला, थाना-मुरहू, जिला-खूँटी (iv) जोहन तोरपा, पिता-सहाय मसीह तोपनो, ग्राम-बेलबेडा, थाना-तमाड, जिला-रांची एवं (v) एक अज्ञात की पुलिस मुठभेड़ में मृत्यु के संबंध में मृतक के संबंधी या अन्य जो मुठभेड़/मृत्यु के बारे में कोई साक्ष्य जानते हों और अपना बयान देना चाहते हों तो वे दिनांक 15.04.19 से दिनांक 22.04.19 तक अनुमण्डल कार्यालय, खूँटी में आकर अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी, खूँटी के सम्मुख अवधि में (पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से संध्या 5.00 बजे तक) अपना बयान या साक्ष्य प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी,  
खूँटी

P.R.205558 District(19-20):D

**जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, गुमला (कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण कोषांग)**

**लोक सभा निर्वाचन 2019 प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम सूचना**

लोकसभा निर्वाचन 2019 के सफल संचालन हेतु भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा निदेशित आवश्यक त्रिस्तरीय प्रशिक्षण के संदर्भ में प्रतिनियुक्त पीठासीन/प्रथम/द्वितीय एवं तृतीय मतदान पदाधिकारियों का जिला स्तर पर विद्यान समावार पार्टीवार प्रशिक्षण निम्नवत् निर्धारित किया जाता है:-

**द्वितीय चरण:-**

दिनांक	प्रशिक्षण स्थल	प्रथम पाली		द्वितीय पाली	
		पूर्वा० 10:00 से 1:00 बजे अप० तक	अप० 2:00बजे से 5:00 बजे अप० तक	पूर्वा० 10:00 से 1:00 बजे अप० तक	अप० 2:00बजे से 5:00 बजे अप० तक
15.04.2019	एस० एस० +2 उच्च विद्यालय, गुमला	सिसई विद्यान सभा क्षेत्र हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त कर्मी- पार्टी संख्या 01 से 140		सिसई विद्यान सभा क्षेत्र हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त कर्मी- पार्टी संख्या 141 से 280	
16.04.2019	एस० एस० +2 उच्च विद्यालय, गुमला	सिसई विद्यान सभा क्षेत्र हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त कर्मी- पार्टी संख्या 281 से शेष सभी पार्टी			गुमला विद्यान सभाक्षेत्र हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त कर्मी- पार्टी संख्या 56 से 195
					गुमला विद्यान सभाक्षेत्र हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त कर्मी- पार्टी संख्या 01 से 55
17.04.2019	एस० एस० +2 उच्च विद्यालय, गुमला	गुमला विद्यान सभाक्षेत्र हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त कर्मी- पार्टी संख्या 196 से शेष सभी पार्टी			बिबुनपुर विद्यान सभाक्षेत्र हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त कर्मी- पार्टी संख्या 01 से 140
18.04.2019	एस० एस० +2 उच्च विद्यालय, गुमला	बिबुनपुर विद्यान सभाक्षेत्र हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त कर्मी- पार्टी संख्या 141 से 280			बिबुनपुर विद्यान सभाक्षेत्र हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त कर्मी- पार्टी संख्या 281 से शेष सभी पार्टी

**निदेश :-**

- सभी संबंधित कर्मी निर्धारित तिथि को ससमय प्रशिक्षण में अनिवार्य रूप से भाग लेना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।
- सभी कर्मी मतदान प्रक्रिया सहित EVM/VVPAT का Hand On Traininig भली भाँति लेना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।
- सभी कर्मी प्रशिक्षण के क्रम में सभी आवश्यक प्रपत्रों के संचारण का मली-भाँति प्रशिक्षण लेना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।
- प्रशिक्षण में अनुपस्थित रहने वाले कर्मीयों पर RPACT 1951 की सुसंगत धाराओं के अंतर्गत आवश्यक कार्रवाई की जायेगी।
- सभी मतदान कर्मी प्रशिक्षण तिथि को ही पूर्व में नियुक्ति पत्र के साथ संलग्न ई०डी०सी० हेतु प्रपत्र 12-A यदि अबतक भरकर जमा नहीं किये हैं, तो मतदाता पहचान पत्र की छायाप्रति संलग्न करते हुये उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।
- सभी पीठासीन पदाधिकारी प्रशिक्षण तिथि को ही इस आशय का प्रमाण-पत्र उपलब्ध करायेंगे कि वे EVM/VVPAT के संचालन का मली-भाँति प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त कर लिये हैं तथा संचालन हेतु पूर्ण रूप से सक्षम हैं।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी  
-सह- उपायुक्त, गुमला

PR 205586 (Gumla)19-20#D

# 'Grand alliance members supporting separatist ideology'

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) Spokesperson

Pratul Shaheedo said on Friday that members of the Grand Alliance are yet to give their views on Congress's agenda of repealing sedition law in India and removal of Armed Forces Special Protection Act in Kashmir. This, he said, shows that Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (JVM) and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) have agreed with the manifesto of Congress.

"The BJP has sought reactions from the Grand Alliance partners on this matter since the Congress released its manifesto, but they have remained mum," Shaheedo said, adding that their silence should be taken as their agreement with the Congress.

Shaheedo said that the joint efforts of the State and the

Centre have put Left Wing Extremists on a back foot in Jharkhand for the first time, and the Grand Alliance's silence on the matter of repealing sedition laws shows that they are supporting separatists and extremists.

"By supporting the removal of sedition laws, the Congress and its allies have made it clear that they stand in support of anti-national forces. It also proves that Congress is working on a policy of dividing the country and its allies are supporting this ideology," said Shaheedo.

The people of the country, he said, were closely watching the intensions of the grand allies and they will show their disagreement with such divisive politics through ballot.

## INBRIEF

### RBI'S WORKSHOP

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Ranchi office on Friday conducted a day long capacity building workshop for branch managers of different banks in State Capital. The workshop was inaugurated by Sanjeev Dayal, RBI Managing Director (MD). During the workshop branch managers of different banks participated. The RBI MD directed the branch managers to address customer grievances, instructions were issued to branch managers regarding refund of currency notes and other awareness regarding banking. The branch managers were also provided inputs about Grahav Seva Kendra. The session was conducted by RBI assistant MD, Rajesh Tiwari.

### PNB' FOUNDATION DAY

Ranchi: The Punjab National Bank on Friday celebrated its 125th foundation day at regional office in State Capital. On this occasion, the bank organized several functions at Nirmala College, St Michael School for blind and Yogda Satsang, where speech competition, debate, song competition and quiz competition was held. The winner, runner up and those getting third prize were awarded on the occasion. At the function held at St Michael School for blind the chief guest of function was Padma recipient and folk singer Mukund Nayak and PNB regional head Praveen Kumar Jain.

### 3 J'KHAND GIRLS SELECTED FOR MISS INDIA

First round of selection for Femina Miss India 2019 organised by fbb Colors co-powered by Sephora and Rajnigandha Pearls took place in the State capital on Friday. Three girls were selected in the competition including Tanvi Malhar, Kshipa Dubey and Chitra Priya. The top 3 winners of Jharkhand will head for the East Zonal crowning ceremony of fbb Colors Femina Miss India 2019 in Kolkata on April 23.

### AMBEDKAR JAYANTI CELEBRATED

To eulogize the contribution of Indian Constitution, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in the making of the largest democracy of the world, the students of Class-II of DPS Ranchi celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti by displaying his inspiring works done for the betterment of the country. With the motive of cultivating the constitutional spirit among the students and to make them aware about Dr. Ambedkar's huge role in the making of India, several enthusiastic programmes were held.



# BJP moves EC, SC against Rahul's 'chor' jibe at Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday moved the Election Commission (EC) and also the Supreme Court seeking action against Congress president Rahul Gandhi for repeatedly calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi "a thief" and also attributing to the Supreme Court things it did not say in the Rafale jet case.

A BJP delegation, comprising Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and its media head Anil Baluni, met EC officials and expressed the party's "disappointment" with the poll body, saying it has looked the other way despite their repeated pleas to it against Rahul for his "baseless" allegations against Modi.

For her part, BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi filed a contempt petition in the Supreme Court against Rahul for attributing his 'chowkidar chor hai' comment against PM Modi to the apex court. The matter is listed for April 15 (Monday) for hearing.

Pointing to Rahul's remarks on Wednesday that the apex court has acknowledged that Modi is a "thief" and that he gave ₹30,000 crore to industrialist Anil Ambani, Naqvi said such "lies" and "baseless allegations" are not only violative of the Model Code of Conduct but also fall under "corrupt practices", as described in the Representation of People Act. The court had never said such a thing, he said.

"The Congress President is using abusive words and statements that are untrue. He is repeatedly calling the Prime Minister 'chor' without any evidence despite the Supreme Court's December verdict in the Rafale case, and also putting words into the mouth of Supreme Court," Sitharaman told reporters.

"We have complained to the EC that neither the Supreme Court nor the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) have said anything of this kind. But the EC



Nirmala Sitharaman and party leaders leave after meeting the Election Commission officials in New Delhi on Friday PTI

**BJP delegation, comprising Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and its media head Anil Baluni, met EC officials and expressed the party's "disappointment" with the poll body, saying it has looked the other way despite their repeated pleas to it against Rahul for his "baseless" allegations against Modi**

crore to Anil Ambani, who is the chairman of the offset partner in the deal Reliance Defence.

"We all know (the) Congress president probably doesn't even read even half a paragraph. By saying that the court has said 'Chowkidar chor hai', these (statements) verge on contempt of court," Sitharaman said, adding that Rahul is showing signs of frustration.

"The person who himself is on bail, violating every norm of political decency alleging things which the court has never said. He has lost all sense of decency by causing contempt of court," Sitharaman said.

In the context of the first phase of the Lok Sabha election held on Thursday, the ministers also alleged that Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers had engaged in "rigging and booth capturing" during the voting process in West Bengal. The BJP demanded re-polling in 297 booths in West Bengal's Cooch Behar Lok Sabha constituency that voted on Thursday in the first phase of polling.

Appearing on behalf of Lekhi's petition, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, told the bench that Congress president made a remark that the "Supreme Court has said, chowkidar chor hai" in the verdict.

## Will wait for final judgement: BJP on SC's order on electoral bonds

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday said it will wait for the final judgement of the Supreme Court on donation in form of electoral bonds and would accept whatever is the order from the apex court.

The Supreme Court on Friday directed all political parties to provide details of donations received in electoral bonds and the identity of the donors to the Election Commission in a sealed cover by May 30, in an attempt to bring transparency

around anonymous poll funding.

"Whatever is the order of the Supreme Court, it has to be complied with and it is always complied with," said BJP spokesperson and supreme court lawyer Nalin Kohli.

"As far as issues raised by the government is concerned, they have been placed before the court for its consideration. And we will await the final judgement," Kohli said.

Refusing to stay for now the contentious electoral bonds scheme, the court gave the

direction in an interim order in the midst of the Lok Sabha polls which began on Thursday and concludes on May 19.

The political parties were also directed to give details of the bank account of the donors.

The order was given on a petition filed by an NGO — Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) — challenging the validity of the scheme and sought a stay on the issuance of electoral bonds or that names of the donors be made public to ensure transparency in the poll process.

'chor' in connection with the Rafale deal issue, despite the Supreme Court's order in the matter," Sitharaman said.

She further said that the Congress leader said at a public rally that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was proven guilty of corruption in the Rafale deal and giving ₹30,000

did not take cognizance. It looked the other way. "During election time if he is uttering words which are untrue, can the Election Commission ignore it?" the BJP leader asked.

"The Supreme Court has made it clear that 'chowkidar-ji' (watchman) has committed a theft," Gandhi told reporters

after filing his nomination papers in Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. "The way Congress president Rahul Gandhi has used defamatory language against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government. He has been spreading lies repeatedly by calling the Prime Minister a

## Something serious going on in Bengal: Apex court

SC seeks State's reply on custom officials harassment within four weeks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Something "very very serious" seems to be going on in West Bengal, the Supreme Court said on Friday as it agreed to hear a plea alleging harassment of custom officials at Kolkata Airport for checking the luggage of a Trinamool Congress leader's wife.

The top court asked the West Bengal Government to file its reply on the plea within four weeks.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna said: "Someone has drawn our attention to something very very serious. We don't know yet whose claim is bona fide but we would like to go into the root of the matter."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the customs department and assisted by advocate Ravi Prakash, told

the Bench that the plea pertains to the incident of March 15-16 when customs officials were obstructed from carrying out their duty.

The obstruction was caused to the officials, when two women including one Rujira Naroola Banerjee, wife of Abhishek Banerjee who is TMC MP and nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, was intercepted at the airport for checking.

Senior advocate Abhishek M Singhvi objected to the issuance of notice and said that the petition is not maintainable as the petitioner Rajkumar Barthwal is a member of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and has no locus standi to file the plea.

To this, the bench observed that it does not know the bona fide of the petitioner but "We cannot ignore what is going on in West Bengal. If required we can ourselves take suo motu cognizance of the events and get to the bottom of the issue".

On March 29, the Centre had told the apex court that custom officials at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in

Kolkata were "intimidated, harassed and threatened" by the local police for checking the baggage of the wife of the TMC MP.

It had also alleged that "institutional anarchy" and "complete lawlessness" have been prevailing in West Bengal.

Mehta had told the court that on the intervening night of March 15-16 at around 1.10 AM, two women, who arrived from an international flight, and their luggage were checked by the custom officials.

"They were asked to allow checking of their baggage but they resisted. They were asked to show their passports after which they abused the officials present there," he had said.

Mehta had added that soon after the ladies left the airport, a huge contingent of police personnel entered the premises and tried to arrest the custom officials for checking the baggage of the women.

"This is institutional anarchy and complete lawlessness going on in West Bengal," he had said, adding that custom officials tried to lodge the FIR but no case was registered by the police so far.

## Army conference stresses on need to push modernisation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of ongoing Intension with Pakistan on the border post-Pulwama incident in February in which 44 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) men died in a suicide attack and growing military might of China, the ongoing Army commanders' conference here has stressed on the need to ensure optimum force readiness. The meet, which started on Monday and ends on Saturday, also decided to sustain the pace of modernisation with maximum utilisation of resources with the existing Budget.

The conference, an apex level biannual event, which formulates important policy decisions, comprehensively deliberated all aspects of extant security dynamics, emerging security scenarios, enhancing operational capability in near and long term and enhancement of combat edge over potential adversaries, Army officials said here on Friday.

They said it was emphasised in the conference that Indian Army is committed to peaceful security environment and shall holistically address emerging threats, challenges and ensure no room for terror.

Ensure speedy move and all weather connectivity to Northern Borders are the focus areas, says Officials

Reviews during the Conference included readiness, tri-services synergy, military diplomacy, joint exercises that have created capacity and environment and supporting operational plans that have evolved.

The deliberations in the conference validated the current course set by the military hierarchy, as merited by the dynamics of emerging security and operational events and the key highlights include optimum force readiness to be ensured, re-prioritising the existing requirements to ensure that the resources allocated for force modernisation and capacity building be ensured by optimising allotted Budget. The commanders also pitched for increasing the content of indigenisation in force modernisation.

Reviewing the state of existing infrastructure along Northern Borders facing China, the top echelon of the Army decided to pursue these projects on higher priority. Ensure speedy move and all weather connectivity to Northern Borders are the focus areas, officials said.

## Preliminary enquiry against MSY, Tipu in DA case closed in 2013: CBI to SC

New Delhi: CBI told the Supreme Court on Friday that it had closed in 2013 a preliminary inquiry against former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh in a disproportionate assets case.

Taking note of the oral submission of the agency, a bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi asked the CBI to file its response within four weeks on a fresh plea filed by a Congress activist seeking to know the status of probe in the assets case against the family members of the Samajwadi Party patriarch including his second son Prateek.

The bench, which also included Justice Sanjiv Khanna, had on March 25 granted two weeks to CBI, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, to file the response to the plea.

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

He said the petition against him and his family was filed in 2005 and the CBI and the Income Tax Authorities did not find anything adverse. PTI

## SC to hear plea challenging PM biopic ban on April 15

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on April 15 a plea challenging the Election Commission's ban on the release of a biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi till the general election is over.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said it will hear the plea filed by the biopic's producers.

The poll panel had on Wednesday banned the screening of the biopic during the current poll period, saying any such film that subserves purpose of any political entity or individual should not be displayed in the electronic media.

The Commission, in a separate order, had also directed the producers "not to exhibit the film titled 'PM Narendra Modi' till further orders.

The Commission's order came on April 10, a day before it was to be released, coinciding with the first phase of Lok Sabha elections. Votes for all 543 seats will be counted on May 23 after the end of the seven-phase polling on May 19.

## IN SHORT

### SC DIRECTS EX-J'KHAND MINISTER TO SURRENDER

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday directed former Jharkhand Minister Yogendra Sao to surrender before a court in Ranchi by April 15 in cases related to rioting and inciting of violence. A bench of Justices S A Bobde and S Abdul Nazeer said: "The petitioner (Sao) is directed to surrender before the Additional Judicial Commissioner-7, Ranchi, by April 15, 2019. The instant applications for modification and the miscellaneous applications stand disposed of accordingly".

### SC ALLOWS EX-TMC MP TO ENTER BISHNUPUR

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday allowed former Trinamool Congress MP Saumitra Khan, who is now a BJP candidate and facing a criminal case, to enter Bishnupur constituency in West Bengal for filing his nomination papers for the Lok Sabha polls. The top court allowed Khan to approach the Calcutta High Court seeking modification of its earlier order banning his entry into Bishnupur constituency in Bankura district of West Bengal.

### You will never let this country remain in peace, says SC on worship at Ayodhya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

You will never let this country remain in peace," the Supreme Court said on Friday while dismissing a plea seeking permission to carry out religious activities in nine ancient temples situated on the undisputed acquired land adjacent to Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid site at Ayodhya.

"There will always be something," said a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna.

The Bench was hearing an appeal filed against the January 10 order of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, which had dismissed the plea seeking its nod to offer prayer in the nine temples there and had also imposed a cost of ₹5 lakh on the petitioner.

## Vehicles pollution caused asthma in 3,50,000 Indian kids: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Toxic fumes emitted by vehicles on the roads are taking a toll on the kids across the world including India where at least 3,50,000 children fell to chronic respiratory disease, asthma. India is second only to China, as per a Lancet study that analysed 194 countries and 125 major cities worldwide.

Worldwide four million kids get asthma every year as a result of inhaling air pollution, said the study conducted by researchers at the George Washington University Milken Institute of Public Health. And an estimated 64 per cent of these new asthma cases occur in urban areas. The study based on the data between 2010 and 2015 is published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal.



The estimates suggested that there are 170 new cases of traffic pollution-related asthma

per 100,000 children every year, while 13 per cent of childhood asthma cases diagnosed

each year are linked to traffic pollution. India ranked second to China where the largest burdens related to air pollution was at 7,60,000 cases of asthma per year, while the United States had 2,40,000 kids falling to the chronic disease.

Asthma is a chronic, inflammatory condition of the lungs and airways — basically, when asthma is triggered, the symptoms make it difficult to breathe, which can be extremely dangerous and even lead to death if attacks are severe enough and go untreated.

With 92 per cent of cases developing in areas that have traffic pollution levels below the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline level, the researcher suggest that this limit may need to be reviewed. "Nitrogen dioxide pollu-

tion appears to be a substantial risk factor for childhood asthma incidence in both developed and developing countries, especially in urban areas," said senior author of the study, Susan C. Anenberg from George Washington University, US.

"Our findings suggest that the World Health Organization guideline for annual average NO2 concentrations might need to be revisited, and that traffic emissions should be a target to mitigate exposure," Anenberg said in a statement.

"Improving access to cleaner forms of transportation, like electric public transport and active commuting by cycling and walking, would not only bring down NO2 levels, but would also reduce asthma, enhance physical fitness, and

cut greenhouse gas emissions," added Anenberg.

Our study indicates that policy initiatives to alleviate traffic-related air pollution can lead to improvements in children's health and also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, said lead author Ploy Achakulwisut from George Washington University.

The researchers used NO2 as a surrogate for the traffic pollution mixture to focus specifically on the effects of traffic pollution on childhood asthma development.

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), 350 million people around the world suffer from asthma of which ten per cent are in India. The number is set to rise in view of rapid urbanization, changing life style and poor air-quality.

## DND toll row: SC stays arbitral proceedings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday stayed arbitral proceedings between the Noida authority and private firm NTBCL over issues related to toll collection on Delhi-Noida Direct Flyway.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna passed the order while hearing an interim application filed by the Noida authority which has challenged the arbitral proceedings.

