

OPINION 6
DON'T POLITICISE FORCES

WORLD 5
UK MPS SEIZE CONTROL OF BREXIT PROCESS FROM MAY

MONEY 10
JET'S DOMESTIC PILOTS WRITE TO SBI, SEEK SALARY DUES

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KKR HOST KINGS XI IN IPL CLASH 12 SPORT

BJP pits Jaya Prada against Azam

Maneka, Varun swap seats in BJP's 9th list; Manoj Sinha picked for Ghazipur; Murli Manohar Joshi dropped

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Noted film actor of yesterday and former MP Jaya Prada joined the BJP on Tuesday and will take on Samajwadi Party's Muslim face Azam Khan in Rampur, while Maneka Gandhi and her son, Varun Gandhi, swapped their seats of Pilibhit and Sultanpur as per the ninth list of the BJP released on Tuesday.

Union Minister Manoj Sinha has been fielded from Ghazipur, Rita Bahuguna from Allahabad, State BJP president Mahendra Nath Pandey from Chandauli, and Jagdambika Pal from Doonariyaganj.

BJP's ninth list which has 29 candidates from Uttar Pradesh (and 10 from West Bengal) repeats many of the current MPs, including BJP's Kisan Morcha head Virendra Singh Mast (Ballia), Harish Dwivedi (Basti), Kirtwardhan Singh (Gonda), Pankaj Choudhary (Maharajganj), Vijay Dube (Kushinagar), Kamleshwar Paswan (Bansgaon SC), Ravindra Kushwaha (Salempur), Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti (Fatehpur), Lallu Singh (Faizabad), Daddan Mishra (Shawasti), and Brijbhushan Sharan Singh (Kaiserganj).

The Rampur contest has the potential to be bitter and intense since both Jaya Prada and Azam Khan arch rivals. Jaya Prada had at one time accused Khan of circulating scurrilous video purportedly featuring her in Rampur.



Veteran actor and former MP Jaya Prada touches the floor before stepping on the dais as she arrives to join the BJP, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Rampur has the highest concentration of Muslims in entire UP. Muslims are over 50 per cent of the total voters in the constituency. Riding the Modi wave, BJP's Nepal Singh had won from there in 2014.

Rajya Sabha member Amar Singh, who was expelled from the SP and has since come close to the BJP.

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jaya Prada described him as a "brave" leader in whose hands the country is "safe".

Noting that she started her political journey with the TDP and was its Rajya Sabha member before joining the SP and being elected to Lok Sabha from Rampur, Jaya Prada told reporters that joining the BJP is a "significant" moment in her life and she would now work dedicatedly for the saffron party.

- BJP chooses Rita Bahuguna for Allahabad, State BJP president Mahendra Nath Pandey for Chandauli, Jagdambika Pal for Doonariyaganj Lok Sabha seats
- The ninth list, which has 29 candidates from Uttar Pradesh (and 10 from West Bengal) repeats many of the sitting MPs
- Maneka has been shifted to Sultanpur from her current constituency of Pilibhit, while her son, Varun Gandhi will fight from Pilibhit

BJP asked me not to contest LS polls: Joshi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Veteran BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi on Tuesday said he has been asked by the party not to contest the polls. Within hours, BJP nominated Khadi and Gramodyog Minister in Yogi Government Satyadeo Pachauri from Joshi's Kanpur seat.



In a statement, Joshi said the party general secretary (organisation) Ram Lal has asked him not to contest the LS poll. The statement was released for the voters of Kanpur, from where Joshi had won in 2014 by getting 57 per cent of the vote.

Joshi heads Parliament's Estimates Committee and some of its observations, including on jobs, the GDP and non-performing assets, recently embarrassed the Union Government.

Earlier, another senior party leader from UP Kalraj Mishra had announced not to contest the elections from his Deoria seat.

Later in the day, the BJP released the list declaring Pachauri as party's candidate from Kanpur.

Defending the party's decision of denying ticket to Joshi, UP Minister Sidharthanath Singh said, "He is our founder member and the party respects him in the team of mardarshak mandal. It is an internal matter of the party."

Nishad Party, 2 OBC outfits join SP-BSP alliance



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Nishad Party president Sanjay Nishad and Janwadi Party (Socialist) president Sanjay Singh Chauhan during a joint Press conference at the SP office in Lucknow on Tuesday

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

Akhilesh's effort appears to be aimed at stitching a caste arithmetic

With an attempt to counter the influence of the BJP, the Samajwadi Party on Tuesday inducted three more OBC-dominated political outfits in the SP-BSP-RLD alliance. The three OBC political parties are Janwadi Party (Socialist), Rashtriya Samanta Dal and the Nishad Party. These small parties have pockets of influence among their respective communities in eastern UP.

"I congratulate the three parties on joining the alliance," said Akhilesh Yadav at a Press conference here on Tuesday to announce the expansion of the alliance that had started with a tie-up between Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party and later included Ajit Singh's Rashtriya Lok Dal.

Akhilesh's effort appears to be aimed at stitching a caste arithmetic under the SP-BSP combination — Nishad, Dalit, Muslim, Yadav and non-Yadav

backward communities. Headed by Sanjay Singh Chauhan, the Janwadi Party Socialist Party has a strong hold among the Chauhan community, an extremely backward caste of the OBC category, which has a considerable presence across eastern UP.

The Nishad Party had played a key role in the Opposition's success in the Gorakhpur by-elections in March 2018 which became the template for Opposition unity and eventually persuaded two rivals, Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati, to team up.

Praveen Kumar Nishad, the Opposition candidate who defeated the BJP in Gorakhpur, is the son of Nishad Party chief.

Sheila plans Aay Pe Charcha to take Nyay to Delhiites' doors

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

In its bid to have a direct interaction with the voters in national Capital for Lok Sabha polls, Delhi Congress headed by Sheila Dikshit has planned to launch "Aay Pe Charcha" (discussion on income) from April 1 to generate awareness among people about benefits of the "historic" minimum income guarantee scheme announced by party president Rahul Gandhi on Monday.

Termining the Nyuntam Aay Yojana (Nyay) announcement as an "extraordinary step", Sheila said this is the biggest scheme announced ever for the poor after the highly successful MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act).

"This stupendous scheme will benefit the people below the poverty line in the country. It is the first time that such a step has been taken in the world," said Sheila, adding that it will empower the poorest in the country.

Hitting out at the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), Sheila said it is strange that the BJP



Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Sheila Dikshit during a Press conference at DPCC office in New Delhi on Tuesday

Government which has coined "hollow" slogans such as "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and "Aachhe Din" seems to be rattled by the announcement.

Sheila said the Congress will implement the scheme for five crore poor families in the country after it forms the next

Government in the country. "The formalities (of the scheme) will be worked out after Congress forms the Government and implements it," she said.

Brushing aside accusations of the BJP that the scheme will put a heavy burden on the

economy of the country and it would not be practical to implement the scheme, Sheila said, "The party has taken all possibilities into consideration for the successful implementation of the scheme, it would be implemented without delay".

2019 Elections Battleground LOK SABHA

Chowkidar pure hai, dobara PM banna sure hai: Rajnath

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chowkidar chor nahi, chowkidar pure hai. Chowkidar ka dobara PM banna sure hai. Desh ki samasyaon ka wo hi cure hai. (Watchman is not a thief, but he is pure. Watchman is all set to become PM again. He is cure to country's problems), said Union Home Minister Raj Nath Singh while addressing an election rally titled "Vijay Sankalp Sabha" in Delhi's Yamuna Vihar on Tuesday.

Singh's response was aimed at blunting the often repeated allegations of Congress president Rahul Gandhi "Chowkidar chor hai" to hit out at the Prime Minister over alleged corruption in the Rafale deal. Attacking the Congress for levelling false allegations of corruption on Modi regarding the Rafale deal, Singh asked, "For whom will our Prime Minister take money?"



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh being felicitated by Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari after the inauguration of BJP North-East District office in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ravi Shankar shown black flags by RK Sinha loyalists

PTI ■ PATNA

On his first visit to the city after being declared the BJP candidate from Patna Sahib, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was on Tuesday shown black flags by supporters of RK Sinha, a Rajya Sabha MP, leading to a clash with party workers who had gathered at the airport to welcome Prasad.

RK Sinha was hopeful of BJP ticket for the seat. Prasad drove away while telling the media, "I thank my party for considering me for this great responsibility. I will be giving my best shot. Good governance will help Narendra Modi return to power."

CAPSULE

2 CHILDREN DIE IN SHOP BLAZE IN JAMIA NAGAR

New Delhi: Two minors died in a fire which broke out in a furniture shop at Jamia Nagar's Abu Fazal Enclave in southeast Delhi, police said on Tuesday. A six-year-old boy and seven-year-old girl died in the blaze.

PAK PLACES 2 HINDU GIRLS IN PROTECTION

Islamabad: A Pakistani high court on Tuesday ordered official protection for the two Hindu girls due to concern about their safety as authorities widened a probe to ascertain if the teenage sisters were abducted, forcibly converted and married.

F-16S ESCORT FLIGHT AFTER BOMB THREAT

Singapore/New Delhi: A Singapore Airlines flight from Mumbai to Singapore with 263 passengers on board on Tuesday received a bomb threat, prompting Singapore Air Force to send two F-16s to escort it.

Cop shoots dead bizman in office chamber

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

In a clear case of deteriorating law and order in Chhattisgarh's state capital, a businessman was shot dead on Tuesday from a point blank range by a police constable at his office located at busy Pachpedhi Naka locality.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while terming the incident unfortunate offered his condolence to the bereaved family. According to police, the deceased identified as Sanjay Agrawal who used to deal in used cars.

Agrawal was at his office 'Sai Motors' located in Pachpedhi Naka locality when the accused identified as constable Manoj Sen of District Force reached his office at noon and opened fire at Agrawal. State government has dismissed the cop from service.

"The accused constable had paid around Rs 3 lakh to Agrawal on March 4, to purchase a car, but the latter reportedly delivered him a shabby vehicle. Unsatisfied with the deal, the constable demanded his money back. But Agrawal promised to repair the vehicle, but kept on postponing the date of delivery of the vehicle", city superintendent of police (CSP) Purani Basti Krishna Patel said.

Enraged over the dilly-dallying tactics of Agrawal, Sen reached his office and had a heated argument after which he shot at Agrawal with an INSAS rifle he was carrying.

The assault rifle is issued to Manoj's relative, who is in CAF and presently posted at Mana battalion," CSP Patel added.

Agrawal was later rushed to a private hospital nearby



where doctors declared him brought dead, police said.

Sen was arrested later and has been booked under Section 302 (murder) and Arms Act.

Meanwhile, former state cabinet minister and BJP leader Rajesh Munat reacting over the incident said, law and order has completely

Pramod Dubey faces probe for alleged funding

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The poll panel on Tuesday ordered a probe into the allegation that Congress candidate from Raipur Lok Sabha seat Pramod Dubey purportedly offered money to a group of women to set up self-help groups. Chhattisgarh Chief Electoral Officer Subrat Sahoo said a complaint against Dubey was received and it was forwarded to Raipur district electoral officer for a probe. Dubey, who is also Raipur mayor, posted some pictures of his campaign in the Facebook on Tuesday. In the posts, he was allegedly seen offering ₹10,000 to young women voters to set up SHGs.

The BJP promptly picked up the issue and made a complaint to the CEO and also to the Election Commission of India.

Dubey, meanwhile, deleted the post from his Facebook account.

The Congress so far has not reacted to the allegation.

In another allegation against a Congress candidate, the BJP claimed that the ruling party's candidate from Korba Lok Sabha constituency Jyotsna Mahant addressed a press conference at the official residence of her husband Charandas Mahant.

Jyotsna Mahant is the wife of Chhattisgarh state assembly Speaker Charandas Mahant.

Briefing media, the CEO, however, denied receiving any official complaint in the matter.

"We have not received any complaint over the reported press conference addressed by Congress candidate Jyotsna Mahant at Speaker's residence. Necessary action will be initiated if we receive the complaint," the CEO said. He said, "During scrutiny for the first phase of polling in Bastar, nomination papers of one candidate Jaisingh Kawde have been

rejected, leaving only seven contestants in the electoral fray now.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers for the Lok Sabha seat is March 28, after which the election symbols will be allocated to the candidates, he added.

"The notification for third phase of polling for seven Lok Sabha seats of Surguja, Raigarh, Janjgir-Champa, Korba, Bilaspur, Durg and Raipur will be issued on March 28. The last date for filing of nomination for these seats is April 4 and last date for withdrawal of nomination is April 8 till 3.00 pm," Sahoo said.

For the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the state will have 406 'Sangwari' (women) polling centres, 464 model polling centres and 56 polling centres for differently-abled persons. The State has 23,727 polling centres out of which 5,625 polling centres have been marked as "critical".

Service status to forces gets boost

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Personnel has directed the Union Home and Railway Ministries to move separate proposals to grant 'organised service' status to the Central paramilitary forces and Railway Protection Forces respectively.

The move comes following a directive from the Supreme Court for granting organised service status to these forces. The organised service status will enable the cadre officers to be eligible for certain service benefits like Non-Functional Upgradation (financial benefits after certain number of years of service if promotion to the next post is not possible).

Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel in a letter issued on Monday to the Joint Secretary (Police-I) of Home Ministry Amitabh Kharkwal and Joint Director (Estt/GC), Railway Board, Amitabh Joshi said, "...MHA/Ministry of Railways requested to move a proposal for grant of organised status for implementation of the order of

the Supreme Court immediately. The directions of the court regarding deputation of IPS officers to CAPFs and RPF may also be kept in view while formulating the proposal."

The procedure for granting organised status to a service is similar to that of a cadre review. Such a proposal, initially moved by Cadre Controlling Authority (CCA) is examined by DoPT and Department of Expenditure, and subsequently, their recommendations are placed before the Cadre Review Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

The proposal is then sent for final approval of the Cabinet. Necessary notifications in this regard are to be issued by the CCA like MHA for Central Armed Police Force and Ministry of Railways for RPF (Railway Protection Force, reads the DoPT order issued by MS Subramanya Rao, Director of Cadre Review Division.

VPS Panwar, Chairman, National Coordination Committee for Ex-CPMFs Welfare Associations, said there is no need at all for a proposal



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□ The grant of organised service to Group A cadre officers will entitle them to timely promotion and enhanced pay packages

□ The move comes following a directive from the Supreme Court for granting organised service status to these forces

□ The organised service status will enable the cadre officers to be eligible for certain service benefits like Non-Functional Upgradation (financial benefits after certain number of years of service if promotion to the next post is not possible)



instead of declaring them as organised service as directed by the court. The grant of organised service to Group A cadre officers will entitle them to timely promotion and enhanced pay packages. This will also enable them to form associations on the lines of the All India Services and represent properly before the Central Pay Commission besides giving them a collective bargaining power for better service conditions, Panwar added.

SARADHACHITFUND SC: 'Very very serious' revelations made by CBI in status report

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday termed as "very very serious" the revelations made by CBI in its status report relating to the recent interrogation of the then Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam case.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said it cannot "close its eyes" if some "very very serious facts" are disclosed to it and directed CBI to file an application seeking appropriate relief against Kumar, who had earlier headed the state SIT to probe the chit fund scam.

The Bench, which also comprised Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna, granted 10 days to the probe agency for filing the application. Kumar and others can respond to the plea seven days thereafter.

The top court refused to drop the contempt proceedings against the West Bengal DGP, the chief secretary and Kumar.

It was hearing the CBI's contempt application against various senior officials of the West Bengal Government on the ground of non-cooperation in its probe and alleged tampering of evidence including call data records (CDRs) of key accused and Sardha group CMD Sudipta Sen and Debjani Mukherjee. The court, which had earlier directed CBI Director to file an affidavit giving details about the alleged contempt committed by West Bengal cops and others in the case, perused the reply of the CBI chief and the fresh status report, pertaining to quizzing of Kumar.

"We have gone through your (CBI's) status report. There are something very very serious," the Bench said. The Bench asked Attorney General KK Venugopal, representing CBI, to file an appropriate application as it cannot pass any order on the prayers as they were part of the sealed cover report to which the other side has no access.

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All Lokpal members to take oath today

New Delhi: All eight newly appointed members of anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal will take oath of office on Wednesday, officials said on Tuesday.

President Ram Nath Kovind had on Saturday administered the oath of office to Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose as the country's first Lokpal. Former Chief Justices of different High Courts — Justices Dilip B Bhosale, Pradip Kumar Mohanty, Abhilasha Kumari — besides sitting Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Ajay Kumar Tripathi were appointed as judicial members in the Lokpal.

Former first woman chief of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Archana Ramasundaram, ex-Maharashtra chief secretary Dinesh Kumar Jain, former IRS officer Mahender Singh and Gujarat cadre ex-IAS officer Indrajeet Prasad Gautam are the Lokpal's non-judicial members.

All these eight members will be administered the oath of office on Wednesday, the officials said. PTI



"File an application or an affidavit, if you want to press for your reliefs. We cannot act unilaterally and the other side has to be heard," the bench said. "We are not passing any order. File an application and give the other side an opportunity to reply," the Bench said. Senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for West Bengal officials, opposed the liberty being granted to CBI to file an application against Kumar.

"While considering the contempt matter, suppose some very very serious things come to our notice then, should we close our eyes to that," the Bench said while asking CBI to file the fresh plea.

At the outset, Venugopal referred to the reply of the CBI Director and alleged that the West Bengal police has not been cooperating with the probe, providing incomplete and tampered with details to the probe agency.

He said the CDRs, provided by the state police, of the key accused to the CBI were matched with those provided by the mobile service providers and various discrepancies were found in them.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, also appearing for CBI, said that there has been serious breach of the apex court order asking State police to cooperate in the investigation. PTI

Defer Modi biopic: Left parties to EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of the Left parties on Tuesday met Election Commission (EC) officials and demanded that release of the film based on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi be deferred, claiming it to be a "propaganda material".

The delegation led by CPI national secretary D Raja and CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Nilotpal Basu, pointed out serious law and order situations in Tripura and West Bengal. "The delegation had a detailed discussion with the EC on the release of the biopic on Narendra Modi. The delegation pointed out that there are well-established precedents on withholding the release of such propaganda materials during the pendency of the elections. The poll body, however, was non-committal," a statement from the two Left parties said on Tuesday.

The delegation also reiterated the demand of matching the VVPAT records with those of the EVM for randomly chosen 50 per cent of the booths. The EC pointed out that as per the Supreme Court direction, the Commission will be submitting an affidavit on March 28 on this subject.

"The delegation also pointed out the serious law and order situation in Tripura and West Bengal, where the ruling

Delegation led by CPI national secretary D Raja and CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Nilotpal Basu, pointed out serious law and order situations in Tripura and West Bengal

party goons are particularly targeting the Left Front and its candidates," the statement said. They also raised the Kolkata airport incident involving the wife of Abhishek Banerjee, MP and Trinamool Congress candidate in Diamond Harbour and the nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The delegation urged that there should be a probe by the Commission to ascertain the truth as this has financial implications and a possible impact on free and fair polls.

The Congress too had moved the poll body to get the release of the biopic, with Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi playing Modi, deferred till the final phase voting in the Lok Sabha polls on May 19. Earlier, the DMK, NCP and the NDA ally RPI(A) have approached the poll body seeking deferment of the Modi's biopic till the Lok Sabha polls is over.

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE SCHEME Scheme women centric: Cong Money will go directly into bank accounts of woman member of family

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Congress president Rahul Gandhi announced his ambitious minimum income guarantee scheme, the party on Tuesday said the beneficiary of the scheme's financial assistance will directly go to the woman member of the family.

Surjewala said the Nyunatam Aay Yojana (Nyay) is not a "top-up scheme" and is a women-centric scheme where by the money will go directly into the bank accounts of the woman member of a family.

At the same time, Congress asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP to clearly spell out whether they support its proposal to give ₹72,000 annually to five crore poor families under a minimum income guarantee scheme, claiming many BJP Ministers were opposing the idea.

Party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi took to Twitter to applaud Rahul Gandhi's announcement and said the best aspect of the Nyay is it will provide women with steady money. "What's making me

most happy is that the NYAY scheme will add ₹72,000 every year in the bank accounts of women," she tweeted. "The Congress will get this amount credited to the bank accounts of the women of beneficiary families. This scheme will be implemented without any discrimination between the urban and rural areas. It will be implemented across the country uniformly," Surjewala said.

The party sought to clear "confusion" over the scheme with party chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala saying that the scheme will directly benefit 20 per cent beneficiary families and that scheme is "women centric".

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Rahul on Monday announced that ₹72,000 per year will be given as minimum income to poor families if his party is voted to power in Lok Sabha polls. Asserting that it will be the final assault on poverty, he said the scheme would benefit around 25 crore people.

Congress also attacked Finance Minister Arun Jaitley for dubbing the scheme as a "bluff announcement", saying no other political party has "betrayed" India for more than seven decades in the name of poverty. Surjewala also attacked Government think tank NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar dubbing the body he headed as "Rajneeti Aayog" and asked him to run the organisation from the BJP office and contest elections instead.

Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha — who is all set to quit the BJP will join the Congress in Bihar on Thursday, showered praise on Rahul Gandhi, calling him the "master of situation" and his proposed scheme a "masterstroke".

2019 Elections Battleground LOK SABHA

Dhinakaran faction can't get pressure cooker symbol: SC

Grant common symbol, apex court tells EC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dashed the hopes of a faction led by former AIADMK leader TTV Dhinakaran for getting the 'pressure cooker' symbol exclusively for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly by-elections, but asked the Election Commission to allot a common free symbol to it.

The top court said to "ensure a level playing field" among the contesting political parties in Lok Sabha polls and by-election in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, it has directed the poll panel to allot a common free symbol to the group.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna also made it clear that if candidates fielded by Dhinakaran-led group win the elections, "they will be treated as Independent candidates".

"The claim of the appellant to the symbol of 'pressure cooker' in an exclusive manner cannot be acknowledged in view of the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the guidelines



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issued by the Election Commission of India there under, which the appellant or his group has concededly not followed.

"We are, therefore, not inclined to grant any recognition to the appellant or his group to the symbol of 'pressure cooker'," the Bench said.

