





CEO reviews poll preparations for LS-2019

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V.L. Kantha Rao reviewed the preparations of Lok Sabha elections-2019 in the assembly constituencies falling under Tikamgarh, Damoh and Khajuraho parliamentary constituencies at Chhattarpur district headquarters.

He directed the police officials to pay special attention to the critical and sensitive polling stations which are close to the border of Uttar Pradesh.



extreme heat situation in the area.

He said that information about these arrangements should also be provided to the voters of the area, so that more and more voters are motivated to exercise their franchise.

Joint Chief Electoral Officer Abhijit Agarwal, Deputy Chief Election Officer

Sanjeev Jain, Inspector General of Police Yogesh Chaudhary and other senior officials were present during the meeting.

Chief Electoral Officer Kantha Rao discussed about the preparations for the elections with the observers appointed for the three Lok Sabha constituencies.

Rao also met representatives of recognized political parties and gave them information about the preparations.

All arrangements have been made for fair and peaceful poll: CEO

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

While reviewing the preparations for Lok Sabha Elections-2019 in Rewa, Chief Electoral Officer V.L. Kantha Rao said that all arrangements should be ensured for peaceful voting.

If conditions to replace EVM or VVPAT are created at the polling stations, then prepared to change in a maximum period of half an hour.

Pay special attention on arrangement of shade and drinking water at polling stations.

Take prompt action on receiving complaint of violation of model code of conduct.

If conditions to replace EVM or VVPAT are created at the polling stations, then prepared to change in a maximum period of half an hour. Pay special attention on arrangement of shade and drinking water at polling stations

the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. The revenue and police officers should help in conclusion of the polls with mutual coordination.

Joint Chief Electoral Officer Abhijit Agarwal sought information about web casting and CCTV arrangements in the polling booths.

He said that the GPS systems must be used in the vehicles used for election purpose.

IN BRIEF

7 COACHES TO TAKE PART IN REFEREE AND JUDGE EXAM

Bhopal: Seven coaches of Madhya Pradesh are participating in the National Referee and Judge examination and seminar being conducted by Roller Skating Federation of India at Nandurbar (Maharashtra) from May 1 to 5.

82 VALID CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTORAL FRAY

Bhopal: After the withdrawal of names in 8 parliamentary constituencies in the fourth phase (seventh phase of the country) in State under Lok Sabha Election-2019, 82 valid candidates are in the electoral fray.

After scrutiny in these constituencies on April 30, there were 93 valid candidates, out of which 11 candidates withdrew their nominations.

After withdrawal of names, 6 valid candidates are in the fray in Dewas (SC) parliamentary constituency, 9 in Ujjain (SC), 13 in Mandla, 9 in Ratlam (ST), 7 in Dhar (ST), 20 in Indore, 7 in Kargone (ST) and 11 in Khandwa. Three out of 12 candidates in Ratlam (ST), one out of 8 in Dhar (ST), 3 out of 23 in Indore, one out of 8 in Kargone (ST) and 3 out of 14 candidates in Khandwa have withdrawn their names.

CABINET COMMITTEE FORMED TO SORT OUT DIFFERENCES

Bhopal: A Cabinet Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Kamal Nath to look into the differences of opinions in cases registered in the Lokayukta Investigation, Economic Offences Wing and other investigating agencies.

11,202 SERVICE VOTERS IN 8 LOK SABHA SEATS IN STATE
Bhopal: There are 11,202 service voters in 8 Lok Sabha seats in the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections-2019 in the state.

TRAINING IN DANCE AND SINGING FOR CHILDREN HELD

Bhopal: Training in dance and singing for children started today at a summer camp organized in Raj Bhavan. Trainers gave an introduction to the art of dancing and told about various mudras.



BJP candidate from Bhopal Lok Sabha seat Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur offers prayers at Goddess Durga temple in Bhopal on Thursday after Election Commission banned her for campaigning for three days over remarks on ATS police martyred officer Hemant Karkare and Babri mosque demolition.

Fraudster nabbed for duping two youths in name of providing jobs at AIIMS

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

High Sewania police has nabbed a fraudster for duping two youths in the name of facilitating job in AIIMS Bhopal.

The victims were duped to the tune of ₹ 2 lakh. According to the police, the victims Vikas Jain and Deepak Jain lodged a complaint against Anand Mishra of Uttar Pradesh for duping her in the name of providing job of clerk at AIIMS Bhopal.

In their complaint the victim claimed that few months ago they came into contact with accused who assured that he could help in getting a Government job and later told that he could help them in get-

ting job with AIIMS Bhopal.

The two victims are real brother and after they came in contact with the accused he offered to facilitate job in AIIMS Bhopal.