The interim application was filed by the authority in a pending appeal filed by Noida Toll Bridge Company Ltd (NTBCL), which was running the flyway, in the apex court against the Allahabad High Court's order.



# Modi using Army to gain votes: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee on Friday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for "using the Army to earn votes," which was "deplorable by all standards." The Bengal Chief Minister, speaking at an election rally at Kurseong in Darjeeling constituency, attacked the Prime Minister for "breaking the electoral code of conduct" and "exploiting the sacrifices made by the armed forces for electoral gains which have not been heard of in India's electoral history."

Supporting a group of veterans in the services who reportedly wrote a letter to the President of India disapproving of entangling the armed forces for political purposes Banerjee said, "I do not use the name of the Army. I respect Army for its sacrifices. Like me all Indian respect the Army men who make the supreme sacrifice for the nation and here the BJP is using this sacrifice to win the elections. I condemn this."

Reminding the Prime Minister that his days in office was over she said "the BJP will not win more than 100 seats in



the elections and it will be left on the regional parties to form the Government."

Apparently ignoring the regional parties will form the Government in the Centre and the Trinamool Congress will play a pivotal role in doing so. This is why the BJP is afraid of us and they are trying to divide the electorate along communal lines to win by hook or by crook."

On the issue of prime ministership she said "many people say that they don't have leaders to become Prime Minister or many of them want to occupy the post. But I want to make it clear that now the main job is to drive away the BJP after which we

will the name of the Prime Minister will be decided as there are plenty of leaders who can do the job."

Meanwhile, Coochbehar and Alipurduar witnessed sporadic violence even a day after the elections that the BJP claimed was rigged by the

## 2019 Elections Battle ground LOK SABHA

Trinamool Congress, "particularly in Coochbehar."

At least five people were injured and two houses were damaged in BJP-TMC clashes, sources said.

# Rahul offers ₹3.6L to each poor in TN, calls Modi 'megalomaniac'

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

As the campaign for the April 18 Lok Sabha election in Tamil Nadu enters the last phase, Congress president Rahul Gandhi rocked the Tamils with an offer of ₹3.6 lakh to each of the poor people in the State over the next five years. Addressing a mammoth crowd at Theni on Friday, Rahul Gandhi described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a 'thief, liar and megalomaniac'.

"Narendra Modi came to power with an assurance that he would pay each of you ₹15 lakh. But he did not pay anything to you or to me. He did only one thing and that is: Only 15 of his rich friends like Anil Ambani, Mehul Choksi, Neerav Modi and Vijay Mallya got benefit," charged Rahul Gandhi as the crowd cheered



all over India. Our manifesto is the voice of the whole nation and not the voice of a single man. It is not the Man Ki Baath of one megalomaniac. Ours is a Kaam Ki Baath document," said the Congress President. He also declared that the Congress would do away with the NEET, the common entrance test for admission to the undergraduate and post graduate medical courses in the country.

"Tamil Nadu students do not like the NEET. If they are against the NEET, then there won't be any NEET in Tamil Nadu," declared Rahul Gandhi. He paid glowing tributes to Anita, the Tamil Nadu girl who committed suicide last year because she could not clear the NEET. The entire speech of Rahul Gandhi was a charge sheet against Prime Minister Modi whom he described as the embodiment of all that is evil.



Congress party supporters at a rally by party president Rahul Gandhi during the ongoing general elections in Salem on Friday

# Cong-JD(S) coalition is 20% commission Govt, says Modi

Gangavathi (Karna): In a scathing attack on the Congress-JD(S) Government in Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday dubbed it as a "20 per cent commission Government."

Addressing a rally here in north Karnataka, Modi said the Congress-JD(S) coalition's "only mission is commission", attacking it on the issue of corruption.

Modi branded the earlier

Government (Siddaramaiah's) as a "10 per cent commission" Government, but now with Congress and JD(S) joining hands, it had become a "20 per cent commission Government."

He asked whether the Lok Sabha elections was about "nation first or family first," as he attacked the dynasty politics of several anti-BJP parties.

Modi also asserted that there was a wave across the country favouring the return of

his Government. In the first phase of Lok Sabha polls on Thursday, the opposition parties would not be able to sustain, Modi said.

"Phir Ek Bar..." Modi said, and the huge crowd roared in approval saying, "Modi Sarkar."

The Prime Minister also drew huge applause when he spoke in Kannada towards the end of his speech, hailing every strata of society and asking them to say Chowkidhar. PTI

# Cong promise on minimum income undoable: TN CM

Salem (TN): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Friday termed Congress presi-

dent Rahul Gandhi's promise on minimum income to poor as "undoable" and claimed the

party was trying all ways to get into power.

Campaigning for AIADMK ally, Pattali Makkal Katchi's candidate for the Dharmapuri Lok Sabha constituency, Anbumani Ramadoss, Palaniswami also took a dig at the DMK for making "irrelevant" promises in the parliamentary elections.

"It is all optics. A scheme that would never reach people is being touted as something that will be implemented," Palaniswami said.

Prompted by Ramadoss, Palaniswami said, "...Yes, it needs ₹3.5 lakh crore. Where is it? They are all lies and undoable. They are trying to get into power by trying all ways. We are not like that." Gandhi recently announced that ₹72,000 per year will be given as minimum income to poor families, benefiting around 25 crore people, if his party is voted to power in the Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress President said 20 per cent or five crore families belonging to the poorest category with monthly income less than ₹12,000 would come under the scheme. PTI

# No need to scrap NEET, will convince AIADMK: Goyal

Chennai: Senior BJP leader Piyush Goyal on Friday said there is no need to scrap NEET for medical admissions and his party would convince its ally, AIADMK, which has sought temporary exemption for Tamil Nadu students from the test.

"I do not think NEET should be scrapped. We will talk to AIADMK and convince them," he told reporters here.

He was responding to a query on AIADMK manifesto pitching for temporary exemption for Tamil Nadu students from the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

Pointing out that AIADMK had requested that NEET should be held in Tamil language, he said it was accepted by the Centre and being implemented.

Flaying Congress President Rahul Gandhi over his party's promise to replace NEET, he alleged the party wanted to reintroduce the old system, under which managements of medical colleges can demand capitation fee and offer seats to the rich.

"... The people of Tamil Nadu want medical seats to be offered on the basis of merit. Poor children should also get an opportunity to pursue medical education," Goyal said. Alleging that Congress

wanted to remove NEET so that the poor do not take up medical education, he said, "They are working for capitalists... So that the rich get admission..."

NEET is one of the key poll issues in Tamil Nadu, where major political parties have opposed the test on the ground that it was "discriminatory" against rural students.

The ruling AIADMK in its manifesto has promised to get exemption for the state students from NEET till such time they were able to cope up with the improved new syllabus.

The DMK in its manifesto has said the national entrance test would be scrapped if its alliance came to power.

In 2017, a 17-year-old Dalit girl of Ariyalur district, S Anitha, who scored 1176 marks out of 1200 in her Class XII exam committed suicide as she could not get a good NEET score.

Her death triggered state-wide outrage with all political parties and students coming together against the entrance exam.

After its legal efforts and legislative measures to avoid NEET failed, the AIADMK government had set up coaching centres to train students for the test. PTI

# CM gives nod for zilla, mandal parishad polls

Likely to be conducted from April 22 to May 14

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State Government has given its consent for the conduct of elections to zilla parishads and mandal parishads as the terms of incumbent members of the local bodies would end shortly.

Recently the State Election Commission sent its proposals to the Government expressing its preparedness for conducting mandal parishad and zilla parishad elections.

The Central Election Commission agreed to the proposal to conduct mandal parishad and zilla parishad elections after completion of elections to the Lok Sabha in Telangana State.

Against this background, Chief Minister Sri K Chandrababhan Rao held discussions with the officers concerned on Friday at Pragathi Bhavan regarding conduct of elections to mandal parishads and zilla parishads.

The State Government has proposed to the State Election Commission that the process for conduct of zilla parishad and mandal parishad elections may go on from April 22, 2019 to May 14, 2019. However, the results should be announced only after the announcement of Lok Sabha election results.

# Will make sedition law even more stringent: Rajnath

Gandhidham (Guj): Attacking Congress over its poll promise of repealing the sedition law if elected to power in the Lok Sabha election, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said here that the BJP Government would make the law even more stringent.

He was speaking at a gathering in Gandhidham city of Kutch district in Gujarat.

"Congress is saying that they will repeal the sedition law. I want to ask you all, should we forgive those anti-nationals who are trying to break the unity and social fabric of our country?" he asked.

"If it's within our powers, we will make the sedition law even more stringent. We will make such a strict law that it would send shivers down their spine. (Agar hamara bas chaley tum rashtradroh ko aur kadaa hum banayenge, taaki iss kanoon ki provisions ki yaad aate hee logo ki rooh kaanpe... aisa kanoon banayenge)," Singh said.

The senior BJP leader also attacked former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over his demand for a separate prime minister for the region.

"I want to tell these leaders that if you continue to raise such demands, then we will be left with no other option than

to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution. We don't want such India," said Singh.

He also blamed former PM Jawaharlal Nehru for the Kashmir crisis.

"Had Pandit Nehru given full powers to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to handle the issue, we might have got a solution at that time," said Singh.

Speaking on the performance of the Modi government, Singh said, "I do not want to claim that we have uprooted the corruption completely. But, our government has definitely taken some decisive steps towards that direction."

The minister claimed that nobody could doubt the commitment and integrity of Modi.

Singh alleged that although India was capable of making anti-satellite missile way back in 2007, the then PM Manmohan Singh had stopped the scientists from doing so.

"At that time, only Russia, China and the US had that technology. When scientists approached Manmohan Singh for a green signal, he stopped them saying such a step would upset those three countries. But when scientists approached Modi, he immediately gave a go-ahead," Singh said. PTI

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**

Dy. CSTE/PSW, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online OPEN E-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

1 Name of work: Trenching, laying, jointing of 6 quad cable along with provision of LC gate communication, emergency sockets etc. and trenching, laying, splicing, termination of OFC in connection with DFCC alignment on Ambala-Yamuna Nagar Jagadhari (UMB-YJUD) section of Ambala Division. 2 Approximate cost of the work: Rs. 77,29,775.06 (Seventy Seven Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five and paise Six only). 3 Cost of tender form: Nil. 4 Address from where tender document can be downloaded: Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in from 13.04.2019 from 11:00 hrs. 5 Earnest money: Rs.1,54,600 (One Lakh Fifty Four Thousand, Six hundred only). 6 Completion period: 5 (five) months. 7 Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in up to 11:00 hrs of 07.05.2019. Date of tender opening : 07.05.2019 at 11:30 hrs. 8 Detailed Tender Notice Available at above offices and also on Northern Railway's website www.irps.gov.in. No.: 172-SIG/PSW/NRT-178 Date: 12.04.2019 1128/19

Serving Customers With A Smile

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Rajesh Kumar, S/o Balbir Singh, R/o A-97, Gali No. 18, Yadav Enclave, Mohan Garden, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 31.01.2019 from the area of PS Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard a case vides **DD No. 26-A, dated 02.02.2019, has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped man is as under:

**Name:** Rajesh Kumar, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 23 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Checked Shirt and Chocolate colour Pant.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped man, kindly inform SHO/Ranhola, Delhi.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO  
P.S. Ranhola, Delhi  
Ph. No.: 011-28363001, 28363002  
DP/1999/OD/19

**FORM NO. URC-2**

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector-5, IIT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin code-122050 that Kashi Enterprises, a partnership firm may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013, as a company limited by shares.

2. The principal objects of the company are as follows:

I. To become vested with and continue the partnership business now being carried on under the name and style of "M/s KASHI ENTERPRISES" including all its assets, rights, benefits, titles, interest, approvals, licenses, debts, liabilities and obligations. The Partnership Firm- M/s KASHI ENTERPRISES and the rights and liabilities of the parties hereto in the said partnership business and in connection therewith shall cease to exist on incorporation of this Company under the provisions of Part XXI of the Companies Act, 2013.

II. To carry on the business of manufacturing of CI Castings, SG Iron Castings, SS Castings, MS Castings, High Carbon Steel Castings, Aluminum Castings, High Manganese Castings, Gun Metal Castings, Brass Castings and Raw as well as Machined Castings of all such metals and all other products incidental thereto and connected therewith.

III. To carry on the business of machining via Horizontal Lathe Machine, Vertical Lathe Machine, Shaper, Planour Machine, Computer Navigated Vertical Machining Centre, Horizontal Machining Centre and Hobbing Machining of CI Castings, SG Iron Castings, SS Castings, MS Castings, High Carbon Steel Castings, Aluminum Castings, High Manganese Castings, Gun Metal Castings and Brass Castings and all other products incidental thereto and connected therewith.

IV. To search prospect, win, work, get, raise, quarry, smelt, refine, dress, manipulate, convert, make merchantable, sell, buy, supply, distribute, stock, procure, carry, import, export or otherwise trade and deal in all kinds of Scrap, Ferro Alloys, Silica Sand, Resin Coated Sand, Quartz Sand and Chromite Sand, CI Castings, SG Iron Castings, SS Castings, MS Castings, High Carbon Steel Castings, Aluminum Castings, High Manganese Castings, Gun Metal Castings, Brass Castings and Raw as well as Machined Castings of all such metals and all other products incidental thereto and connected therewith.

V. To manufacture, trade, import, export or otherwise deal in steel and alloy steel ingots, steel and alloy steel billets and all kinds of scrap, sizes of rolled sections i.e. flats, angles, rounds, squares, hexagons, octagons, rails, joints, channel, steel strips, sheets, plates, deformed bars, plain and cold twisted bars, bright bars, shafting and steel structural and all types of steel items.

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at D-6, Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095.

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector-5, IIT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050 within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.

Name(s) of Applicant  
1. Devendra Kumar Agarwal (Partner)  
2. Arpan Jindal (Partner)

Dated this 12th Day of April 2019

# AFTER FIRST PHASE ELECTION Bijnor's sugarcane farmers hope bitter days will end

Bijnor: With polling in the sugarcane belt of western Uttar Pradesh over, farmers hope the next Government would ensure that sugar mills clear their pending dues which have run into thousands of crores.

Non-payment of dues to sugarcane farmers dominated the electoral discourse in this Lok Sabha constituency in the run up to the April 11 polls.

Bijnor, one of the five Assembly segments under this constituency, has a total of 15,62,065 voters.

"It was an important election issue for us. We honestly don't have much hope from any party but we voted in hope of a better tomorrow, for a change," said Pankaj, a sugarcane farmer in Jamalpur here.

Rajendra Singh, national convener of Azad Kisan Union, said pending arrears is a big issue for farmers.

Farmers have cast their votes hoping for a Government that would not make false promises and have concrete plans for them, he said.

Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of sugarcane in India,



accounting for 45 per cent of the country's output in 2018-19, according to data on the website of the Indian Sugar Mills Association.

Sugar mills owe ₹10,000 crore to farmers in western Uttar Pradesh alone and as much as ₹250 crore is pending from the previous season, official data shows.

The farmers in the region say they have been complaining about non-payment of dues for months now, but to no avail.

"I was paid last in December 2017. How can we survive like this?" another farmer from Jamalpur, Hari Singh, asks.

He claimed that his dues worth ₹2.5 lakh were pending. Mill owners claim that they are unable to pay the farmers as excess production has led to a fall in sugar prices.

However, farmers reject the argument.

They claim the sugar mills don't pay up as the only law which could keep them in check

was repealed by the Government.

The Sugar Undertaking (Taking Over The Management) Act, 1978, enacted after the price of sugar was deregulated, was repealed in 2015.

The Act provided for temporary takeover of the management of sugar mills in case of prolonged non-payment of dues to protect the interests of farmers and consumers and to rescue ailing undertakings.

After the Act was repealed,

the sugar mills became fearless and they purposely stop payment of our dues," said Tribhuvan Singh, a farmer in Gopalpur village.

Reasons cited by the government for repealing the Act included its non-usage in three decades and states having their own laws for the sector.

"There was at least a fear among them (sugar mills) that they can be held accountable under this Act," said Tribhuvan, adding that his dues worth ₹1.5 lakh are pending.

Farmers claimed that the Government is pushing them to cultivate other crops.

"The Government is now pushing us to grow other crops but they don't understand that each crop requires a favourable environment to grow," said Farooq, a sugarcane farmer in Agari village here.

He said he had tried to grow poplar (used for making plywood) but the returns were not as lucrative. "Poplar takes eight to ten years to grow. We get ₹310 per quintal for sugarcane and just ₹80-100 per quintal for poplar," he said. PTI



PM attacks Pawar for supporting Cong

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Raking up Sonia Gandhi's Foreign national issue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday tore into NCP chief Sharad Pawar for teaming up with the Congress and standing by those leaders who are rooting for separation of Jammu & Kashmir from India and installation of a separate Prime Minister.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, BJP candidate of the Nagar Constituency Sujay Vikhe Patil and other leaders at an election campaign rally in Ahmednagar on Maharashtra on Friday PTI

Addressing an election rally at Ahmednagar in western Maharashtra, Modi said: "The Congress and NCP are standing by such people who are rooting for separation of Jammu & Kashmir from India and installation of a separate Prime Minister. I have absolutely no expectations from the Congress, because it is the root cause of the problem. But, I do not understand as to what is happening to Sharadrao Pawar"

"Arey Sharadrao, you had left the Congress on the nationality issue. You had broken away from the Congress. But, how long can keep quiet on the demand for two Prime Ministers in the country made by certain leaders? After ally-

ing with the Congress, you are seeing India from 'foreign spectacles,' Modi asked, wanting to know from the crowd if they agreed with the demand for two Prime Ministers in the country and if they allowed the division of Kashmir for which the scores of Jawans sacrificed

their lives. "Aare Sharadrao, your party's name is Nationalist Congress Party. Have you named your party this way to throw wool on the face of the people? Your friends are talking about two Prime Minister for the country. Being a leader from the land of Chhatrapati

Shivaji, how are you getting sleep, Sharadrao?," Modi asked, as he slammed the Congress for its promise to "repeal" Armed Forces (Special Powers) Acts (AFSPA) in Jammu & Kashmir. Modi asked the people gathered at the rally to decide between "imandar chowkidar" (himself) and a "bhrashtachari

naamdar", a reference for Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

"You will have to choose whether you want an 'imandar chowkidar' (honest guard) or a 'bhrashtachari naamdar' (corrupt dynast)... Do you want heroes of Hindustan or those brokers working for Pakistan?," the Prime Minister asked.

Coming down heavily on the previous UPA Government, Modi said that during the previous regime, the country was at the receiving end of terror strikes and blasts be it in Mumbai or Pune. "Who were killed in these blasts?... Traders, farmers, workers, ordinary citizens... On the contrary, bomb blasts have stopped completed during the last five years when the BJP Government has been in power. We have struck terror in the minds of the terrorists," Modi said.

Alluding to scams that "broke out almost every day" of the UPA Government, Modi said that the people had to choose between 'imandar chowkidar' (honest guard) and 'bhrashtachari naamdars' (corrupt dynastic politicians).

RaGa mocks PM's Make in India, says Made in China rules

Salem (TN): Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Friday mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" slogan, saying the country's market was now flooded with Chinese products.

Addressing a poll rally here, he referred to unemployed youth of Tamil Nadu, saying Modi had hurt them in the last five years, giving "huge amounts of money from the banks to the richest people but not to them."

"He gave you an empty slogan called Make in India but wherever we look we see Made in China products," he said. Be it phone, shoes or shirt "you see made in China," he added.

"Now we want real made in India and real made in Tamil Nadu," Gandhi said.

Under Modi, "Make in India" if a young Tamil entrepreneur wanted to start a business he had to knock on the doors of different government offices where "he had to pay bribes," the Congress chief

alleged. "By the time he got his permissions the business is already failed," he said.

Hence, the Congress came up with a new idea in its manifesto for entrepreneurs, he said adding "when you want to start a new business you will not have to take permission from any government department for three years."

They could take the permission once the business was established and till such time the focus could be on making the business work and consolidating it, Gandhi said.

"Once your business is established take permission." Terming the GST as Gabbar Singh Tax again, he said it comprised five different taxes and a tax rate of 28 per cent wherein "even weavers had to pay tax if they had to buy thread or material."

The moment his party was voted to power it will be removed and we will give you a "real GST, (envisaging) one tax, minimum tax and a sim-

ple tax." Alleging that Modi "takes thousands and thousands of crores and gives it to people like Anil Ambani and Adani," the Congress chief accused the Prime Minister of giving away Rs 3,50,000 crore to 15 of the richest persons in the country.

"But when Tamil farmers are protesting in Jantar Mantar, he has not got even one word to say. They have to take off their clothes and still he does not pay any attention. He does not have decency to call them and ask them why they were upset?"