It took on record the list of names of 59 candidates, marked as 'X', to be fielded by Dhinakaran led group in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections

and assembly by-elections in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. "The EC on due and proper satisfaction that the candidates named in the document marked with the letter 'X' (list of names) want to contest the election under any one common symbol, will make all endeavour to ensure that in the forthcoming elections..., the aforesaid candidates be allotted any one particular free symbol," the Bench said.

The court, clarified, that its present order will not amount to recognition of the group or its any part as a political party whether "registered" or "unregistered" and only election commission can take a decision in that regard as and when required.

It added, "We also make it clear that in the event any of the candidates mentioned in the list marked with the letter 'X' is to be elected, such candidate will be counted as an independent candidate and not belonging to any political party for all purposes including for the purposes of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution".

The court's order came on the last day of filing of nomination papers for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 40 seats and assembly by-elections on 19 seats in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to be held on April 18. PTI



President Ram Nath Kovind with his Croatian counterpart Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic during a delegation level talks at Zagreb in Croatia on Tuesday PTI

Ensure justice to 2 Hindu girls: Sushma to Pak

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj on Tuesday asked Pakistan to ensure the immediate release of the two Hindu girls who were allegedly kidnapped and forcefully converted to Islam in Sindh province last week.

"Justice demands that both these girls should be restored to their family immediately," she tweeted.

Reena and Raveena, hailing from village Hafiz Salman near the town of Daharki in Sindh, were allegedly kidnapped and forced to convert from Hinduism to Islam on March 20, before being married to Muslim men.

"Forced conversion of



Hindu girls in Pakistan: The age of the girls is not disputed. Raveena is only 13 and Reena is 15 years old," the Minister said. "Even the Prime Minister on Naya Pakistan will not believe that girls of this tender age can voluntarily decide about their conversion to another religion and marriage

envoy in Islamabad to send a report on the incident.

Hours later, India issued a note verbale to Pakistan on the issue, sharing its concerns over the incident and called for suitable remedial action to protect and promote safety, security and welfare of people from the minority communities. Subsequently, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan ordered an investigation into the incident. The Islamabad High Court issued the order Tuesday after the petition was filed by the girls and their husbands to seek protection from adverse action.

On March 20, the girls' family lodged a First Information Report against their alleged forced conversion to Islam.

A Pakistani high court on Tuesday ordered official protection for the two girls due to concern about their safety as authorities widened a probe to ascertain if the teenage sisters were abducted, forcibly converted and married.

On Sunday, Swaraj tweeted that she asked the Indian

INSHORT



ELECTORAL BONDS: SC TO HEAR PLEAS ON APRIL 2

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday said it will hear on April 2 the petitions which have challenged the issuance of electoral bonds by the Government. The matter came up for hearing before a Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna.

MOVE TO 'NEUTRAL PLACE': NIRMOMI AKHARA TO SC

New Delhi: Nirmomi Akhara, one of the original litigants in the Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case, has requested the Supreme Court to consider moving the mediation panel proceedings from Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh to New Delhi or some other "neutral place" due to the sensitive nature of the issue.

BAR BODY'S ORDER: SC TO HEAR PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear a plea challenging the notification of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Bar Council suspending the licence of 5,970 advocates for non-payment of their dues towards the Advocates' Welfare Fund.

BJP WORKER'S DEATH IN WB: SC SEEKS REPORTS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the West Bengal Government to furnish the report of medical board constituted by it to ascertain the cause of the death of a BJP worker Dulal Kumar last year. The body of 32-year-old Kumar was found hanging from an electric pole in Purulia district's Balarampur of West Bengal on June 2 last year after the Panchayat election in the State.

Chhattisgarh government to bring back displaced 'Salwa Judum' members

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR
Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said his government would prepare a comprehensive work plan to bring back people who were displaced by Salwa Judum movement from insurgency-hit Bastar region of the state.

Salwa Judum was started in 2005 as a state sponsored vigilante movement as part of anti-insurgency operations in the state.

The militia, consisting of local tribal youth, was outlawed and banned by the

Supreme Court, and was disarmed.

After the banning, a large number of local youth ran away to neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. A large number of them are at present residing in Khammam district of Telangana.

Baghel in a press conference held at party's state headquarters Rajiv Bhawan here said that the state government would conduct a study over the issue before executing its work plan for their home coming.



Traditionally, Salwa Judum means "Peace March" or "Purification Hunt" in 'Gondi' dialect.

The chief minister's announcement is seen as a major development as it comes close on the heels of

Rahul Gandhi's basic income scheme to be a game changer: Baghel

Termining the Minimum Income Guarantee scheme, announced by the Congress, a mile stone in ensuring an all round development of poor, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said it would be a game changer in the upcoming elections. "The benefit of the announcement will also be seen in all the 11 Lok Sabha seats in the state," he said. He further claimed that the Congress is going to form government at the centre on May 23. Congress president Rahul Gandhi announced that if his party was voted to power, the new government would make a direct cash transfer of Rs 72,000 per annum on the accounts of poorest of the poor.

his earlier announcement seek political solution to the that his government would Maoist problem.

CRPF troopers gun down four Naxals in Sukma

STAFF REPORTER ■ SUKMA

CRPF troopers on Tuesday shot dead four Maoists in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) said the four were killed in a gunfight with Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) unit that was on a search mission in the forested areas around Bhimpuram village under Chintalnar police station of Sukma district around 400 km south of Raipur, early in the morning.

"Four bodies of Maoists

in uniform, one Insas rifle and two 303 rifle were recovered," said a CRPF official.

The CRPF's specialised unit, proficient in guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare, continued with its anti-Maoist operations, the official added.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident in Kondagaon district, a Naxal camp was busted by security forces and locally-made grenades and other explosives were seized, police said.

The operation on the camp, located in the dense forest near Tuswal village under Mardapal police station limits, was carried out

Monday by a joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF) and district force personnel, an official said.

"The Naxals fled when the security forces entered the camp. We have recovered 30 locally-made grenades, one pipe bomb, four bundles of wire, a packet of splinters used in air guns, Maoist literature and pamphlets, English, Hindi and Telugu dictionaries, stationery, mobile chargers among other things," he said.

It appears that the Maoists had assembled there to carry out some operation, he added.

I will win from Korba with my husband's support: Jyotsna

STAFF REPORTER ■ KORBA

Congress candidate from Korba Lok Sabha constituency Jyotsna Mahant has expressed confidence that she would certainly win the seat with the support of her husband, Speaker of Chhattisgarh state assembly Charandas Mahant.

Talking to media persons, she however conceded that there would be a tough fight as one of the political heavyweight and former chief minister Ajit Jogi of the JCC-J is also in the fray. The other contestant in the triangular fight is BJP's Jyotinand Dubey.

Saying that Jogi was like her elder brother, Jyotsna Mahant said her husband's support would ensure her victory.

Jyotsna also admitted that she was given the Congress ticket from the Korba constituency after



her husband refused to contest the polls.

He didn't want to betray the people of Sakti from where he was sent to the state assembly, she added.

She further expressed her gratitude towards Congress president Rahul Gandhi, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Panchayat and Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo for extending their support in allocating the party ticket to her.

Congress yet to come out of its dynastic mindset: Usendi

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh BJP president Vikram Usendi claimed that the Congress lacked a clear cut policy on participation of women in the party politics as it was yet to come out of its dynastic mindset.

The BJP leader was reacting to the Congress's decision to field two women candidates in Chhattisgarh for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Usendi said his party unlike the Congress keeps total transparency on the political participation of women within the party.

He said this clarity in his party's policy was reflected in the naming of women candidates in the party's first list. He said the



women candidates having political background and mass appeal have been picked as candidates for the Lok Sabha polls.

"The BJP is committed to empower women by giving equal opportunities to them in all aspects. Announcing their names in the first list, the party gave them due respect," he went on to claim.

He further stated that the

Congress fielded women candidates only under pressure from the BJP.

The Congress gave tickets to former MLA Pratima Chandrakar from Durg Lok Sabha seat and Jyotsna Mahant, wife of Assembly Speaker Charandas Mahant, from Korba.

Usendi said Congress's selection of woman candidates smacked of its "dynastic mindset." "Instead of selecting candidates from among dedicated and mass-base leaders, the party gave priority to family and dynasty in allocating the tickets," the BJP state president alleged.

"Due to this character of the party, the Congress's strength in the Lok Sabha will come down to 4 from 44," he said.

Modi, Shah among BJP's 40 star campaigners for C'garh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh BJP has released a list of its star campaigners who would be canvassing for the party in the state.

Among the 40 names, the party announced on Tuesday, include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP national president Amit Shah, Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Arun Jaitely, Sushma Swaraj, UP Chief Minister Yogi Aditya Nath, BJP national vice president and former Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Jharkhand CM Raghuvar Das among others.

BJP sources said Modi will address three public meetings in

the state so also Amit Shah.

The programmes of other star campaigners will be announced as per their schedule of arrival.



Baghel urges Cong workers not to be overconfident



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAJNANDGAON

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister on Tuesday cautioned party workers not to be "over confident and over enthusiastic" about the party's poll prospect as their rivals have mastered the art of "hatching conspiracies."

The chief minister addressing an election rally here also made scathing

attacks on the BJP-led Union government and also the saffron party's previous governments in the state.

Directly attacking former chief minister Raman Singh, Baghel said in his (Raman) definition, the Chhattisgarh meant only his daughter, son-in-law and in laws.

He further reiterated that if Ajit

Jogi's party had not supported the BJP in the 2018 assembly elections, it might have been restricted to only three seats.

On Raman Singh and BJP's charges that his government was on a loan-borrowing spree, Baghel said they were taking loans in public interest.

"We have taken loan to waive off farm loan, curtail power tariff and procuring paddy at Rs 2500 MSP and not for distributing mobiles and indulging in corruption like them," the CM said.

He also flayed the Centre for not cooperating in the probe over Jheeram incident. "Raman as well as Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should clarify why they are not handing over the case to the state government," Baghel said. Without naming any leader, he further alleged that a person who does not even spares 'Bapu' (Mahatma Gandhi) from slandering and never miss a chance to defame former prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi could also be involved in political assassination.

'SVEEP Holi' organised to create awareness among electors

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

To create public awareness on voting, a 'SVEEP Phag', a Holi Milan for woman electors was organised under 'Mor Raipur-Vote Raipur' at Marine Drive, Telibandha on Tuesday.

Women and Child Welfare department conducted the programme.

A 'Holi' depicting polling malpractices was burnt on the occasion.

Making an appeal to make history by recording highest voting percentage in Raipur division, Raipur division commissioner G R Churendra urged the anganbadi workers and members of women self help groups to cast their vote on April 23 and also motivate others to vote.



Raipur district electoral officer Dr Basavaraju S pointed out that urban residents generally keep away from polling, for which the awareness drive is vital.

The role of everyone is vital and women can play a

key role in it, he added. SVEEP nodal officer Gaurav Singh said for democracy each vote is important as it can help build a nation. A bicycle and scooty rally was also organised on the occasion.

'Phag' and patriotic songs were played and women played 'Holi' with colours. A signature campaign and a selfie point made for the visitors were the other highlights of the awareness drive.

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Prestige of 3 Ram's at stake in Mandi in HP

KISHORI LAL ■ MANDI

Mandi Lok Sabha seat in Himachal Pradesh is turning out to be a battle of prestige for three Rams of the State—Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, former Union Minister who has now again joined Congress—Sukhram and the sitting BJP MP Ram Swaroop Sharma.

Mandi will go to polls along with three other parliamentary seats of the hill state on May 19.

The BJP has already renominated its sitting MP

Ramswaroop Sharma, whose candidature was openly supported by the chief minister despite Sukh Ram's grandson Aashray Sharma too vying for the BJP ticket from Mandi.

With Sukh Ram joining Congress with his grand son on Monday, the Congress will most probably give its ticket to Aashray Sharma.

Mandi being the chief minister's home district, ensuring Ramswaroop Sharma's victory there will be a matter of personal prestige for Thakur.

On the other hand, Sukh Ram too will leave no stone

turned to get his grandson win this seat. Ninty-one-year-old Sukh Ram, the former Union telecom minister in P V Narasimha Rao-led Congress government, has represented Mandi thrice in Lok Sabha - in 1984, 1991 and 1996.

Sukh Ram's grandson Aashray has already been electioneering in Mandi for weeks, even before joining the Congress.

Interestingly, Sukh Ram's son and Aashray's father Anil Sharma is currently the power minister in Jai Ram Thakur-led BJP government in Himachal.

Sukh Ram joining the Congress along with his grandson has left his son Anil Sharma's political career as a minister in Himachal's BJP government in quandary.

He may soon face the dilemma whether to leave the Cabinet and campaign for his son Ashray Sharma, or stay put with the BJP and cheer for the party's Mandi candidate Ramswaroop Sharma.

Anil Sharma has been elected as MLA for four times so far and was also a minister during Virbhadr Singh-led Congress government in the

state from 1993 to 1996 and from 2013 to 2017.

Sitting BJP MP Ramswaroop Sharma had won the seat by a margin of nearly 40,000 votes in 2014. He had secured 3,62,824 votes in 2014, defeating Congress candidate and Virbhadr Singh's wife Pratibha Singh, who had got 3,22,968 votes.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur claimed that the entry of Sukh Ram in Congress would not make difference in the victory. "BJP would win with a bigger margin," he said.

When contacted, state BJP chief Satpal Satti said Congress ticket to grandson of Sukh Ram would have no impact on BJP.

Sukh Ram had changed loyalties with Congress four times during the past 20 years.

In reply to a volley of questions at a news conference, Jai Ram Thakur made no adverse comments against Sukh Ram or his members of family and added that the character, credibility and patriotism of BJP workers was beyond question.

Abhay Chautala removed from post of LoP: Hry Assembly Speaker

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Indian National Lok Dal secretary general Abhay Chautala has lost the Leader of Opposition (LoP) post in the Haryana Assembly.

The State Assembly Speaker Kanwar Pal Gujjar on Tuesday removed Abhay Singh Chautala from the position of LoP.

The move comes three days after Chautala had announced that he had sent his resignation to the Speaker and urged him to accept it after the disqualification of five party MLAs, who are involved in anti-party activities.

Chautala, an MLA from Ellenabad in his resignation letter to the Speaker had sought the disqualification of five MLAs including Ranbir Gangwa who had joined the BJP and INLD MLAs- Naina Chautala (Dabwali), Rajdeep Phogat (Dadri), Prithi Singh Namberdar (Narwana) and Anoop Dhanak (Uklana) who had joined Dushyant Chautala's Janata Jananayak Party (JJP).

Another INLD MLA, Kehar Singh Rawat had joined the BJP a day before.

Speaker Kanwar Pal Gujjar, while talking to the mediapersons on Tuesday said that Abhay Chautala has been removed from the post of LoP in Haryana Assembly as the INLD is no longer the second largest party in the State Assembly.

All facilities given to Abhay Chautala as LoP stands withdrawn from today onwards, he said.

A Leader of Opposition in the Assembly enjoys all facilities that are given to a Cabinet Minister.

Gujjar also confirmed that he has accepted the resignations of INLD MLAs Ranbir Singh Gangwa and Kehar Singh Rawat who had recently joined the BJP.

Ranbir Gangwa had submitted his resignation on March 20 while Kehar Singh had submitted it on March 24, he said.

Although it remains to be seen if the four INLD MLAs will be disqualified, Abhay Chautala was removed from the position due to INLD's numbers reducing from 19 to 15 in the State Assembly.

In the 90-member State

The move comes three days after Chautala had announced that he had sent his resignation to the Speaker and urged him to accept it after the disqualification of five party MLAs, who are involved in anti-party activities

Assembly, while the ruling BJP has 48 MLAs after the recent Jind bypoll win, Congress has 17 members and INLD now has 15 members including those four MLAs who have joined JJP. One each member belongs to the SAD and BSP, five are independents while one seat fell vacant after demise of INLD MLA Jaswinder Singh Sandhu. Two INLD MLAs have resigned from the State Assembly after joining the BJP.

The new LoP will now be from Congress party and CLP leader Kiran Choudhry is likely to be appointed on this post.

The Speaker said, "We will write to Congress state chief and whoever they nominate for the post, we will appoint him/her as LoP."

Regarding the four INLD MLAs who have joined the JJP, Gujjar said that the decision would be taken after following the laid down procedure. As per the procedure, notices will be issued to them and personal hearing will be conducted to decide on their membership. Till now, these four MLAs have not submitted anything in written about leaving the INLD, he said.

The INLD won 19 seats in 2014 assembly elections, but the party's strength is just 11 now. On the other hand, the Congress won 15 seats in 2014, but its strength in the Assembly had increased to 17 after Kuldeep Bishnoi merged his HJC with the party and he as well as his wife Renuka Bishnoi, MLA from Hansi, joined the party.

AAP holds Cong Govt responsible for deaths due to drug overdose

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday slammed the Capt Amarinder Singh Government for sleeping over the rising incidents of drug addiction, especially among the youth in the state, leading to deaths due to overdose.

"Post the incident of 13-year-old girl from Rama Mandi allegedly into drugs, more cases have come to light from the border districts of Gurdaspur, Ferozepur and Tarn Taran, where three youths have died of drug overdose," said party's Punjab core committee chairman and MLA Principal Budhram and state youth wing president Manjinder Singh Sidhu, in a joint statement.

They said that on the one hand, farmers were subjected to commit suicides, youths were shoved into drugs on the other due to the anti-people policies of the government in the saddle.

AAP leader said that like his predecessors - the Badals, Capt Amarinder was following in their footsteps when it came to stamping out the menace of drugs from the state eating out the vitals of the state.

Budhram said that Capt Amarinder and the entire Congress leadership in the state should appear before the Takht Damdama Sahib at Talwandi Sabo and apologise to the people of Punjab and the panth for renegeing on the promise of stamping out the

Government should mull over introducing international flights from Amritsar and Chandigarh to the countries like America, Canada, Australia, Dubai, Singapore, Malaysia, South Arabia, and other European countries of the world

menace of drugs and send the drug lords behind the bars within four weeks after assuming power.

He said that instead of containing the menace rampant in the state, it had aggravated and touched a new high, if the upswing in the cases of deaths due to drug overdose were any indications, he said.

Sidhu appealed to the people of the state, especially the younger and educated lot, to corner those who backtracked on the promises on taming the drug lords, addressing unemployment and other issues, when they come to them for votes.

AAP asks govt to order immediate resumption of intl flights from Amritsar to Birmingham

Chandigarh: Expressing deep shock and anguish over the decision on part of the Air India for diverting the Delhi-Amritsar International air flights from Delhi International Air Port, AAP on Tuesday

demanded immediate restoration of the flights to save the passengers from unmerited harassment meted out to them due to laxity of the government.

The government should mull over introducing international flights from Amritsar and Chandigarh to the countries like America, Canada, Australia, Dubai, Singapore, Malaysia, South Arabia, and other European countries of the world," said AAP MLA Jair Kishan Rori.

He said that the beneficiaries had to suffer under the pulls and pressure of a strong Airport mafia due to which the Amritsar-Birmingham flights from Amritsar International Airport from Amritsar had to stay inoperative for almost eight years in spite of the fact that the flights were running successfully and without any hindrance.

Rori, also the party's NRI wing chief, accused the Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre of colluding with the high-profile Airport and other mafia operators.

"While the Airport Authority of India has admitted that the air flights between Amritsar and Birmingham had proved to be a boon for the passengers, the flights are discontinued on March 27 in the aftermath of the airstrike at Balakot. Even as the situation has normalized, the flight has not resumed by far," he alleged.

Will it be Sunny Deol for BJP in Gurdaspur?

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The saffron party wants Sunny Deol's 'Dhai Kilo Ka Haath' to beat the "hand" in Punjab. Already in talks with the Bollywood actress Poonam Dhillon and Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh for Amritsar Lok Sabha seat, the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) is considering another Bollywood superstar for Gurdaspur to give a tough fight to its rivals.

The party has all along been playing a minor role in the Punjab politics with just about one protagonist in the Lok Sabha, and three in Vidhan Sabha, it is now trying to grab a bigger and better role by signing in Sunny Deol.

Gurdaspur has always been the Congress' citadel, winning 11 elections out of 12 till 1996, including a by-poll. It was only in 1998, when the BJP decided to field Bollywood's yesterday's superstar Vinod Khanna, who broke the Congress' winning spree.

Khanna scored a hat-trick by winning three consecutive elections in 1998, 1999, and 2004. His victory campaign was halted by the Congress' Partap Singh Bajwa in 2009 elections, which Khanna avenged in 2014 polls.

But following Khanna's death due to prolonged illness, the Congress managed to win the seat during 2017 by-election.

Congress' Sunil Jakhar had defeated Mumbai-based businessman-cum-politician Swaran Salaria, whom the BJP fielded as Khanna's replacement while ignoring his widow, Kavita Khanna's claim for the party ticket.

After failed attempts to persuade Khanna's actor son, Akshey Khanna, to contest from Gurdaspur who had campaigned for his father during 2009 and 2004 elections, the BJP is considering to take on board another superstar.

However, Kavita Khanna is still a frontrunner for the ticket, as the party leaders

believed that she may succeed in getting sympathy votes. Among other claimants for the party's tocket from Gurdaspur include BJP's former state president Ashwani Sharma, former Minister Master Mohan Lal, and MLA Dinesh Babbu are also in the race.

"BJP wanted to field a strong candidate against sitting MP Jakhar. Many leaders have staked their claims for the ticket, but there is a view that the party's candidate from Gurdaspur should match up to Vinod Khanna's stature," a senior BJP leader told The Pioneer, while confirming the development saying that nothing is final as of now.

"Sunny Deol's name has just been discussed. There's nothing final. We have got to know that party leaders in Maharashtra have been asked to get in touch with him and convince him as his father has been MP on BJP ticket from Bikaner in Rajasthan," said the leader.

Notably, Sunny Deol's father and yesterday's superstar Dharmendra had been BJP MP from Bikaner, while Dharmendra's wife and Sunny's step-mother, actress Hema Malini is sitting BJP MP from Mathura.

It is believed that the saffron party is apprehending a wipe out from the state considering its negligible presence in the state as of now.

And by giving a star power to its election campaign, the party is making an apparent attempt to make a comeback in the state.

At the time when the nation was swept by Modi wave in 2014 polls, BJP won two seats in Punjab, out of the total three it contested in alliance with the SAD. However, the number came down to just one after it lost 2017 by-election.