Mishra asked to provide ₹ 1.2 lakh to start the process which was paid by them and they were informed to visit AIIMS for interview but when they came security went suspicious and after inquiring they found that the accused is fraud and has cheated them.

The staff was informed and police were reported the incident. Police swung into action and nabbed the accused and a car was also recovered from his possession.

Burn injuries kill 21-year-old girl under Kolar PS

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 21-year-old girl died who sustained burn injuries on Wednesday at her house in Bidori village under Kolar police station area on Thursday.

According to the police, the deceased, Payal Lodhi, sustained burn injuries at her house and was rushed to a nearby hospital and later referred to Hamidia hospital where she died on Thursday.

The deceased had sustained burn injuries while cooking which would be investigated. After the preliminary investigation, the body was sent for the post mortem.

The reason of the fire could not be ascertained. The condition of the deceased deteriorated on Wednesday and she died.

In Kolar area a 15-year-old girl committed suicide by hanging with a tree near Dasherha Maidan. Police have denied any suspicion over sexual assault.

The deceased Priya Pawar was found hanging and was rushed to hospital where she was declared dead. Her father who works as scrap dealer identified the deceased.

Meanwhile, a 21-year-old married woman, who sustained burn injuries on April 26 at her house at Chawani Pathar died during treatment on Thursday.

Police said that the deceased Pooja Rajak sustained burn injuries after her clothes caught fire while cooking at home.

Police inspector's house burgled under Eithkhedi police station

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

House of a police inspector was targeted and gold and silver ornaments worth ₹ 3 lakh were burgled from Maya Endave under Eithkhedi police station area on Wednesday.

Police said that the victim Ashok Gautam along with his family had shifted to Bindh where he was transferred and on Wednesday his neighbors informed regarding the burglary.

A complaint was lodged by Gautam's wife Pooja stating that house was taken on rent in Maya Endave at Lamakheda when her husband was posted as SHO of Eithkhedi police station but even after his transfer to Bindh, they have not vacated the house.

Pooja came to Bhopal after she got information of bur-

glary. She found that lock was broken and valuables kept inside the almira were burgled.

She claimed that gold worth ₹ 2 lakh and cash over ₹ 90,000 were burgled.

However she is yet to produce bills for the same.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 457 and 380 of the IPC and started further investigation.

The victim has provided keys to a constable Shaileendra posted at Eithkhedi police station to take care of the house.



CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and Congress leader and Lok Sabha candidate Digvijay Singh share views at a symposium on Constitution-Parliamentary System-Election and Democracy, at Gandhi Bhawan in Bhopal on Thursday

German language summer course starts at Swami Vivekananda Library

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The German language summer course will begin in city for the aspirants at Swami Vivekananda Library. The registration for the German Summer Course will begin from Friday.

A1 batch of German Classes is going to start again in the Swami Vivekananda Library. The new German batch of Swami Vivekananda Library is going to start from June 8.

Anyone over 15 years of age can take admission. This course is being started with the cooperation of the German Government's cultural institute Max Muller Bhawan, New Delhi.

Library Manager Yashish Bhatel said that the new German batch of Swami Vivekananda Library will be going on from June 8, on which

Edison will be available first on the basis of first-serve basis. The total time of this course is 80 hours, which will last up to 13 weeks, its classes will last for three days a week.

It is to be noted that since the Swami Vivekananda Library started operating these classes in 2010, so far 14 batch of label A, 1, A-2 and B-1 has been started. Many of these types of Age Group have learned about 400 languages, informed Bhatel.

Manager of library Yashish Bhatel told that the Classes of German Language will be held from June 8 to August 30. But the beginning of the German course registration for the special summer will be from 11 am on Friday, May 3.

On the day of the class, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, will be held from 7 pm.

Table with 3 columns: नाम सूधार कि घोषणा, अनुमति सूधार कि घोषणा, नाम सूधार कि घोषणा. Lists names and share details.

VIPPY SPINPRO LTD. NOTICE. Contains company details, share certificate information, and a table of share holders.



Chefs display cuisines ahead of the Rajputana food festival scheduled from May 3 to 5 at Hotel Jehan Numa Palace in Bhopal on Thursday

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE. Includes company details, terms of sale, and a table of borrower information.

















BLACKLISTING OF JEM CHIEF MASOOD AZHAR
'Sanctity, credibility' of UNSC preserved: UNSC Prez Indonesia

With the blacklisting of Jem chief Masood Azhar, the 'sanctity and credibility' of the UNSC Security Council's sanctions committee have been preserved, according to Indonesia's envoy to the UN and Chair of the committee Dian Triansyah Djani.

It is more important that we have been able to preserve the sanctity and credibility of the Committee and we have been able to have the listing, Djani said during a press briefing at the UN headquarters on Wednesday.