However, "Modi hugged every single corrupt businessman, and you can see pictures of him hugging Anil Ambani," Gandhi said.

The Prime Minister could also be seen sitting with Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi and Vijay Mallya, but not with any poor person, he alleged.

"There is not a single picture of the Prime Minister with a poor farmer, or owner of a small business," the Congress chief charged. PTI

'Will work for Amethi, no matter what you say'

Amethi (UP): Union Minister Smriti Irani on Friday hit back at the Congress over its allegations that she "falsified records" of her educational qualifications, saying she will continue to work hard for Amethi no matter what its leaders say.



Chaturvedi's swipe at her qualifications through a spoof on her hit TV serial.

Dubbing Irani a "serial liar", the Congress also alleged that she submitted contradictory affidavits to the Election Commission for which she should be disqualified.

"In the past five years, there has not been any attack which has not been made against me by the Congress and its 'chele chapate' (stooges), nor is there any bad word or disrespect which has not been hurled at me," Irani said when asked to comment on Congress spokesperson Priyanka

Chaturvedi's swipe at her qualifications through a spoof on her hit TV serial. "I have a message for them... As much as you try, I will work for Amethi against the Congress. No matter what you say, the more you harass me, the harder I'll work," she said, adding that the Congress supporters were targeting her because she was taking on the

'Namdar' (dynast), referring to Rahul Gandhi.

Earlier, Chaturvedi also alleged that Irani was misusing her influence and power as a Union minister.

The Union minister and BJP candidate for Amethi Lok Sabha seat, Irani Thursday submitted to the Election Commission that she did not complete her graduation from the Delhi University.

In her affidavit filed during her nomination, Irani, who is contesting against Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, said she passed secondary school examination in 1991 and senior secondary school examination in 1993.

Irani has said she did not complete her Bachelor of Commerce (Part-I) — a three-year degree course — from Delhi University's School of Open Learning in 1994. In her 2004 affidavit, she had claimed that she is a graduate.

There was a controversy when her 2014 affidavit contradicted her own claim. PTI

TDP, YSR confident of victory after high turnout

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

With about 77 per cent polling in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh, both the TDP and YSRCP on Friday exuded confidence of forming the next Government in the State and winning a majority of Lok Sabha seats.

While the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was confident of people, giving it a massive mandate for another term, the main Opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) was equally sure of a landslide victory.

Violence and malfunctioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) marred the poll process on Thursday, resulting in the extended polling time, continuing in some booths till midnight.

The main contenders of power claimed that the high

voting percentage will work in their favour. They also blamed each other for the violence that left two people dead and many injured.

TDP president and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu, told party leaders during a video conference early on Friday that the polling trend made it clear that people were with the TDP.

He believes the enthusiasm shown by voters, especially women and the aged, was a clear indication of 'pro-incumbency'. Naidu said that TDP will win 130 seats in 175-member Assembly and will also bag 20-22 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats.

TDP leaders said the welfare schemes, especially pensions for the elderly and widows and financial assistance provided to self-help groups would help them retain power.

Pak violates ceasefire in J&K's Poonch

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Shattering prevailing peace along the Line of Control in Sawijyan area of Poonch sector, Pakistan Army on Friday morning violated ceasefire agreement by resorting to heavy mortar shelling.

Several civilians were targeted by the Pakistan Army during intense round of shelling. Three civilians including two girls received injuries and were shifted to Poonch district hospital by the local residents in the area.

In the absence of ambulance facility, the local villagers used 'charpai' to evacuate injured girls amid intense shelling in the forward areas of Poonch. Unconfirmed reports

claimed Pakistan Army violated ceasefire agreement while providing cover fire to a group of infiltrators.

Sawijyan sector remained peaceful for a long time with no incident of ceasefire violation reported in the area in the last two years.

Pakistan Army was earlier using the same route to push infiltrators inside the Indian territory. The foot soldiers of the Indian Army were directed to remain in a state of high alert following breach of ceasefire agreement.

According to police the injured civilians were identified as Tasvir Begum D/O Abdul Rasheed, Sabina Akhtar D/O Mumtaz Ahmad and Mohd Hesak S/O Noor Mohd. PTI

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

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL e-Procurement Tender Notice Name of work: Operation, maintenance and functioning of swimming pool of Palika Services Officers' Institute.

OFFER FOR IDENTIFICATION It is publically informed that, one male dead body namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age about 28 years, Height 57", Complexion Sallow, Face oval, Build normal, Hair black, Old scar mark of left cheek, Wearing grey colour shirt and green pajama was found dead at foot path, Tikoka Park, Parda Bagh, Darya Ganj, Delhi on 04.04.2019.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Aslam @ Muddu, S/o: Ramjan, R/o: Village-Pipaka, P.S. Tauru Distt., Nuh, Haryana has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 127/17 u/s 186/353/332/307/34 IPC & 25/27/54/59 Arms Act has been registered at P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Aslam @ Muddu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Aslam @ Muddu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

CANCELLATION OF PASSENGER TRAINS Due to Infrastructural and Maintenance Work the following Passenger Trains will remain cancelled upto 30.04.2019:-

Table with columns: Train No., Train Name, Train to terminate/originate from station, Train to remain partially cancelled between stations.

SHORT TERMINATION/ORIGINATING/PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS UPTO 30.04.19 Note: For any kind of Information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passenger Complaint Helpline No. 138 Please join us on Northern Railway Always at your service Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Const), Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge New Delhi for & on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [SEE RULE 8(1)] The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Syndicate Bank Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 04.12.2018, Calling upon the borrower(s) or Guarantor(s) (1) M/s Harvest Home Appliances Through its Prop. Sh. Mohit Tyagi (2) Sh. Suresh Chand (3) Sh. Mohit Tyagi to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 50,51,957/- (Rupees Fifty One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

SALE BY INVITING TENDERS/PUBLIC AUCTION The possession of the secured asset was voluntarily given by the borrower to the Bank for realization of the secured debts of the bank. Sealed Tenders are invited in closed cover for purchase of the said charged movable securities in AS IS WHERE IS and AS IS WHAT IS basis. The terms and conditions of Auction, details of Secured debt, borrower and guarantor, charged movable securities are as under:



# The force awakens

Former service chiefs and veterans write to President to stop politicisation of the armed forces, give a conscience call



A murky row may have arisen over a letter written by more than 150 armed forces veterans, including former service chiefs, to the President, seeking an end to the "politicisation" of their institution in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Three chiefs may have disowned it, saying they would remain fiercely apolitical and not be part of something that could even remotely be seen as challenging their neutrality as instruments of the State. The Rashtrapati Bhavan may have denied receiving it. Efforts may be on to play down the embarrassment it has caused to the Modi government or its "vote influencer" quotient. But no matter the number of signatories, the letter's spirit is still more than unprecedented. For it is a noble self-defence by an apolitical and secular institution that inspires true national pride and shows why adopted militarism can never substitute the original, honourable kind. Why bravado and bravery are two different things. It is a conscience call to the entire nation to judge the narrative of the Balakot airstrikes for what it is worth, a defence of our borders and eliminating real threats as they emerge rather than an exclusivist manoeuvre that suits the government of the day. It represents the courage of the men in uniform, standing up for what is right and do so with tremendous grace and without confrontation, staying within the ambit of the Constitution. It is about respecting principles, of speaking up for the serving men and women of the forces, who are bound by the oath of silence to not question the Executive. And finally, it is about upholding the overarching idea of democracy, the veterans standing like the last of the Mohicans, assuring that the forces neither wanted political space nor could be appropriated for political purposes. Or even remotely allow that misadventure. But best of all the old soldiers upheld the value of choice — they were aware of the political reality, knew their relevance in it as a constituency but would choose to stay out of it.

The letter, titled 'From A Group of Veterans To Our Supreme Commander', which the President is by Constitution, specifically refers to the "completely unacceptable practice of political leaders taking credit for military operations like cross-border strikes, and even going so far as to claim the Armed Forces to be *Modiji ki Sena*." It also referred to the use of military uniforms and photos of Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman during campaigning. And while they acknowledged the Election Commission for swiftly addressing the complaints, they also rued that it did not have "substantive change of behaviour and practice on the ground." Just the other day, Prime Minister Modi himself urged the youth to vote for the airstrikes. And most poll speeches happen to be liberally peppered with words like "Pakistan," "national security," "strikes against the enemy" and "soldiers." One wonders if the heft of the signatories, which include former Army chiefs Shankar Roychowdhury and Deepak Kapoor and four former Navy chiefs — Laxminarayan Ramdas, Vishnu Bhagwat, Arun Prakash and Suresh Mehta — will matter at all. Or whether the President, who acts on the advice of the Executive, will indeed take note. As for stopping loaded speeches, that's a tall order despite the Model Code of Conduct. Leaders, knowing full well that they will be reprimanded and censured for violations, still go for an aggressive pitch to attain virality in news cycles and social media. For nothing can curb the speech as it is being made. A fine or warning is a small price to pay in retrospect. But such tactics have clearly affected the morale of our forces, disillusioned them even, that the democracy they so earnestly safeguard has given politicians who use them at their own sweet will for propaganda. And they do least in terms of defence policies. True, the Modi government did treat Army veterans as a constituency and pushed a milder version of the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme. But this has not matched the low priority accorded to them compared to civil and police services. Defence budgets continue to be pathetic, there is a gaping need for operational reforms, critical infrastructure and equipment. The least the government could do is to keep the forces out of its rightful propaganda to show why it stood out in the last 70 years. Post-Balakot, it did look that brilliance came from the political leadership and not soldiers. Just because they follow civilian control doesn't mean that they will allow misuse of their code for somebody else's agenda. The old generals reminded us that.

# Hero to zero

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange revealed US secrets for the world to see. After the arrest, what's next for him?



In 2010, Wikileaks dumped a huge amount of United States (US) diplomatic cables, some dating back decades, onto its website. These documents were leaked to the site by a US soldier now called Chelsea Manning. Many of the leaked diplomatic cables were mundane, others revealed American duplicity and yet more, some pertaining to India, revealed how citizens were revealing their national secrets to the US. In short, they offered an intriguing insight into the world of diplomacy and espionage. Thereafter, the charismatic founder of Wikileaks, Julian Assange, who had crowd-funded his website, used the proceeds to try and find more secret documents that rich and powerful individuals and big governments did not want the public at large to find out. To many, he was a hero and in 2010 he claimed the global spotlight.

The leak obviously had a negative impact on American diplomacy and Assange was right to believe that the US would want 'revenge.' Meanwhile, Manning was court-martialled and imprisoned by the US and while the narrative has been made that he was a confused young man, who was taken advantage of by Assange, he did face some punishment. Assange, on the other hand, managed to avoid extradition to Sweden, not for the diplomatic cable dump but to face sexual assault charges. He claims he did so to avoid the Swedes potentially extraditing him to the US but his refusal to face those charges lost him much goodwill, as did the revelation that Wikileaks was in touch with Donald Trump's campaign, specifically his son, during the US presidential election of 2016. This was possibly in the hope that Assange could win a pardon for Trump if he was elected, but that did not happen. While Sweden dropped the charges after the Wikileaks founder ran away and hid in the Ecuadorian embassy, one of the alleged victims has apparently asked for him to be charged again. The Americans are booking him with a fairly light charge of computer hacking to gain access to protected information that will possibly lead to a maximum five-year sentence. Assange might still be a hero to some but US law is clear about computer hacking and he might pay the price for his information warfare. More importantly, one hopes that his alleged victims in Sweden get a chance to prove or disprove their cases against him, because on that front Assange is nothing but a fugitive from the law.

# Lessons from a massacre

The Jallianwala Bagh tragedy continues to rankle in every Indian's heart. Hundred years later, all nations must unite for a peace-based order and end terror



M VENKAIHAH NAIDU

Today marks the 100th anniversary of one of the darkest episodes in human history and the darkest chapter of the British rule in India when an unarmed peaceful gathering of thousands of people was fired upon at Jallianwala Bagh on the instructions of General Reginald Dyer, leaving several hundreds dead and many more wounded.

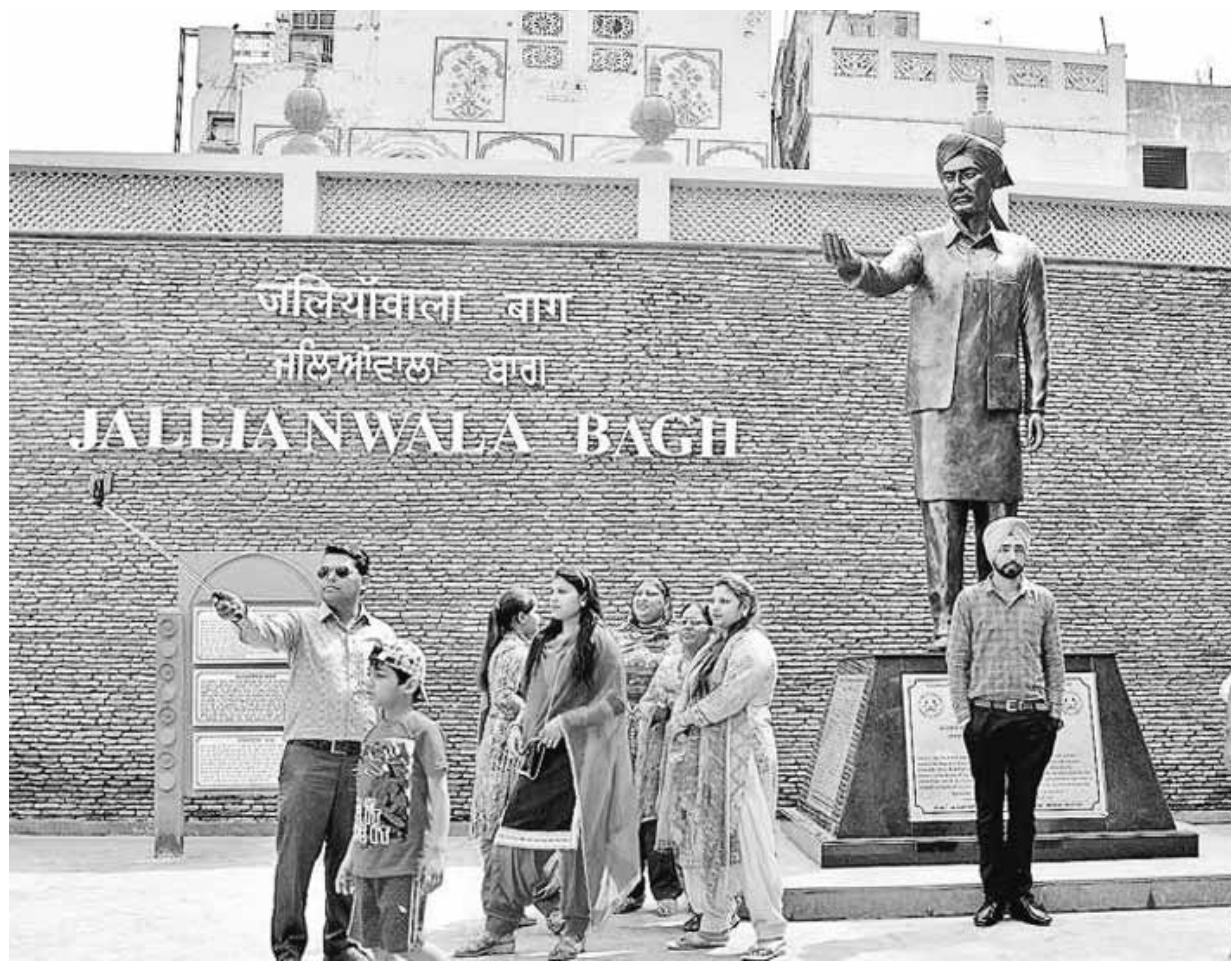
It was Baisakhi on April 13, 1919, and the thousands who assembled, including children and women at Jallianwala Bagh, were apparently unaware of the restrictions imposed on such gatherings. Without any warning, the gathering was fired upon, which continued for 10 minutes and till the ammunition was exhausted.

The genocide shocked the entire world and marked a turning point in India's freedom struggle by creating an upsurge of nationalist sentiments across the country. Deeply anguished by the British brutality, Gurudev Rabindranth Tagore addressed a letter to Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy of India, renouncing the Knighthood conferred upon him.

It would be appropriate to recall portions of that letter to acquaint the present generation with the pains and sufferings inflicted on Indian masses by a callous and stone-hearted British administration. Tagore said, "The enormity of the measures taken by the Government in the Punjab for quelling some local disturbances has, with a rude shock, revealed to our minds the helplessness of our position as British subjects in India. The disproportionate severity of the punishments inflicted upon the unfortunate people and the methods of carrying them out, we are convinced, are without parallel in the history of civilised Governments, barring some conspicuous exceptions, recent and remote. Considering that such treatment has been meted out to a population, disarmed and resourceless, by a power which has the most terribly efficient organisation for destruction of human lives, we must strongly assert that it can claim no political expediency, far less moral justification."

Asking the Viceroy to relieve him of the title of Knighthood, Tagore stated, "The time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in the incongruous context of humiliation, and I for my part wish to stand, shorn of all special distinctions, by the side of those of my countrymen, who, for their so-called insignificance, are liable to suffer degradation not fit for human beings."

Even though 100 years have lapsed since that inhuman massacre happened, the pain and agony continue to rankle in the heart of every Indian to this day. History is not a mere chronicle of events. It shows us the depths to which depraved minds can plunge and cautions us to learn from the past. It also tells us that the power of evil



is transient. This was summed up most succinctly by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who had once said: "When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall... think of it, always."

India and the world have travelled a long distance since the massacre at Jallianwala Bagh. Mahatma Gandhi has shown to the rest of the world how through peaceful means and non-violence even a powerful colonial power can be brought to its knees. No doubt, colonialism has become a relic of the past. But it is important for everyone to draw lessons from history and shape a better future for humanity. Today, more than at any other time, the world community needs to come together to promote everlasting peace in all the corners of the globe and ensure that sustainable development of the planet becomes the watchword at all times and at all levels, from schools to summits of global leaders. Progress cannot be achieved without peace.

All countries should unite in establishing a new and equitable world order where power

and responsibilities, opinions and voices are respected and wealth and earth's resources are shared. In other words, the new world order must create a level-playing field for all countries.

We should ensure that multi-lateral forums are not dominated or influenced by a few powers and communities. The voice of every nation will have to be taken into account. It is this approach and perspective which India applies whenever reviewing or addressing global issues. It is against this background that India and some other countries have been asking for a more important and significant role in the UN Security Council.

In fact, from time immemorial, India believed in the philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* and viewed the entire world as one family. In tune with its civilisational values, India never nurtured any aggressive or hegemonic designs at any point of time although it was once known as 'Vishwaguru' and contributed about 27 per cent of the global GDP. Despite its pacifist tradition and remaining wedded to the philosophy of non-violence, India became a victim of successive foreign invasions in the past and of terrorism in the past few decades.

Terrorism has become the biggest threat to humanity today. Several countries across the globe had to grapple with an upsurge in mindless violence while India had been victim of numerous terrorist attacks for decades. Stamping out the scourge of terrorism brooks no delay. The United Nations and the world leaders need to accord highest urgency to completing the deliberations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), which has been pending with UN for too long — ever since India proposed it in 1996. Nations, which use terrorism as a state policy, should not be allowed to hold the rest of the world to ransom and need to be isolated internationally.

Fundamentally, the channels for financing terrorism have to be cut off and sanctions need to be imposed on such nations. To accomplish this objective, the international community has to come together as one to ensure that no single country promoting terrorism feels safe and insulated from punitive action. All countries must remember that terrorism spares no one in the final analysis. No one can quite predict when it could afflict a country, which may choose to

look the other way today. It can be wiped out only through mutual understanding of the real threat that terrorism poses to humanity and a true appreciation of the need to battle it unitedly.

With technology revolutionising every aspect of modern life on an unprecedented scale and virtually reducing the world to a global village, the international community should seize this opportunity to transform the lives of millions of people in the poor, underdeveloped and developing nations. All countries should come together in combating climate change and sustaining the natural resources as nobody has the right to jeopardise the life of future generations and the planet itself. Once again, I would like to recall the profound words of the Mahatma, who had said that the earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs but not every man's greed.

Before concluding, I would like to appreciate the efforts of the Government in showcasing photographs, paintings and newspaper clippings depicting the authentic account of Jallianwala Bagh massacre at Yaad-e-Jallian Museum in Delhi.

(The writer is Vice President of India)

## SOUNDBITE

You have to choose between *imaandar chowkidar* and *bhrashtachari naamdar*. Choose between heroes of India and supporters of Pakistan.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

Congress' manifesto is an encouragement to terrorism and Naxalism. *Congress ka hath deshdrohiyo ke sath* (Congress is hand in glove with anti-nationals).