During 2017 elections, the party could secure just three seats, out of total 23 it contests in alliance with SAD registering a dip of 12 percent votes in its share in previous assembly elections.

Cong campaign in Hry with parivartan yatra begins

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Congress kicked off its six-day long 'Parivartan Yatra' in Haryana on Tuesday, to reach out to the voters and send across a message that "all is well" in the faction-ridden state party unit.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is the Congress general secretary in charge of Haryana flagged off the yatra which will see all senior party leaders travelling in a bus together for electioneering in view of Lok Sabha polls.

On the first day of the yatra, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state Congress chief Ashok Tanwar set aside their differences and were seen sitting together in the bus during 'Parivartan Yatra' which began from Gurugram.

Congress legislature party leader Kiran Choudhry, Rohtak MP Deepender Singh Hooda, Rajya Sabha MP Selja Kumari, former minister Ajay Yadav, former assembly Speaker Kuldeep Sharma were among the leaders who were on the bus.

Kuldeep Bishnoi again gave a miss to the party's event amid speculations that he is likely to join the BJP.



Adampur MLA Bishnoi had last week stayed away from the meeting of coordination committee of the Congress and party's workers meeting in New Delhi.

While the party leaders have kept mum on his absence from the events, Bishnoi had earlier denied the reports of joining the BJP.

On the other hand, Kuldeep's elder brother and former Haryana deputy Chief Minister Chander Mohan had last week attended party's

workers meeting in New Delhi and has been actively participating in various party events since past few months.

Bishnoi, the son of former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal had merged his party HJC in the Congress in 2016. He had in the past served as Hisar MP and is seen as a frontrunner for a Congress' ticket from the parliamentary seat.

His brother Chander Mohan has reportedly also staked his claim on party's ticket from Hisar seat.

All India Congress Committee's (AICC) communication wing in-charge Randeep Surjewala was also not present during the first day of the yatra due to other party's engagements.

The 'Parivartan Yatra' halted at various points along the route that included Badshahpur (Gurugram), Dharuhera (Rewari), Kasola Chowk (Bawal) and Mandi Ateli (Mahendragarh) among other places addressing public gatherings and interacting

with the media.

The yatra reached Narnaul for a night halt on the first day. It will conclude at Palwal in Faridabad on Sunday.

Notably, the voting to 10 Lok Sabha seats of Haryana is scheduled to be held on May 12.

PARTY LEADERS ATTACK BJP

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad appealed to the people to strengthen the Congress' hands and bring the grand old party to power at the Centre and in Haryana.

"People are fed up with the Modi and Khattar governments. They want 'parivartan' (change)," the leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said while addressing the public.

Azad dubbed Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who is a first-time MLA, as an "inexperienced" leader.

He also alleged that the BJP had destroyed the lives of the farmers, duped the youth in name of jobs, adding that the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme had become an empty slogan.

Hitting out at the Khattar regime, two-time former

Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the BJP had done nothing in the past four-and-a-half years.

He said, "All they did was event management about non-existing achievements. People are waiting for polls to throw out both the Modi government, which has failed on all fronts, and the non-performing Khattar dispensation."

Pointing out to the loan-waivers in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh after the Congress came to power last year, Hooda said the party would implement the Swaminathan report in letter and spirit.

When the bus was passing through Gurugram, party state chief Ashok Tanwar raised the issue of the attack on a Muslim family in Bhandisi.

He claimed, "The attack was carried out by goons owing allegiance to the BJP. It is shocking that the victim family kept dialing the police control room number for 32 times, but the police failed to respond to their distress calls."

Hooda also alleged that the Gurugram incident showed the real and scary face of the BJP's poor governance.

CM Manohar Lal attacks Congress chief Rahul Gandhi

PNS ■ PANIPAT

Holding a roadshow in Panipat, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Tuesday cautioned the people into getting trapped in the 48 years old Garibi Hatao dream being propagated this time by the third generation of the Gandhi family.

"People will not get trapped in the illusionary programme of the opposition Congress since this time Watchman in the form of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is strong enough to thwart all such attempts to mislead the masses,"

Manohar Lal said during his 4-km road show in the city which commenced from Shiv Chowk in front of Sanoli Road Vegetable Market under the 'Connect to People programme'.

Termining Congress President Rahul Gandhi's plan for eradication of poverty announced ahead of the Lok Sabha election as an election dream, the Chief Minister said that the Gandhi family has been promising eradication of poverty since long commencing with Indira Gandhi in 1971, when she first gave the Garibi Hatao slogan.

But three generations of Gandhi family (Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and now Rahul Gandhi), the Congress had not been able to eradicate poverty from the country, Manohar Lal said.

"The Garibi Hatao slogan is just to fool the people to come to power," the Chief Minister added.

Manohar Lal said that in 2019 the interests of the poor are well protected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has become a strong watchman for the countrymen.

नाम परिवर्तन

में गजेन्द्र सिंह राजपूत (Gajendra Singh Rajput) पिता श्री ठाकुर रणजीत सिंह (Thakur Ranjit Singh) निवासी - तीसरा माला, शुक्ला काम्पलेक्स, एलआईजी - 41, के सामने शंकर नगर, सेक्टर - 1, रायपुर. सर्वसाधारण को सूचित करता है कि मेरा पूर्व में नाम गजेन्द्र सिंह (Gajendra Singh) था जिसे बदलकर अब मैंने गजेन्द्र सिंह राजपूत (Gajendra Singh Rajput) पिता ठाकुर रणजीत सिंह (Thakur Ranjit Singh) रख लिया है। आगे से मुझे मेरे नये नाम गजेन्द्र सिंह राजपूत (Gajendra Singh Rajput) पिता श्री ठाकुर रणजीत सिंह (Thakur Ranjit Singh) के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए।

Public Notice

This is for the information to general public that Shri Premraj S/O Shri Agayaram R/o Kondagaon, Tehsil & Dist Kondagaon CG has purchased the property Nazul residential land & construction there on House, Plot No. 691/1/25. Sheet No.02. Total Area 4800 Sq.ft. Property situated at Kondagaon, within Municipal Limits, RIC & Tehsil Kondagaon, Dist Kondagaon CG From Shri Navalmal S/O Shri Ganeshmal R/o Kondagaon Tehsil kondagaon Dist Kondagaon CG Vide registered Sale deed no. A-1, Granth No.92, Page no. 63 to 65, Serial No. 116 on 15/07/1983 along with its other supporting and necessary documents.

That the last few pages of the above mentioned sale deed that is Registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub registrar Raipur. Vide book no. A-1, Granth No.92, Page no. 63 to 65, Serial No. 116 on 15/07/1983 has been misplaced/flost somewhere.

I hereby invite objection upon the above declaration of the above said registered original missing pages of sale deed within 03 days from the publication of this notice. It may be noted that any objection thereat to the above declaration in respect of the above referred property will not be before and shall not be binding on the HDFC Bank Ltd. and disbursement of loan amount by HDFC Bank Ltd. by HDFC Bank Ltd. Will remain unaffected.

Date: Raipur Date: 26/03/2019

Pratul Agarwal Office No.214,EDGE, C-Block, 2nd floor, Mowa, Raipur.

BJP rebel Raj Kumar Saini gears up to contest from Kurukshetra

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

Rebel BJP MP Raj Kumar Saini, who had last year floated his own political outfit—Loktantra Suraksha Party—is gearing up to take on mainstream parties—BJP and Congress—from Kurukshetra parliamentary seat in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

Saini's LSP had last month stitched ties with Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) to contest on 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana. While eight seats were allotted to BSP, two seats went to LSP.

In 2014 parliamentary polls, Raj Kumar Saini had won from

Kurukshetra Lok Sabha seat on a BJP's ticket.

After an alliance with the BSP, Saini's LSP was allotted parliamentary seats of Sonapat and Bhiwani-Mahendragarh while other eight seats including Kurukshetra, two reserved constituencies of Sirsa and Ambala among others had gone to BSP's kitty.

However, after BSP's insistence and party workers demand, Saini is now keen to contest from Kurukshetra seat again.

Confirming the same, LSP chief Raj Kumar Saini, while talking to The Pioneer said, "I will contest Lok Sabha polls and have already begun

my campaign in Kurukshetra."

Saini said, "The party workers have been demanding that I should contest from Kurukshetra seat. We had given the Kurukshetra seat to BSP during our seat-sharing pact, but after the demand of party workers and their feedback, we have decided to reconsider it. An announcement in this regard will be made soon."

LSP had joined hands with BSP, which in turn had broken its 10-month old alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal in Haryana.

If the BSP-LSP combine goes ahead with Saini's nomination from Kurukshetra seat, he is likely to create trouble for the BJP and Congress in

the polls.

Industrialist-turned-politician Naveen Jindal, who had won the Lok Sabha elections in 2004 and 2009 with a comfortable margin in Kurukshetra, is the frontrunner for a Congress' ticket on this seat again. On the other hand, the BJP has short-listed names of the Minister of State for Mines and Geology, Nayab Saini and MLA Pawan Saini for Kurukshetra seat.

Notably, riding high on a Modi wave, Raj Kumar Saini had won the Kurukshetra parliamentary seat, trouncing INLD's Balbir Singh Saini by around 1.29 lakh votes in 2014 polls. The BJP wanting to tap into the

OBC community of Saini had fielded him in Kurukshetra last time.

There is a mixed population of various communities in the parliamentary constituency, with the Jats having more than 2 lakh voters while no Jat candidate has always won the Kurukshetra seat.

Known for his strong anti-Jat statements, Saini had distanced himself from the ruling BJP after the violent Jat quota agitation 2016 which had resulted in bitterly divided Haryana on caste lines. Saini has time and again spoken against Jat reservation under the OBC category, and has been projecting himself as a prominent OBC leader in Haryana.

UK MPs seize control of Brexit process from May

IAN S ■ LONDON

British MPs have inflicted a fresh humiliating defeat on Prime Minister Theresa May, after voting to temporarily seize control of the Brexit process, allowing back-benchers to hold a series of votes on alternatives to her deal.



government of "playing roulette with the lives and livelihoods of the vast majority of people in this country" in his resignation letter.

In a series of so-called indicative votes, MPs will be able to vote on a number of options -- likely to include a "softer Brexit", a Customs union with the EU and another referendum -- designed to test the will of Parliament to see what, if anything, commands a majority, the BBC said.

But the precise format of votes and how they will work was not set out in the amendment.

Parliament is also expected to pass a law this week postponing the Brexit date from March 29.

Speaking after Monday's votes, opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn congratulated Parliament for "taking control" of the Brexit process, CNN reported. "The government's approach has been an abject failure and this House must now find a solution," Corbyn said.

May, still hoping of getting her twice-rejected Brexit deal passed, told the House of Commons earlier in the day there was not enough support for her deal to bring it back for a third meaningful vote.

The Prime Minister also said she could not "commit the government to delivering the outcome of any votes held by this House. But I do commit to engaging constructively with this process".

Britain is scheduled to crash out of the EU on April 12 if May's withdrawal deal is not passed and the UK government fails to provide new proposals for a way out of the impasse.

In response to the development, the European Commission said it has prepared for an "increasingly likely" no-deal scenario.

Xi says EU, China 'advancing together' despite 'suspicions'

AFP ■ PARIS

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday that China and Europe were "advancing together" but that the two trading blocs needed to overcome "suspicions".

"Of course there are differences and competition, but it's positive competition," Xi told a press conference in Paris with the leaders of France, Germany and the European Commission. "We are advancing together. We shouldn't let suspicions lead us to be constantly looking backwards."

Xi was speaking on the third day of a France visit dominated by concerns over China's massive investments on the continent, which are being built up through a series of bilateral deals.

French President Emmanuel Macron urged his Chinese counterpart to "respect the unity of the European Union" and called for an "exemplary relationship" between Europe and China during the joint press conference.

"No one is naive but we

respect China," Macron said, while adding that EU leaders "naturally expect our major partners to respect the unity of the European Union and the values that it has and carries in the world".

Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and EU Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker all labelled China a "rival", and Merkel and Juncker urged the Asian giant to give the EU the same market access as it afforded Chinese companies.

Referring to China's vast "New Silk Road" infrastructure project connecting the country with Europe, which has sparked unease in the EU, Merkel said: "We Europeans want to play a role."

But, she added, "there has to be a bit of reciprocity on either side and we have a bit of difficulty in finding it." Juncker said that labelling China a rival was meant as a "compliment" to the country.

Speaking ahead of a EU-China summit on April 12, he also called for a more balanced relationship.

Pak court orders Govt to remove Shehbaz Sharif's name from no-fly list

PTI ■ LAHORE

A Pakistani court on Tuesday ordered the Government to remove Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz chief Shehbaz Sharif's name from the no-fly list.

Shehbaz, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, had filed a petition in the Lahore High Court last month to have his name removed from the Exit Control List, Geo TV reported.

The 67-year-old leader has been indicted along with nine others in the Ashiana Iqbal Housing scam case.

His name was placed on the travel blacklist on February 22 for allegedly possessing assets beyond his declared sources of income.

His counsel earlier told the court that the PML-N leader had been appearing before the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in every inquiry and cooperating with the anti-corruption watchdog in every way.

Sharif was arrested by the

NAB in the probe on October 5, 2018. He was released on bail on February 14.

He had approached the Lahore High Court seeking declaration of the Government's decision to place his name on the no-fly list as null and void.

In his petition, he had contended that as the leader of the Opposition as well as one of the country's largest political parties, his name should not be on the ECL.

Sharif served as the chief minister of the politically crucial Punjab province from 2013 to 2018. He became PML-N president after his elder brother Nawaz Sharif was barred from holding the top party position and public posts.

Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry Tuesday said that the Government would be challenging the Lahore High Court's decision in the Supreme Court.

"There is a record of Sharif family members leaving the country and not coming back," said Chaudhry.

GLOBE TROTTER

KAMALA PROMISES TEACHERS A RAISE
Washington: In the first major policy proposal of her Democratic presidential campaign, California Sen. Kamala Harris is focused on boosting the salaries of teachers. Harris' campaign says her plan is an unprecedented federal investment in teacher pay.

NETANYAHU BACK, CONSULTS WITH ARMY
Jerusalem: Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu returned home from Washington on Tuesday, heading straight into military consultations after a night of heavy fire as Israeli aircraft bombed Gaza targets and the strip's militants fired rockets into Israel.

US ENVOY FOR NORTH KOREA VISITS BEIJING
Beijing: The US special envoy for North Korea is visiting Beijing to coordinate policies with China, the US embassy said Tuesday, a month after the failure of a denuclearisation summit. Stephen Biggun, Washington's North Korea envoy, is here to "continue US-China coordination on policies related to North Korea", a US embassy spokesman told AFP.

Indo-Pak relations to remain tense till elections in India: Imran Khan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said Indo-Pak relations would remain tense till the general elections in India are over, adding he feared "another misadventure" by Pakistan's eastern neighbour.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the February 14 attack by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed in Pulwama.

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

The next day, Pakistan Air Force retaliated and downed a MiG-21 in an aerial combat and captured an Indian pilot, who was handed over to India later.

Khan said shadows of war were still hovering over Pakistan and India as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration could go for "another misadventure" before the general elections.

"The danger is not over. The situation will remain tense till forthcoming general elections in India. We are already prepared to avert any aggression from India," Dawn quoted Khan as saying.

Khan also claimed that he cancelled his scheduled meeting with the Taliban in Islamabad due to "concerns" expressed by the Afghan government. The Taliban last month said that its representatives would visit Islamabad to meet Prime Minister Khan on February 18.

Iran accuses Trump of 'colonialism' over Golan move

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday accused US counterpart Donald Trump of "colonialism" for recognising Israeli sovereignty over the disputed Golan Heights, a border area seized by Israel from Syria in 1967. "In a point of time when colonialism ruled, some colonialist powers did such things and bestowed parts of one country to another, but this is unprecedented in the present century," Rouhani said, according to the official government website.

"Nobody could have

believed that a man would come in America and unilaterally and against all international laws and regulations give away a land belonging to one country to an aggressor," Rouhani said in a meeting with advisors and ministers. Trump on Monday signed a proclamation recognising Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Syria denounced as a blatant attack on its sovereignty. US recognition for Israeli control over the territory breaks with decades of international consensus and has been criticised by most Islamic nations, and other countries such as Russia.

F-16s escort Mumbai-Singapore flight after bomb threat

PTI ■ SINGAPORE/NEW DELHI

A Singapore Airlines flight from Mumbai to Singapore with 263 passengers on board Tuesday received a bomb threat, prompting Singapore Air Force to send two F-16s to escort the aircraft.

The flight landed safely at Singapore's Changi International Airport on Tuesday around 8 am (local time), the airline added.

"Singapore Airlines confirms there was a bomb threat concerning SQ423 operating from Mumbai to Singapore.

The aircraft arrived in Singapore on March 26, 2019, at about 0800hrs (local time).

"There were 263 passengers on board. We are assisting the authorities with their investigations and regret that we are unable to provide further details," a statement issued by the airline said.

The Republic of Singapore Air Force said two F16C/Ds escorted the SIA aeroplane.

The RSAF said in a Facebook post that two F-16C/Ds were scrambled to intercept the SIA flight.

"Our fighters escorted the airliner till it landed safely at Changi Airport," it said.

All passengers, except for a woman and a child, disembarked safely and had to undergo screening.

The woman and the child were held back for questioning by the police, who are investigating the incident.

Preliminary checks showed that the airline received a call after the plane left Mumbai's airport on Monday at about 11.35pm local time. The caller claimed that there was a bomb on the plane.

ICICI Bank Tower, NBCC Place, Pragati Vihar, Bhisma Pitamah Marg, Delhi 110003
Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra, Gujarat - 390 007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra - Kuria Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

PUBLIC NOTICE - INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SALE OF FINANCIAL ASSET OF A2Z INFRA ENGINEERING LIMITED

In terms of the policy of ICICI Bank Limited, ("ICICI Bank") on sale of financial assets and in line with the regulatory guidelines, ICICI Bank hereby invites expression of interest ("EOI") from interested Asset Reconstruction Companies ("ARCs"), Banks/ Non-Banking Financial Companies ("NBFCs"/Financial Institutions ("FIs") for the purchase of the financial assistance/available by A2Z Infra Engineering Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having its registered office at - O-116, 1st Floor, DLF Shopping Mall Arjun Marg, DLF Phase-I Gurgaon ("Borrower") from ICICI Bank ("Financial Asset") on the terms and conditions indicated herein:

Name of Borrower/ Account/ Financial Asset#	Term of sale
A2Z Infra Engineering Limited	Cash basis

#Details of the Borrower background, Borrower financials including financial assistance provided to the Borrower by ICICI Bank, securities available to ICICI Bank against the financial assistance provided by ICICI Bank etc. will be available in the Preliminary Information Memorandum ("PIM")

TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR SALE OF THE FINANCIAL ASSET:

- The sale of the aforesaid Financial Asset is on "As is where is basis", "As is what is basis", "Whatever there is basis" and "Without recourse basis".
- All ARCs/ Banks/ NBFCs/ FIs (referred individually as "Party" and collectively as "Parties") are invited/ eligible for participating in the purchase of Financial Asset.
- Interested Parties should submit their EOIs latest by 5:00 PM (IST) on April 9, 2019 by hand delivery/email as per the details given in this notice along with relevant documents to establish their eligibility to the satisfaction of ICICI Bank. EOI should be on the letter head of the Party and must be signed by the authorized signatory of the Party, supported with evidence of authority of such authorized signatory (Board Resolution /Power of Attorney/equivalent document). The EOI shall compulsorily state the following:
 - The Party intends to participate in the purchase of Financial Asset and that it would like to proceed with due-diligence in the data room (to be set up by ICICI Bank in ICICI Bank premises or organized in electronic mode in its discretion).
 - The Party is eligible (under applicable laws and regulations) and has the capacity to enter into and conclude the purchase of the Financial Asset in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of India.
 - That in undertaking the proposed transaction, the Party will have no conflict of interest, and such Party is not related, directly or indirectly, either with ICICI Bank or with the Borrower.
 - Names of the Authorized Official(s) along with their contact details (mobile number, e-mail IDs, etc.)
- ICICI Bank reserves the right to ask for information relating to the financial standing of the interested Parties or other documents in relation to such interested Parties (including KYC related documents) at its sole discretion. ICICI Bank further reserves the right to declare an interested Party as ineligible in case KYC or any other documents/information are not furnished on demand, and the decision of ICICI Bank in this regard shall be final and binding on all Parties.
- Parties will be required to execute a non-disclosure agreement ("NDA") within two days of submission of EOI. Immediately upon execution of the NDA, PIM along with other account related information shall be shared with the Parties. Such information will be furnished on the basis of the available data and shall not be deemed to be a representation of the quality of the Financial Asset. Further, ICICI Bank shall not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars.
- A maximum time period of two weeks shall be provided to the Parties for due diligence and the time period shall be intimated to the Parties separately by ICICI Bank.
- Subject to the applicable laws and regulations, ICICI Bank reserves the right to add, remove or modify the terms of sale of the Financial Asset at any stage without assigning any reason and without incurring any liability of whatsoever nature to any Party or person, and the decision of ICICI Bank in this regard shall be final and binding on all Parties. Further, subject to applicable laws and regulations, ICICI Bank reserves the right to reject and/or cancel and/or defer the sale of the Financial Asset at any stage, without assigning any reason and the decision of ICICI Bank in this regard shall be final and binding on all Parties. Additionally, ICICI Bank also reserves its rights to reject any EOI received after the stipulated timeline mentioned in this public notice.
- Each Party expressly acknowledges and agrees in connection with its participation in the proposed purchase of the Financial Asset that for such Party's participation in the process such Party has been, and will continue to be, solely responsible for its own due diligence, independent appraisal and investigation of all risks arising under or in connection with the Financial Asset including but not limited to:
 - the financial condition, status and nature of the Borrower;
 - the legality, validity, effectiveness, adequacy or enforceability of any financing document and any other agreement, arrangement or document entered into, made or executed in anticipation of, under or in connection with the Financial Asset;
 - whether that Party has recourse, and the nature and extent of that recourse, against the Borrower or other obligors or any of its or their respective assets under or in connection with the Financial Asset, or any financing document, other agreement, arrangement or document entered into, made or executed in connection with the Financial Asset;
 - the adequacy, accuracy and/or completeness of any information provided by ICICI Bank or by any other person under or in connection with the Financial Asset; and
 - that each Party is solely responsible for any such checks or due diligence it is required to carry out and that it may not rely on any statement in relation to such checks or due diligence made by ICICI Bank

For any further clarifications with regard to data room, terms and conditions of the process or submission of EOIs, kindly contact Mr. Varun Gupta, Chief Manager, ICICI Bank Limited, NBCC Place, Bhisham Pitamah Marg, New Delhi - 110 003, contact No. +91 11 4221 8332 or write at varun.g@icicibank.com

This notice and contents hereof are subject to any prevailing laws, rules and regulations of India.