At around 9 AM New York time (6:30 PM IST), Akbaruddin was informed by his Indonesian counterpart, who had just assumed the Presidency of the Council for May and Chair of the Sanctions Committee, that no objection was raised by any country for the listing of Azhar, meaning China had lifted its hold imposed on the proposal on March 13.

Breakthrough in Azhar case struck during Imran's China trip: Report

The "breakthrough" in designating Masood Azhar as a global terrorist came during Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to China where the two sides agreed to withdraw their opposition to the latest move to blacklist the JEM chief, a media report said here Thursday.

Pakistan military too must take right decisions: US

The Trump administration expects the Pakistan military to correct the situation. "We support the civilian government. We support the nascent democratic system there. We support the fact that Prime Minister Khan says right things and appears to be trying to make some changes within Pakistan. But only time will tell if he is successful in doing that," he said.

MYANMAR ARMY KILLS SIX ETHNIC RAKHINE

Yangon: Myanmar's Army said it shot dead six detainees in a village school on Thursday while holding 275 men on suspicion of being Rakhine rebels, as fears over military impunity grow in the escalating fighting.

ABE READY TO MEET KIM UNCONDITIONALLY: MEDIA

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has offered to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "unconditionally" in a bid to restore diplomatic ties between the two historic foes, a daily said on Thursday.

PRIORITY IN LIBYA IS FIGHTING TERRORISM: UAE

Abu Dhabi: The UAE said on Thursday that fighting "terrorism" was the priority in Libya, where it has backed a controversial military strongman against the UN-recognised government in Tripoli. The UAE, and its allies Egypt and Saudi Arabia, regard Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army militia as a bulwark.

One shot dead, dozens hurt in deadly Venezuela clashes

A woman was shot dead and more than two dozen people were injured during May Day clashes between Opposition supporters and Venezuela's armed forces in Caracas on Wednesday, with opposition leader Juan Guaido attempting to rally demonstrators against President Nicolas Maduro.

Assange begins legal fight against US extradition

London: WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange on Thursday began his legal fight against being extradited to the US from the UK to face charges of allegedly leaking American Government secrets.

10 terrorists buried without religious rites in Sri Lanka

The bodies of 10 terrorists killed during a fierce gun battle with security forces in Sri Lanka's Eastern province last week were buried without any religious rites on Thursday afternoon, police said.

Anger as Paris protesters accused of storming famed hospital

Paris: The French Government on Thursday accused radicals of storming a famed Paris hospital during a May Day, in an incident that risks further raising tensions between authorities and a nationwide protest movement.

From bodyguard to Queen, Thailand's Suthida makes debut

Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn Queen Suthida and his daughter Princess Bajrakiettiwarin arrive at Royal Plaza to pay homage to the Equestrian Statue of King Chulalongkorn in Bangkok on Thursday.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Open Tender Notice (E-Tender)
For and on behalf of President of India, the Director, Mechanical Engineering, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Open Tender Notice (E-Tender)
No. 197-S/223/Conversion of B.C wagon/KD/198M-IV Date: 02.05.2019
For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
CANCELLATION NOTICE
Notification of All India Pension Adalat-2019, which was published on 10.04.2019 should be treated as cancelled as per Railway Board's letter No. E(W)/2018/PA-1/2 dated, 29.03.2019.

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that one boy, Namely Dev Kumar S/O Ram Shankar, R/O D-156, JJ Colony, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi has been missing since 13.07.2018 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard, a case FIR No. 485/18 dated 27.07.2018 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that a lady namely Divya W/o Brijesh Prasad, R/O No. 340, Pkt. 14, Sector-45, Narela, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 13.08.2018 from the area of P.S. Narela. In this regard a DD No. 39-A dated 14.08.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi.

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Resident Commission
5 Pritvi Raj Road, New Delhi - 110011
Tel: 24611108, 24611210, Fax: 24621777, 24627404

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Divya, D/o: Naresh Kumar, R/O: E-48, Shiv Vihar, Karala, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 26.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 43-A dated 27.02.2019 has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that a female namely Kusum Tiwari W/o Ravishankar, R/O Kharsa No.-38/221, Gali No.-9 Gaslamba Colony, Narela, Delhi has been missing / kidnapped since 27.12.2018 from the area of P.S. Narela. In this regard a DD No. 44-A dated 28.12.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Open Tender Notice (E-Procurement Systems)
N.J. T. No. 03 (A, B, C, D) -19/20 dated: 01.05.2019. 1. Name of work with its location: A) Annual maintenance of townships & hedges in various colony in Thompson Road, Mira Brijesh, Baban Road, Mira Sunder, Gurgaon, Centre Plaza M.M.K. Road, Siram Road, The Hazara & Anika Bagh colony in the Sr. S&H/ort. N.D.S & DK2 under ADEN/Hort./DLI. B) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. C) Removal of hedge colony in the Sr. S&H/ort. N.D.S/ort. under ADEN/Hort./DLI. D) Removal of hedge colony in the Sr. S&H/ort. N.D.S/ort. under ADEN/Hort./DLI. E) Annual maintenance of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. F) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. G) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. H) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. I) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. J) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. K) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. L) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. M) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. N) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. O) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. P) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. Q) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. R) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. S) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. T) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. U) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. V) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. W) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. X) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. Y) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. Z) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI.