UP Chief Minister —Yogi Adityanath

Assange will get the same support that any other Australian would ... he's not going to be given any special treatment.



Australian Prime Minister —Scott Morrison

We always had a voice. Just nobody heard us. Now because of the support we're giving each other, nobody can shut us down. That's an incredibly powerful thing.



Actor —Priyanka Chopra

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Faith in democracy

Sir — This refers to the report, "No wave keeps poll outcome under wraps" (April 12). The festival of democracy has begun with the first phase of voting being completed peacefully. The absence of any "wave" this time has given the voters an opportunity to make the decision on voting preference dispassionately. It's good that the voter turnout in the first phase of elections remained more or less the same as it was in the 2014 Lok Sabha election.

India is the only country in the Asian region which adopted a parliamentary form of democracy on getting independence from foreign rule. Today, we can proudly say that democracy has bloomed, flourished, sustained and has taken deep roots inside the country in spite of numerous attempts being made by disruptive forces to derail it.

Heavy voter turnout in elections reasserts people's faith in the system of democracy. Long queues of women voters in the poll booths across the length and breadth of the country are most encouraging and a shining fea-

### The truth that didn't set Assange free

Obviously weak and frail Julian Assange being forcibly removed from the Ecuador Embassy in London by Metropolitan Police made a poignant image and distressed us deeply. Denied natural light, proper healthcare and much-needed emotional support, the world's most famous whistleblower was the picture of misery. It was a disgrace that the pro-American Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno terminated Assange's asylum and paved the way for his arrest. It is particularly worrying for us to know that he may be extradited to the US. The documents and videos he published showed the war crimes committed by the US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is long settled that a journalist cannot be prosecuted for making available classified information in public domain in the public interest. Still Assange is singled out for prosecution for publishing classified diplomatic cables and exposing the dreadful and diabolical dark side to the US before the world. Accessing and publishing concealed, yet truthful information is not cyber crime. It is legitimate



to ask if he is to be prosecuted for 'conspiracy to commit computer intrusion.' Shouldn't those responsible for the merciless killings of innocent civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan be prosecuted more vigorously? The Bible says, 'The truth shall set you free'. But here, a man is crucified for dissemination of truth. The Assange saga is all about free speech and it is our obligation to defend both free speech and its champions.

G David Milton Maruthancode

### Misusing court order

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "For the sake of Rafale" (April 11). By overruling the Union Government's objections over the admissibility of some documents pertaining to the Rafale deal, which they claimed, were sensitive in nature and had been obtained through "unauthorised

photocopying and leakage", the Supreme Court has unwittingly provided the kind of opening the Opposition was desperately waiting for. Rafale is not a corruption scam. For, nowhere in the mountain of invective and allegations in the Rafale deal has anyone even remotely provided a shred of evidence that illicit money changed hands.

By agreeing to relook at its

own December order in the Rafale deal in the light of the file notings, published subsequently in a tangential manner by *The Hindu*, the court has in a way intervened in the poll process. Plain common sense demanded that it reserve its order whether or not to reopen the case after the end of the campaigning.

KS Jayatheertha Bengaluru

### Competitive populism

Sir — It's not just the two mainstream parties, the BJP and Congress, who indulged in competitive populism but regional parties, too, do not lag behind in announcing freebies. The need of the hour is to keep the nation debt-free. But going by the announcement of free sops announced by political parties, India will soon become debt-laden. It is only our descendants who are going to suffer in the long run if this loot and plunder isn't stopped right now.

KV Seetharamaiah Hassan

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)



## FIRST COLUMN

## Shedding the debt burden

The NCLT has been doing a stupendous job by disposing cases in a time-bound manner. However, resource issues need to be addressed



CHANDRA WADHWA

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has turned out to be a big success and is being discussed quite loudly in the media, industry, financial and banking circles. Today, the entire process of debt resolution under IBC takes about 300 days; whereas it used to take five to eight years under the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). But nowhere was the important role played by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) highlighted. As an institution, NCLT has accomplished the task as set under the IBC with limited resources and has completed the cases in a time-bound manner as directed by the IBC. The IBC, 2016 is the bankruptcy law of India that seeks to consolidate the existing framework by creating a single law for insolvency and bankruptcy cases. The enactment of the IBC on May 28, 2016, and the setting up the NCLT and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) were steps taken to unlock the vast amount of capital locked in defunct projects. This will help the financial and banking sector improve their balance sheet.

In a recent judgement, the Supreme Court, in the case of *Swiss Ribbons Pvt Ltd vs Union Of India and others*, upheld the Constitutional validity of the IBC, saying “the defaulters’ paradise is lost” and the economy’s rightful position has been regained. It further stated that the flow of financial resource to the commercial sector in India has increased exponentially as a result of financial debts being repaid. The court also acknowledged the effective rate of disposal of the cases by the adjudicating authority — NCLT.

The NCLT is instrumental in the implementation and success of the IBC. The same was acknowledged by Union Minister Arun Jaitley, when he categorically stated, “The early harvest through the IBC process has been extremely satisfactory. It has changed the debtor-creditor relationship. The creditor no longer chases the debtor. In fact, it is otherwise. Upon the constitution of the NCLT and the implementation of IBC, its functionality had revealed the need for improvements in the law. Two legislative interventions since then have taken place.”

Recent data procured from the Registrar, NCLT, showed that till date, 22,137 cases under the Companies Act and 7,225 cases under the IBC have been disposed of by the NCLT. The number of admitted cases under the IBC stood at 1,575 and 92 resolution plans were approved by the adjudicating authority as on February 28. Nearly ₹3 trillion (₹3 lakh crore) worth assets have been resolved through this process. This will help the banking and financial sector reduce their NPAs and improve their balance sheet, besides enabling them to pump more funds to the industry at lower interest. In this process, the liquidity problem, too, can be resolved. This will ultimately generate more employment.

As per an affidavit filed by the Union Government in the Supreme Court in the case of *Madras Bar Association versus Union of India* (Writ Petition No: 1072 of 2013), 63 members (President and 62 members) were envisaged for the matters under the Companies Act alone. Initially, the Union Government appointed 23 members to the tribunal. The jurisdiction of cases under the IBC was entrusted to the NCLT in December, 2016 but the strength of the members remained 23 till March, 2018. Five more members were added thereafter. At present, NCLT is functioning with 16 judicial members (including the President) and 10 technical members. Further, the members are also shouldering responsibility of newly-created benches at Jaipur and Cuttack to ensure speedy disposal of cases. Other notified benches at Kochi, Amravati and Indore are still not operational due to the non-availability of members.

The facts and figures mentioned above are a testimony to the sincere efforts put by the tribunal at various benches, who work day-in and day-out to keep up with the pace of ever-increasing number of cases being filed on a daily basis. That the tribunal has been functioning with about one-third strength as notified and the amount of work done till date speaks volumes about its efficiency and effectiveness. NCLT’s accomplishment has been acknowledged by various sectors time and again.

It is worth mentioning that the kind of governance created within a span of two years is quite remarkable for NCLT. Looking at the performance, NCLT is able to resolve the cases of stressed assets having worth more than ₹3 trillion (₹3 lakh crore). It is suggested that the remaining members at various benches be appointed at the earliest. To maintain credibility of this institution, it would be but natural to expect that new members must be appointed of the same calibre and skill.

(The writer is former president, Institute of Cost Accountants of India and Council Member, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India)

WE HAVE NO ISSUE WITH THE FACT THAT SMRITI IRANI IS NOT A GRADUATE. BUT SHE HAS LIED REPEATEDLY ON OATH. A ‘SERIAL LIAR!’  
—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON  
PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR THEM. AS MUCH AS YOU TRY, I WILL WORK FOR AMETHI AGAINST THE CONGRESS. I WILL WORK HARDER.  
—UNION MINISTER  
SMRITI IRANI

## Mass murder most foul

Theresa May has described the Jallianwala Bagh slaughter as a ‘shameful scar’ on British-Indian history. It will heal only after Britain formally apologises for the crime



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

A hundred years ago this day occurred the massacre at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, which remains one of the worst crimes of British imperialism in India. On that day, officiating Brigadier, Reginald Dyer, ordered Gurkha soldiers under his command to fire on a peaceful and unarmed gathering of men, women and children to celebrate *Baisakhi*. The firing continued for 10 minutes and was directed at places where the concentration of people was the heaviest.

The toll, according to official figures, was 379 killed and about 1,100 wounded. Unofficial — and by all accounts more correct — counts put the figure above 1,000 dead and 1,200 wounded. Outrage among Indians was countrywide and intense. Prominent among those expressing it were Pandit Motilal Nehru, Sir Shankaran Nair, who resigned his membership of the Viceroy’s executive council in protest, Punjab legislative council members, Nawab Din Murad and Karter Singh and, of course, Rabindranath Tagore, who renounced the knighthood conferred upon him by the British Government through an open letter to the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, published in *The Statesman* (June 3, 1919) and *Modern Review* (July, 1919).

The letter, reflecting the deepest feelings of anguish and anger, began thus: “The enormity of the measures taken by the Government in the Punjab for quelling some local disturbances has, with a rude shock, revealed to our minds the helplessness of our position as British subjects in India. The disproportionate severity of the punishments inflicted upon the unfortunate people and the methods of carrying them out, we are convinced, are without parallel in the history of civilised governments, barring some conspicuous exceptions, recent and remote. Considering that such treatment has been meted out to a population, disarmed and resourceless, by a power which has the most terribly efficient organisation for destruction of human lives, we must strongly assert that it can claim no political expediency, far less moral justification.”

Stating that the “accounts of insult and sufferings” borne by “our brothers in Punjab” and the universal agony and indignation aroused “in the hearts of our people” had been ignored by the rulers, who were possibly congratulating themselves for having taught the people a salutary lesson, he added, “This callousness has been praised by most of the Anglo-Indian papers which have in some cases gone to the brutal length of making fun of our sufferings, without receiving the least check from the same authority — relentlessly careful in smothering every cry of pain and expression of judgement from the organs representing the sufferers.”

Finally, declaring his decision to renounce his knighthood, he had stated, “The time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in the incongruous context of humiliation, and I for my part wish to stand, shorn of all special distinctions, by the side of those of my countrymen, who, for their so-called insignificance, are liable to suffer degradation

“ THE MASSACRE AND THE THREATS AND MEASURES THAT FOLLOWED WERE EMBLEMATIC OF THE MERCILESS EXPLOITATION AND REPRESSION THAT CHARACTERISED BRITISH RULE IN INDIA UNDER THE CAMOUFLAGE OF DISCHARGING ITS BENIGN IMPERIAL MISSION OF MAKING THIS COUNTRY FIT FOR SELF-RULE. THE FUNDAMENTAL GOAL OF THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT WAS EXPLOITING TO THE HILT INDIA’S RESOURCES FOR BRITAIN’S BENEFIT



not fit for human beings.”

The stray attacks, including that on a woman English missionary, that preceded the Jallianwala Bagh massacre had its roots in the agitation against the draconian Rowlatt Act (1919) — ostensibly aimed at squashing sedition. It turned British-ruled India much more of a surveillance-cum-police state than it had ever been. In protest, Mahatma Gandhi called for a nation-wide strike which drew an overwhelming response. In Punjab, the movement peaked in the first week of April when rail and telegraph services were disrupted. The Punjab Government, headed by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Michael Francis O’Dwyer, imposed martial law to maintain order and sought to teach the people of the province a lesson. The massacre followed.

Shamefully, the horror did not end with it. On the following day, Dyer issued a public statement in Urdu in which he asked (in English translation) the residents of Amritsar whether they wanted war or peace. If they wanted war, the Government was prepared for it. If they wanted peace, they would have to open shops and markets. Otherwise, they would be shot.

Next came a most humiliating measure, which lasted from April 19 to 25, 1919. From 6 am to 8 pm every

day, people traversing the street on which the woman English missionary was attacked had to crawl on all fours for the entire length. Even doctors were not allowed to enter the street and the sick went unattended.

The mass murder and the threats and measures that followed were emblematic of the merciless exploitation and repression that characterised British rule in India under the camouflage of discharging its benign imperial mission of making this country fit for self-rule. The fundamental goal of the imperial Government was exploiting to the hilt India’s resources for Britain’s benefit. The draining of India’s wealth, which reduced the country, once celebrated for its prosperity, to utter poverty, has been exhaustively documented by Romesh Chunder Dutt in his classic, *The Economic History of India*, in two volumes.

Coming to specifics, Madhusree Mukerji has shown in *Churchill’s Secret War: The British Empire and the Ravaging of India During World War II*, how British policies led to frequent famines in India from the second half of the 18th century to 1943 when between 1.5 to three million people died during the Great Bengal Famine which was primarily caused by the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s cynical measures.

A number of Britishers, including Edwin Samuel Montague, secretary of state for India, criticised Dyer. But he also had his staunch supporters, including Rudyard Kipling and remained a hero to Colonel Blimps and allied circles. He was, by way of punishment, relieved of his command, denied promotion, made to retire prematurely and barred from further employment in India. This when he should have at least been cashiered and prosecuted for mass murder.

Michael Francis O’Dwyer, who fully supported Dyer’s action, was assassinated in London on March 13, 1940, by the fearless revolutionary, Udham Singh, who made no attempt to escape after the shooting and told the court during his trial that he was happy for what he had done and was not afraid of death. He ended by asking what greater honour could be bestowed on him than death for the sake of his motherland.

He was executed by hanging.  
PS: British Prime Minister Theresa May has described the mass slaughter as a “shameful scar” on British Indian history. She should know that the scar will heal only after Britain formally apologises for the crime, which it has not done.  
(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

## Douse the anger within

While the Government continues to celebrate the armed forces’ performance for electoral gains, it will do well to remember that the basic tenet of warfare is that the man behind the gun matters more than the gun. Its failure to grant non-functional upgrade is all the more hurtful



DEEPAK SINHA

For those innocent souls still blissfully ignorant of what Non-Functional Financial Upgrade (NFU) implies, in brief, it simply ensures that when an IAS officer from a particular batch (one that includes everyone who joins service the same year) is promoted to a certain rank, all batchmates from Group A Central services automatically start drawing the same pay-scale two years after that individual’s promotion. Even as those officials continue to discharge earlier functions, they are upgraded to a higher pay grade. Thus, nearly all civil services officers, regardless of what rank they may retire with, get pension at the highest level of HAG+ or what those few appointed as Cabinet Secretaries

are granted. If that isn’t hitting the jackpot, then what is?

One doesn’t need to be a guru to figure out that such a system is contrary to all principles of management and without precedent anywhere in the world, either in the Government or corporate sector. As a matter of fact, Vivek Rae, the IAS member in the seventh Pay Commission, recommended that NFU be done away with on grounds that “to strive for uniform career progression across such a diverse set of services and cadres, with widely varying functions, violates fundamental management principles relating to organisational structures. Such a dispensation, with automatic career progression till the HAG level, completely buries the concept of merit-based career progression and undermines considerations of efficiency and accountability.”

Sinha’s motivation for approving this, despite pretensions to intellectual and moral honesty, is not difficult to guess. Pragmatism acquired a veil to cover the scandalous actions of his coalition partners, which the bureaucracy willingly provided, obviously in

exchange for a *quid pro quo*. That Prime Minister Narendra Modi refused to do away with NFU, as the majority members of the seventh Pay Commission recommended, obviously suggests that he and his colleagues are as much a hostage to bureaucracy as was the previous Government, despite all his blather about good governance.

It is in the nature of the beast that when hogs are given unlimited access to the feeding trough, other hogs will follow, even those, who may not see themselves as hogs as well. It was just a matter of time before the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and the armed forces approached the Government for their inclusion and on refusal, approached the courts. While the apex court has already directed the Government to commence NFU for CAPF — something the Government recently approved for implementation — the case of the armed forces still lingers with that august body.

The irony in all this is difficult to miss. NFU was granted in order to address the wide disparity in career progression across different Organised

Group ‘A’ services (Central services) and to bring parity between them and the IAS. It was accepted despite its “wide-ranging financial, organisational and governance implications” as the seventh Pay Commission put it especially with regard to inter-se status between various services and their military counterparts, which had been sacrosanct till then since independence.

To quote Rathin Roy, the other member of the seventh Pay Commission, the “broad parity was disturbed by granting NFU to IPS, IFS and organised group ‘A’ services after the sixth Central Pay Commission report, without a similar dispensation being extended to the Defence Forces. Consequently, the Defence Forces officers, who are in no way lower in status or responsibility than Group ‘A’ Central services, though not classified as such, have fallen steeply behind IPS/IFS and 49 organised group ‘A’ services.”

Again, as it was bound to happen, all of this has had a particularly disastrous impact on the “armed forces’ morale, status, cohesion and nation-

al security”, to quote the seventh Central Pay Commission. In the present circumstances, especially given that it is an election season, it is more than likely that the issues raised will be disregarded, more so in light of the extraordinary performance of the armed forces over the past couple of years, despite acute deficits in weapons, equipment and ammunition. After all, it is not just coincidence that every party attempts to include “surgical strikes” in its outreach — be it the fight against poverty or the measure of the leaders’ strength of character, as Modi has so effectively done till now.

Unfortunately, this bombast by politicians, especially of the ruling party, is difficult to balance against the Government’s extensive efforts to deny NFU to the armed forces. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) on March 25 stated, “In the instant case, the recourse to judicial review was taken as per the existing policies and at the decision of the Government of India. Certain facts have been twisted and misrepresented in the media with the purpose of misleading the uniformed community and the gen-

eral public. One, the Central Pay Commission has been incorrectly quoted to have recommended NFU/NFU for the armed forces.

“Two, there has been no attempt to malign the uniformed community or quote them as staying in ‘palatial houses’ as the hardships faced by military fraternity are well-known and deeply respected by everyone, including those in the Government. The counsel of the Government of India has only read out the recommendations of the seventh Central Pay Commission as the argument of the case in the apex court...”

Clearly, the PIB’s statement is disingenuous. For one, it denies the existence of Para 17.55 of the seventh Central Pay Commission report that categorically states, “The Chairman is of the considered opinion that ... the same will be available not only to all organised Central group ‘A’ services but also members of CAPFs, ICG and Defence forces.” Second, the PIB’s defence of the Government counsel’s arguments is at complete variance to the tweet by advocate for the litigants, Col Mukul Dev: “March 12, 2019, the

Black Day in the history of Indian armed forces, which I must observe it as, when I had to hear the most demoralising and damaging arguments of the Ministry of Defence (MoD)... the MoD babus have got objection to the CSD facilities, the Army public schools, the officers institutes, the free travel passes (in their terminology), the concessional air travel scheme, the grant of Military Service Pay, the free rations and the so-called palatial houses in which we are made to stay... In essence, the same very babus, who are entrusted to look after the interests of soldiers, are now trying to usurp everything. Times have definitely changed...”

While the Prime Minister can hold forth on how much better we would have fared if the Rafale had been in our inventory during the recent spat with Pakistan, he would do well to remember that the basic tenet of warfare is that the man behind the gun matters more than the gun.

(The writer is a military veteran, a consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and Visiting Senior Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation)



# Jet extends international ops suspension till Mon

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Jet Airways, facing its worst existential crisis in its over 25-year-old history, Friday extended suspension of its international operations till next Monday due to severe liquidity issues.  
Incidentally, the stake sale bid invited by the SBI-led consortium of bankers, which manages the day-to-day RPT day operations of the airline, also closes by the end of the day Friday, after being extended by two days.  
Airline founder Naresh Goyal, the UAE carrier Etihad Airways, Air Canada and the country's national investment fund among others are reported to have submitted bids, according to media reports.  
On Thursday, the airline had announced temporary grounding of its international operations for day — Jet was the largest international airline from the country till the financial crisis — when it had also suspended operations to the entire Eastern and Northeastern markets as Jet was forced to ground 10 more aircraft following default of lease rentals.  
This has left Jet with no large aircraft while it had just 14 planes for domestic operations as of late Thursday.  
"Jet has decided to extend suspension of its international

operations till Monday, due to severe cash crunch," airline sources told PTI Friday.  
Jet was the largest domestic carrier operating in the international sector with a hub in Amsterdam, where a cargo agent had taken possession of an aircraft this on Tuesday demanding bill payment. This led to the cancellation of the Amsterdam-Mumbai flight that day.  
Thursday Jet flights to London, Amsterdam and Paris from Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru scheduled were cancelled for operational reasons," Je had said, adding it had also cancelled the Bengaluru-Amsterdam-Bengaluru flight Friday.  
On the domestic front, all Jet operations to and from the Eastern and Northeastern states were suspended till further notice. Following this, there would no Jet flights to and from Kolkata, Patna, Guwahati and other airports in the region, travel industry source had told PTI.  
Jet had also said its Mumbai-Kolkata, Kolkata-Guwahati and Dehradun-Guwahati-Kolkata flights stood cancelled till further notice due to "operational reasons."  
As of Thursday, the airline had just 14 planes — way down from 123 planes in operation till a few months back.