Disclaimer: The particulars in respect of the aforesaid process/financial asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars

SD/- Authorised Officer
Date : March 27, 2019 Place : New Delhi For ICICI Bank Limited.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Bid No. 23AC/393/New Proposal Parking /2018

Tender Notice no. 23AC/393/New Proposal Parking /2018 was published in various Newspapers on 21/03/2019 for allotment of Parking cum Access Control Rights at New Delhi Railway Station (Ajmeri Gate Side) for general car parking area (4903.16 M2) and premium car parking area (2900 M2) approx. (total Area 7803.16 M2) along with the access control rights for pickup / Drop lanes for a period of 3 years, as per NIT, to be opened on 21/03/2019 in which following amendments have been made:

* One document of site plan for New Delhi Parking cum Access Control Rights has been added.

Rest contents of the NIT will remain same. 924/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 45 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Sex: Male, Wearing: Black Colour Jacket, Grey Colour Shirt, Dark, Grey Colour Pant & Bare Footed.

Place of Recovery: Found dead on Footpath opposite Community Centre Near Kachcha Bagh, Chandni Chowk, Kotwali, Delhi on dated 18.03.2019. In this regard DD No. 26-A has been lodged at PS Kotwali, Delhi on dated 18.03.2019. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO PS. Kotwali, Delhi Ph.: 011-23953442

DP/9809/N/19

1529 & 1532, Churoh Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006
Ph. No.s: (0) 23861646, (0) 23863993
E-mail: br.9032@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Appendix IV under the Act-rule-8(1)]

The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Syndicate Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54of 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/surety/owner of the property Smt/Smt SOMWATI, Ashok Kumar to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 46,20,868.85/- (Rupees Forty Six Lacs Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Eight and Paise Eighty Five only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/surety/owner of the property having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 20th Day of March of the year 2019

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

The borrower/surety/owner of the property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the SYNDICATE BANK (KASHMERE GATE BRANCH) for an amount of Rs. 46,20,868.85/- with future costs, interest etc. thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that parcel of four Storeyed Residential Building with Part Stilt Parking Built up Property bearing No. 222, Kharsa No. 533, situated on the land / Plot Area: 132 Sq. Yards (110.36 Sq. Yards) in the Extended Lal Dora Abadi of village Malikpur Rang Puri, Post Office-Mahipal Pur, Tehsil Vasant Vihar, Near Mata Chandi, New Delhi-110037 owned by Mrs. Somwati.

PROPERTY BOUNDED AS :
ON THE NORTH BY 20 FEET WIDE ROAD/RASTA
ON THE SOUTH BY PROPERTY OF MR. JAIPAL
ON THE EAST BY PROPERTY OF MR. RAJ SINGH
ON THE WEST BY PROPERTY OF MR. NARENDER

Date : 20.03.2019 Authorised Officer
Place : Delhi Syndicate Bank

ISIS jihadists kill seven US-backed fighters in Syria

AFP ■ BEIRUT

The Islamic State group on Tuesday claimed an attack on US-backed forces in the northern Syrian city of Manbij, days after their "caliphate" was declared defeated.

Manbij is a former IS stronghold that is now ruled by a military council affiliated with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the US-backed Kurdish-led alliance that declared victory over IS in its last redoubt in eastern Syria on Saturday.

At around midnight (2200 GMT) on Monday, gunmen opened fire at fighters manning a checkpoint at the entrance to the city, killing seven, the council said. IS claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement published on its social media channels on Tuesday.

"The caliphate's soldiers attacked a checkpoint... West of Manbij city last night," it said.

A spokesman for the Manbij Military Council, Sherif Darwish, said it could be a revenge attack.

"After the victory over IS, we have entered the phase of sleeper cells," Darwish told AFP.

"These sleeper cells are being activated and carrying out attacks but we will foil their operations." The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor of the war, said it is "the first attack of its kind" since the SDF declared the defeat of the "caliphate" last week.

Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said it was also the bloodiest attack in Manbij since January 16, when 19 service personnel -- were killed in a suicide bombing claimed by IS.

IS has vowed to carry out revenge attacks against the SDF over the six-month offensive against it that culminated in the jihadists' defeat in the village of Baghouz, close to the Iraqi border, on Saturday.

China destroys 30,000 world maps for showing Arunachal as part of India

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has destroyed 30,000 world maps printed in the country for export for not mentioning Arunachal Pradesh and Taiwan as part of Chinese territory, the official media reported on Tuesday.

China claims the north-eastern Indian state of

Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet. China routinely objects to Indian leaders visiting Arunachal Pradesh to highlight its stand.

India says the State of Arunachal Pradesh is its integral and inalienable part and Indian leaders visit Arunachal Pradesh from time to time, as they visit other parts of the country.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Shri Vijay Kumar Dass S/o. Late Shri Dev Krishna Dass & Smt. Mani Devi W/o. Sh. Vijay Kumar Dass both R/O Flat No.311, on Second Floor, Car-LIG, PK-GH-5&7 Near of Property bearing M/G Flat No.9-C.S. F. New Delhi-110087, have debarred & disowned their son Sh. Ratnakar Lal, daughter-in-law Smt. Anu Priya Mahajan, grand son/son-in-law and grand daughter Vibhuti Kumari son and daughter of Shri Ratnakar Lal from their all movable, immovable property whatsoever and wherever in Delhi and Village Kanrauli, Distt. Darbhanga, Bihar & severed relation with them due to their misconduct, misbehavior, enmities, both are abusing and quarrel with them. They are fed up with their day to day misconduct. Whosoever deals with them shall be responsible himself and my clients shall not be held liable for any act, conduct or transactions done by their above named son and daughter in law.

Subodh Kumar (Advocate)
Ch. No.110, Lawyers Block, Saket Court Enrol No: D/946/2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that Lachman Dass Chopra S/o Late Shri & Chopra Kamolig Flat No.9-C, S. F. Type-A&B, Wazirpur, Phase-III, Delhi, an the owner and in physical possession of Property bearing M/G Flat No.9-C.S. F. Type-A&B, Wazirpur, Phase-III, Delhi, which is allotted by DDA vide File No.M/52(24)/76/HB(M)4 and had applied for conversion from lease hold into free hold of said flat in D.D.A. The original Possession Letter, Possession Slip, and NOK for Water & Electric connection said flat has been lost. An F.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address/Phone 7457857644 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this flat can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (L&H) or Director (H-I) Block 3/Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

MEYER APPAREL LIMITED
CIN: L1810HR1993PLC032010
Regd. Office: Unit No.412, Fourth Floor, Beshelch Orient Business Park, Khandas, Sector-34, Gurugram-122004, Haryana, India

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF REGISTERED OFFICE

Notice is hereby given to public that registered office of the company has changed within local limits of Gurugram city from 42nd Milestone, Delhi Jaipur Highway, Kherki Daula, Gurugram-122001 (Haryana) to Unit No.412, Fourth Floor, Beshelch Orient Business Park, Khandas, Sector-34, Gurugram-122004, (Haryana) with effect from 22nd March, 2019.

For Meyer Apparel Limited
Place: Gurugram Sd/-
Date: 26th March, 2019 R.K. Sharma
CFO & Company Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

Item No. JNC-26
[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement for change of registered office of the company from one state to another Before the Central Government / Regional Director, Northern Region, New Delhi In the matter of Section 13(4) of the Companies Act, 2013
Read with Rule 30(5A) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

And
In the Matter of Greenview Power Private Limited having its registered office at 41, 2nd Floor Ishwar Nagar New Delhi-110065.....Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, the 9th Day of March, 2019 at Flat No. GB, Alcha Garden No. 732, 2nd Cross Levelle Road, Bengalkur-560021 to enable the company to change its Registered office from New Delhi to Gurugram in the State of Haryana. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or sent by registered post his objections supported by an affidavit, stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Northern Region at the address B-2 WING, 2nd Floor Parkway Bhawan, CGO Complex New Delhi-110003 within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the Applicant Company at its Registered Office at 41, 2nd Floor Ishwar Nagar New Delhi-65

For and on behalf of
GREENVIEW POWER PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
Place : New Delhi YASHASVI MOHANRAM
Date : 18.03.2019 (Director) DIN: 02110328

Vote guarantee scheme

Rahul Gandhi's pledge to give ₹6,000 a month has to have sound logic or could look like a vote-grabbing exercise



Forty years ago, Rahul Gandhi's grandmother made 'Garibi Hatao' (remove poverty) the centrepiece of her poll campaign. India was a horrendously poor country after decades of failed socialist economics and it was believed that the only way to drastically reduce the poverty rate was through a system of handouts. So unsurprisingly, some are mocking Rahul Gandhi's promise of giving ₹6,000 per month to India's poorest 50 million households as a sort of income guarantee to make up for the failure of 40 years of economic development, which it is, though

Gandhi and the Congress are not alone in adopting the handout culture. Several of Narendra Modi's flagship schemes are handouts too and other State Governments run all sorts of cash subsidy schemes. But nothing has ever come close to the scale of Gandhi's proposed scheme which, at almost four lakh crore, will account for almost three per cent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Apparently this scheme for social equity and justice — lovingly called NYAY — has been thought up by several noted economists but will it work?

That is a million dollar, rather a multi-billion dollar question. If this plan supersedes several other schemes and is driven by an Aadhaar-based direct-benefits model, it might hold. For one, if this replaces existing programmes, cuts down on routine subsidies and becomes a single poverty-benefit driven one, it might even end up saving some money. Additionally, it will dramatically reduce the bureaucracy required to administer, implement and monitor the relief package on the ground. But for all these to happen, the fiscal burden needs to be absorbed and that can only happen if the GDP grows at about 7.5 per cent a year and produces commensurate tax and non-tax revenues. Other challenges lie in setting a template to identify the socio-economic strata considering there are too many variables in a country like India. For without percolation, this would vapourise into thin air. Besides, executing what Gandhi calls a "surgical strike" on poverty might involve cutting expenditure for other schemes and those related to the social sector are usually the first to face the axe. Can we afford compromises in spending on public health and education? Undoubtedly, Gandhi is hoping to take advantage of several steps taken by the Modi government, notably the Jan Dhan Yojana and increased digitisation. But there have to be measures put in place to ensure that the beneficiaries do not develop a dependency on the State and should be weaned off as soon as possible, maybe after a few years, to make sure that they do not live lazily and try and look for methods of self-improvement and employment. As it is, joblessness is currently on record highs and there is lacuna in training our youth to be industry-ready with routine skilling failing to get the desired results. So this will not be an easy promise to deliver on. First, Gandhi has to win the election. Modi had in 2014 promised ₹15 lakh in the account of every Indian but that never came to fruition. However, there is still a chance that he competitively implements or promises something similar in his campaign.

River sutra

A study rules out Kailash Mansarovar as a source of the Ganga but does that really affect our faith in it?



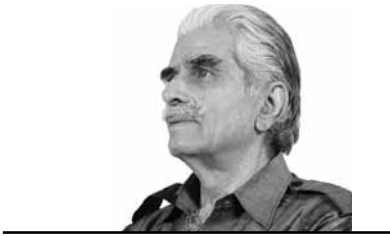
Does the Ganga, the river that holds our civilisational faith and pride, become any less significant because science shows that its origins are far removed from Kailash Mansarovar? Hindu religious texts believe that the Ganga descended from the locks of Shiva, and therefore, has a connection with his seat of divinity, Kailash Mansarovar. And though the river is seen emerging from Gomukh or the snout of the Gangotri glacier, long considered its source, over the years perception had gained ground that the two disparate water systems

— the one fed by the glacier and the other by the Mansarovar lake — were linked somehow. This gained credence despite the over 200 km distance between them and the Himalayan gorges and peaks separating them. An investigation by scientists of the Roorkee-based National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) has merely confirmed what logic has long determined, that there is no connectivity between the two water systems. Now that scientists have found that there were significant variations in isotopic and physiochemical properties of the water collected from the two sites, suggesting no possibility of surface or sub-surface connectivity between the two, Gangotri continues to be the source of the river. Unless, there is a far-fetched link traced through the Ghaghara river, a tributary of the Ganga, which could have flowed out of the Mansarovar lake. Of course, going by geological history before the continental drift, there was a huge Indo-Siwalik river flowing which is believed to have broken into various water systems of the Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra and the lakes with the push of the fold mountain system of the Himalayas. Beyond the science, celebrated Hindu scholars too have never made much of the Mansarovar link, claiming Shiva, being the omniscient one, did not need to be at Mount Kailash to hold Ganga in his locks and could have manifested himself anywhere. They insist that the myth was just a metaphor and Shiva's dreadlocks could mean the rugged ridges and cliffs of the Himalayas, considering he was perched on Kailash.

Clearly, belief systems are not ruffled by the scientific discovery, which has actually refuted claims by China as well as some foreign scientists that the Ganga did emanate from Mansarovar lake. China has for long been trying to claim supremacy of ownership of headwaters, particularly in the Tibetan plateau, which is considered the water sink of the world. It has been harnessing hydropower through dams and manipulating catchment areas by re-engineering flow patterns. Climate surveys project that major rivers running off the Himalayas, after increasing flows as glaciers melt, could lose 10-20 per cent of their flow by 2050, thereby resulting in water wars. Half of India's water is linked to China, the Sutlej and the Brahmaputra in particular. Adding Ganga to that list would have given it an edge in its water diplomacy, had it been linked to the Mansarovar lake located in Tibet. Over the last few years, China has been increasing control over cross-border water resources and hoping to use this precious resource of the earth in its negotiations with riparian neighbours. Diplomacy apart, what we indeed should worry about is that Gaumukh, which has developed cracks, and the Gangotri glacier, which is receding steadily, may end up drying out the river. Oxygen levels are already dipping downstream because of the pollutant overload and if we indeed want to renew our faith in our lifeline, we need to clean up and save it first.

Don't politicise forces

A professional, secular and apolitical military is being utilised for electoral gains of the ruling establishment. Questioning it and the Government is kosher



ASHOK K MEHTA

If the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) returns to power two months from now, piggybacking the armed forces, one central fact will be eminently clear: The optics of a powerful military with high morale belies the ground reality. The Government has misled the country on defence modernisation and preparedness through high-decibel claims and self-praise for its devotion to the soldier. Never before has any Government milked the success of military operations for political and electoral gains as the present one and successfully politicised the armed forces. The creation by it of nationalist sentiment and allied jingoism through coopting sections of the print and electronic media and their armies of supporters and cheerleaders has diverted the focus of elections from *Achhe Din* and *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas* to national security and taking the mickey out of Pakistan.

Last Sunday, the BJP launched a blitz of victory rallies in Uttar Pradesh, pitching the forthcoming elections as a means of rooting out terrorism and defeating Pakistan. Citing Balakot air strikes as the Government's "befitting reply for Pulwama", its leaders said that only a Government led by the charismatic and decisive leader, Narendra Modi, could guarantee the country's defence and security. Part II of this self-congratulatory boast is the caustic criticism of Opposition parties, mainly the Rahul Gandhi-led Congress, for questioning the Government and the Indian armed forces on their claims of targetting, damage assessment and casualties. Balakot has become the magic wand for winning the Lok Sabha polls.

In 2016, following the Uri terrorist strike, modest ground surgical strikes were magnified to being the silver bullet for ending cross-border terrorism and, therefore, employed liberally to showcase the Government's determination to teach Pakistan a lesson. They were cited extravagantly to win the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, to name just a few. Banners and posters using serving Army officers' pictures alongside Government leaders politicised the military. Surgical strikes were liberally replayed to deify the BJP leadership, principally Prime Minister Modi. The Army's resolute stand at Doklam was also appropriated by the Government as its own dogged action of thwarting China in its attempt to present Bhutan and India with a *fait accompli*. In all the three military operations — Operation Surgical Strikes, Operation Juniper and Operation Balakot — the Army and IAF came out as winners but it was the Government which super-imposed the "lotus" on them.



This is the great irony as the Modi Government apparently attaches minuscule importance to the Defence portfolio, posting four Ministers in five years. The last of these, Nirmala Sitharaman, is a first-time MP, who has spent her prime-time defending Modi on Rafale in and outside Parliament, whereas traditionally, the Defence Minister is invariably a political heavyweight. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was twice a part-time Defence Minister and is not known to be terribly sympathetic towards the military. The most effective and committed was the late Manohar Parrikar whose pledge to appoint the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was unfortunately killed by the Prime Minister's Office. This coupled with the musical chairs in the Defence Ministry allowed National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval to become *de facto* CDS and also interfere in key issues of the Ministry like Rafale. Policeman Doval is the first NSA to become directly involved in planning and conduct of operations, notably Pathankot, which is in the remit of a military professional. His appointment as Chairman of Defence Planning Committee is another first and needless padding to planning. The Doval empire is enviable.

Under Jaitley, defence funding etched an interesting trajectory. After his second budget, his reasoning for limited capital funding for modernisation was that the military is unable to spend even what little is allotted. The following year, Jaitley changed tack, saying that actually, he did not have the money to increase the cap-

ital account. The interim budget presented this year by acting Finance Minister Piyush Goyal earmarked the lowest amount in memory for modernisation with the staple byline, "more funds will be provided if required." At a national security conclave last month, Jaitley said that hike in modernisation funding will depend on paying off committed liabilities and that any increase would be contingent on income from widening the tax net. This year's allocation may fall short of even accounting for committed liabilities. Still, BJP president Amit Shah raved about the current defence budget as a milestone having crossed the ₹3 lakh crore mark, more than 70 per cent of which is revenue expenditure.

The true reflection of the state of defence funding and operational readiness was provided by the BJP's own chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on defence, Maj Gen BC Khanduri, who rated defence allocation of 1.5 per cent of GDP as "disabling war preparedness." His blunt inference led to his removal and replacement by party veteran Kalraj Mishra. Just as well that Balakot did not escalate into a short and intense conventional war as ammunition, tank, artillery and night-fighting equipment inventories are critically hollow, not to mention the plummeting decline in Air Force squadrons from the authorised 42 to below 30 squadrons, actually around 26 squadrons (Air Chief Marshal AY Tipnis at last month's security conclave). No Service Chief should have to say "we will fight with what we have" as Air Chief

Marshal BS Dhanoa had to.

The armed forces have been successively short-changed by the once in 10 years Pay Commissions. The last Seventh Pay Commission was no exception even as roll-on anomalies have piled up. Service Chiefs were denied a meeting with Modi on Seventh Pay Commission and on One Rank One Pension earlier. The then Defence Secretary Mohan Kumar did not endorse the military's request to reconsider their case for Non Functional Upgrade (NFU), which about 60 A group services receive. Now the Central Government has opposed in the Supreme Court an Armed Forces Tribunal order, asking it to include the armed forces in NFU. This has serious implications for status, parity and pay grade and is one issue hurting the morale of the military. So much for Balakot's surge in nationalism and the Government putting the soldier on a pedestal. India's military is overly obedient with high tolerance threshold in civil-military relations. Service chiefs have not taken an issue-based stand individually or collectively.

A professional, secular and apolitical military is being progressively politicised and utilised for advancing electoral prospects of the ruling establishment in the guise of promoting nationalism. Questioning the military and the Government on this is kosher.

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

SOUNDBITE

Instead of Amethi, Congress president Rahul Gandhi should go to Pakistan. His real supporters are there.

BJP leader
—Kedar Kashyap



It is important to find voice and style. You can start by feeling inspired, but eventually, with experience, you find your own voice.

Singer
—Shreya Ghoshal



The danger is not over. The situation will remain tense till forthcoming elections in India. We are prepared to avert any aggression.

Pakistan Prime Minister
—Imran Khan



Knowledge is going to be the driver of the Indian economy and will play a vital role in improving the living conditions of people.

Vice President
—Venkaiah Naidu



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rescue aviation sector

Sir — This refers to the article, "Flying with a broken wing" (March 26) by Kushan Mitra. Undoubtedly, Jet Airways was in a better condition than Air India. While the latter's net loss stood at ₹5,765 crore in 2017, the former's net profit was ₹438 crore during the same period. Besides, Jet was also ahead of Air India in operational indices and could fly more passengers than the national carrier despite having a smaller fleet size of 124 aircraft as compared to 163 of the latter. If the Government has been patient with Air India, taking care of the gaps in its operational funding, it can at least be pragmatic with other airlines.

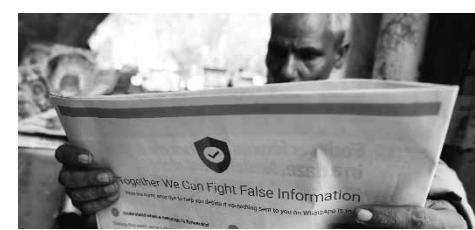
Given a nascent market for Tier II and III connectivity under Udan, uncertain fuel pricing and unsteady global economy, airlines had to necessarily negotiate turbulence, which ought to have been factored in while dealing with their loan defaults. Surely, the Government's intention is not to take the scrap dealer route to the likes of IBC but to facilitate a speedy restoration of a vital sector poised to be the third largest after the US and China.

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Stand up against half-truth and fake news

The importance of dissemination of authentic information cannot be over-emphasised, more so during an election season. Posts that have no basis and photographs that have no fidelity to the issue under debate are 'shared' and 'liked' by millions. People tend to believe 'news' they want to be true. But the harm to public discourse is incalculable. Fake news poses a great challenge to our democracy. Fake content is not difficult to detect as it is often presented blatantly and not subtly. Still people suspend disbelief and accept 'foul' as 'fair' for the satisfaction of having done their bit for the pendulum of public opinion to swing to their 'side'. Given the ubiquity and reach of the social media, tech-savvy whizzes are roped in to canvass for votes online. Facebook, Twitter and Google have become platforms for fighting part of the electoral battles. It is perfectly legitimate to do the online campaign focussing on matters of public import and ideologies and policies and programmes of parties.

In other words, fake news is posted in order to dis-



credit and malign political opponents rather than to shore up support for contestants. Worse, it is done to pigeon-hole whole blocs of people as 'us-and-them' and stoke hatred. The social media alone is not to be blamed. Electronic media, too, stinks of fake news/disinformation. The protection of the sanctity of elections is a *sine qua non* for upholding democracy.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Defeat writ on the wall

Sir — It is unfortunate that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) is destined to carry the Congress as an albatross around its neck every time there is an election in the State or at the Centre. The Congress demands seats disproportionate to its eligibility in terms of the party's

vote share or potential to win the seats. It is unfortunate that in the forthcoming crucial elections to the Lok Sabha, too, the grand old party has taken 10 seats from the DMK, representing 25 per cent of the total constituencies.

There are reports that there is a lot of resentment in the selection of Karti Chidambaram, against whom many criminal cases are pending, as the

Congress candidate to contest the Sivaganga constituency.

Sudarshana Nachiappan, one of the most deserving candidates who was assured of his candidacy by the high command till late last night, has accused P Chidambaram for this last minute change in favour of his son.

Anna Mary Yvonne
Chennai

IBC route bodes well

Sir — This refers to the article, "Flying with a broken wing" (March 26) by Kushan Mitra. Lenders don't seem to have learnt from the Kingfisher fiasco and infused ₹1,500 crore into Jet Airways. Ideally, Nareish Goyal should have allowed a better and financially sound management to run his company rather than playing with the career of the more than 23,000 employees.

Lenders seem to believe that it's better to explore revival of the company than take the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) route. Though the IBC may not be the perfect and only solution, in the current circumstances, it is the best alternative for the lenders.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been sensitive in its approach to ensure lenders get their money back on time and any promoter with bad intentions get the stick.

Bal Govind
Noida

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Endless dilemma over the big C

There is a lot more that needs to be done to improve outcomes of rare cancers. Diagnostic accuracy, better treatment and prognosis are the need of the hour



SAMEER RASTOGI

The Indian healthcare system has markedly improved in the last few years. However, one of the areas where it lacks is judicious treatment of rare cancers. The problem with this disease is multi-faceted and has many aspects to it. The conundrum in India begins with the lack of a correct definition for it. Then comes other issues such as difficulty in diagnosis, absence of registries, dearth of experts and the lack of data and newer drugs, approved as orphan drug elsewhere. All of these factors lead to poor outcomes. This disease may be rare individually, but collectively, the varied manifestations constitute almost 20 per cent of all cancers. Thus, they cannot be ignored.

There is no universally adopted definition for rare cancers. The National Cancer Institute, the US, definition is fewer than 15 cases per 100,000 people per year. A consortium from the European Union defined rare cancers as those with fewer than six cases per 100,000 people per year. Rare cancer definition or subtypes can't be copied from any country. To cite an example, though melanoma may be a very rare cancer in our country, in Australia and the US, it is a common cancer.

Similarly, there are a few expert centres for diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases like sarcoma, thyroid cancer, melanoma and neuroendocrine tumors. There are many diagnostic investigations that are routinely done in many countries but are not available in India as the focus on rare cancers is less. Apart from investigations, even first line drugs for diseases like melanoma and thyroid cancer are not available in India. This leads to severe frustration among doctors and patients. The only option left for patients is to import drugs, which is not a viable option for many. Often, the situation forces them to buy drugs from grey market, the veracity of which is highly questionable. Further, research for rare cancers in our country is slow and a majority of data has come from the developed countries. Reason for this is a lack of funding for research. There is less incentive for working on rare cancers and this leads to apathy among researchers.

From a patient's perspective, there are no specific guidelines for expert centres and a majority of them land up having inadequate or inadvertent treatment in non-expert centres. This leads to poor outcomes and psychological turmoil. Support groups for them, too, are very few and this leads to a feeling of loneliness during the arduous journey of their treatment. Lack of guidelines for this disease also leads to difference in opinions from various centres, which leaves the patients baffled. Similarly, insurance cover for this disease poses tremendous problems as patients undergo a hard time in getting the insurance cover for these lesser-known diseases.

How can we improve the outcomes? First and foremost, it is of utmost importance to address the above-mentioned shortcomings in a systematic manner. Collaboration and data collection/registry for all cancers with equal emphasis on rare cancers (which is not the case currently in India) should be the second approach to kick-start the progress in the management of rare cancers. This will help us define the subset of rare cancers and develop a uniform definition. All tertiary care centres must publish their experience in rare cancers and the challenges faced by them in diagnosis and treatment.

We need to have a consortium/core body soon in order to channelise the efforts and streamline them. Collaboration must be widespread between NGOs, patients advocates, tertiary cancer institutes, medical colleges and peripheral centres with sound referral system. We need indigenous guidelines, keeping in mind the resources available for the diagnosis and treatment constraints in our country. Similarly, we must spend on patient education resources in vernacular languages in order to educate them and help them understand the intricacies of rare cancers. Research bodies must keep some funding secured for the treatment of rare cancers and should encourage further studies.

Training programmes must be held for doctors to enhance their skills so that pathologists, radiologists and pharmaceuticals are also encouraged to bring drugs in India. Subsequently, they should be given due benefits. Generic brands must get due importance. India should lead the research in rare cancers and should set an example for other countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan as these countries have similar epidemiology for cancer.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Medical Oncology Department, AIIMS, New Delhi)

AFTER WATCHING THE PURPORTED TAPE ON DEMONETISATION, THE NATION HAS TO DECIDE WHO IS CHOR (THIEF) AND WHO IS CHOWKIDAR (GUARD).

—CONGRESS LEADER
 KAPIL SIBAL

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THE 'FAKERY CARAVAN' OF THE CONGRESS CONTINUES TO MOVE. WHEN THERE ARE NO REAL ISSUES, RELY ON FAKERY.

—UNION MINISTER
 ARUN JAITLEY

Resist hostile takeovers

It is prudent for a company to devise relevant defences from the very incorporation of business and keep away predators



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The ongoing attempt by L&T Infotech, to buy a controlling stake in Mindtree, has been met with stiff resistance by its founders and employees. L&T has already bought 20.3 per cent stake in Mindtree by paying over its long-term investor, VG Siddhartha of Café Coffee Day. As required by the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeover) Regulations, the infrastructure giant has already announced an open offer to buy 31 per cent stake, in addition to picking up 15 per cent of the shares through an open market purchase, making a stake of 66.32 per cent in Mindtree.

A 'hostile takeover' is the acquisition of one company, known as the target firm, by another, which is called the 'acquirer' and the acquisition is accomplished by going directly to the company's shareholders or fighting to replace management to get the acquisition approved. This is different from a friendly takeover, which is a proposal where a target company's management and board of directors agree to a merger or acquisition by another firm. Since liberalisation, India has seen numerous friendly takeovers but hostile acquisitions have been few and far between.

In the 1980s, London-based NRI, Swaraj Paul, sought to control the management of two Indian companies, Escorts Limited and DCM (Delhi Cloth Mills) Limited, by picking up their shares from the stock market. Though Paul failed to fulfill his dream of controlling Escorts and DCM, he was successful in highlighting how particular families were exercising managerial control over large corporate entities despite holding a minuscule proportion of the concerned company's shares. Paul finally retracted his bid. While he was ultimately unsuccessful, Paul's hostile threat sent shockwaves through the otherwise complacent Indian business world.

This was followed by India Cements Limited (ICL) in its hostile bid for Raasi Cements Limited (RCL) in 1988, where ICL made an open offer for RCL shares at ₹300 per share at the time when the share price on the stock exchange, Mumbai (BSE), was around ₹100. The Indian FIs, that were protecting the promoters, felt cheated as they sold their stakes, leaving the FIs high and dry till they were bought out by ICL in an open offer. The effort by ICL to buy out Raasi was for its crown jewel, Shri Vishnu Cement. Raju, the promoter of Raasi, transferred 39.5 per cent of Shri Vishnu Cement to a group of nine investment companies, in violation of the takeover code and the transfer was considered invalid. Finally, ICL sold the shares of Shri Vishnu Cement by the associate companies of Raju.

In a third example, in October 2000, Abhishek Dalmia made an open offer to acquire 45 per cent of the share capital in Gesco Corporation at ₹23 per share. This transaction entered into a drama of hostile takeover until the promoters of Gesco corporation and the Dalmia group announced they had reached an amicable settlement in the battle for Gesco, with the former buying out Dalmias' 10.5 per cent stake at ₹54 per share for a total consideration of ₹16 crore. The Gesco Corporation takeover drama showed that a bidder, with admittedly poor financial resources, could talk up a share only to exit later with a huge profit via a negotiated deal. In 2008, Emami acquired 23.6 per cent stake from Vaidyas, who are the co-founders of Zandu, at ₹6,900 per share. The Parikhs, who have been managing the

“ THERE ARE NUMEROUS WAYS THAT ARE FOLLOWED BY THE ACQUIRING COMPANIES FOR A HOSTILE TAKEOVER: TOEHOLD ACQUISITION, WHICH IS A PURCHASE OF THE TARGET'S SHARES ON AN OPEN MARKET; TENDER OFFER, WHERE AN ACQUIRER OFFERS THE TARGET'S SHAREHOLDERS A BUYOUT OPTION AT A PREMIUM OVER THE MARKET PRICE; AND PROXY FIGHT, A SOLICITATION OF THE SHAREHOLDERS' PROXIES TO VOTE FOR INSURGENT DIRECTORS ”



company's operations for years, also parted with 20 per cent stake after trying to save the firm for four months. Emami paid ₹750 crore to acquire 72 per cent stake in the firm.

There are numerous ways which are followed by the acquiring companies for a hostile takeover: Toehold acquisition, which is a purchase of the target's shares on an open market; tender offer, where an acquirer offers the target's shareholders a buyout option at a premium over the market price; and proxy fight, a solicitation of the shareholders' proxies to vote for insurgent directors. Having decided to acquire a target, the acquirer usually deals with either of the two main corporate constituencies of the target: Management or shareholders. A possibility or threat of a hostile takeover causes the target's board to adopt and implement anti-takeover defences.

Stock re-purchase is a transaction by the target of its own-issued shares from its shareholders. This is an effective defence strategy that has registers success.

Poison pill is a distribution to the target's shareholders of the rights to purchase shares of the target or the merging acquire at a substantially reduced price. What triggers an execution of these rights is an acquisition by an acquirer of a certain percentage of the target's shareholding. If exercised, these rights can considerably dilute the acquirer's shareholding in the target and can thus deter a takeover. The poison pill is one of the most powerful defences against hostile takeovers.

Shark repellents are certain provisions in the target's charter or by-laws deterring an acquirer's desirability of a hostile takeover. This defence typically involves a supermajority vote requirement regarding a merger of the target with its majority shareholder. This defence also includes other takeover deterrent provi-

sions in the target's certificate of incorporation or bylaws.

Golden parachutes are additional compensation to the target's top management in case of termination of its employment following a successful hostile acquisition. Since these reimbursements decrease the target's assets, this defence reduces the amount the acquirer is willing to pay for the target's shares. This defence may thus harm shareholders. It, however, effectively deters hostile takeovers.

Staggered board is a board in which only a certain number of directors, usually one-third, is re-elected annually. It is a powerful anti-takeover defence, which might be stronger than is commonly recognised. For the reason of being too strong and reducing returns to the target's shareholders, the latter happened to resist this type of defence.

Greenmail is a buyout by the target of its own shares from the hostile acquirer with a premium over the market price, which results in the acquirer's agreement not to pursue obtaining control of the target in the near future.

Standstill agreement is an undertaking by the acquirer not to grab any more shares of the target within certain period of time. A standstill agreement is an additional defence that usually accompanies the greenmail described above.

Leveraged recapitalisation is a series of transactions designed to affect the equity and debt structure of a corporation. Recapitalisation usually involves such transactions as sale of assets, issuance of debt and distribution of dividends.

Leveraged buyout is a purchase of the target by the management with the use of debt financing. This defence burdens the target with the debt. In such a case, the management becomes a bidder and competes with a hostile acquirer for control over the target.

Crown jewels are options under which a favoured party can buy a key part of the target at a price that may be less than its market value.

White knight is a strategic merger that does not involve a change of control and relieves the target's management of the responsibility to seek best price.

White squire is given by the target to a friendly party of a certain ownership in the target. This defence is effective against acquisition by the hostile party of the target by "freezing out" minority shareholders.

Scorched earth is a self-tender offer by the target that burdens the target with debt.

Lockups are defensive mechanisms in friendly mergers and acquisitions designed to deter hostile bids.

Pacman is a target's tender offer for the acquirer's shares.

Change of control provisions is the target's contractual arrangement with third parties that burden the target in the case of a change in its control.

Finally, 'just say no' is a simple approach that enables the board simply to reject a proposal of any potential acquirer who would fail to prove that his acquisition strategy matches that of the target. Like all strategies, some defence strategies are more effective than others and not all are successful all the time. A golden parachute may decrease the price that the acquirer would be willing to pay for the target but it may not necessarily stop the hostile acquisition.

On the other hand, a poison pill can easily lose its effect if the acquirer wins a proxy fight for the target and then redeems the pill. Therefore, it is prudent that a company should consider devising relevant anti-takeover defences from the very incorporation of business.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

The fatal game of opportunistic politics

The odds of the BJP stealing the narrative from real issues like jobs and farmers' crisis to build its campaign on the twin planks of nationalism and terrorism are not lost on anyone. The Opposition has a lot of catching up to do



KALYANI SHANKAR

With elections round the corner, the Opposition still seems to be groping for a solid and cohesive poll narrative against the Modi Government, while the ruling BJP has identified terror and nationalism as its main theme. The Opposition had been concentrating on a basic plank, essentially on livelihood issues. It was confident of taking on the Government with issues like jobs, agrarian crisis and demonetisation — all of which determine the outcome of the polls as it affects the common man.

However, this was the scenario till the Pulwama and Balakot incidents happened last month. Also, until then, the Opposition was in an advantageous position after the BJP lost three States

to the Congress in the Hindi heartland — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in December last year. Momentum was gradually shifting from the BJP to the Opposition. An upbeat Congress began its campaign with high spirit during the New Year.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Delhi counterpart, Arvind Kejriwal, organised two impressive rallies to show off Opposition unity in Kolkata and Delhi respectively. The Opposition became aggressive and the BJP, until six weeks ago, seemed to be the only responding to its campaign on Rafale deal rather than setting the agenda. There's no doubt that last month's unprecedented events — Pulwama terror attack, the retaliatory Balakot air strikes, the capture and release of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman by Pakistan — have made 'security' and 'terrorism' the key poll issues, thus bringing nationalism to the forefront.

The Opposition lost the momentum it briefly acquired to put the BJP on the defensive. The saffron party quickly snatched the advantage and began to build its poll campaign on



the twin planks of 'nationalism' and 'terrorism'. All earlier issues like the building of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and triple talaq were pushed to the backburner.

Obviously, the BJP has regained the political narrative for the electoral battle while the Opposition is still twiddling its thumbs as to how to bring back the livelihood issues to the forefront as they cannot criticise the Government on intelligence failure beyond a limit.

The Opposition is also not doing a united campaign at the national level. The BJP is taking full advantage of its disunity and appears to have success-

fully projected itself as the party best suited to guard the country against terrorism, sponsored by Pakistan. On the ground, each Opposition party has been doing its own campaign. The Opposition claims that though there is not one single narrative at the national level, individual parties will campaign on the common theme that the BJP must be removed because of its failure on various fronts, including unemployment and farmers' issues. "Every party has to stick to its own platform," claimed a Left leader.

As for the Congress, the principal Opposition party, its president,

Rahul Gandhi, is running a sustained campaign on the Rafale deal for the past few months but it is not catching up. Also, the Congress fell into the BJP's trap when it changed the poll narrative to Pulwama and 'Chowkidar' baits instead of focusing on bringing the real issues back.

The BJP is happy to dwell on these issues as it diverts attention from other subjects like jobs and agrarian crisis where the Modi Government has really not lived up to the expectations. The BJP is going all out with its latest mass campaign — 'Main Bhi Chowkidar' and 'Namunkin ab Mumkin Hai', slogans showing Modi as the supreme leader who can solve India's problems. The BJP hopes to win the elections mainly on the weakness of the Opposition, whose much-touted 'Mahagathbandhan' at the national level still remains an idea and not a reality; although there are State-specific coalitions.

The second is Modi's presidential style of campaigning. It is Modi versus no Opposition face, which can limit the Opposition's chances. Third, it is the failure of the Opposition to

come up with a credible and effective narrative, capitalising on the Government's weaknesses. On the other hand, the BJP has been able to determine its agenda by getting away with its diversionary tactics. Fourth, the BJP has stitched alliances in various States, even ceding space to the allies; whereas the Congress is still dilly-dallying.

However, the BJP also knows that it will be difficult to sustain the Pulwama and Balakot themes for the next two months; though it got a big boost to its campaign in the past few weeks. As time passes, it would get further diluted. Therefore, the BJP needs a winning narrative. The Opposition, too, needs an effective counter-narrative. All these in an electoral background where there is no 'hawa' for or against any party, no highly emotional issues, not much of anti-incumbency against Modi and unlike 2014 no 'Modi wave'. The results will show who has the right narrative this time — the NDA or the UPA.

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



RELEASE IT IN FULL

Mr Mueller has produced a lengthy and complicated document. Its four-page summary includes some good news for Donald Trump about a scandal that has lapped at his door since he became US President. Whether it is all good news for Trump can only be assessed when Mueller's full report is made public, and it is urgent that it is. (The Guardian editorial)

DISSIDENCE IN SOME LS SEATS IN KARNATAKA Sidda terms it 'common'

Will resolve the issue to defeat communal BJP, says Congress

Bengaluru: Conceding that the ruling Congress-JD(S) alliance is facing dissidence in some Lok Sabha constituencies, the Congress' Karnataka unit on Tuesday expressed confidence about resolving differences by making both party workers understand the need to defeat "communal BJP".

With transfer of votes between the Congress and the JD(S) crucial for them to outperform the BJP, there is worry in both parties that the dissidence may hamper their prospects.

Agreeing that there was discontent in two to three places like Mandya, Tumkur and Hassan, coalition coordination chief and Congress leader Siddaramaiah said it was common in an alliance and when there were aspirants from both parties.

"There is some amount of discontent in Tumkur as the sitting MP did not get the ticket from the Congress, because the seat went to the JD(S)," he said at a twitter inter-



action organised by the Karnataka PCC.

"We are talking to workers there, also disgruntled leaders there. I have confidence that we will be able to pacify them," he said.

"Coalition Government and alliance was inevitable today. We will make workers and leaders of both parties understand about the situation and the need for an alliance to defeat the communal BJP.

I'm confident that they too will agree and there won't be any problem," he added.

Defying the electoral arrangement under which Tumkur was allotted to the JD(S), sitting Congress MP S P Muddahanumegowda filed his papers on Monday, even as JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda filed his nomination as the joint candidate of the ruling alliance.

Another Congress leader and former MLA, K N Rajanna, also filed his nomination on Monday from Tumkur as an independent candidate, opposing Gowda.

KPC chief Dinesh Gundu Rao on Tuesday said he has spoken to both Muddahanumegowda and Rajanna and the party would resolve the issue "amicably."

"We have spoken to him (Muddahanumegowda), we have spoken to Rajanna... We will again speak to them and will solve it amicably," Rao told reporters in response to a question about action on rebel candidates in Tumkur.

If Muddahanumegowda contests from Tumkur as a

rebel candidate, it will add to the Congress-JD(S) coalition worries as the alliance is facing backlash at several places including Mandya and Hassan, with party workers unhappy with the seat arrangements.

Both parties that had fought bitterly against each other ahead of May 2018 Assembly polls joined hands to form an alliance as the election threw up a hung verdict.

Though Congress-JD(S) leaders have decided to go to polls together, it is not something that the workers of both parties at the booth level, who have been fighting each other, agree with.

Deve Gowda's grandsons, Prajaval Revanna and Nikhil Kumaraswamy, are the alliance candidates from Hassan and Mandya respectively.

Responding to a question, Siddaramaiah agreed that Tumkur was conceded to the JD(S) as he was against giving away Mysore seat to the regional party, which had asked for one among the two seats.

"We had to concede Mandya because sitting MP there was from JD(S), so naturally they asked for the seat. They also asked for a seat either Mysore or Tumkur, I said we cannot concede Mysore because there is more opportunity for Congress there." **PTI**

'Minimum Income Guarantee' surgical strike on poverty: RaGa

Jaipur: Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday termed his party's promise of minimum guaranteed income to the poorest 20 per cent households a "surgical strike on poverty" and said nobody should be poor in 21st century India.

Addressing a rally in Suratgarh town of Ganganagar district, a day after declaring his party would roll out the scheme if voted to power, Gandhi alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave money to the rich and top industrialists of the country, but the Congress would serve the poor.

He said the promised minimum income scheme was a "big bang".

"Dhamaka hai ye... Bomb fatega (It's a big bang...A bomb will set off). This is a Congress's surgical strike on poverty. They (the BJP) worked to eliminate the poor we will eliminate poverty," Gandhi said.

On helping the poor, he said, "We thought how it should be done. After discussion and brainstorming, we thought that there should be a minimum income line of ₹12,000 per month. Soon after formation of the Congress Government in 2019, the minimum income line in India will

NOBODY SHOULD BE POOR IN THE COUNTRY IN 21ST CENTURY

The name of the proposed scheme is 'Nyuntam Aay Yojana' or Nyay. The word 'Nyay' stands for justice in Hindi.

He alleged that poverty and unemployment increased under the Modi Government. While the Congress-led UPA Government lifted 14 crore people out of poverty, "Modi made them poor again", he claimed.

On Monday, Gandhi announced in New Delhi 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 Lok Sabha polls.

"Nobody should be poor in the country in 21st century," he told the Suratgarh rally Tuesday.

Finance Minister Arun

Jaitley Monday dismissed the Congress promise of minimum guaranteed income, saying the party has a history of "cheating" the poor and misleading the country in the name of removing poverty.

In 1971, Rahul Gandhi's grandmother and then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had also given 'Garibi Hatao, Desh Bachao' (remove poverty, save the nation) slogan during the general election campaign. Years later, PM Modi, during a speech in 2018, termed the 'Garibi Hatao' slogan a 'false promise'.