# Japan court says Carlos Ghosn detention extended until April 22

**AFP ■ TOKYO**  
A Japanese court on Friday ruled that Carlos Ghosn will remain in detention until April 22, as prosecutors grill the former Nissan boss over allegations of financial misconduct.  
His lawyers immediately appealed the decision but the Tokyo District Court rejected the appeal. They have already asked the Supreme Court to intervene in his detention.  
Unless the appeal to the Supreme Court succeeds, the 65-year-old will be held in custody at a detention centre in Tokyo until April 22, whereupon authorities will either have to press formal charges, release him or re-arrest him if they feel he has other accusations to answer.  
Prosecutors are looking into allegations that Ghosn siphoned off some \$5 million from funds allegedly transferred from Nissan to a dealership in Oman, and spent the money on a luxury super-yacht.  
Ghosn has not been formally charged over these allegations.  
But the tycoon does already face three separate charges. Two of these relate to millions of dollars in salary believed to have been concealed from shareholders. The third charge is that he sought to shift personal investment

losses to company books.  
Ghosn denies all allegations and lashed out in a video message — shown on April 9 — at what he termed a "plot" by "backstabbing" Nissan executives scared of closer integration with French partner firm Renault.  
Ghosn's wife Carole has increasingly become a key figure in the case and was questioned by authorities on Thursday.  
According to a source close to the matter, some of the USD5 million for the yacht was funnelled to a British Virgin Islands-listed company -- which has Carole Ghosn registered as president.  
The case has bewitched Japan and the business world since the tycoon was arrested out of the blue at a Tokyo airport on November 19 and whisked off to the detention centre.  
He spent 108 days in an initial period of custody, in conditions he said he would not wish on his "worst enemy", deprived of his watch, forced to sleep with the light on and forbidden contact with his loved ones.  
He then won bail, stumping up \$9 million for his freedom and submitting to strict bail conditions including not using the internet or contacting anyone connected to the case.

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Cash-strapped Jet Airways is currently flying less than 50 domestic flights, a senior official of aviation regulator DGCA said on Friday.  
"It is currently flying less than 50 domestic flights. The airlines has 16 aircraft available with them for flying," the official said.  
The official did not give the actual number of aircraft that are currently flying.  
The official said that the airline has suspended its international operations till Monday.  
As the crisis in the private airline deepened, the Prime Minister's Office has called an urgent meeting to discuss the situation, official sources said.  
SpiceJet on Friday announced it will induct 16 Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft on dry lease to bring down flight cancellations and expand the airline's international and domestic presence.

# WTO upholds South Korean ban on Fukushima seafood

**AP ■ SEOUL**  
The World Trade Organisation has upheld South Korea's import ban on Japanese seafood from areas affected by the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima, overturning a ruling by a lower panel last year that said Seoul was unfairly discriminating against Japanese products.  
The decision is a setback for Japan, which has promoted Fukushima's recovery from the nuclear disaster and the safety of its agricultural and fisheries products ahead of next year's Summer Olympics in Tokyo.  
South Korea on Friday welcomed the decision and said it will continue to block all fishery products from Fukushima and seven neighboring prefectures to ensure "only foods that are confirmed as safe are put on the table."  
Japan said the WTO ruling was "extremely regrettable" and vowed to get the import ban reversed through bilateral talks with South Korea. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono summoned South Korean Ambassador Lee Su-hoon to convey Tokyo's displeasure.  
"The Government will continue to maintain and strengthen our quarantine sovereignty and safety net," said Yoon Chang-yul, an official from South Korea's Office for Government Policy Coordination.

**JAPAN SLAMS WTO RULING ON S KOREA FUKUSHIMA FOOD ROW**  
Tokyo: Japan Friday attacked an "extremely regrettable" ruling by the World Trade Organization that upheld a ban by South Korea on some seafood from Fukushima imposed after the 2011 nuclear disaster. The WTO's highest court overturned an earlier judgement from 2018, handing Seoul a final victory in a legal battle that has dragged on for years.  
"Even though the ruling did not acknowledge that South Korea's measures comply with the WTO rules, it is extremely regrettable that Japan's argument was not approved," said the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo. "There is no change in Japan's position of demanding South Korea lift all the restriction measures, and we will pursue this via talks with South Korea," added the Ministry in a statement.  
Yoon said the WTO ruling allows Seoul to maintain the ban "indefinitely" until it views the safety concerns as fully resolved. When asked about the possibility of the seafood ban fueling larger trade and diplomatic disputes, he said that "hopefully, that won't happen."  
South Korea broadened initial import restrictions to a blanket ban covering all seafood products from the eight prefectures in 2013, after the Tokyo Electric Power Company revealed that highly contaminated water leaked from a storage tank at a crippled nuclear plant in Fukushima that was submerged by a massive tsunami in 2011.  
Japan launched a complaint with the WTO over the ban in 2015, saying that the radioactive levels of seafood from the areas were safe. The ruling by WTO's appellate body reversed key points of a verdict by a lower dispute panel last year that supported Japanese claims that the South Korean measures excessively restricted trade and were "arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminating" against Japanese food products.  
The appellate body said the panel failed to consider whether the methods of contamination testing proposed by Japan would fully satisfy South Korean protection standards. The Fukushima plant has now been significantly stabilized and radiation has come down to levels considered safe in most areas. Still, more than 20 countries and areas keep their import ban or restrictions on Japanese fisheries and agricultural products, although the number had come down from 54 soon after the disaster.

# Retail inflation inches up to 2.86% in March

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
India's retail inflation saw a marginal rise of 2.86 per cent in March on account of increase in prices of food articles and fuel, according to Government data released Friday.  
The inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.57 per cent in February this year. On yearly basis, it was 4.28 per cent in March 2018.  
The data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO)

showed that inflation in food basket rose to 0.36 per cent in March from (-) 0.63 per cent in the previous month.  
The rate of price rise was also higher in 'fuel and light' category. The inflation in the segment rose to 2.42 per cent as against 1.24 per cent in February.

# FMC India commissions water filtration plants to bring clean water to 15 UP villages

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**  
As part of its commitment to make farming communities more sustainable, FMC India today announced that it has commissioned community water filtration plants in 15 villages to increase access to clean, potable water across Uttar Pradesh. The first plant was inaugurated on Friday in village Beejapur (Haidergarh), Distt. Barabanki. This plant will serve the potable water requirement of nearby villages like Narauli, Barawa, Hatipalpur, Gangapur, Sansara and others in vicinity.  
With each plant having the capacity to produce 48,000 liters of filtered water per day, the 15 plants are cumulatively capable of meeting the safe water requirement of nearly 40,000 families. The water plants made with an investment of almost ₹11 million, will be operated by the village communities on a cooperative mode land are expected to create employment



opportunities while promoting community ownership.  
"FMC embraces opportunities to better living standards wherever it operates," said Pramod Thota, country president, FMC India. "In Uttar Pradesh, FMC supports the Government's commitment to uplift health standards, and we are happy to dedicate these 15 water purifiers to support its cause. We believe that these plants will make a tangible positive difference in the health index of the villages in time to come."  
"Project Samarth, FMC India's corporate social responsibility program aimed at developing the lives of farming communities, is one of the enablers of our corporate philosophy — Pragati Aapki, Prakriti Hamaari — to drive all stakeholders to progress, rural communities being the most important one. We are committed to empower them for a better living, and these water filtration plants are one such undertaking," Thota added.

# PMO calls urgent meet over Jet quagmire

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has called an urgent meeting to discuss the crisis in private airline Jet Airways, which is facing acute financial woes.  
According to sources, the meeting has been called after Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhakar asked the secretary of the department to review issues concerning Jet Airways.  
Crisis-hit Jet Airways is facing acute financial crunch and has grounded several of its flights and stopped international operations.  
The drastic measure was announced after the airline informed the exchanges that it was forced to ground 10 more planes due to non-payment of rentals to the lessors.

# Sterling SEZ: NCLT stays Srei plea to withdraw bankruptcy

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Friday stayed a plea to withdraw the bankruptcy proceedings on Sterling SEZ & Infrastructure filed by Srei Infrastructure Finance, till April 25.  
At the last hearing on March 26, the tribunal had sought replies from all stakeholders, including the corporate affairs ministry, and Friday's stay order is based on a plea by the ministry as the promoters are absconding.  
Corporate affairs ministry's senior counsel Sanjay Shorey said, "we got stay over withdrawal of IBC proceedings on Sterling SEZ".  
He said, they sought a stay as another bench of the tri-

bunal is hearing a similar settlement plea regarding Sterling Biotech, which is the flagship company of the Sandesara family's Sterling Group.  
The plea will be heard on April 25, the tribunal said.  
On Wednesday, the tribunal had allowed the withdrawal of the insolvency plea filed by Srei Infrastructure Finance against Sterling SEZ, which is owned by Nitin and Chetan Sandesara, who are absconding and are believed to be abroad.  
The Gujarat-based Sterling SEZ is a subsidiary of the Sterling group and owes over ₹8,100 crore to its financial and operational creditors.  
Promoters are absconding and a case is pending in a Delhi court to declare them fugitive economic offenders.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, Invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1 N.I.T.No.	RT232-Elect-EMU-WC-15-18-19
2 Name of the work	Hiring of 01 no. Non-AC road vehicle 7/8 seater (Tavera, Scorpio, Xylo, Tata Sumo, Innova, Bolero, or better etc.) for Electrical Control (PPIO/M-7) round the clock 3000 KMS per month in EMU Car Shed, Ghaziabad for 02 years.
3 Tender cost	Rs. 2360.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
4 Approximate cost	Rs. 1354184.64
5 Earnest Money	Rs. 27100.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
6 Completion period	24 Months
7 Validity of offer	45 days
8 Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website	11.04.2019 (11:48 Hrs)
9 Date & Time from tender submission start and end	25.04.2019 (00:00 Hrs.) to 09.05.2019 (15:00 Hrs.)
10 Tender closing Date & Time	09.05.2019 (15:00 Hrs.)
11 Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends)	09.05.2019 (15:00 Hrs.)

Note 1: All participant Tenderer/Tenders will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void".  
Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/up loaded.  
Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in No. RT232-Elect-EMU-WC-15-18-19 Date : 12.04.2019 11:25/2019

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**बिहार सरकार**  
**BIHAR RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROMOTION SOCIETY**  
State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Department of Rural Development  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Annex-II, Vidyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna  
Phone: +91- 612-2504980 Fax: +91- 612-2504960  
Email: info@brlp.in, website: www.brlp.in

**Notice for Extension of Last Date for Submitting Online Application on BRLPS Website**  
This is hereby announced that the last date for submitting online application against job opening in BRLPS/LSBA was earlier 15.04.2019 (Published vide PR No.19426 (NiNi) 2018-19 dated 10/03/2019 and PR No.19440 (NiNi) 2018-19 dated 09/03/2019). Now the last date is extended up to 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019.  
**Director**  
**Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society**  
PR. No. 000216(Ni.Ni.) 2019-20

**ITI records 20% rise in revenue at ₹2,051 crore**  
**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
State-run telecom product smaker ITI Ltd on Friday said it has recorded 20 per cent growth in revenue at ₹2,051 crore for financial year 2018-19.  
The company had registered revenue of ₹1,703 crore in 2017-18.  
With the revival package support from the Government and execution of BharatNet phase 2 projects and rejuvenated manpower, the turnover of the company has improved, ITI said in a statement.

**POSSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable property) [SEE RULE 8(1)]  
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Syndicate Bank Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 07.12.2018. Calling upon the borrower(s) 5 Guarantor(s) (1) M/s BMR Engineers (2) Sh. Satyaveer Singh S/o Sh. Mann Singh (3) Sh. Sachin Kumar (4) Smt. Radha Rani W/o Sh. Satyaveer Singh to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.21,13,141/- (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Forty One Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general with the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rule on this 06.04.2019 at 10:53 A.M.  
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the SYNDICATE BANK (BO: HAIDERPUR BRANCH) for an amount Rs. 21,13,141/- as on 01.12.2018 with further cost, interest etc. thereon.  
The Borrowers attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
"ALL THE PART AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY- UREM OF RESIDENTIAL LAND AND BUILDING SITUATED AT PLOT NO.526 IN KHASRA NO. 1176, SITUATED AT MOHALLA BABA NAGAR, SADDIO NAGAR, GHAZIABAD IN THE NAME OF RADHA DEVI (MOTHER OF BORROWER) OWNED BY MRS. RADHA RANI."  
PROPERTY BOUND AS:-  
ON THE NORTH BY OTHER PROPERTY OF OWNER  
ON THE SOUTH BY PROPERTY OF ABDUL REHAMAN  
ON THE EAST BY OTHER PROPERTY OF JAI BHAGWAN  
ON THE WEST BY RASTIA 12  
Date : 06.04.2019  
Place : Ghaziabad  
Authorised Officer  
Syndicate Bank.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**  
General Public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: **Sandhya D/o Sh. Ramesh Kumar R/o BG-1, Jhuggi No. 54/25, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped since 22.03.2019. In this regard DD No. 42-A Dated 23.03.2019 has been registered at PS Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.  
Her physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Female, **Age:** 18 years, **Height:** 5'6" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Build:** Thin, **Wearing:** Pink Suit and Salwar and Juti in feet.  
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-  
**SHO**  
**Website:** http://cbi.nic.in  
**E-mail:** cbc@cbi.gov.in  
**Tel. No.:** 011-24368638/24368641  
**Fax No.:** 011-24368639  
**DP/8865/NW/17**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
General Public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Rohit Kumar S/o Vasudev R/o H.No. D-55, Swaran Park, Mangal Bazaar, Nangloi, Delhi, Age-12 years, Height-4', Face-Round, Complexion-Sallow, Identification-Mentally Weak, Wearing-Blue Colour Sweater-Pant** has been Missing/Kidnapped since 19.03.2019 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 152/19 u/s 363 IPC Dated 20.03.2019 has been lodged of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.  
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this boy please inform undersigned.  
**E-mail:** cbc@cbi.gov.in  
**Ph.:** 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Fax:** 011-24368639  
**SHO**  
**P.S. Nangloi, Delhi**  
**Ph.:** 011-25947225, 25949470  
**DP/2071/OD/19**  
**7065036127**

**POSSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable property) [SEE RULE 8(1)]  
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Syndicate Bank Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 10.12.2018. Calling upon the borrower(s) 5 Guarantor(s) (1) M/s BMR Engineers (2) Sh. Satyaveer Singh S/o Sh. Mann Singh (3) Sh. Sachin Kumar (4) Smt. Radha Rani W/o Sh. Satyaveer Singh to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.21,13,141/- (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Forty One Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general with the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rule on this 06.04.2019 at 10:53 A.M.  
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the SYNDICATE BANK (BO: HAIDERPUR BRANCH) for an amount Rs. 21,13,141/- as on 01.12.2018 with further cost, interest etc. thereon.  
The Borrowers attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
"ALL THE PART AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY- UREM OF RESIDENTIAL LAND AND BUILDING SITUATED AT PLOT NO.526 IN KHASRA NO. 1176, SITUATED AT MOHALLA BABA NAGAR, SADDIO NAGAR, GHAZIABAD IN THE NAME OF RADHA DEVI (MOTHER OF BORROWER) OWNED BY MRS. RADHA RANI."  
PROPERTY BOUND AS:-  
ON THE NORTH BY OTHER PROPERTY OF OWNER  
ON THE SOUTH BY PROPERTY OF ABDUL REHAMAN  
ON THE EAST BY OTHER PROPERTY OF JAI BHAGWAN  
ON THE WEST BY RASTIA 12  
Date : 06.04.2019  
Place : Ghaziabad  
Authorised Officer  
Syndicate Bank.

**POSSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable property) [SEE RULE 8(1)]  
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Syndicate Bank Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 07.12.2018. Calling upon the borrower(s) 5 Guarantor(s) (1) M/s Shri Balaji Timber and Company (2) Sh. Perveen Kumar (3) Sh. Ashok Kumar Goyal to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.50,86,463/- (Rupees Fifty Lacs Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Three Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general with the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rule on this 06.04.2019 at 12:00 P.M.  
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the SYNDICATE BANK (BO: HAIDERPUR BRANCH) for an amount Rs. 50,86,463/- as on 01.12.2018 with further cost, interest etc. thereon.  
The Borrowers attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
"ALL THE PART AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY- UREM OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSE PROPERTY OWNED BY MR. ASHOK KUMAR GOYAL H.NO. B-2 SITUATED AT KHASRA NO. 1628M, R.K. PURAM VILLAGE SADARPUR, GOVINDPURAM, GHAZIABAD VALUED FOR RS.57.00 LACS WITH DISTRESS VALUE OF RS. 52.00 LACS OWNED BY MR. ASHOK KUMAR GOYAL"  
PROPERTY BOUND AS:-  
ON THE NORTH BY OTHERS PROPERTY  
ON THE SOUTH BY ROAD  
ON THE EAST BY OTHERS VACANT PLOT  
ON THE WEST BY OTHERS PROPERTY  
Date : 06.04.2019  
Place : Ghaziabad  
Authorised Officer  
Syndicate Bank.



Markets build on gains on earnings optimism; post weekly loss

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks closed in the green for the second straight session Friday as investors looked forward to the earnings season with measured optimism amid an uncertain global growth environment.

HUL, Bajaj Auto and PowerGrid were among the other top gainers, rising up to 2.13 per cent. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, L&T, Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, HCL Tech and ONGC were among the top laggards, shedding up to 1.71 per cent.

IT bellwether Infosys ended 0.63 per cent higher, while rival TCS slipped 0.26 per cent ahead of their quarterly earnings. Sectorally, BSE FMCG index gained the most, spurring 1.71 per cent, followed by utilities, power, auto and banking, rising up to 1.12 per cent.

Broader indices rose in line with the benchmarks. The BSE Midcap index gained 0.29 per cent, while the small-cap gauge ended 0.37 per cent higher.

According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, market turned positive despite a weak rupee as investors remain focused on the upcoming earnings season. "Banks outperformed as CPI inflation data (to be released later in the day) is expected to be under RBI's targeted level... Earnings season will give direction to the market while investors are also keen on the ongoing election to gain confidence," he added.

Infosys Q4 net profit up 10.5 per cent to ₹4,078 crore

PTI ■ BENGALURU

IT major Infosys Friday reported 10.5 per cent growth in consolidated net profit at Rs 4,078 crore for the March 2019 quarter as against ₹3,690 crore a year ago.

Revenue of the city-based firm grew 19.1 per cent to ₹21,539 crore in the quarter under review from ₹18,083 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, Infosys said in a BSE filing.

The country's second-largest software services firm expects its topline to grow 7.5 - 9.5 per cent in FY2019-20 in constant currency terms.

For the full financial year, Infosys' net profit declined by 3.9 per cent to ₹15,410 crore, while revenue increased 17.2 per cent to ₹82,675 crore.

"Our planned investments have started yielding benefits. As we look ahead into fiscal 2020, we plan to deploy various measures of operational efficiencies across the business," Infosys CEO and Managing Director Salil Parekh said.

He termed the results as strong on multiple dimensions including revenue growth, performance of digital portfolio, large deals and client metrics.

In US dollars, Infosys saw its

net profit growing 1.7 per cent to USD 581 million in the March 2019 quarter from USD 571 million in the year-ago period, while revenues rose 9.1 per cent to USD 3.06 billion from USD 2.8 billion a year ago.

For 2018-19, profit declined 11.5 per cent to USD 2.2 billion, while revenues grew 7.9 per cent to USD 11.7 billion.

For the financial year 2019, the company's board has recommended a final dividend of Rs 10.50 per share. After including the interim dividend of Rs 7 per share, the total dividend for the fiscal will amount to ₹17.50 per share, it said.

Free power, loan waivers won't help farmers: Naidu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that politicians need to think beyond populism, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu Friday said free power and loan waiver schemes are not long-term solutions to farmers' woes. The statement assumes significance as political parties are making big promises to woo voters in the ongoing general elections.

"Free power... people want assured power, they want regular power and then loan waiver scheme. They (schemes) are not going to help the farmers in the long-term because this is not the end of the story," he

said at the 125th foundation day celebrations of the Punjab National Bank (PNB).

"We have to see that we supplement the infrastructure, we provide opportunities of better market... timely, affordable and cheaper credit (should be made) available to the farmer. These are the long-term solutions. Policy makers of the country have to think on these lines," he said.