Rahul Gandhi Tuesday also alleged the Modi Government weakened the schemes and programmes such as MGNREGA and food security introduced by the UPA dispensation.

"Whatever was done under the MGRENGA, food security and loan waiver by the UPA Government, that all were finished by Narendra Modi. Poverty and unemployment increased in his rule," he said.

He said that top industrialists were helped by the Government in "looting" the public money and their debt of ₹3.5 lakh were written off, but farm loans were not.

The Congress chief continued his "chowkidar" barb at the PM. **PTI**

Shatrughan to join Cong in New Delhi on March 28

Patna: Bollywood actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha, who has been associated with BJP for about three decades, will join Congress at New Delhi on March 28, a senior party leader said here on Tuesday.

"Shatrughan Sinha will join Congress in New Delhi on March 28 at 11.30 am... He will be our candidate from Patna Sahib", chairman for the state Congress election campaign committee Akhilesh Prasad Singh told newsmen here.

Sinha is a two-term BJP Lok Sabha member from Patna Sahib but has been dropped by the saffron party which has chosen to field union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad from the seat.

Sinha has been openly critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah. Speculation had been rife for some time that he would join the Congress, which is an ally of the 'Mahagathbandhan' which also consists of the RJD and other local parties.

Asked whether Sinha would be inducted in the party in the presence of AICC president Rahul Gandhi, as was being speculated in the media, Singh said Top leaders will be present on the occasion. **PTI**

Darbhanga LS seat new bone of contention between RJD, Cong

Patna: The Darbhanga Lok Sabha seat, represented by former test cricketer Kirti Azad, who recently quit the BJP and joined the Congress, on Tuesday emerged as a new bone of contention in the Opposition Grand Alliance in Bihar, with the RJD stating that it wished to field its veteran leader Abdul Bari Siddiqui from the seat.

The Lalu Prasad-led party contended that its candidate had lost the seat to the BJP by a thin margin in 2014.

"Darbhanga is our traditional seat. We have won it many times. Even in the 2014 polls, which were swept by the BJP-led NDA, our candidate lost the battle by a thin margin.

"We would therefore like to contest the seat again and field Abdul Bari Siddiqui this time. A formal announcement would be made shortly," RJD MLA

and chief state spokesman Bhai Virendra said here.

Notably, senior RJD leader Mohd Ali Ashraf Fatmi won the seat in all Lok Sabha polls since 1991 except on three occasions — 1999, 2009 and 2014.

The party's decision to field Siddiqui — a senior leader who has formerly been the leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and served as the Finance Minister — is seen as a move to placate the veteran, who is said to have been sulking over being sidelined following the entry of Lalu Prasad's sons Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav into active politics.

When asked about Bhai Virendra's statement, Siddiqui said, "I am a disciplined party worker. If the party asks me to contest from Darbhanga, I will put my heart, mind and soul

into the fight."

Siddiqui had fought the 2014 election from Madhubani and lost to Hukum Deo Narayan Yadav of the BJP.

State Congress president Madan Mohan Jha, when approached with queries about the RJD's claim, said Darbhanga was an "important seat", but a final call will be taken by the party's high command.

The Congress had last won the seat way back in 1980.

Elaborating further on the party's dilemma, Congress leader Rishi Mishra — whose grandfather Lalit Narayan Mishra was a minister in Indira Gandhi's cabinet and is said to be the tallest leader in the Mithila region where Darbhanga falls — claimed that Maithil Brahmins in the constituency are traditional supporters of his party. **PTI**



Kashmiri women walk inside an orchard with almond trees in full bloom in Srinagar on Tuesday

11 non-bailable charges on BJP's Coochbehar candidate: TMC to EC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Carrying eleven non-bailable charges on his head, Nishit Pramanik, the BJP candidate for the Coochbehar Lok Sabha seat, seems to have become a headache for the saffron party.

Trinamool Congress has already approached the Election Commission of India drawing its attention towards the affidavit filed by Pramanik. "The BJP has fielded a person who has eleven non-bailable charges against him to serve the people of Coochbehar. We have already brought it to the notice of the ECI," North Bengal Development Minister Rabindranath Ghosh said on Tuesday.

Pramanik has been booked for murder, attempt to murder, dacoity, human trafficking, Ghosh said quoting the affidavit filed by Pramanik before the ECI. Out of the eleven non-bailable cases two have been filed in other States.

"He is charged with looting a bank and a jewellery shop at Alipurduar," Ghosh said wondering "how a party which claims to give good governance can nominate a person who has such grievous charges against him dismissing the BJP allegation that the charges were the result of the TMC's vendetta politics against the Opposition leaders. "If such was the case then how could he have been booked in other States where the Trinamool is not in power," Ghosh said adding "even the High Court has rejected bail applications filed by him in two cases."

Yet another political turncoat to be fielded by the Bengal saffron outfit, Pramanik had earlier left the Trinamool Congress to join the BJP.

His organisational capabilities apart, Pramanik's alleged criminal records could pose his

party some problem in Coochbehar constituency bordering Assam and Bangladesh. This, notwithstanding the fact that the BJP has fast come up to gain the second position displacing the Left Front in this district. In the last Assembly elections the BJP had taken a lead over the TMC in the urban areas whereas the latter had posted a lead in the rural belt. Considering the recent electoral patterns a slight shift in the vote base could affect either parties much, experts said.

Controversies hit the BJP in another constituency, this time Basirhat in south Bengal where party candidate Sayantan Basu was reported against by the TMC for telling a crowd that "we will ask the CRPF through our central leadership not to shoot at the legs but directly through the chest if the mischief mongers come to capture booths. This time round no Sahjean or Aurangzeb will come to save the TMC's goon."

BJP names candidates for 10 more WB LS seats

Kolkata: The BJP on Tuesday declared the list of 10 more candidates for Bengal. Among these are: Humayun Kabir from Murshidabad, Krishna Joardar from Behrampore, Mukut Mani Adhikary from Ranaghat, Nilanjay Roy from Raiganj, Rantideb Sengupta from Howrah, Subhas Sarkar from Bankura, Joy Banerjee from Uluberia, Shantanu Thakur from Bongaon and Debashis Samanta from Contai.

Cong did nothing for poor during its 10-year rule: Yogi

Varanasi: Hitting out at Congress president Rahul Gandhi over his minimum income scheme announcement, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday asked why the party didn't do anything to uplift the poor during the 10 years when it was in power.

In a big-bang poll promise, Gandhi had on Monday 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 beginning next month.

Addressing a 'Vijay Sankalp Sabha' (victory pledge meeting) here, Adityanath asked Gandhi why the Congress-led UPA

Government had not done anything to bring happiness into the lives of poor people during its 10-year term from 2004 to 2014.

He also heaped praises on Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre for introducing various welfare schemes to benefit the poor.

He claimed that Modi, unlike the Congress, is sensitive towards the needs of the poor.

Adityanath accused Congress leaders of siphoning off Government funds meant for the poor.

"Your father Rajiv Gandhi's helplessness was clearly visible when he had said that of ₹100 that his Government sent to the poor, only ₹10 reached them," the Chief Minister said.

Modi 'only' PM to give befitting reply to Pak: Shah

Moradabad (UP): BJP president Amit Shah on Tuesday said Narendra Modi was the "only" Prime Minister who had responded strongly to terror activities in Pakistan, likening the Centre's response to the US action against terrorism.

"We attacked on Pakistan without any delay after the Pulwama attack, while the Opposition leaders were insisting for negotiation, Shah said at a 'Vijay Sankalp' rally in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad district.

The Bharatiya Janata Party chief alleged that the Opposition was insulting the soldiers who died in the Pulwama attack by asking questions on the number of casualties in the Balakot airstrike.

"When the country was celebrating after air strikes at terrorist camp, the Opposition



here was grieving like Pakistan," he said in an apparent reference to the Balakot airstrike.

He asserted that the BJP-led NDA would win 74 of the state's 80 Lok Sabha seats. It had won 73 in 2014.

Pointing out that Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party supreme Mayawati were "enemies" earlier, Shah said they had come together now due to

"fear" of Modi.

He predicted that the SP-BSP-RLD alliance would fail because "our Government is very much popular due to our positive works".

Shah hit out at Yadav, alleging that all miscreants were there in the former Chief Minister's Government and crime was on the rise.

But during the present BJP Government, he claimed, all miscreants were either in jail or fled the state.

Shah said communal violence and land-grabbing incidents, which he said were normal during the previous dispensation, had become a thing of the past and there was peace.

Listing out the Modi dispensation's welfare schemes, Shah claimed that for the first time since Independence, the farmers, poor, Dalits and the

deprived sections had been feeling that they have their own government at the Centre.

BJP media head Anil Baluni said in a statement that the party organised over 250 'Vijay Sankalp' (pledge for victory) rallies across the country on Tuesday with its top leaders addressing them.

While Shah spoke in Moradabad, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Sushma Swaraj, Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal and Uma Bharti spoke in New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Udupi, Vijaywada and Sonapat respectively, he said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath spoke in Varanasi, Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani in Porbandar, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar in Panipat and former Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Puri.

It's time to re-emerge as global knowledge hub: VP

Mumbai: Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday said knowledge is going to be the driver of the Indian economy and will play a vital role in improving the living conditions of people.

India must rise to the occasion and reorient its higher education system, in order to be globally competitive, Naidu said, addressing the 16th convocation ceremony of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research here.

Eight PhD, six M.Phil and 29 M.Sc degrees were awarded by the Vice President on the occasion. "The education system should be reoriented by moving away from the colonial mindset; it must teach history in an objective manner as it actually



Vice President Venkaiah Naidu is flanked by Director IGDIR Mahendra Dev as he felicitates gold medal winner student Madhulika Ganguly during the 16th convocation of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research in Mumbai on Tuesday

unfolded," he said.

"Education is not only for employment. It should empower the individual with knowledge and wisdom to sift the wheat from the chaff. Access to quality education for all and at all levels is equally essential to ensure inclusive growth and prevent any kind of discrimination," he said. Time has come for India to once again emerge as the global knowledge hub, he said. "For that to happen, the seats of learning, especially the universities, must reinvent themselves as hubs of vibrant intellectual pursuit," he said. While it accounts for less than a fifth of the GDP, agriculture still remains the main source of employment for nearly half of India's labour force, he said. **PTI**

BJP pays no respect to its elders, says Mamata

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday questioned the present culture inside the BJP which was far different from what was preached by its founding fathers.

In reference to the way some of its senior leaders like LK Advani and MM Joshi were ignored in distribution of tickets, Banerjee said "BJP is a party that does not respect its veterans," wondering those who did not pay adequate respect to the veterans were well bred.



Hitting out at the BJP for ignoring Advani who made the BJP what it was today she said "Advani was the actual mentor for BJP. They have forgotten old days because of the new crop of leaders. But old is gold. It is an insult to him."

She remembered how "I have worked under Vajpayee and Advani," when the former was the Prime Minister of India.

She however said that it was her personal feeling and that "they may not agree to it." Neither Advani nor Joshi were given nominations by the BJP and it is alleged that they were not even taken into confidence before distributing the tickets.

On whether the party patriarch should quit the party Banerjee said, it would not look nice. "He is a leader respected in the party and has been there from the beginning."

6 people die of asphyxiation near Chennai



Representational image

Chennai: Six people, including three of a family, died of asphyxiation at Sriperumbudur near here Tuesday while they were cleaning a septic tank, police said.

Krishnamurthy (53) and his two sons Kannan (23) and Karthik (21) were cleaning the tank in their apartment when the incident occurred, the police said.

The other three victims - Paramasivam and Suradha were living in the same apartment while Lakshmi was a member of the public who offered his help and also lost his life, police told PTI.

The bodies have been taken to the general hospital, Sriperumbudur, for an autopsy, they said.

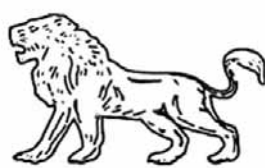
According to a senior Fire and Rescue Services official who was involved in the rescue operation, Krishnamurthy and his two sons were cleaning the tank and shortly afterwards there was no response from them.

Then, Paramasivam, Suradha and Lakshmi went into the tank and they too died after inhaling the poisonous gas, the official said.

A case has been registered and an investigation on. **PTI**

BJP ally MGP cites 'conspiracy', threatens to quit Goa Govt

Panaji: The Maharashtra Gomantak Party, support of whose three MLAs is crucial for the stability of BJP-led dispensation in Goa, on Tuesday said a "conspiracy" was being hatched by "our rivals" that might force it to move out and align with the Congress to form a new Government.



The party has three MLAs in the 40-Member Goa Assembly and its senior leader and Marcaim legislator Sudin Dhavalikar is the Deputy Chief Minister in the Pramod Sawant Government.

Speaking to PTI, MGP president Dipak Dhavalikar alleged one of his party's officer-bearers was "made to issue a letter" to the Governor and speaker declaring authority over entire legislative affairs of the outfit.

Dhavalikar said the MGP central committee would meet on Wednesday to chalk out its future course of action, which, he claimed, can decide the fate of the State Government.

"There is a larger conspiracy under which one of our senior officer bearers, general secretary Lavoo Mamlatdar, was made to issue a letter to the Governor and speaker, in which he stated that he was taking over the entire authority on

legislative affairs of the party," Dhavalikar said.

He said his party was the state's oldest regional outfit but some sections were opposed to its growth.

Mamlatdar had last week written a letter to the governor and Assembly speaker stating he was the sole authority in the MGP to communicate party decisions to them.

Following the letter, the MGP had expelled Mamlatdar.

Talking about Wednesday's party meeting to discuss this issue, Dhavalikar said, "We might take certain resolutions in the central committee meeting which can have bearing on the stability of the Government led by Pramod Sawant."

He alleged moves were afoot by his rivals to wean away MGP MLAs Manohar Ajgaonkar and Dipak Pawaskar, and in the process isolate Deputy Chief Minister

Sudin Dhavalikar.

"Any attempt to disturb our MLAs will be viewed seriously and we won't mind pulling out of the Government," he said.

On being queried about whether the option of the aligning with the opposition Congress was open to the MGP, Dhavalikar replied in the affirmative.

After the demise of Manohar Parrikar, BJP's Pramod Sawant took over as Chief Minister. He heads a coalition Government comprising the MGP, the Goa Forward Party (GFP) and three Independent MLAs.

Sawant faced vote of confidence during which his government garnered the support of 20 MLAs: 11 from the BJP, three each from MGP and GFP, three independents. Fifteen MLAs — 14 from congress and one from NCP — voted against his Government.

The support of three MGP MLAs is crucial as without them the strength of the coalition government will reduce to 17 in the house. The magic figure in the 40-member assembly, the strength of which has been reduced to 36 following resignations of two MLAs and demise of two including Parrikar, is 18 as of now. **PTI**

BJP candidate asks cadres to shoot booth capturers in chest

Kolkata: Senior West Bengal BJP leader Sayantan Basu on Tuesday courted controversy by asking party cadres to shoot those who would try to capture booths during the coming Lok Sabha polls.

"If you notice goons trying to capture booths, shoot them. Don't aim at their legs, shoot them in the chest," Basu said while addressing a rally at Basirhat.

Basu, state BJP general secretary, is the party candidate from Basirhat Lok Sabha constituency.

Referring to the violence during last year's panchayat polls in West Bengal, Basu said the Trinamool Congress should not think of rigging the polls, as elections will be held under the supervision of the Election Commission with central forces patrolling the streets.

Reacting to Basu's statement, senior TMC leader and minister Jyotipriyo Mullick said the party would inform the Election Commission and urge it to take steps against him.

"The BJP is trying to vitiate the poll atmosphere by making such provocative statements. The EC should take action against him," Mullick said. **PTI**

'Hope Cong's income scheme is not like BJP's ₹15 lakh promise'

Lucknow: Former Chief Minister of the UP and Samajwadi Party chief, Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said he hopes the Minimum Income Plan by Congress party won't be like the "₹15 lakh promise" to the poor by the BJP.

Speaking to the media at the Samajwadi Party office in Lucknow, the party president expressed his doubts over Congress's scheme for the poorest 20% people of India.

However, Yadav also banked on the opportunity to boast about the pro-poor schemes launched by his Government.

Akhilesh said, "It was our Samajwadi Party Government which had for the first time announced a package for the poor people of Bundelkhand wherein they were given grains, milk, oil, etc."

He added that the SP Government used to give the Lohia Awas worth ₹3.05 lakh to the poor and the Samajwadi pension to females of the family. **PTI**



"We always lead by example," Akhilesh said.

The SP party president informed the media that their team will assess the details of the scheme and then decide the party's stand.

The Congress party chief Rahul Gandhi in an election sop on Monday announced that ₹72,000 per year will be given as minimum income to poor families if his party is voted to power in the Lok Sabha polls. Asserting that it will be the final assault on poverty, he said the scheme would benefit around 25 crore people. **AGENCIES**

Pawar slams PM over stolen Rafale papers

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Rafale scam, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday wondered as to how could one expect Modi to protect the country when he could not keep classified documents in the Government "safe".

Addressing an election rally at Parbhani in Maharashtra region, Pawar said: "Here's a Prime Minister who cannot keep the classified information safe in his Government. How can you expect Modi to defend or protect the country?"

Pawar was referring to the submission about the theft of classified documents relating to the Rafale aircraft purchase made by Attorney General KK Venugopal before the Supreme

Court during the hearing on a review petition in Rafale aircraft purchase case. (It may be recalled that three days after making submission before the Supreme Court about the theft of Rafale papers, Venugopal had reneged on his earlier claim and said that the petitioners had used "photocopies of the original" papers, deemed secret by the Government).

Pawar also charged Prime Minister Narendra Modi had purchased Rafale aircraft worth ₹550 each at ₹1660 crore just to help his industrialist friend Anil Ambani. "We have three government companies that are involved in the aircraft manufacture. Why did the Modi government ensure that Rafale-related contract was given to the Anil Ambani-owned company which has

absolutely no experience in the manufacture of aircraft?," the NCP chief asked.

Coming down heavily on the Modi Government for "politicising" Pulwama terror attack and subsequent IAF air strikes on terror camps in Pakistan, Pawar said: "All political parties supported the Government over the stand taken by it in the wake of Pulwama terror attack. Following international pressure, Pakistan released Wing Commander Abhinandan. When India could seek and obtain the release Wing Commander Abhinandan, why did 56-inch chest make a similar attempt to seek the release of Kulbhushan Jadhav?"

Slamming the Modi government for its failure on various fronts, Pawar said that

after demonetisation, 15 lakh people lost their jobs. "After the demonetisation, only Modi knows where has the black money gone. We know that more than 15 lakh people lost their jobs. After the introduction of GST, lakhs of traders suffered. ... The Modi government promised adequate price for agriculture produce. Neither did the Government give increased MSP to farmers nor did it waive the farm loans"

Alluding severe drought prevailing in the State, Pawar said: "There is acute shortage of water in drought-hit areas. There are no fodder sheds for cattle. The farmers have been neglected totally. We will not allow this government to remain in power. Let's throw this BJP government out in the Lok Sabha polls."

Candidate turns up drunk to file nomination in dry Bihar, held

Purnea (Bihar): A candidate who appeared to file nominations for Purnea Lok Sabha seat on Tuesday ended up behind bars as he was found to be drunk, in violation of the ban on sale and consumption of alcohol in Bihar.

Election Observer M Shailendran said Independent candidate Rajiv Kumar Singh, a resident of Bhagalpur district, stank of liquor when he reached the collectorate in this north Bihar district for submitting his papers.

He was made to undergo breath analyzer tests which confirmed that he had consumed

alcohol and, subsequently, sent to jail after being booked for violating the prohibition law, Shailendran said.

In April, 2016 the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar had imposed complete ban on sale and consumption of alcohol, a move which has met with both adulation as well as disapproval from different quarters.

Altogether 17 people have filed their nominations for Purnea Lok Sabha seat where votes will be cast in the second phase of elections on April 18.

Out of them, 11 had submitted their papers on the last date on Tuesday. **PTI**

Mamata to campaign for TDP in Andhra Pradesh

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee will visit Andhra Pradesh on March 31 to campaign for the ruling Telugu Desam Party in the State as a mark of Opposition unity.

Several other opposition leaders will also be going to Andhra Pradesh to campaign for Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and the TDP, sources said.

"By the end of this month she will visit Andhra Pradesh

for a day or two to campaign for N Chandrababu Naidu. It is part of Opposition unity that we all have worked for in the last few months," said a senior TMC leader.

Banerjee will be campaigning for Naidu in some constituencies of Andhra Pradesh, he said.

Naidu and Banerjee share a cordial relationship and the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister had taken part in the January 19 mega Opposition rally organized by TMC at the Brigade parade grounds. **PTI**



BJP candidate and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grand-nephew, Chandra Kumar Bose, holds a child as he interacts with locals on the 1st day of his election campaign for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in Kolkata on Tuesday **PTI**

BJP made offers to me, my daughter: Sushil Kumar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Veteran Congress leader and former Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde on Tuesday created a stir in the Maharashtra political circles, by claiming that the BJP had tried to "poach" him and his MLA-daughter Praniti Shinde recently.

Interacting with a television channel, Shinde — who has been re-nominated by the Congress to contest the Lok Sabha polls from his home constituency of Solapur in western

Maharashtra — said that a senior BJP leader of his stature had "approached" his daughter Praniti first and later him with an "offer" to join the principal ruling party in the State and at the Centre.

"The BJP leader concerned approached my daughter Praniti first with an offer to join his party. The same leader, who is of my seniority and stature, made a similar offer to me subsequently to join the BJP. But, both of us bluntly refused," Shinde said.

A day after he filed nom-

ination to contest the Lok Sabha polls on a Congress ticket, Shinde said: "There is absolutely no question of our leaving the Congress. We will not be swayed by this kind of allurements of the BJP. We are both committed Congress workers and will continue to remain so till our last breath."

Seventy-seven-year-old Shinde, however, refused to identify the BJP leader who had "approached" him and legislator-daughter Praniti to join the BJP.

BJP MP Hema Malini a billionaire, discloses her affidavit

Mathura: Fighting for the Mathura Lok Sabha seat on a BJP ticket, the sitting MP and film actor Hema Malini is a billionaire with the value of her assets having increased by a whopping ₹34.46 crore in the last five years, discloses an affidavit filed by her with the poll panel.

The affidavit shows Hema Malini presently owns total wealth including bungalows, jewellery, cash, jewellery, shares and term deposits worth over ₹101 crore, while five years ago before the 2014 general elections, her total assets had been valued at nearly ₹66 crore.

The value of her actor-husband Dharmendra Singh Deol's assets grew to ₹12.30 crore during the corresponding period, according to Hema Malini's affidavit, detailing her assets and liabilities along with those of her spouse.

The affidavit was submitted by her to the Election Commission of India while

filing her nomination as Lok Sabha candidate from the Mathura parliamentary constituency.

The affidavit, accompanied by her income tax returns for the last five years, reveals that the couple earned ₹10 crore each during the last five years.

In her IT returns, Hema Malini has shown an income of ₹15.93 lakh in 2013-14 against that of over ₹1.19 crore in 2017-18.

The affidavit shows her income to be ₹3.12 crore in 2014-15, ₹1.19 crore in 2015-16 and ₹4.30 crore in 2016-17.

Thus, as per the affidavit, the yesteryears' 'Dream Girl' earned over ₹9.87 crore, and her 'he-man' husband nearly ₹9.73 crore in last five years.

The affidavit disclosed that Hema Malini has two cars, including a Mercedes bought for ₹33.62 lakh in 2011. The other car is a Toyota that, she said, she bought for ₹4.75 lakh in 2005. **PTI**

Farooq Abdullah files nomination papers for Srinagar Lok Sabha seat

Says no idea of his wife's assets

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

At 83 years of age, National Congress president and former Member of Parliament, Dr Farooq Abdullah, is 'apparently' taking Election Commission of India (ECI) for a ride by repeatedly doing 'cut, copy, paste job and getting away easily too while hiding factual details of movable/immovable assets of his wife.

On Monday, when Dr Abdullah filed his nomination papers ahead of contesting Srinagar - Budgam Parliamentary seat, fourth time in a row, he once again declared in his affidavit, "since my spouse is in London from April 1990, I have no knowledge about her assets in London (U.K). However, she has no property in J&K (India)".

Dr Abdullah is contesting

from Srinagar Lok Sabha seat since 2009.

Since it is mandatory for every contesting candidate to declare details of movable and immovable assets and cash in hand against the name of spouse and dependants at the time of filing nomination papers Dr Abdullah is also religiously following the practice.

In his latest affidavit, Dr Abdullah declared, "he owns movable assets to the tune of ₹10.6 crore and total worth of his immovable assets is ₹10.68 crore. According to the affidavit, "charges in the case related to criminal conspiracy for misappropriation of JKCA funds are yet to be framed".

But close scrutiny of affidavits submitted by him since 2008 clearly reveals he is 'apparently' misleading the election commission of India by giving a standard reply that his wife is away in London from April 1990. I have no knowledge about her assets in London (U.K).

Government of Maharashtra Department of Animal Husbandry

Corrigendum

e-TENDER FOR 'Creation of Bio-safety Level-II & Bio-safety Level-III Laboratory For Avian Influenza and Other Zoonotic pathogens at Disease investigation Section, Aundh, Pune-67 on Turnkey Basis'. UNDER RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA For Commissioner of Animal Husbandry, Maharashtra State, Pune-67 was invited on 01.03.2019. The corrigendum for the above tender with context to the pre bid meeting held on 12.03.2019 at Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry Pune is uploaded on the site <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. The date of submission of tender is extended up to 25th April, 2019.

Right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason, vests with the undersigned.

Sd/- Professor, PAM, Civil Engineering Dept, College of Engineering, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

Date:- 25/03/2019

DGIPR 2018/2019/7691

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Pooja, D/o: Nanak, R/o H.No. B-107, Gali No. 15, Jeevan Park, Siraspur, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, wearing Yellow Colour Kurta and Green Colour Salwar & Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli since 19.11.2018. In this regard a DD No. 25-B, dated 20.11.2018 has been registered at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi Ph.: 011-27854757, 27854799

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age : Approx. 40-45 years, Height : Approx. 5'3", Complexion : Wheatish, wearing Shirt & Pajama (Trousers), was found dead on 17.03.2019 at Jawalपुरi Camp No. 4, A-Block Park near Barat Ghar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 44-A dated 17.03.2019 has been lodged at PS Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.

SHO - P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. Tel. No. 011-25268394, 25280979

DP/2065/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Jully, D/o Gulab Chand, R/o: J-95/34, Gali No. 01, Bhagwanpura, Samaipur Badli, Delhi, Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Wearing: Black Colour Suit, Salwar & White Colour Sleeper in feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS. Samaipur Badli, Delhi since 28.11.2018. In this regard FIR No. 920/18 u/s 363 IPC, dated 07.12.2018 has been lodged at PS. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.**

SHO PS, Samaipur Badli, Delhi, Ph.: 011-27854757, 27854799

E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/2576/RD/19

Jet's domestic pilots write to SBI, seek salary dues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Jet Airways' domestic pilots body, the National Aviators Guild (NAG), on Tuesday sought a meeting with State Bank chairman Rajnish Kumar over pending salaries, a day after the lenders took over the carrier founded by Naresh Goyal a quarter of a century ago.

The guild had last week announced that its over 1,100-odd members would stop flying from April 1 of their salaries dues were not cleared and a clarity on the revival roadmap was not provided by March 31.

After lots of dilly-dallying, founder chairman Naresh Goyal and his board-member wife Anita, had Monday decided to step down and also pare their stake to 25.5 percent from 50.1 percent. The changes also saw its foreign partner Etihad halving its stake to 12 percent and ceding a board position.

Under the new deal, banks, mostly led by state-run lenders, have would infuse ₹1,500 crore of emergency liquidity to the airline and convert total debt of over 9,700 crore (including the fresh capital infusion) into equity worth 50.1 percent at a price of ₹1.

With this, the public float in the airline has also come down 12.5 percent from 25 percent earlier.

"We humbly request to you to alleviate some of the hardships that we and engineers have been facing, by ensuring that the new Jet management does not further delay our pending salaries dues at the earliest," NAG general secretary Tej Sood said in an e-mail to Kumar.

Thanking SBI for putting Jet on the road to recovery, Sood said, "we'd also be grateful if you could spare us some time and meet us to give us an idea of the recovery roadmap," as this would help us rebuild our confidence and reassure us that the uncertainty is behind us.

The guild represents about 1,100 of the around 1,600 pilots of the airline, and many of them have reportedly got offers from rival Indigo and Spicejet.

The guild members have come together and stood behind the airline when it was passing through its worst period, he claimed adding, "despite the severe financial difficulties and uncertainties over our future that we have been facing over the past few months, we have not wavered."

Sood also assured the new management of its continued support in reviving the once top airline.

Jet Airways shares rally further; close 6.5% higher as Naresh Goyal steps down

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Jet Airways continued to rise for the second day on Tuesday and closed 6.5 per cent higher on the bourses following the exit of Chairman Naresh Goyal and his wife Anita Goyal from its board.

The stock closed at ₹271, up 6.48 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 9.62 per cent to ₹279.

At the NSE, shares jumped 5.37 per cent to close at ₹267.75.

On the traded volume front, 54.11 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over 6 crore shares on the NSE during the day.

Shares of Jet Airways had zoomed 15.5 per cent on Monday.

Naresh Goyal and his wife will resign from the board of the airline, according to a regulatory filing Monday.

The decision was taken at the airline's board meeting held in Mumbai Monday.

In the filing to the stock exchanges, Jet Airways on Monday said Naresh Goyal, Anita Goyal and one nominee of Etihad Airways PJSC would step down from the board.

Abu Dhabi-based Etihad is a strategic partner with 24 per cent stake in Jet Airways.

Naresh Goyal would also cease to be the chairman, the filing had said.

Further, an immediate funding of up to ₹1,500 crore would be provided to the cash-strapped airline by "way of issue of appropriate debt instrument", the filing added.

Rajan raises doubts on 7% growth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan on Tuesday expressed doubts over Indian economy growing at 7 per cent when not enough jobs were being created and said the current cloud over the GDP numbers must be cleared by appointing an impartial body to look at the data.

Rajan, who has also served as Chief Economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said he had no idea what statistics are pointing at currently and "a revamp" was needed "to really figure out what India's true growth rate is".

"I know one minister (in the Narendra Modi Government) has said (that) how can we be growing at 7 per cent and not have jobs. Well, one possibility is that we are not growing at 7 per cent," he told CNBC TV18.

He did not name the Minister.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has been stoutly defending the growth data saying an economy cannot be growing at 7-8 per cent without creating jobs. He has also stated that no major social agitation indicates it hasn't been jobless growth.

Rajan, who was Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor between September 2013 and September 2016, said a stronger broad-based growth is needed that creates more jobs.

On doubts being raised by some over economic data after

revision in growth rate, he said a clean up act is needed and an impartial body appointed to look at the numbers.

"I just think that we need now to essentially clean up, find out what in fact is the source of confusion with the new GDP numbers, with the revisions etc. I would say setting up an impartial body to look at it is an important step to resorting confidence," he said.

The impartial body may throwback the same numbers but "we absolutely need better confidence in our GDP numbers now given the back and forth we have had".

In November 2018, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) lowered the GDP growth for previous Congress-led UPA by recalibrating national accounts. After this, the four years of the current Government showed higher average growth than that achieved during the UPA.

Last month, the Government revised the economic growth rate upwards to 7.2 per cent for 2017-18 from 6.7 per cent estimated earlier. Questions have been raised about the Government not making public the NSSO labour survey that reportedly put unemployment rate in 2017 at a 45-year high.

Earlier this month, a group of 108 economists and social scientists said that lately, the Indian statistics and the institutions associated with it have however come under a cloud for being influenced and indeed even controlled by political considerations.

Rupee rises 10 paise to 68.86 vs USD



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 10 paise to end at 68.86 against the US dollar on Tuesday following a robust response to RBI's maiden rupee-dollar swap auction.

Sustained foreign fund inflows and heavy buying in domestic equities also propped up the local unit, forex traders said.

Under the rupee-dollar swap auction conducted Tuesday, the Reserve Bank received bids for \$16.31 billion, against the notified amount of \$5 billion.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex) market, the rupee opened strong at 68.88 against the greenback but surrendered the gains to slip to a low of 68.98.

However, it clawed back

lost ground and finally ended at 68.86, up 10 paise against its previous close of 68.96 per dollar.

"The success of India's USD 5 billion swap auction will decide whether it will become a popular instrument in the central bank's liquidity tool box," said V K Sharma, Head PCG and Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

"The rupee appreciated further as foreign institutional flows continue to find their way into Indian markets," said Sunil Sharma, Chief Investment Officer, Sanctum Wealth Management.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) pumped in Rs 150.40 crore on a net basis Monday, provisional data showed.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength

against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.07 per cent to 96.50. Meanwhile, global crude prices were trading higher and this restricted the rupee's upmove.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.88 per cent up at \$67.80 per barrel.

Meanwhile, benchmark Sensex rebounded about 425 points, or 1.12 per cent, to end at 38,233.41 Tuesday. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 129 points, or 1.14 per cent, to 11,483.25.

The Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 68.8469 and for rupee/euro at 77.8663. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 90.7737 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 62.55.

Govt refuses to disclose details on RBI Governor Das appointment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has refused to share details related to the appointment of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das citing a clause in the transparency law which bars disclosure of information, including "records of deliberations of the council of ministers, secretaries and other officers".

Replying to an RTI query, it declined to share the details, including names of short-listed candidates and file notings related to the appointment.

Das was on December 11, 2018 named as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for three years.

The appointment came after Urjit Patel abruptly resigned amid a face-off with the Government over issues related to governance and autonomy of the central bank.

The RTI application was filed by this correspondent with the Department of Financial Services (DFS) seeking details like copy of any advertisement or vacancy circular issued by the Government on appointment of RBI Governor, names of all applicants who had applied for the post and those short-listed for the top post.

The DFS was also asked to provide details on composition of search committee to short-list candidates and copy of minutes of meetings held on deciding the RBI Governor.

FINMIN SEEKS EC NOD FOR ANNOUNCING GOVT'S BORROWING CALENDAR

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has sought the Election Commission's

approval for announcing the Government's borrowing programme for the first half of the

next fiscal year beginning April 1, an official said.

The Government in the Budget had proposed to borrow a gross amount of ₹7.10 lakh crore from the market during 2019-20, higher than ₹5.71 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

Finance Ministry officials and representatives of the RBI Tuesday finalised the borrowing calendar for the April-September period of next fiscal, but did not make any announcement as the model code of conduct for the ensuing general elections is in place.

"We have sought Election Commission's approval and will announce the borrowing schedule after receiving its nod," the official said.

The Government borrows money from the market to meet its fiscal deficit, which is the difference between total expenditure and total receipts. PTI



Bajaj Auto on Tuesday launched Platina 100 Kick Start (KS). The new Kick Start variant comes with CBS (Combi Brake System). The bike will be available in Ebony black with silver decals, and Cocktail wine red, the new Platina 100 KS is priced at ₹40,500 (ex-showroom Delhi) and will be available across all Bajaj Auto dealerships in India

TV viewers may soon be able to switch service providers without changing set top box

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

TV viewers may be able to switch their DTH or cable service providers without changing the set top box (STB) by the end of this year, according to regulator Trai's Chairman R S Sharma.

"Since last two years we have been trying to make STBs interoperable. Large part of problem has been resolved. There are some business challenges (which) remain... We are looking at this to happen by end of this year," Sharma told reporters at an event here Tuesday.

He added that interoperability in a product should not come as an "after thought" but should be in place at the product planning stage itself.

"Open systems are going to be the future. Entire back-end of Aadhaar has been developed

on open source software except biometric de-duplication system," Sharma said.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) chairman released a study on open ecosystem for devices in India, prepared by the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) and consultant firm KPMG, which showed that 89 per cent of mobile phones in the country work on open source operating systems.

Sharma cited interoperability as one of the key factors behind the success of the Indian mobile phone industry where no subscriber is required to buy a new phone if he wants to change his service provider.

The report found that Open OS mobile operating systems have expanded the smartphone market in India by reducing barriers to entry.

Mobile Ad spends show an upward trajectory for India: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

MoMAGIC Technologies Monday Tuesday released a report — Disrupting Mobile Ad Tech in India: delivering user experience, in which nearly 84% respondents stated a jump in their budgets for Mobile Ad spends within the spectrum of digital marketing.

"Mobile advertising in India is all set to take a quantum jump in the next two years with more and more Indians, moving to consuming content especially videos on their mobile phones. With mobile data prices in India being the lowest in the world, advertisers and marketers have changed their strategy to get quantifiable results with deep user insight," Arun Gupta, CEO and Founder MoMAGIC Technologies said.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

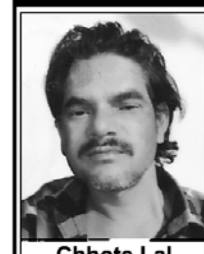


General public is hereby informed that two girls namely (1) Divya, D/o Raju, R/o C/7/354/355, Sultan Puri, Delhi, Age: 18 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Black Sweater, Black Pajami and Chappal in feet, (2) Kirti, D/o Arvind, R/o C/7/354/355, Sultan Puri, Delhi, Age: 20 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Violet colour Kurti, Blue Jeans Pant and Chappal in feet, have been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Sultan Puri, Delhi since 02.03.2019. In this regard a DD No. 69-A, dated 02.03.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Sultan Puri, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girls but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about them please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Sultan Puri, Delhi
DP/2019/OD/19 Ph.: 011-25472410, 25472166

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a man namely Chhote Lal S/o Babu Ram, R/o H.No. A-720, Gali No. 12, Jeewan Park, Sirasapur, Delhi has been missing / kidnapped since 09.12.2018 from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli. In this regard a DD No. 02-A dated 14.12.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

The description of Missing/kidnapped man is as under:
Name: Chhote Lal, Father's Name: Babu Ram, Age : 45 years, Height: 5'4", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing : White Pant and Blue Colour Shirt and Hawai Chappal in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned. SHO P.S., Samaipur Badli, Delhi Ph : 011-27854757 27854799

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Shivani D/o Manoj R/o H. No D-15/31, Near Roop Krishna Public School, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi Aged - 17 Years has been reported missing/ kidnapped since 06.12.2018 from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi vide FIR No. 677/18 u/s 363 IPC dated 07.12.2018 registered at Police Station Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



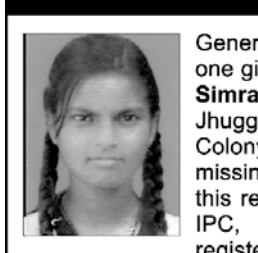
Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'2", Face: Long, Wearing: Red coloured suit, yellow coloured salwar and black sandal in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- SHO, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. DP/2580/RD/19 Tel.: 011-27821047, 27822207

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T. No. : 128-W-260-TN-85-18-19-W-2. 1. Name of Work with its location : Replacement of 118 sets of the existing 60/52kg Points & Crossings with 60kg Thick web switches/ curved switches and WCMs crossing under SE/P.Way/MTC & MOZ and replacement of turnout fittings in MTC Subdivision under ADEN/MUT and replacement laid on wooden/ST/PRC sleepers with PRC fan shaped turnouts in the section ADEN/MUT under SdREN/IDLI. 2. Approx. Cost of work : Rs. 22451047.52. 3. Earnest Money : Rs. 262300/- (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on as per Railway Boards letter No. 2015/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). 4. Completion Period : 06 Months. 5. Cost of tender on Cash/By post : Rs. 11800/- (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS Railway Boards letter No. 2015/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). 6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender : 09.04.2019 to 23.04.2019 upto 15:00 hrs Opening of tender 23.04.2019 at 15:00 hrs. on. 7. Similar Nature of Work : CTR/TRR/TR/ITR including raising of track, deeping screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine, TRT/PQRS/ballast, screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28. 8. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. No. 128-W-260-TN-85-18-19-W-2 Dated : 25.03.2019. 919/2019

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Simran, D/o Bhukhal Mehato, R/o Jhuggi No. 207, T-Block, Near Munshi Colony, Mangol Puri, Delhi, has been missing since Dated 07.03.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 227/19, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 08.03.2019 has been registered at Police Station - Raj Park, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 16 years 6 months, Complexion: Sallow, Height: 5'4", Face: Round, Clothing: Wearing white colour Suit, blue colour Pajami and Sandal in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Raj Park, Delhi
DP/2035/OD/19 Ph.: 011-27910070, 27910071

SEARCH FOR MISSING

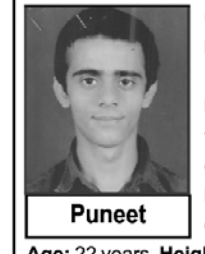


General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Taashu D/o Pradeep, R/o H.No. 256, Village Madanpur Dabas, Kanjhawala, Rohini, Delhi, Age : 15 yrs., Height : 4'10", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Wearing : Green Colour Suit, Green Colour Check Pajami and Hawai Chappal in Feet, has been missing / kidnapped since 20.01.2019 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala. In this regard a case FIR No. 16/19 dated 20.01.2019 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi Ph.: 011-25952485, 25951486

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one boy Namely: Puneet, S/o: Bhopal Singh, R/o: H.No.- 67, Nehru Enclave, Alipur, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 13.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 81-A dated 06.03.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Alipur, Delhi. The description of the missing boy are as under:

Age: 22 years, Height: 5' 5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Wearing: Blue Colour Jacket, Black Colour Pant and Brown Colour Shoes in Feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. : 011-24368639
SHO P.S. Alipur, Delhi
DP/136/ON/19 Ph.: 011- 27202265, 27202290, 7065036325

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vinod Kumar, S/o Lala Ram, R/o RZQ-9, Nihal Vihar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 302/16 u/s 498-A/406 IPC, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Vinod Kumar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Vinod Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vinod Kumar of FIR No. 302/16 u/s 498-A/406 IPC, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.04.2019.

By Order Ms. Aanchal, Metropolitan Magistrate Mahila Court (West District), Room No. 252, 2nd Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi DP/2038/CD/19(Court Matter)



Raheem Sterling reacts after winning the match 5-1



Ronaldo injured as Serbia hold Portugal

AFF ■ LISBON

Captain Cristiano Ronaldo left the field with a thigh injury as Portugal drew 1-1 against Serbia in an Euro 2020 qualifier on Monday.

Ronaldo was replaced after 30 minutes in Lisbon as Fernando Santos' reigning European champions drew for a second time in their opening two games of the campaign after they were held by Ukraine on Friday.

There was no word whether the five-time Ballon d'Or winner would be fit for to play for his club Juventus in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final at Ajax on April 10.

William Carvalho wasted the best of the early chances at Benfica's two-thirds empty Estadio da Luz.

Serbia failed to clear the ball in the box before it fell to the unmarked Real Betis midfielder who's side-footed shot glanced past the post after five minutes.

Ajax playmaker Tadic opened the scoring from the penalty spot two minutes later. Wolves goalkeeper Rui Patrício collided with an advancing Mijat Gacinovic in the box and Tadic tucked the spot kick away with ease

to take a shock lead over the Euro 2016 winners.

Ronaldo was denied an equaliser two minutes later as his effort was very well saved Marko Dmitrovic.

The 156-time international left the field on the half hour mark after he pulled up chasing a ball on the left wing.

He received quick treatment from members of the medical team before returning to action but was replaced by Pizzi minutes later as Pepe took over the skipper's armband.

The visitors were level with three minutes of the first half to play. Porto's Danilo Pereira hammered his shot from outside the box into the top corner past a helpless Dmitrovic.

Carvalho should have put his side into the lead 25 minutes into the second half. Guerreiro chipped a cross to the back post, Bernardo Silva then played it into the middle of the box but Carvalho couldn't make a solid enough contact with the ball to challenge Dmitrovic.

Fernando Santos' outfit were denied a second penalty on 73 minutes after the linesman over-ruled referee Szymon Marciniak's original decision for off-side.

RACIST ABUSE OVERSHADOWS 5-STAR ENGLAND

Danny Rose suffers racial abuse as Three Lions romp Montenegro 5-1 to continue excellent run

AFF ■ PODGORICA

Raheem Sterling believes UEFA should punish alleged racist chanting aimed at England players in Monday's 5-1 win over Montenegro in Podgorica with a stadium closure.

Manchester City's Sterling celebrated the visitors' fifth goal by cupping his ears towards the home fans on a night when another impressive performance to start Euro 2020 qualifying by the Three Lions was overshadowed.