Main opposition party Congress has promised minimum income guarantee scheme or Nyaay to 20 per cent poorest of the country. The scheme is aimed at providing ₹72,000 a year to the targeted fam-

ily. On the other hand, the ruling BJP in its poll manifesto has said it will extend ₹6,000 per year PM KISAN scheme to all farmers. Currently, it is limited to farmers having farm holding of 5 acres. Another political party DMK has promised loan waiver scheme for farmers. On rising non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking system, he said, it is a great concern as the problem has certainly affected banks' capacity to lend. Calling banks to maintain strict vigilance during pre-and post-sanction procedures of loans and never make compromises in the due diligence processes, the vice-president said.

BUSINESS TAKES

MARUTI CELERIO CROSSES 1 LAKH ANNUAL SALES MARK IN FY'19

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Friday said its compact car Celerio sold 1,03,734 units in 2018-19, joining the club of company's models with sales of more than one lakh units in a year. The model has cumulatively sold 4.7 lakh units since its launch in 2014, MSI said in a statement. The sales of the model grew by 10 per cent in 2018-19, it added. Celerio was "the first car to democratise the two-pedal (auto gear shift) technology and the recent upgrade in its safety features has significantly enhanced its appeal as the perfect city car," MSI Senior Executive Director - Marketing and Sales RS Kalsi said. Celerio's 1-litre petrol engine delivers a fuel efficiency of 23.1 km/ltr for both Auto Gear Shift (AGS) and the manual transmission variants. The factory-fitted CNG Celerio offers a fuel-efficiency of 31.76 km/kg, MSI said. The other Maruti Suzuki cars in the club of over one lakh annual sales include Vitara Brezza, Dzire, Baleno, Swift, WagonR and Alto.

VOLKSWAGEN LAUNCHES AMEO CORPORATE EDITION AT ₹.69 LAKH

New Delhi: German auto major Volkswagen Friday said it has launched a new version of its compact sedan Ameo in India, priced at ₹.69 lakh (ex-show-room). The Ameo Corporate edition has been introduced to cater to corporate and business customers, the company said in a statement. "Through the Ameo Corporate edition, we aim to offer globally renowned standards of safety, quality and fun-to-drive experience to all our customers," Volkswagen Passenger Cars Director Steffen Knapp said. The petrol trim of the model is priced at ₹.69 lakh, while the diesel trim is tagged at ₹.79 lakh.

E-LEARNING PLATFORMS SLOWLY CHANGING INDIAN EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

New Delhi: E-learning platforms are changing the Indian education landscape by addressing the demand-supply gap of both students as well as corporate employees by dispensing personalised learning outcomes, experts say. Online learning has widened the scope of education and transcended it beyond classroom boundaries. With high internet penetration in the last two years, it has taken over the traditional methods not just in the urban landscape but also in rural areas. The education system is evolving at a very fast pace, online education platform UpGrad co-founder and MD Mayank Kumar said. "With industries directly connecting with e-learning institutions like ours, content has never been so up-to-date. All this put together makes e-learning platforms complete, and students and working professionals future-ready, in a matter of months," he said. Kumar noted that e-learning penetration in corporations is increasing, regardless of the company's size. Since class-based training is more expensive, proportionately, for small and medium-sized firms, these firms are increasingly recognising e-learning as a convenient and cost-effective mode. According to a report by KPMG, the Indian online education industry will grow from 1.6 million users in 2016 to 9.6 million users by 2021.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Table with columns: IDBI, ITC, TCS, etc. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Table with columns: BALKRISIND, APOLLOHOSP, APOLLOTYRE, etc. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

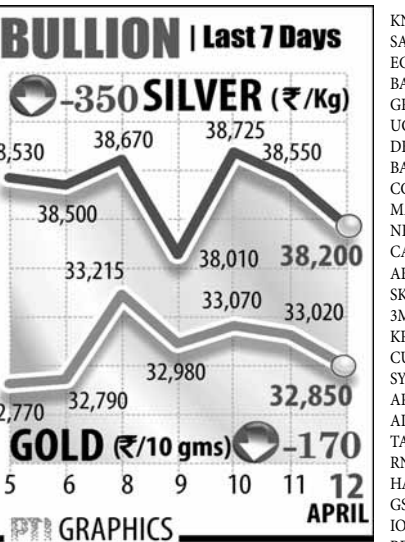


Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

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177, Haiderpur, Near Bus Stand, Delhi-110088... POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [SEE RULE 8(1)]

SALE PROCLAMATION OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

ICICI BANK V/S MS. NIDHI GARG Ms Nidhi Garg W/o Sh. Vikas Garg, A-220, Third Floor, Hari Nagar, near clock tower New Delhi-110064.

Whereas you has/have failed to pay the sum of Rs. 36,46,995.65/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five and paise Sixty Five Only) alongwith cost, expenses and interest @12% simple p.a. w.e.f. 26.08.2013 payable by you/him in respect of recovery certificate in OA. No. 614/2013/DRT-III, Delhi by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Delhi, and the interest and costs payable as per recovery certificate.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 45 years of age whose name is Shankar Sahu S/o Bhuneshwar Sahu R/o Village-Kedua, Post- Pandaywara, PS- Chauparan, Distt- Hazari Bagh, Bihar (now, Jharkhand), was admitted in LHMC Hospital in unconscious condition on 02/04/19, later on same day he was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi and died during treatment on 08/04/19. In this regard a vide has been registered with DD No: 136A, dated 02/04/19 at P.S. Paharganj, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.

SEARCH FOR MISSING General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Kavita, D/O Kunji Dhimar, R/O E-77B, Peeragarhi Camp, Punjabi Basti, Delhi. The girl has been missing since 18.03.2019 from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely Abhimanyu Adlakha, S/o Lt. Sh. Rishi Lal Adlakha, R/o I-131, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi, has been reported missing since 28.02.2019. In this regard a D.D. No. 23-A, Dated 28.02.2019 has been lodged at Police Station - Kirti Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

RAMPRASTHA PROMOTERS AND DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED Registered Address: Plot no. 114, Sector-44, Gurugram-122002 INVITATION TO OBJECTIONS REGARDING AMENDMENT IN THE BUILDING PLANS

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS (Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction) Application No.406 of 2019 In the matter of Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996

WESTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. C 78/11/17/SLR/02/2019 dated 10/04/2019 Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Western Railway, Mumbai Division, Mumbai Central, invites open e-tender, for leasing of SLR/Non single trip basis on payment of lumpsum rates for loading/unloading of parcels in specific trains for a period of 5 years.

Trump deemed Ivanka fit as World Bank head

President Donald Trump considered nominating his daughter to head the World Bank, and she also would have been "great" as US ambassador to the United Nations, he said in an interview published on Friday.



"She's a natural diplomat," Trump told The Atlantic. "She would've been great at the United Nations, as an example." But if he had nominated his daughter — who is a senior advisor to the president — they'd say nepotism, when it would've had nothing to do with nepotism.

Pope kisses feet of South Sudan's leaders to encourage peace

Pope Francis knelt and kissed the feet of South Sudan's rival leaders, in an unprecedented act of humbleness to encourage them to strengthen the African country's faltering peace process.



Then he got down on his knees and kissed the leaders' feet one by one on Thursday. The pope usually holds a ritual washing of the feet with prisoners on Holy Thursday, but has never performed such a show of deference to political leaders.

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Trump, S Korea's Moon look for way to curb N Korea nukes

President Donald Trump's meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in comes amid uncertainty over whether the leader of North Korea is considering backing out of nuclear negotiations or restarting nuclear and missile tests.

"We want sanctions to remain in place," Trump said Thursday at the White House. "I think that sanctions right now are at a level that's a fair level." Moon, for his part, has called for an easing of sanctions, including those holding back joint economic projects between North and South Korea.

TRANSGENDER TROOP BAN TAKES EFFECT IN US Washington: US President Donald Trump's controversial ban on transgender Americans in the military comes into force on Friday following a protracted legal battle.

SEVEN DEAD IN HANOI WORKSHOP BLAZE Hanoi: At least seven people were killed in Hanoi Friday after a deadly fire engulfed several manufacturing workshops and warehouses, state media reported.

6 KILLED AS TRAIN DERAILS, HITS HOUSE IN CHINA Beijing: Rescuers have recovered the bodies of six people in central China after a cargo train carrying aluminium ore hurtled off the tracks and crushed a house, local authorities said on Friday.

Brexit chaos leaves Scotland on independence tightrope

With Britain tearing its hair out over the Brexit confusion, Scotland's Government is bidding its time as it prepares for the ultimate prize — independence.

The issue presents voters and leaders north of the border with another source of dispute, something that this week's decision to delay Britain's departure from the European Union has done little to resolve.

21 killed as ultras target Hazaras in Pakistan's Quetta

At least 21 people were killed and 50 others injured in a suicide bombing at a crowded market in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Friday, in an attack believed to be targeting the Hazara ethnic minority community.

Prime Minister Imran Khan condemned the attack and ordered an inquiry. The explosion around 7.35 am took place in the busy wholesale market area of Hazarganj in Quetta where Hazaras and other traders come daily to buy fruits and vegetables to later sell at their shops in other parts of the city.

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Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Train No., From/To, RP (in ₹), Sr. No., Train No., From/To, RP (in ₹)

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SHORT CIRCUITS

SHAH RUKH KHAN

He (late Colonel Raj Kapoor, who directed his 1988 TV series *Fauji*) loved me so much. Encouraged me. And today if I am used to being mollycoddled on sets, it is because of this man who made a 'Fauji' out of a boy, like his own. Will miss you sir... always. May you find peace in your new mission.



SHREYAS TALPADE

People may try to find similarity between *Setters* and *Why Cheat India* but I feel both films are really different. The modus operandi of the people that we have shown in our film is very fascinating. When I heard story of this film, I felt that their way of operating is bit filmy but later, I realised that such incidents still take place in our country.



PRIYANKA CHOPRA

Sexual harassment had become a norm with women. We always had a voice. Just nobody heard us. Now because of the support we're giving each other, nobody can shut us down. And that's an incredibly powerful thing to see. Now if I have a story I don't feel I'm alone anymore — and I'm not ashamed of it.



TIGER SHROFF

I don't want to compare which *Student Of The Year* is better. This is a different film, though the world is the same, as in college. I have done my best to bring in what people know me for. I have sort of brought in 'Tigerism' to my character. I am really thankful to Punit (Malhotra) for giving me a lot of scope to express myself.

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

I always wanted to do something that combines the power of music and social media. I have come across so many talented and gifted musicians on my social media platforms and I wanted to come up with an idea that enables me to connect with them and bond with them over music. Music has always been my first love.



ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

A COMPLEX WOMAN

Actor SHEFALI SHAH's portrayal of DCP Vartika Chaturvedi in *Delhi Crime* is making waves. Strong emotions give her character layers, discovers SAIMI SATTAR

Somewhere in the second episode of *Delhi Crime*, in the aftermath of the brutal December 2012 gang rape, DCP South Vartika Chaturvedi decides to address a press conference to set the record straight about the inaction of the Delhi Police. Shefali Shah, who plays the role in the web series which released last month, walks to the podium and when her junior, Bhupendra Singh, played by Rajesh Tailang offers her a hand up, she ignores it and climbs up on her own, setting the gender equation on an altogether different note. "It is a small thing but matters to me in creating what Vartika became. Her sense of power is evident in the scene. But if she didn't have the vulnerability and the sensibility, she would not have taken the incident personally and gone all out to investigate it," points out Shefali. It is in the smallest of gestures that the actor imbues her characters with that has got her accolades each time that she lights up the small or the large screen.

She goes on to point out, "All of us have layers. The belief that if you cry or are vulnerable is bullshit. Every emotion has strength even though its expression varies from person to person. Vartika is an extremely strong person and feels acutely about this particular crime. She is broken and angry but she channelises all of that in a single minded focus of catching the perpetrators. She does not let her emotions overshadow her investigation but that does not mean that she does not feel it."

The web series as well as Shefali's role has been garnering praise from critics and audience alike. So did she imitate the mannerisms or the behaviour of former DCP South Chhaya Sharma, who led a 41 member team to solve the case in a record five days. "I had the honour of meeting her over coffee for two hours and it is impossible to soak in the complete person in that time. I don't know how she behaved in office or at home. We were not there so I don't know what she did at which moment. It is not about trying to be like her. It was about being Vartika," Shefali emphasises over the phone. She does feel that it was essential to maintain the germ and the thread of her being but then she played it from her own perception. "I'm a spontaneous and impulsive actor. There was a lot of work that I did to create her," she says.

No stranger to the small screen having started out with *Aarohan* in 1993, Shefali took all of three minutes to say yes to the role. "Most of my decisions are instinctive and impulsive. I read the first episode and I finished the entire series in one night. I said I have to be a part of it. It was as simple and straight."

But that didn't mean that the job was done. Richie Mehta, creator, writer and



developer of the series, worked extensively with her on it. "We started questioning, why is it this way? What is Vartika thinking? We were in touch even as he travelling and I was working on other projects. Just before the shoot, every single day, even if he had just two hours, I would say we have to meet because I wanted to discuss the character. A scene, after all, is the window between the actor and the person but it is not what determines the character. It is the character which determines how she behaves or reacts in a scene," she says.

Recalling the actual incident, Shefali remembers that it left everyone startled and that scar would never go away. So it was also in a manner of reliving the incident. "This was my most consuming and enriching experience and then you are just reacting to it. In the first sequence, there is a sense of disbelief and shock. But then, she takes one moment for herself and gets completely into action mode," she says.

While at one level, Shefali played the officer who heads the investigation, she is also portraying a mother with a teenage daughter. "It was not just about the mother and daughter relationship, but also about what the entire generation felt in December 2012. Watching the protest from the police station is different from having someone stand up and question you at home. And that was the same exact question that Vartika was asking and that is why she wants to do justice and not to



prove herself or get a medal," she says.

Some critics of the show have said that it only has a single point of view and tried to humanise the police at the cost of the victim's parents, family and media. "This story and incident has several points of view. And this is the one that the director wants to tell. It is not about idealising. It is just about telling what really happened which a lot of people, including me, did not know," she says.

But having worked so closely with the story and living with it for so long, does she feel that we have become even more dehumanised as a society as more cases of a similar nature have come up. "I don't think we have got used to it. If anything, we have become more sensitised to it. A rape case now goes into a fast track court. More incidents against women have come within the ambit of rape. Earlier, a woman was blamed for a crime against her. It's changing," she argues.

But she accepts that the change in the

system will take longer as the behaviour is embedded for generations. "Patriarchy, misogyny, the way people are brought up, the sense of privilege men have, illiteracy, caste and class have been the norm over the years. It will take time to completely disappear but it is not fair to say that things are not changing. It won't happen overnight," she says.

Moving on to her previous outing on Netflix as Tara Shetty in *Once Again*, Shefali feels that it was one of the most beautiful characters that she has portrayed. "I am a hardcore romantic. People always think that a strong woman cannot be romantic and the two are mutually exclusive. Tara is a strong woman. There is something lyrical and poetic about her. She is so vulnerable and she is ready to walk that road, take that chance and is even ready to get hurt in the process. The film was nuanced where the romance, was unsaid yet said. You can actually feel the palpitation because of the way it was shot," she says, her excitement and passion for the film not hard to discern even when heard at the other end of a phone.

Going back much in time, she recalls the character of Saavi, another woman in love that she portrayed at the start of a career in the serial *Hasratin*, which was telecast on Zee TV in 1996-97. While three other actresses had portrayed the role of a woman who leaves her husband and has an extra marital affair with a married man, it took Shefali to step into

Saavi's shoes to give it the gravitas and grace that made the actions of the character seem justified. "I thought it was a sweet story. And I saw her very differently from the way it was being played earlier. I did not see her as a vamp. She was in love. She had her reasons. You need to have conviction to play such a character. The person might be bad in someone else's perception but for him or her they are doing the best they can. They are justified as they fell in love where there isn't a right or wrong," she says.

Another role that is etched in memory is that of Pyaari Mhatre in *Satya* (1998) for who can forget Shefali matching each perfectly coy step to *Sapne Me Milti Hai* so much so that she became an embodiment of the song. "I cannot forget it as it was my first film. It is also very special because of its ensemble cast, cult status, the way it was shot by an international DOP. It was raw and organic. There are certain moments where the vision of the director comes through even when though the actor gets the accolades. In this, the moment was where she slaps her husband Bhiku Mhatre, played by Manoj Bajpai. On script, it was a very powerful moment. I heard it and agreed to do it," she recalls.

Of course, anyone who has seen *Gandhi, My Father* (2007) cannot help but be affected by the human angle at play in the film. The Mahatma was like the father of the nation but what he was like at home and how it affected the family forms the crux of the story. As Kasturba, Shefali held her own and won the Best Actress award at the Tokyo International Film Festival. "Of course she was a powerful woman but she was stuck between her child and her husband. She understands the compulsions of her husband but she is also a mother and nothing can take that away from her,"

However, talking to Shefali is incomplete without a mention of *Monsoon Wedding* (2001) where she plays Riya, who has been molested as a child by a family member. It was one of the rare films where pedophilia was portrayed on screen. "Mira called me and said that she had seen *Satya* and wanted me to play Riya. She gave me a brief over the phone and I agreed because I wanted to work with her. It was such a powerful part and the thrill of working with such an incredible director and international cast was amazing. I just had to be a part of it," she says.

Looking ahead, she hopes for the second season of *Delhi Crime*. "There are a couple of things in discussion which I am trying to work out," she says as she signs off. We can only look forward to characters imbued with a strong individual streak.

'Cultural diversity a big edge'

Bharatnatyam dancer RUKMINI CHATTERJEE says that two totally disparate genres can have a lot in common

Bharatnatyam dancer Rukmini Chatterjee, who has performed globally and has lived in Paris for 25 years, feels that acquaintance with diverse cultures "gives us a big edge over others." She is curating *Connections*, a festival which hosts Chinese dancers with French jazz musicians.

Asked about the converging cultures of the world, the choreographer who trained under Mrinalini Sarabhai, said, "It should be an essential part of people's lives today since we live in a knowledge economy and a global village. My artistic path for the past 28 years has been that of bringing cultures together on the same stage, crossing borders of all sorts and getting artists and art forms from across the globe to dialogue," Chatterjee said.

"Knowing and understanding other cultures gives us a big edge over others, by widening our horizons and making us much more capable of dealing with global situations, psychologies, economics and many other domains," she added.

Her leitmotif for the *Connections* festival, since its inception in 2014, has been selecting performances that touch the hearts and minds of people. Lined up this year is the Beijing Dance Academy, whose aesthetics come from their martial arts, acrobatics, ancient poetry, painting and drama, and who are performing for the first time in India.

As per the organisers, some of the dances have been created by the choreographer of the Beijing Olympics opening ceremony. "Our endeavour has been to bridge the gap between the old and the new by building bridges between our ancient culture and our modern audience," they said.

Chatterjee, with her vast repertoire of international performances, also shared that the performances that excite her the most connect deeply with audiences across cultures and countries. "They could be profoundly anchored in their own cultures, but are also universal in nature. Two totally disparate genres can still have a lot in common," she explained.

This merging of cultures is visible in her own oeuvre of performances and personal life, as she mentions Paris as a city that attracts world cultures and the Upanishads, which profoundly uphold the values of the universal man, as deep influences on her work.

The three-day festival is being held at the SRCPA and will conclude on April 14. —IANS



STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

A MATTER OF CONSENSUS

Actor MICHAEL B JORDAN spoke to his community before deciding to play a figure of authority in *Fahrenheit 451*

Who is more excited for GOT?



As people across the globe excitedly prepare for the final season of 2019's most anticipated series — *Game of Thrones*, here are some trends from across the world that have been noticed for this iconic show in the last 30 days.

According to the data, India has emerged as the fourth country where users are most excited about the show — this is only preceded by USA, Brazil and Great Britain — and is the only Asian country to feature

in top five. When it comes to Indian cities, Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai top the list. Whereas Jon Snow, Daenerys Stargaryen, Arya Stark, Sansa Stark and Tyrion Lannister become the most talked characters across the country. Based on volume of conversations, top 10 hashtags used across India are — #gameofthrones, #got, #jonsnow, #forthethrone, #aryastark, #sansastark, #winteriscoming, #daenerystargaryen, #tyrionlannister, #wintershere.

Initially you were not interested in the role and the project, *Fahrenheit 451*. What made you say yes?