"I just want to show them you need more than that to upset us and stop us," Sterling told *Sky Sports*.

"It's 2019 now, I keep saying it. It's a shame to see this going on and we can only bring awareness to the situation."

"It's now time for the people in charge to put a real stamp on it because you can fine someone, but what is that going to do?"

"You've got to make it a bit harder, punish fans that can't come to games."

Do something that's going to make them think twice. If their team can't play with fans, it's going to be difficult.

Sterling also tweeted a photo of his celebration with the message: "Best way to silence the haters (and yeah I mean racists)."

England manager Gareth Southgate said he heard racist chants aimed at Danny Rose and promised to report the issue to UEFA.

"There is no doubt in my mind it happened. We will make sure that is reported to UEFA because it's not acceptable," said Southgate. "We've got to make sure we support our players."

ENG AMONG FAVOURITES

On the field, the World Cup semi-finalists showed why they are among the favourites to be European champions next year.

Southgate's trust in youth was again rewarded as 18-year-old Callum Hudson-Odoi, who is yet to start a Premier League game for Chelsea, shone on his full international debut, while Declan Rice, 20, was also handed his first England start.

"Fabulous performance," said Southgate on Hudson-Odoi. "With young players it is always up to them. You can see the talent, his application has been excellent."

England are not used to falling behind these days, but showed a resilience to bounce back after Marko Vesovic turned inside Michael Keane and curled past Jordan Pickford on 17 minutes.

Keane made amends for his earlier error with a commanding header from Ross Barkley's free-kick on the half hour mark to settle England's nerves.



NINE MINUTES LATER, BARKLEY APPLIED THE FINISHING TOUCH AFTER HUDSON-ODOI'S POSITIVE RUN INTO THE BOX AND SHOT WHICH HIS CLUB TEAMMATE TURNED IN FROM CLOSE RANGE

Nine minutes later, Barkley applied the finishing touch after Hudson-Odoi's positive run into the box and shot which his club teammate turned in from close range.

Further goals from Barkley, Harry Kane and Sterling rounded off an excellent start to qualifying for England after a 5-0 thrashing of Czech Republic on Friday.

Sterling scored a hat-trick against the Czechs at Wembley, but also played provider here as his cut-back broke perfectly for Barkley to coolly side-foot home.

The Manchester City winger then led a rapid counter-attack with only Kane for company and squared for the England captain to tap home his 22nd international goal.

And after scoring just twice in his first 45 caps, Sterling now has six goals in his last four England games as he raced onto Jordan Henderson's through ball before slotting low past the goalkeeper.



France cruise past Iceland

AFF ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe scored one and set up two more as France routed Iceland 4-0 at the Stade de France on Monday night to move to the top of Group H in Euro 2020 qualifying.

The result gives France six points from their first two matches and puts them ahead Turkey, who also won 4-0 on Monday, on goal difference.

"It was our objective to take six points but the manner was good as well," France manager Didier Deschamps told the post-match press conference.

Deschamps praised his team's "offensive efficiency" against a "dense" Icelandic defence.

"When the opponent plays very defensively it can be very difficult to find a way through so that was a good sign," said Deschamps, although he acknowledged that Icelandic fatigue near the end played a role.

He added that he was pleased that all three strikers — Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann and Olivier Giroud — scored. "They are the champions of the world and you saw that today," acknowledged Iceland

manager Erik Hamren. "Five shots on goal and they scored four. That's top class"

From the start Mbappe's movement mesmerised the Icelanders, though his contribution to the opening goal after 11 minutes was straightforward.

The visitors cleared a corner only as far as Benjamin Pavard. The right back switched the ball to Mbappe, alone on the left. The young star had time to aim his cross which Samuel Umititi met at the near post with a header that glanced off the inside of the far post and into the goal.

Four minutes later, Giroud almost headed another, from a cross by Pavard, but Hannes Halldorsson leapt and stretched to palm the ball over.

For the next 45 minutes, France, who have never lost to Iceland, gave the impression that they had slipped down a couple of gears and were content to take the long-range shooting opportunities the packed Iceland defence was allowing.

Iceland meanwhile worked courageously and managed to force the occasional small threat.

After 68 minutes, Iceland were again punished for failing

to put distance on a clearance. France moved the ball to Pavard who swerved a cross in from the right that lured Halldorsson into a desperate dive for a ball he could not reach.

Giroud kneeled the ball into the empty net for his 35th France goal. That moved him into third on the all-time list of France scorers, breaking a tie with David Trezeguet. The Chelsea striker trails only Michel Platini, on 41, and Thierry Henry, the all-time leader on 51.

Mbappe added a third after 78 minutes. Griezmann slipped a pass between two defenders to the advancing Mbappe who shrugged off a timid challenge and slid the ball past Halldorsson.

Six minutes later, Mbappe returned the assist with a neat backheel that sent Griezmann scampering through the frozen Icelandic backline to poke the ball into the corner of the goal.

"We've started well with two nice team performances" Paul Pogba told French broadcaster M6.

"We knew what we were up against. They are a team that doesn't let in a lot of goals but today we did our job."

India beat Malaysia 4-2

PTI ■ IPOH

India struck four times after a goal-less first quarter to tame hosts Malaysia 4-2, climbing to the second spot in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament, here Tuesday.

Sumit Kumar (17th min), Sumit Kumar junior (27th min), drag flicker Varun Kumar and Mandeep Singh (58th min) found the net for India.

Razie Rahim (27th min) and Firhan Ashari (57th min) scored for the hosts.

With two wins and a draw, India moved up to the second position in the table with seven points behind Korea (7).

India had beaten Japan 2-0 in the first match before playing



a 1-1 draw against Korea.

Five minutes into the game, Malaysia won their first penalty corner but Krishan B Pathak, guarding India's post brilliantly saved it.

Varun Kumar's pass into the

top of the circle saw Hardik Singh work in tandem with Mandeep Singh to set up a shot on goal.

It was eventually Sumit who got the right deflection helping India take an important 1-0 lead

in the 17th minute. Later, Mandeep helped India win their first PC but after several re-takes India could not extend their lead.

Soon Malaysia won their second PC of the match and Razie Rahim did not disappoint the home crowd as he struck low to give Malaysia an equaliser in the 21st minute.

The third quarter was intense with both teams rallying on counter attacks but India remained determined. They challenged the Malaysian defence with solid circle entries. Mandeep Singh worked his magic yet again winning India another important PC.

Taken by dragflicker Varun Kumar, he scored on a re-take

with a powerful flick, keeping the ball low to the left. The 3-1 lead put pressure on the hosts.

The fourth quarter, though saw Malaysia score a field goal through Firhan Ashari in the 57th minute who did well to beat Sreejesh at post after he had made two great saves earlier in the quarter.

In the 58th minute, a brilliant circle entry and assist by Sumit Kumar Jr to Mandeep Singh helped him score India's fourth goal ending the match on 4-2.

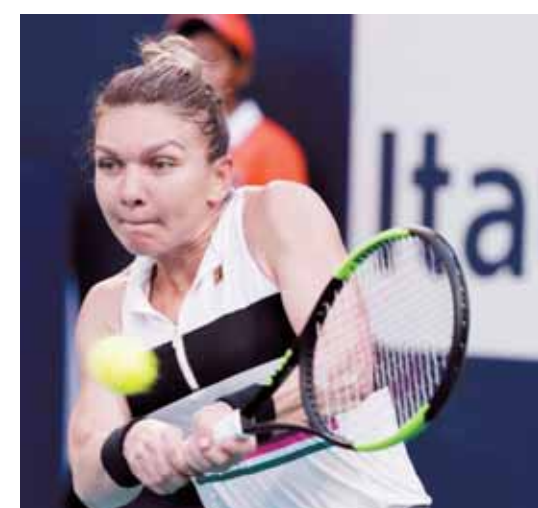
India's defence did not make any last-minute minute to take home three points. Birendra Lakra was named the man-of-the-match for his efforts in helping India defend their lead.

AFF ■ MIAMI

Federer wary of Medvedev after Miami victory



Roger Federer returns a shot to his opponent (right) Simona Halep in action during the match



AP

Roger Federer admits he faces a real battle to land the 101st title of his career with the in-form Daniel Medvedev next up after Serbian Filip Krajinovic was dispatched 7-5, 6-3 on Monday at the ATP and WTA Miami Open.

The Swiss superstar produced an excellent all-round performance despite being tested by the world number 103 who belied his lowly ranking by producing some excellent tennis during an exciting first set.

Federer, however, stylishly weathered the storm to seal the win — the 52nd of his career in Miami — and set up an intriguing last eight match with the highly-rated Medvedev.

The Russian, who is at a career high ranking of 15, saw off American Reilly Opelka 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/0), and has won four ATP hard-court titles, including three since last August.

Federer beat him twice last year but is already a fan.

"He's clever how he plays the court because he can play it up and down, and he's unusual when he plays from back," said the Swiss, who hit 14 aces and won an impressive 74% of points on his first serve.

"It's a bit of a different approach. Thankfully I played him last year twice in Basel and Shanghai and I'm very impressed about his progress. I must say the last year has been unbelievable for him."

Krajinovic struggled with injury last year as problems

with his ankle, left foot and hand restricted him to just seven tournaments in the first seven months of 2018.

HALEP DOWNS VENUS

Elsewhere, number 24 seed Grigor Dimitrov was beaten by world number 77

Jordan Thompson in straight sets ensuring the Australian will meet 2018 Wimbledon finalist Kevin Anderson who beat Portugal's Joao Sousa 6-4, 7-6 (8/6).

Simona Halep, meanwhile, got the better of Venus Williams once again as the

Romanian made light work of the 38-year-old American to book a place in the quarter-finals with a 6-3, 6-3 win.

"I was pretty strong with my serve and knew where to bother her," said the reigning French Open champion who will meet China's Wang Qiang in the last eight.

"When I saw I can win easy games with my serve, it gave me great confidence," she added.

Bianca Andreescu, the 18-year-old Canadian sensation who won the title in Indian Wells, was forced to withdraw in the second set of her fourth round match with Anett Kontavite.

Andreescu was 1-6, 0-2 down before a shoulder injury ruined her chances of another run to the finals.

The Estonian will meet Taiwan's Hsieh Su-Wei who continued her excellent form with a 6-3, 6-7 (0/7), 6-2 win over Caroline Wozniacki.

Petra Kvitova, the world number 3, booked her place in the last eight, beating Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-3 in a match which was held up for one hour and 40 minutes because of rain in South Florida. Kvitova plays Australian Ashleigh Barty for a place in the semi-finals.

LEADERBOARD	
RUNS	103 Rishabh Pant (SRH)
WICKETS	4 Imran Tahir (CSK)
6S	50 Ashwin's action speak for him and represent him when I looked up to the eyes of his teammates
4S	134

— PADDY UPTON



BRAVO CAPS CHENNAI'S COMEBACK

DJ picks 3-33 as Delhi fail to capitalise good start into big total against Super Kings



Shikhar Dhawan (Delhi Capitals) plays a shot while Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Chennai Super Kings) stand behind the wickets, (right) Dwayne Bravo celebrates after taking a wicket



IPL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shikhar Dhawan scored a painstaking half-century in Delhi Capitals' sub-par 147 for 6 against Chennai Super Kings on a lifeless Kotla track in an IPL encounter here on Tuesday.

The senior opener once again played the role of sheet anchor in his 51 off 47 balls that had seven boundaries but unfortunately failed to accelerate during the final overs. This left the home team at least 30 runs short of a fighting score.

From a comfortable 120 for 2

with the dangerous Rishabh Pant at the crease, CSK seized the momentum, effecting a middle-order collapse. Capitals lost four wickets for seven runs in just 1.5 overs. From 118 for 2 after 15 overs, the last five overs yielded only 29 runs.

With the ball stopping and coming, Capitals batsmen found Dwayne Bravo's (3/33 in 4 overs) variations difficult to handle. Ravindra Jadeja (1/23 in 4 overs) also made life difficult for the Capitals in the middle overs and Harbhajan Singh (0/30 in 4 overs) also bowled as many as 10 dot

FROM A COMFORTABLE 120 FOR 2 WITH THE DANGEROUS RISHABH PANT AT THE CREESE, CSK SEIZED THE MOMENTUM, EFFECTING A MIDDLE-ORDER COLLAPSE CAPITALS LOST FOUR WICKETS FOR SEVEN RUNS IN JUST 1.5 OVERS

balls.

Dhawan, however, continued to hold one end up and hit the occasional boundary in between, even as stroke making became increasingly difficult.

Pant (25 off 12 balls), during his 41-run stand with Dhawan, tried to negate the pitch factor but did not last till the death overs.

He did reach out to a short ball from Harbhajan, dispatching it over long off for a six. In the next over, his short arm pull off Dwayne Bravo was taken by Shardul Thakur at deep square

leg boundary.

With Colin Ingram (2) and Keemo Paul (0) also being dismissed cheaply, followed by Dhawan, the expectations of a 175-plus total withered away.

During the start of the second innings Chennai were at 51 for the loss of one wicket.

Ambati Rayadu was bowled out for just five runs.

Shane Watson was batting at 28 runs in 19 balls which included four 4s and one 6s. While Suresh Raina was batting at 14 runs in six balls which included three 4s.

Up Next

KXIP face KKR in backdrop of Ashwin's Mankad moment



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2	HEAD TO HEAD
KKR vs KXIP	M 23
KOLKATA	KKR 15
WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM	KXIP 8

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

• Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Kings XI Punjab by 31 runs at Indore

• Kings XI Punjab beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 9 wickets (D/L) at Kolkata

FOR THE RECORD

• Sunil Narine will become the 38th player to complete a century of matches in IPL. He played all matches for Kolkata Knight Riders since 2012. Gautam Gambhir (108) and Yusuf Pathan also played over 100 matches for Kolkata Knight Riders between 2011 and 2017.

• Chris Gayle who hit 296 sixes in 112 innings of 113 matches, needs just four sixes to become the first batsman to smash 300 sixes in IPL. **Faisal Features**

Skipper R Ashwin is in the eye of a storm after 'Mankading' a rival player but a winning start will keep Kings XI Punjab upbeat when they face home favourites Kolkata Knight Riders in an IPL fixture here on Wednesday.

It was Ashwin's mankading of Jos Buttler that had triggered a dramatic collapse with Kings XI Punjab restricting Rajasthan Royals to 170 for nine to notch up a 14-run win.

Buttler was looking in imperious touch with 69 from 43 balls and Rajasthan well on course to overhaul the target of 185 but following the dismissal they went on to lose eight wickets for 62 runs to hand Kings XI Punjab their maiden win in Jaipur.

Though the dismissal was within the rules of the game, it sparked a huge furore with spin legend and Rajasthan Royals brand ambassador Shane Warne labelling it as 'disgraceful' and against the spirit of the game.

With a debate raging over the runoff, it remains to be seen how Ashwin and Co. Start afresh in what will be their first away match of the season.

Kings XI's biggest star Chris Gayle scored a 47-ball 79 and his Jamaican rivalry with fellow mate Andre Russell, who also looked in blistering touch for KKR, will be one of the sub plots of the clash here.

The Universe Boss, who will retire from ODIs after the 2019 World Cup, has been in sensational form, smashing 39 sixes in the five-match ODI series against England and set the record for most sixes by a batsman in

international cricket.

A typical slow starter, Gayle was 14 off 18 balls but the opener hit top gear in the 12th over hammering Jaydev Unadkat for four successive boundaries.

A former KKR player, Gayle knows Eden Gardens like the back of his hand as he would look to continue his assault on the spin-oriented KKR attack.

Russell will be KKR's answer to Gayle as the KKR star also fashioned a sensational win, smashing an unbeaten 49 from 19 balls in their opening fixture against Sunrisers Hyderabad here two days ago.

The win saw their star spinner and explosive opener, Sunil Narine, hurt his finger and KKR would hope he is fit in time.

KKR will embark on a crucial four-match away sojourn after this and they would look to keep their momentum intact before they return home to face Delhi Capitals on April 12.

It was instinctive and within the rules: Ashwin

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Unapologetic about 'Mankading' Jos Buttler in an IPL match here, senior Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said his decision was "instinctive" and cricket laws should be reconsidered if what he did was against the 'spirit of the game'.

Kings XI Punjab captain Ashwin, in a match against Rajasthan Royals on Monday, 'Mankaded' rival batsman Jos Buttler, triggering a debate on 'spirit of the game'.

In a first in 12 editions of the IPL, Ashwin ran out a rampaging Buttler, who was at the non-strikers' end, on his delivery stride

in the 13th over, an action popularly known as 'Mankading'. TV replays showed that Ashwin had waited for Buttler to move out of the crease before removing the bails.

"Look it was very instinctive. It wasn't planned or anything like that. It's there within the rules of the game. I don't know from where the understanding of the Spirit of the Game comes," Ashwin said at the post-match press conference.

The mode of dismissal is permissible as per ICC Rule 41.16 of playing conditions, according to which there is no need to warn the batsman as was the case in earlier times.



R Ashwin speaks during a press conference

"Naturally if it's there in the rules, it's there. Probably, we need to go back to the rules," India's premier Test spinner said.

When probed further on whether it affects the 'spirit of the game', the irritation was palpable on his face.

"I don't understand the point because it's rules. What applies for one man doesn't apply for everyone else?" he asked.

There has been a debate whether Ashwin deliberately delayed while loading up on his delivery stride having apprehended that Buttler backs up too far.

"I didn't even load and he left the crease. It's always been my take on the crease, because it's my

half of the crease," he said.

The Kings XI skipper lauded his bowlers for bringing the team back into the contest.

"We all know that after six overs it is going to slow down. Credit to bowlers on how they bowled. I have been working on a lot of variations, pretty happy that it came out," he said.

"Sam (Curran) had a bad day with the ball, but he came back well. Everybody ticked their boxes. We do have a few options amongst us, but if we can have good five overs, there is nothing like it."

Man-of-the-match Chris Gayle, who hit 79 off 47 balls, was happy with his form.



Jos Buttler plays a shot during a match

Buttler becomes first victim of Mankading in IPL

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals opener Jos Buttler on Monday became the first victim of 'Mankading' in the history of the Indian Premier League when a desperate Kings XI Punjab skipper Ravichandran Ashwin dismissed the batsman in the controversial manner during their IPL match.

With Buttler going strong at 69 off 43 balls while chasing 185 runs, Ashwin mankaded the Rajasthan Royals opener without giving him any warning.

As per the laws of the game, the third umpire declared Buttler out but such a dismissal had always raised eyebrows as it is considered against the spirit of the game.

As expected Buttler seemed furious and had a heated exchange with Ashwin before leaving the field.

The dismissal is sure to create a big controversy going into the 12th edition of the IPL.

Rajasthan were 108 for one in 12.4 overs at that stage. Among Indians, it was Kapil Dev who had mankaded Peter Kirsten of South Africa during the 1992-93 series and in Indian domestic cricket Railways' spinner Murali Karthik had mankaded Sandipan Das of Bengal during a Ranji Trophy match.

Glad that I don't have to bowl to Russell: Ferguson

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Watching teammate Andre Russell bulldozing Sunrisers Hyderabad bowlers was a breathtaking experience for KKR pace spearhead Lockie Ferguson, who is happy that he does not have to bowl to the West Indian this IPL.

The Jamaican single-handedly won the match for Kolkata Knight Riders with his unbeaten 49 off 19 balls in their opening match.

"It's one of those I've never seen anything like that personally. That was unbelievable. I'm pretty excited he's not on my side, I don't have to bowl to him," the New Zealand quick told reporters on the eve of their match against Kings XI Punjab.

The Punjab outfit has explosive Chris Gayle in its ranks but Ferguson said they are prepared to tackle the Jamaican.

"Chris (Gayle) is in some pretty fine touch at the moment. He really batted well last night. It's nice to watch him. Perhaps there are some areas we can look at attacking him," he said of Gayle who starred with a 47-ball 79 to fashion Kings XI Punjab's 14-run win against Rajasthan

Royals.

"It's important to stick to your plan and back yourself because in T20, if you keep working on your strengths then definitely it will come off better."

KKR have the reputation of being a spin-oriented attack as Ferguson said it's exciting time to be part of the bowling unit.

"To have the spin attack we have, and with PK (Prasidh Krishna) swinging the ball and being very good at the death, so by no means I think I'm leading. We all do our part. Andre Russell also got the wickets."

Having added some more pace to his bowling, Ferguson is hoping to make the most of the IPL experience, ahead of the World Cup.

"It's high pressure in IPL. It's one of the biggest competitions in the world, playing in front of big crowds, against the best players in the world. Of course all these experiences you're gaining, playing in the IPL is going to help you going forward."

"Obviously there's a big World Cup in a few months but at this stage, I'm focusing on KKR and trying to assist them, get some more wins."

Rasikh Salam is going to be special in next 2-3 years: Yuvraj

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Impressed with his composure and control over his swing, former India batsman Yuvraj Singh said J&K young fast bowler Rasikh Salam is going to emerge as a special player in the next two to three years.

"Rasikh swung the ball in the nets, that is why the boys wanted to play him. He got hit for a six and four in the last two balls. Other than that, he bowled well," Yuvraj, who scored a half-century on his debut match for the Mumbai Indians against Delhi Capitals, said.

"I think he did fantastic for his first match in terms of handling the pressure. Pretty much like an international game. I feel he is going to be special in the next 2-3 years," he said in an interview with MITV.

Salam started off with a no-ball against Delhi Capitals but responded with a brave bouncer on the free-hit that was pulled towards deep midwicket straight into the palms of a fielder.



Yuvraj Singh speaks during a press conference

On another day, he would have had a wicket on his debut.

Mumbai Indians bowling coach Shane Bond also praised Salam, saying he was one of better bowlers for the team during its IPL opener against Delhi.

"It was a challenging start but as I said in the pre-camp, things are going to go wrong at times. You are going to bowl a no-ball but the easy thing for Rasikh to do would have been to go to pieces but he certainly didn't. I thought he showed great composure and was one of our better bowlers," said the coach.

Bond also said Salam has the hunger to learn.

Zaheer Khan, who is Mumbai's Director of Cricket Operations, said Salam is an exciting young prospect who has great temperament.

"Even Rohit Sharma is impressed with Rasikh. He was thinking of giving him an opportunity as early in the season as possible, so exciting times ahead," said Zaheer.