I wasn't interested in playing a figure of authority. With what was going on around the world with the police and my community, as a black man, I didn't want to play somebody who was an oppressor. I just didn't want that in my head. It was something that I wasn't interested in playing, a firefighter that was going around burning books. That kind of character just didn't seem right because I played Oscar Grant and I was playing characters that meant so much to my community. But after sitting down with the director Ramin and knowing Michael Shannon was going to be a part of it and understanding their vision, the kind of themes and messages that he wanted to send through the movie, I was fine. Then I



talked to my agents, talked to my mom, dad, friends and even people around me. That's how I made the decision. I make decisions through my community. I didn't want people to see me dying in my roles as it has been.

What do you think about the film in today's context?

I mean, for a book that



was written around 60 years ago, it could have been written last year. For me, to be a part of this story that is so important today. Concepts of free thought, choice, media control and anti-intellectuals, it is controlling us so much. So for me to play a character that challenges these ideas was important and sends a positive message. And working with HBO, co-producing

it with my own company and working with Michael Shannon, I checked off all the boxes.

Ramin Bahrani (director) said that in your first meeting, you showed up in the character of Killmonger?

Yes, I was in the middle of production of *Black Panther* when we had that meeting and I was locked in the char-

acter. It was a heavy role for me to play and I literally just forgot. I saw the look on his face of how he was looking at me, it was a little intimidating and I remember I had my gold fronts on. So I took them out and I came down a little bit and we had a good meeting.

Do people still yell at you, "Wakanda forever?"

Yes. (laughs) Yes, they do. But they don't understand. I'm not from Wakanda, technically, so — no, that's Chadwick. That's a Chadwick thing. So, like, when they say, "Wakanda forever," low key, I'm still in the character. I'm like "Nah, that ain't me." (laughs) I don't do it back to them. That's not my thing.

I read that you didn't really have a social life during *Black Panther* because you were drinking a gallon

and a half of water, so you had to pee all the time.

Yes, that's not fun. Especially in the middle of a night. You're trying to sleep, you have to wake up, use the bathroom. You're like, oh my god, I'm just going to hold it. And then it just doesn't quite work out. We didn't really go by hours but by sessions. So I worked out two to three times a day. Ate six times a day. It's hard to go out to a club or even party when you're like — oh wait, meal prep. We had to pop this thing in the microwave and eat food. So it is tough to socialise when you've got to get in shape like that. Yes, and work out three or four times a day too. It is so damn difficult. So as soon as I leave from here, I'm going to the gym. (Sigh)

(The film will premier today at 9 pm on Star Movies Select HD.)



**CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES**

# 'WE DON'T APPEAR TO BE A CIVILISED SOCIETY'

Director SOUMITRA RANADE tells CHAHAK MITTAL that social media has become an online court of listing judgments and blurting out impulsive thoughts. We are literally abusing and lynching each other, he feels

**H**e had watched the Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi-starring *Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyun Aata Hai?* in his youth and it left a huge impression on him. "It has stayed with me till date. At that age, I could relate to Naseer's anger," says director Soumitra Ranade, who has re-conceptualised the eponymous film starring Manav Kaul, Nandita Das and Saurabh Shukla.

After liberalisation and opening up of the economy, a major chunk of population was pushed away from development, believes the director. "While we were all enjoying multiplexes, mobile phones and other luxuries, a large part of humanity was left out," he says while talking about how he had discovered the theme of the film while travelling in the interiors of the country where he found that people were angry and frustrated with what the system had to offer.

He explains that the 1980's film depicted that there was still room for development. "However, today I don't see any scope. Everything is so full and has been occupied, I see no space for understanding or development. Those were simpler times. The common man is basically angry with himself that he is not able to do anything and is constantly facing backlash from the corrupt system," he says. Ranade's *Albert Pinto* presents the angst of the common man and is an "an interesting take on reality."

The Indian demography is the youngest in the world and a majority of its young people are unhealthy and unemployed, which makes them angry. He says, "If they remain in this state, India can become a terrorist country. We can actually see that happening right now. They are so angry that they can be easily maneuvered by political groups. Unless this emotion is channelised well, we are sitting on the brink of a volcano which can erupt anytime."

The *Jajantaram Mamantaram* director believes that the ones who hold the greatest power to challenge or change the existing notions of the society belong to the middle class. "Most people in India belong to the middle class — the only group which can change or challenge the system. The poor are too powerless and the rich are never interested. *Unke liye toh sab achha hi hota hai* (things are always good for them). And most of the writers, painters, poets and the like can influence the people as they are all a part of the middle class. It's important for them to open the windows, see the reality and change it," he says.

Giving an example of mass farmer suicides in India, he explains that the issue has become a slogan these days. "However," he says, "the farmers have been commit-



**'A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN INDIA BELONG TO THE MIDDLE CLASS — THE ONLY GROUP WHICH CAN CHANGE OR CHALLENGE THE SYSTEM. THE POOR ARE TOO POWERLESS AND THE RICH ARE NEVER INTERESTED. UNKE LIYE TOH SAB ACCHHA HI HOTA HAI (THINGS ARE ALWAYS GOOD FOR THEM). IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS TO OPEN THE WINDOWS, SEE THE REALITY AND CHANGE IT'**



ting suicides since the past 25 years. It's only now that we have come to know about it. And it is so deeply rooted that we don't even realise how grave the situation is. We learnt about it only when the farmers marched into our cities. This is distressful and sad."

He calls cinema "an extremely powerful medium," but he also believes that it

needs to reframe some of its aspects. "If you use cinema only for Bollywood, masala films, it would be ridiculous exploitation of the medium. Big names and films don't always work. A few films that released last year are examples. And I am not surprised actually. When you keep on giving the same thing to the audience, they will not accept it after a point. They want

to see interesting stories, which they can connect to," says he.

He gives the example of *Dangal*, which was something new, interesting and worth showcasing. He questions, "So why not something like that? It can't be just crass and beautiful bodies all the time. How long can you keep giving the audience that? They need stories which could

inspire them. The change is that even the audience is accepting new concepts. They are becoming smarter and are able to tell the creators their own choices. And an exposure to international cinema through OTT platforms is the reason behind this change."

With the changing society, he says, even the cinematic concepts have evolved. Ranade believes that his 2003 film, *Jajantaram Mamantaram* came when, although there was despair, there was still some innocence left. "I had young kids at the time and I was living a different story every night with them. And slowly, when my children grew up, I also looked in other directions and even the world around me changed. And that started impacting me, which is obvious," he says and adds that a film has to be relevant to its time. "And *Albert Pinto*... is very important in today's time. I am surprised that no one thought of making it as yet. We don't appear to be a civilised society if you see the kind of debates that we have on news channels. We are literally abusing and lynching each other. What's wrong with our language and culture?" he questions.

The second, of course, is the virtual lynching on social media. He adds, "It has become a window for anger and blurting out impulsive thoughts. It has become an online court of judgments and opinions. With an anonymous identity, sitting in my room, I can abuse anybody. It's easy. That rage is not the solution, but I understand it."

Well, what could be the solution then? He answers, "I think the solution is equality but attaining it is very difficult. I don't know if we are ever going to reach that goal. But we need to, at least, have the basic necessities distributed equally."

Telling us the reason why he chose Manav and Nandita for the lead roles, he laughs and says that both are "my very good friends." However, that is just one of the many reasons in the list.

"I find Manav to be a very interesting actor. He can show every emotion very effortlessly. His face can deal with versatile emotions easily. If I tell you that he is a good-hearted person, you will want to believe me. If I say, he is a very *kameena type ka aadmi*, you would still want to believe me. You will believe me even if I say that he is a very sensitive man. He is not 'one' kind of a person, he is all of these. He can be a beautiful, pretty, romantic hero as well. And Nandita, she is not 'an actor' actor. She is a thinking person, whose face reflects that intensity with which she works for anything. She is a writer and a director as well who is intelligent and sensitive to understand a lot of things altogether," says he.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

**CHAT SHOW 30 MINUTES**

## 'Enhance your features, don't hide them'

Make-up artist BOBBI BROWN is in the country to be a part of the first India Make-Up Show. She talks to SAIMI SATTAR about her journey

**M**ention Bobbi Brown and you know you have the mantra to look the best version of yourself. It is to the credit of the iconic make-up artist, author and former editor that the brand she launched at Bergdorf Goodman, the luxury department store based on Fifth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan in New York City in 1991, has become much bigger than the person.

While the brand was sold to Estee Lauder in 1995, the products made by Bobbi, which suited a wide variety of skin tones and seemed to become a part of your own skin, lip colour and cheeks, have proved to be game changers. She has authored nine books about make-up and beauty that made it to the New York Times bestseller list. Along the way, she has worked her magic at international fashion weeks for over three decades. Considered as one of the top 10 make-up artists and beauty experts in the world, she has worked with some of the biggest names from the industry including Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Katie Holmes, the *Sex And The City* cast, Jessica Alba, Claudia Schiffer and Naomi Campbell. Bobbi is visiting the country to be part of the first India Make-Up show.

**How different is it to work with faces and skin tones that are Indian? What do you modify in your techniques?**

I always start my work in the same way — looking for the right tone and texture for the skin. That will never change. You want to utilise products that work for the skin type and always start with a moisturiser. Hydrated skin is the key to your make-up looking its best.

**What are the lip colours as well as blushes that work best with Indian skin tones?**

The right lip colour for you is

based on three things — your style, natural lip colour and skin tone. In general, the most flattering natural hue will either match or be slightly darker than your lips. Avoid shades lighter than your lips, especially those with gray or beige undertones, as they will make you look washed out. For blush, women with tan, warm skin tones should choose an almost plum shade that looks like a rich pink when applied. For deeper skin tones, redder shades that have bluish tones like cranberry leave a beautiful finish.

**Earlier, Indians were looking towards the West in terms of skin colour and features but now they are more comfortable in their skin. What would you attribute it to?**

I think it's a combination of positive voices on social media and the beauty industry working to become more inclusive. There are more products, colour options, positive role models and unique voices with large platforms that are changing the conversations around beauty. Realism is in.

**What does it take to be ranked among the top 10 beauty artists in the world?**

A lot of hard work and determination. The advice I give is to be open. Be a sponge and absorb everything. Work hard — and for free if you have to — when following your dreams. Keep at it, don't let failure stop you.

**You've worked with some of the biggest names. What were some professional and personal lessons that you learnt along the way?**

My biggest takeaway is to be nice to everyone. It's as simple as that. You never know who you are going to meet or who knows who. Be kind,

**'I LIKE EVERYTHING ABOUT INDIA, ITS PEOPLE, CULTURE, HISTORY AND OF COURSE THE FOOD. MOST IMPORTANTLY, EVERYONE LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL. I WOULD DEFINITELY LIKE TO WORK WITH PRIYANKA CHOPRA SOMETIME'**



respectful and treat others how you want to be treated.

**What is it that attracts you about India?**

Everything. I have wanted to come to India for a long time. The people, the history, the culture, and of course, the food is something I'm looking forward to experiment with. I am open to experiencing all that India has to offer. Visually, the make-up worn by women in the country scales from over the top, to traditional, to a cleaner, more modern look. Most importantly, everyone looks so beautiful. Priyanka Chopra is someone I would definitely like to work with when in India. She is one of the most beautiful women on the planet and seems very down to earth and cool.

**Why did you decide to collaborate with India Make-up Show?**

It's a unique opportunity to interact with artists and consumers in this type of setting. I am really excited to share my make-up techniques and more about my career.

**Any more books on the anvil?**

No new books right now but I just launched a new line of supplements. It's a collagen-based collection, all designed to target your beauty concerns with one of the largest retailers in America. We have an effervescent tablet made with hyaluronic acid to boost your skin's moisture. There's a collagen and protein powder that benefits hair, skin, and nails and gives you energy. It's all about supporting beauty

from the inside out. I am back in the studio creating and curating content for my online magazine [www.just-bobbi.com](http://www.just-bobbi.com) as a working make-up artist. I am also creating content around my podcast *Long Short*. And I'm designing new experiences for our guest at our hotel, The George, in Montclair, New Jersey.

**What do you keep in mind while doing the look for any person?**

I always look at make-up as something that will enhance your natural features, not hide them.

**Looking back at your journey, when you started out, did you have any idea that the brand would grow as big as it has?**

I don't think I could have predicted the career that I've had. If you had told me all of this when I was a little girl growing up in Chicago, I wouldn't have believed you. I'm proud of the work I did in building my brand and the impact my work had on the beauty industry.

**A lookback at some of the more iconic moments, in your opinion?**

A few moments that always stand out for me are working with Naomi Campbell and Patrick Demarchelier on Naomi's first *Vogue* cover in 1989. It happened to be my first *Vogue* cover too. I did a lot of beauty spreads with the magazine over the years that I am really proud of. There were also moments like doing make-up for L'Wren Scott's show at London Fashion Week to doing Dr Jill Biden's (former Vice President Joe Biden's wife) make-up during the (Presidential) inauguration in 2009 and celebrating my 20-year anniversary at Bobbi Brown with a film by Bruce Weber. I'll always cherish these moments. (The show is on April 20 in New Delhi.)



## 'CUT ALL HAIR AND SHOW YOUR FACES'

Hairstylist SAPNA BHAVNANI will be using recycled waste hair and aesthetic masks at the make-up show

**H**airstylist Sapna Bhavnani will be using recycled waste hair and aesthetic masks to create unique presentations as a symbol of breaking stereotypes at the India Make-up Show. The wardrobe will be by Kallol Datta. Sapna has come on board to curate a special showcase titled #StrongIsTheWeakestLabel for the Mumbai edition. The debut edition of the show is curated by Brothers Incorporated, founded by Rahul Tuljapurkar and Ninad Shah. "As a child, all the superheroes I admired wore masks. I also wanted to be one. These days women are perceived as strong because we can run a household, raise children and husbands, earn salary and also find time to do some weight-lifting to get stronger," Sapna said.

"We disguise our bruises by buying the best foundation in the market. Contour our cheek bones and define our eyebrows to set a horizon for ourselves. Perfumes hide the smell of decay and hair colour the grey skies above... I'm not saying there is anything wrong in grooming oneself. But we start with our face and hair and continue with our body and soul," she said. "I'm not saying that is wrong as well. It's a choice. My main reason for becoming a hair stylist was to give women a fringe to hide under. Over time, I changed that and said 'Why should they hide? Let's just cut it all off and show our faces,' she added.

The show began on Friday in Mumbai. Sapna's showcase will be held on April 13.

—IANS



# Arsenal, Chelsea put one foot in semis

Juventus bound Ramsey's opener and Koulibaly's own goal help Gunners beat Napoli 2-0; Alonso's late header seal Blues 1-0 win

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal and Chelsea closed in on the Europa League last four on Thursday after the Gunners saw off highly-fancied Napoli 2-0 at the Emirates, while Marco Alonso's late header earned Maurizio Sarri's side a hard-fought win at Slavia Prague.

Unai Emery's Arsenal hold a healthy advantage going into next week's second leg thanks to a fine early strike from Juventus-bound Aaron Ramsey and an unfortunate Kalidou Koulibaly own goal midway through the first half, and can rue missed chances that would have put the tie completely beyond the Italians' reach.

"To keep a clean sheet and score a couple of goals is a lovely way to start the first leg. We're delighted with that," said Ramsey, who should have added the third when he blazed over with nine minutes left, to BT Sport.

"We can go into the second leg with a little bit of a cushion, but we know it will be a difficult place to go... They are a quality team."

Chelsea meanwhile escaped from Eden Arena after a bitty display that saw Kepa Arrizabalaga have to make some fine saves to keep the



Czechs out before Alonso nodded home Willian's pinpoint cross four minutes from time to seal a 1-0 win.

The Blues remain unbeaten in the Europa League, keeping eight clean sheets in the competition this season, and it was that solidity that saw them through on a tricky evening in Prague.

The Premier League pair

remain on a collision course for the final in Baku, with both sides set to avoid each other if they make it through next week's second legs.

"I was surprised by the lack of courage and personality from my players at the start," Carlo Ancelotti told Sky Sport.

"Turning this around will be difficult now, but we'll be home at the San Paolo, and our

supporters will help us."

## RECORD-BREAKING FELIX

Arsenal will almost certainly take on Valencia should they hold on at what will be an intimidating Stadio San Paolo after the La Liga side scored twice in stoppage time to win 3-1 at fellow Spaniards Villarreal.

Goncalo Guedes scored



twice, including what could be the decisive third three minutes into added time, as Marcelino's side struck with two clinical break-away goals to give them a great chance of making the semis.

Chelsea meanwhile will likely play Benfica should they go through after 19-year-old Joao Felix became the youngest ever player to score a Europa League hat-trick and set up the other goal in 4-2 win over Eintracht Frankfurt that leaves the Bundesliga side, who had to play with 10 men for 70 minutes, with an uphill task to make the last four in Germany next week.

Felix, a revelation in his first

season in the Benfica first team, got the ball rolling from the spot in the 21st minute after Evan N'Dicka was sent off for shoving over goal-bound Guedes Fernandes.

He put the hosts back in front just before the break after Luka Jovic — on loan from Benfica — scored a shock leveller against his parent club in the 40th minute.

Ruben Dias made it three when he headed in Felix's flick-on from a corner, and the 19-year-old side-footed home Alex Grimaldo's cross to complete his treble nine minutes into the second half, before Goncalo Paciencia pulled one back with his head from a corner to keep the tie alive.



Valencia's Daniel Wass celebrates after scoring via assist from Jose Gaya during the UEFA Europa League first leg quarter final against Villarreal UEL



Benfica's Joao Felix celebrates after completing his hat-trick against Eintracht Frankfurt. The 19-year-old Joao becomes the youngest ever player to score a Europa League hat-trick and he also set up the other goal in his side's 4-2 win

## Costa still has future at Atletico: Simeone

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone believes Diego Costa's eight-match ban is harsh and has dismissed suggestions the striker could be sold in the summer.

Costa was handed the lengthy suspension by the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) on Thursday for directing a crude insult towards referee Gil Manzano during the first half of Atletico's 2-0 defeat to Barcelona last weekend.

"It seems harsh to me," Simeone said at a press conference on Friday.

The punishment means Costa will not play again this



season. But Simeone insists Costa still has a future at the club.

"Absolutely yes, you know what I think of Costa," Simeone said. "We must take care of our own and with Costa, now more than ever."

Atletico president Enrique Cerezo suggested on Thursday the club will appeal against the ban.

"It's bad news," Cerezo said. "The natural thing is for us to appeal, to ask for leniency and see what happens."

"There are players who are very temperamental. Insults should never happen on the football field but there are times when they do happen."

## 'Neymar wants to stay at PSG'

AFP ■ PARIS

Brazilian star Neymar wants to stay at Paris Saint-Germain, where he is under contract until 2022, according to his father and agent, Neymar senior.

"We have a contract, we're not even halfway through that contract," Neymar senior told RMC Sport.

Neymar arrived at PSG from Barcelona in 2017, but has been at the centre of rumours linking him with a move to Real Madrid.

"These rumours of



leaving will always exist, you can't have a player like Neymar without people or clubs dreaming of having him," said Neymar senior.

PSG fans, he continued, "can rest easy: Neymar today doesn't want to leave PSG, he wants to continue at PSG, get back on the pitch first up, to be able to help the club claim titles and win."

Neymar has been out with an injured right foot sustained on January 23, but the 27-year-old was back in training on Thursday and PSG will be hoping he is fully fit for the April 27 French cup final against Rennes.



Moise Kean hugs Pjanic after scoring against AC Milan AP

## SINGLES

### SAKSHI, BASUMATARY ENTER FINAL

**COLOGNE:** Reigning youth world champion Sakshi (57kg) and Pwila Basumatary (64kg) on Friday entered the final while Pinki Rani (51kg) and Parveen (60kg) settled for Bronze medals after losing their semifinal bouts at the Cologne Boxing World Cup. A prodigious talent, the 18-year-old Sakshi gave glimpses of her maturity and prowess by outpunching Thailand's Tintabthai Preedakamon in a commanding 5-0 victory. Basumatary had a different path to the summit clash in the 64kg. She had to dig deep to see off the stiff challenge of Denmark's Aiaaja Ditte Frostholm in a split decision. India will have a chance of adding a third Gold through Mainsam, who has directly been placed in the final in 54kg due to a smaller draw. In 51kg, Pinki Rani's brilliant run came to an end at the hands of Ireland's Carly McNaul, who blanked the Indian 5-0. English pugilist Paige Murney was declared the winner over Parveen in 60kg.

### DC GULLY CRICKET C'SHIP FROM SAT

**NEW DELHI:** JSW and GMR co-owned IPL franchise, Delhi Capitals on Friday announced the launch of the inaugural season of the Delhi Capitals Gully Cricket Championship powered by Daikin, which will take place in the city from April 13. With 127 matches scheduled to be played across three weekends, the championship is expected to become one of Delhi NCR's largest tennis ball cricket tournaments. The championship will be spread across eight zones, and will be played at eight different venues across the capital city. A total of 96 teams will be taking part in the competition which will see more than 860 participants take the field. Each zone will have a total of 12 teams who will first compete in Zonal Round in order to qualify for City Finals.

### JUSTINE HENIN TO VISIT DELHI

**NEW DELHI:** The four-time French Open winner Justine Henin will visit the city for the fifth edition of the 'Roland-Garros Junior Wild Card Series', to be held here from April 29 to May 1. The legendary tennis star will be on a two-day trip, where she will watch the young Indian players in action on the clay courts and host a

tennis clinic with the youngsters. The competition returns to the country for a fifth consecutive year, the French Tennis Federation (FFT), organisers of the world's premier clay court event — Roland-Garros, in association with the All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced on Friday. The competition, to be held at the clay courts of the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA), will provide a clay court tennis experience to the young talents of India, and promote the same at the grassroots level.

### JOSHNA ENTERS SEMIS IN MACAU

**MACAU:** Third seed Joshna Chinappa moved into the semifinals of the Macau Open with a convincing 11-8, 11-2, 11-9 win over fifth seed Mayar Hany of Egypt on Friday. However, men's second seed Saurav Ghosal suffered an unexpected exit with sixth seed Greg Lobban of Scotland chalking out a 6-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-8 win for a last four place. Joshna, after a bye in the first round, it was a fairly easy outing against New Zealand's Amanda Landers-Murphy. The Indian won in straight games 11-5, 11-8, 11-9. Knowing the Kiwi's penchant for the volleys, Joshna ensured her rival was not given much of that privilege and the play worked.

### RKFC-MINERVA REMATCH UNLIKELY

**NEW DELHI:** The much-delayed and debated I-League game between Real Kashmir FC and Minerva Punjab FC is unlikely to be played this season, according to All India Football Federation (AIFF) sources. "Since the I-League is already over and we are at the end of the season, there is hardly any point in playing the match. Both teams have realised the futility of the effort. A final decision will be taken in the league committee meeting in Bhubaneswar on Saturday," claimed an AIFF official. It is, however, not known whether both teams will receive a point each or the match would simply be called off. In case both teams are given one point each, Real Kashmir's place in the final league standing will not be affected. On the other hand, Minerva stand to gain — one more point would take them to the ninth position ahead of Gokulam FC.

Agencies

## Lewandowski, Coman bust-up in training

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich coach Niko Kovac on Friday confirmed reports Robert Lewandowski and Kingsley Coman were involved in a fist-fighting training, but ruled out any sanctions.

Kovac admitted the forwards traded blows following an argument at a training session behind closed doors on Thursday while preparing for Sunday's league game away to Fortuna Duesseeldorf.

"The three of us talked about it, the players are sorry and have apologised for their behaviour, there will be no financial penalties and the matter has been resolved," said Kovac in a press conference.

Lewandowski, 30, reportedly chastised Coman, 22, during a training exercise, and the exchange of words quickly escalated. The two players were reportedly separated by Niklas Sule and Jerome Boateng, but Kovac was evasive about the cause of the strife, saying simply "emotions" had run high in a heated training session.



## 'Difficult' for Kane to play again this season: Pochettino

AFP ■ LONDON

Mauricio Pochettino said it will be "difficult" for Harry Kane to play for Tottenham again this season after the forward suffered an ankle injury during their Champions League win over Manchester City.

The England captain, who suffered a "significant lateral ligament" injury in the 1-0 victory on Tuesday, is susceptible to ankle damage — this is his fifth ankle injury since 2016 and the second to his left joint this year.

"He was so upset after the game, it was a difficult moment for him," Tottenham boss Pochettino said ahead of his side's home match against already relegated Huddersfield on Saturday.

"We feel so disappointed and it was difficult to accept the situation," he added.

"He is now much better, he had the scan yesterday and he needs to see the specialist next week. He is in



a good place because he is a positive guy.

"It is a little bit sad but he is looking forward to recovering as soon as possible."

When asked if he believes Kane could return this season, Pochettino said: "We'll see, there is five weeks, it is going to be difficult."

"Next week we are going to see with the specialist. We are going to do everything to recover him as soon as possible but there is only five weeks of the season to recover."

## 'Frightening' Vettel jolts Mercedes

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

Sebastian Vettel fired a warning as he powered his Ferrari to the fastest time in first practice at the milestone Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai on Friday.

For what will be the 1,000th Formula One race, the four-time world champion clocked a best time of one minute 33.911 seconds, with

Mercedes' reigning title-der Lewis Hamilton 0.207 secs behind.

Third fastest was Vettel's young Ferrari team-mate Charles Leclerc, 0.256 secs off the pace, followed by Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Valtteri Bottas in the other Mercedes.

But the session belonged to Germany's Vettel, 31, who has been under pressure after

a series of unforced errors stretching back to last season.

He has been struggling with the set-up of his Ferrari and admitted on Thursday that he is still not really at home in it.

Vettel finished fourth in the season-opening race in Melbourne and was then fifth in Bahrain, where he was eclipsed by team-mate Leclerc, who is 10 years his junior.

Vettel's opening Shanghai salvo was all the more impressive because the Ferraris were on the slower medium tyres in first practice.

The Chinese Grand Prix has one of the longest straights in Formula One, which will suit Ferrari's awesome pace.

Toto Wolff, Mercedes team principal, called Vettel's straight-line speed "frightening".

## Juve ready to seal Serie A

AFP ■ MILAN

Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus head to SPAL on Saturday needing just a point to wrap up an eighth consecutive Serie A title in record time before their crucial Champions League decider against Ajax in Turin next week.

Ronaldo returned from injury to score a precious away goal for Juventus in their 1-1 Champions League quarter-final, first leg draw in Amsterdam on Wednesday, and the 34-year-old can claim his first Italian league title to add to his two in Spain with Real Madrid and three with Manchester United.

It would be a 28th trophy in four countries for the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, a haul which includes five Champions League, and the Euro 2016 title with Portugal.

Juventus have a 20-point advantage on second-placed Napoli and a draw would seal their 35th 'Scudetto' with six games to spare — the earliest any team has ever sealed Serie A — thanks to their superior head-to-head record over Carlo Ancelotti's side.

SPAL, 16th and just four points above the drop zone, had eased their relegation fears with three consecutive wins that included victories over Champions League-chasing Lazio and Roma, but lost last weekend at Cagliari.

Leonardo Semplici dogged side also have history against them, as they have beaten Juventus just once in their history, way back in 1957.

Given the relative weakness of the weekend's opposition, coach Massimiliano Allegri may not want to risk Ronaldo ahead of Tuesday's Champions League decider and could rotate his side.

Forwards Paulo Dybala and Douglas Costa came off the bench at Ajax ahead of highly-rated teenager Moise Kean, who had scored five goals in as many games for Juventus.

All three could start against SPAL. Leonardo Bonucci looks set to work overtime with defenders Giorgio Chiellini, Andrea Barzagli and Martin Caceres all out injured.

"Let's close down the championship on Saturday," urged Bonucci. Second-placed Napoli travel to bottom club Chievo looking for a boost after their demoralising 2-0 Europa League quarter-final, first leg defeat at Arsenal.

Carlo Ancelotti's side are without a win in three games and next week host Arsenal in their Stadio San Paolo hoping for a miracle.

Inter Milan, seven points behind Napoli, can consolidate third place at second-from-bottom Frosinone after last weekend's draw against fellow Europe-chasers Atalanta.



### PTI ■ SINGAPORE

PV Sindhu survived a scare before making the semifinals but Saina Nehwal was thoroughly outplayed in her straight-game quarterfinal loss on a mixed day for India at the Singapore Open badminton tournament on Friday.

Sindhu, in fact, emerged as the lone survivor after India's cam-

## Sindhu in semis; Saina, Srikanth, Sameer ousted

pagin in men's singles was over following the ouster of Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma, and loss of mixed doubles Indian pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy later in the day.

Sindhu defeated world No 18 Cai Yanyan of China 21-13, 17-21, 21-14 to set up a meeting with former world champion Nozomi Okuhara.

It is Sindhu's second

semifinal of the season, following a last-four finish at the India Open last month.

The second-seeded Okuhara, hailing from Japan, didn't break much sweat on her way to a 21-8, 21-13 win over sixth seed Saina.

In men's singles, Srikanth's struggle against

Kento Momota continued as he suffered his ninth straight loss to the Japanese top seed, going down 18-21, 21-19, 9-21 in 66 minutes to end his campaign with yet another quarter-final finish.

Sameer Verma, a world No 16, battled for an hour and nine minutes before losing 10-21, 21-15, 15-21 to second seeded Chinese Taipei Chou Tien Chen.

In mixed doubles, Pranaav and Sikki suffered a 14-21, 16-21 loss to third seed Thai pair of Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai to bow out

of the World Tour Super 500 tournament. Sindhu broke off at 5-5 in the opening game to earn the bragging rights but her Chinese rival came back strongly in the second game, opening up a lead of 11-6 at the break.

The Indian fought back superbly to narrow





**LEADERBOARD**

<b>RUNS</b>	<b>349</b>	David Warner (SRH)
<b>WICKETS</b>	<b>13</b>	Kagiso Rabada (DC)
<b>6S</b>	<b>312</b>	I can't say whether it was right or not. What wasn't right was the confusion around the decision.
<b>4S</b>	<b>719</b>	—STEPHEN FLEMING



# RUSSELL, GILL TAKE KNIGHT RIDERS TO 178

Shubman smashes his first fifty of the season to help KKR over poor start



**PTI ■ KOLKATA**

Andre Russell blazed away to a 21-ball 45 after Shubman Gill's brisk half-century, powering Kolkata Knight Riders to 178 for seven against Delhi Capitals, in the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

This was Russell's sixth successive 40-plus score, his four sixes and three boundaries coming after youngster Gill stroked 65 off 39 balls, helping the hosts recover from Ishant Sharma's wicket- maiden first over.

The Jamaican, who was cleaned up by Kagiso Rabada with a toe-crushing yorker in their Super Over defeat in the first leg, also exacted a sweet revenge smashing the South African for two sixes in an over that yielded 16 runs.

Chris Morris removed Russell in the penultimate over when he

**THIS WAS RUSSELL'S SIXTH SUCCESSIVE 40-PLUS SCORE, HIS FOUR SIXES AND THREE BOUNDARIES COMING AFTER GILL STROKED 65 OFF 39 BALLS**



was caught in the deep by Rabada. Sent into bat, from batting at No 6 in their last match against Chennai Super Kings, Gill was promoted to open the innings and the 19-year-old responded with a fine knock, his second IPL fifty, and first this season.

Gill smashed seven fours and two sixes, both against spinner Axar Patel, and along with Robin Uthappa (28), added 63 runs after a horror start.

Ishant knocked out the off-stump of Joe Denly with a fantastic inswinger, the Englishman lasting just one ball on his IPL debut.

Delhi could not have asked for a better start with Ishant starting the proceedings with a wicket- maiden.

But KKR did well to bring them out of the rut with Uthappa and Gill counter-attacking with a flurry of boundaries.

## Up Next MI eye 4th straight win

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**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

West Indian duo of Kieron Pollard and Alzarri Joseph will hog the limelight when Mumbai Indians lock horns with an out-of-sorts Rajasthan Royals in a match where home skipper Rohit Sharma's return from injury will also be awaited on Saturday.

A leg spasm had forced Rohit to miss an IPL game for the first time in 11 seasons when he set out of Mumbai's last game against Kings XI Punjab.

In his absence, stand-in skipper Kieron Pollard ensured MI continue its good run as his whirlwind 83-run knock helped the side script a three-wicket win in a humdinger on Wednesday.

The winning runs were hit by 22-year-old Alzarri Joseph, who has been the new sensation in this year's cash-rich T20 league.

After a dream debut where he returned with best IPL figures of six for 12 against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Alzarri (15 not out) played a crucial cameo against Kings XI to romp the side home.

So it would be interesting to see whether the

Antigua-born Joseph and the big-hitting Pollard can carry their form into Saturday's game.

Another West Indian who would be in focus is Jofra Archer, who had given Rajasthan Royal a chance to defend 151 against Chennai Super Kings on Thursday with a superb spell of fast bowling.

Rajasthan would be wary of MI's attack after they were reduced to a 53 for three by CSK. None of the batsmen could score a big innings with Ben Stokes emerging as the top-scorer with 28 runs.

RR's batting line-up, including skipper Ajinkya Rahane, Sanju Samson, Steve Smith and Jos Buttler will need to pull up their socks to confront the Mumbai bowlers at the Wankhede Stadium.

Rajasthan Royals pacers Jaydev Unadkat and Dhawal Kulkarni along with Shreyas Gopal and leggie Riyan Parag would have to deliver for their skipper if they have to stay alive and make it to the Playoffs.

## Dhoni let off with 50% fine after angry reaction to umpire's call

**PTI ■ JAIPUR**

Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni escaped a ban and was let off with a 50 per cent fine on his match fee for an unprecedented confrontation with the on-field umpires during the IPL encounter against Rajasthan Royals.

In a rare instance, Dhoni, who was not even meant to be on the field of play, lost his cool and rushed out of the dug-out to challenge umpire Ulhas Gandhe after he flip-flopped on a no ball on Thursday night.

"MS Dhoni, the Chennai Super Kings captain, was fined 50 percent of his match fees for breaching the VIVO Indian Premier League's (IPL) Code of Conduct during his team's match against Rajasthan Royals at Jaipur," the BCCI stated.

Gandhe had tried to rule a waist high



full toss as no ball by RR all-rounder Ben Stokes. But he reversed his decision after square leg umpire Bruce Oxenford did not signal for it.

"Dhoni admitted to the Level 2 offence 2.20 of the IPL's Code of Conduct and accepted the sanction," it further stated.

As is the case with IPL teams, it's the franchise that will pay the fine on the player's behalf.

Dhoni was seen angrily gesturing at Gandhe for backtracking after initially signalling a no ball.

It took some convincing from Oxenford for Dhoni to head back to the dugout even though he seemed far from convinced.

But the confusion and the ensuing confrontation did not have a bearing on CSK's fortunes.

Stokes failed in the final over and Mitchell Santner finished the match with a six to take his team to a four-wicket win in a chase of 152.

According to the ICC Code of Conduct, which governs the IPL, showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by words or action can lead to a maximum punishment of one-Test or two-ODI ban.

The ongoing edition of the IPL has had quite a few umpiring controversies so far. Not too long back, India and Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli lambasted the standards after his team was at the receiving end of a poor no ball call.

The umpire failed to spot a clear case of over-stepping in RCB's clash against Mumbai Indians and Kohli had gone on to say that the officials "should keep their eyes open".

## Rohit available for selection: Zaheer

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Mumbai Indians Director of Cricket Operations Zaheer Khan on Friday said that skipper Rohit Sharma is available for the team's IPL match against Rajasthan Royals on Saturday.

A leg spasm had forced Rohit to miss an IPL game for the first time in 11 seasons when he sat out of Mumbai's last match against Kings XI Punjab at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday.

He had sustained the injury during a training session.

Asked about Rohit's injury status, Zaheer said, "He is definitely available for selection and he is very confident, so that is a very positive sign right now for us."

"He is going to practice and get a better gauge of things, but we are pretty confident (of him playing)," said the 40-year-old former India pacer.

Rohit briefly batted at the nets at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday.

## Batting at top for SRH, not for WC spot: Shankar

**PIANS ■ NEW DELHI**

From the low of the Nidahas Trophy final in Sri Lanka to now being in the scheme of things as the national selectors gear up to pick the India squad for the World Cup, all-rounder Vijay Shankar has come a long way. While Indian fans and cricketers await with bated breath for MSK Prasad and team to announce the squad for the showpiece event on Monday, Shankar wants to focus on the job at hand — winning games for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Shankar said that even when he was down and out, it was the SRH management which backed him and helped him come back strongly, so his focus is the IPL.

"Wearing the India cap is a dream for every cricketer. But I haven't let the thought of the World Cup team selection affect me. I have looked to focus and contribute for SRH."

"It is very important to do well



for Hyderabad. I got into SRH before I made a comeback into the Indian team. So, the trust they have shown in me, must be repaid," he said.

Asked if the idea to bat at No 3 and 4 in the IPL is an attempt to prepare for the role (if given) in the Indian team for the World Cup, he said: "I have not thought about that, but it is really good that I am batting up the order."

"It has nothing to do with World Cup, it is about doing what suits the team and the situations."

## Inzamam, Boucher inducted as MCC Honorary Life Members

**PTI ■ LONDON**

Inzamam-ul-Haq and Mark Boucher on Friday were inducted as the Honorary Life Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

According to the MCC website, Pakistan's Inzamam and South African Boucher have been included in recognition to their outstanding achievements in the game of cricket.

Former Pakistan skipper and batsman Inzamam played 119 Test matches. He captained the side from 2001-07 and scored 8,829 runs at an average of 50.16, including 25 centuries.

He made his international debut in 1991, featuring in Pakistan's successful 1992 World Cup campaign. He played in 378 ODIs, scoring 11,739 runs at an average of 39.5.

The 49-year-old Inzamam



has now joined fellow Pakistan cricketers — Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Shahid Afridi — as an Honorary Life Member of MCC.

Meanwhile, former South Africa wicketkeeper-batsman Boucher was the first glovesman to take 500 catches in the longest format.

Having made his debut in



1997, 42-year-old went on to play 146 Test matches, scoring 5498 runs, taking 530 catches and 23 stumpings. In 290 ODIs, Boucher made 4523 runs, taking 395 catches and claiming 21 stumpings.

He holds the combined-format international record for wicket-keeping dismissals— 998 in total.

Boucher has joined his countrymen Allan Donald, Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock and Daryll Cullinan as an Honorary Life Member of MCC.

## WINDIES SACK COACH PYBUS

**AFP ■ ANTIGUA**

The West Indies sacked controversial coach Richard Pybus amid a flurry of changes announced on Thursday, only seven weeks before the start of the World Cup.

Floyd Reifer will become interim head coach, with Robert Haynes replacing Courtney Browne as interim head of selectors, while the entire selection panel has also been changed.

"We are confident that in Mr Haynes we have found an interim chairman who shares the philosophy of inclusiveness and shares our selection policy,"

Cricket West Indies (CWI) president Ricky Skerritt said.

"(Reifer) has lived the same principles of West Indian excellence that we now insist must prevail in our cricket."

The Windies had seen an upturn in fortunes on the pitch in recent months, with a shock 2-1 Test series win over England and 2-2 one-day international series draw.

They open their World Cup campaign against Pakistan at Trent Bridge on May 31 — the



second day of the tournament in England and Wales.

The change of coach could potentially pave the way for star players to return to the team, with the likes of Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard playing almost exclusively franchise Twenty20 cricket, with Andre Russell also having not played an ODI since last July.

Skerritt replaced former CWI president Dave Cameron last month after beating him in an election.

## Match After RCB take on KXIP in must-win clash

**PTI ■ MOHALI**

Gasping for breath after six successive defeats, Virat Kohli led Royal Challengers Bangalore will look to snap their winless streak and stay afloat when they take on an inconsistent Kings XI Punjab in a must-win IPL encounter at PCA stadium on Saturday.

Nothing seems to be going right for RCB, who slumped to their sixth straight loss after going down against Delhi Capitals in their IPL match last Sunday.

Kohli, who was recently named the Leading Cricketer of the year for the third successive time by Wisden Almanack, will hope that fortunes finally knock at the doors of RCB as they need to win all their next eight matches to salvage any hope of making it to the play-off.

RCB have been inconsistent with both their bowling and batting faltering in many occasions.

Yuzvendra Chahal has been their top bowler with nine wickets but rest of the



batting line-up conceded far too many runs.

RCB's batting too has looked equally inconsistent.

KXIP, on the other hand, have won four matches out of seven but they have maintained dominance on home ground.

Despite the loss, KXIP's

bowling line-up conceded far too many runs.

RCB's batting too has looked equally inconsistent.

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Despite the loss, KXIP's

## RCB GET DALE STEYN BOOST

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Veteran South African pacer Dale Steyn on Friday joined Royal Challengers Bangalore as a replacement for the injured Nathan Coulter-Nile, giving a much needed boost to the bowling department of the bottom-placed team in the IPL.

Steyn will replace Australian Coulter-Nile, who is

recovering from a back injury.

"Royal Challengers Bangalore have signed Dale Steyn as a replacement for the injured Nathan Coulter-Nile for the remainder of the VIVO Indian Premier League (IPL) 2019," read an IPL statement.

Steyn went unsold in the previous two IPL auctions and last played in the competition in 2016 when he represented Gujarat Lions.