INSTALLATION OF COFFEE VENDING MACHINES AND SUPPLY OF MATERIAL/CONSUMABLES
The Resident Commission Office, Jammu & Kashmir Government, New Delhi under the administrative control of Hospitality & Protocol Department, J&K Government invites sealed quotations for installation of (3) Coffee Vending Machines (Bean to Coffee) for supply of tetra branded milk coffee, and supply of Materials/Consumables like coffee, sugar sachets, branded milk, wooden strainers, etc. at J&K House, 5 Pritvi Raj Road and J&K House, Chanakya Park, New Delhi as per the details given in the tender documents.

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General public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Divya, D/o: Naresh Kumar, R/O: E-48, Shiv Vihar, Karala, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 26.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 43-A dated 27.02.2019 has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under: Age: 22 yrs, Height: 5' 5", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Sky Blue Colour Suit and Salwar. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that a female namely Kusum Tiwari W/o Ravishankar, R/O Kharsa No.-38/221, Gali No.-9 Gaslamba Colony, Narela, Delhi has been missing / kidnapped since 27.12.2018 from the area of P.S. Narela. In this regard a DD No. 44-A dated 28.12.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi. The description of Missing/kidnapped female is as under: Name: Kusum Tiwari, Husband's Name: Ravishankar, Age: 34 years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Blue Colour Shirt, Brown Jacket, White Colour Pajama and Chappal in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

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N.J. T. No. 03 (A, B, C, D) -19/20 dated: 01.05.2019. 1. Name of work with its location: A) Annual maintenance of townships & hedges in various colony in Thompson Road, Mira Brijesh, Baban Road, Mira Sunder, Gurgaon, Centre Plaza M.M.K. Road, Siram Road, The Hazara & Anika Bagh colony in the Sr. S&H/ort. N.D.S & DK2 under ADEN/Hort./DLI. B) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. C) Removal of hedge colony in the Sr. S&H/ort. N.D.S/ort. under ADEN/Hort./DLI. D) Removal of hedge colony in the Sr. S&H/ort. N.D.S/ort. under ADEN/Hort./DLI. E) Annual maintenance of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. F) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. G) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. H) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. I) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. J) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. K) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. L) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. M) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. N) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. O) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. P) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. Q) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. R) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. S) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. T) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. U) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. V) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. W) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. X) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. Y) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI. Z) Annual maintenance & operation of automatic irrigation system in Rail Eco Park Chhanya Pun, New Delhi (for two years) under ADEN/Hort./DLI.

# PURE GENIUS

## Messi inspires Barcelona step closer to Champions League title after beating Liverpool 3-0 in 1st leg

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Jürgen Klopp admitted Lionel Messi was 'unstoppable' on Wednesday after he left Liverpool needing a miracle to reach the Champions League final. Luis Suarez poked in against his former club before Messi hit a late double, the second a stunning free-kick for his 600th Barca goal, as his team took a 3-0 lead from a pulsating semi-final first leg ahead of next week's return at Anfield.

"He's unstoppable," said Klopp afterwards. "Obviously we couldn't defend the free-kick. What a strike. He's a world-class player but I knew that already. It's no surprise."

Klopp could only smile after Messi's curling shot nestled in the top corner but this result was harsh on his side.

They matched Barcelona in the first half, dominated them early in the second and could still have left with an away goal after Messi's brilliant brace, only for Mohamed Salah to hit the post.

"I said to the boys I was proud of how we played against a side like this," Klopp said. "If you lose away it's not a massive problem as long as you score a goal. That's our problem tonight - it doesn't make our life any easier."

Messi and Suarez did what they have done all season, their tallies now at 47 and 27 goals respectively in all competitions.

It had been a breathtaking contest featuring two of Europe's most exhilarating teams. The first half was electric, a real of chances, breaks and blocks, while the second was tense, a tactical battle where Barca dared Liverpool to over-exert.

The comeback will be even tougher for them given Barcelona, with La Liga wrapped up, will surely rest a host of players against Celta Vigo this weekend while Liverpool, a point behind Premier League leaders Manchester City, will have



to be at full throttle again away at Newcastle on Saturday.

"They can still make us suffer," said Barca coach Ernesto Valverde. "The result is good but the tie is open."



**SCINTILLATING**

Messi was already fresh, after playing just over half the La Liga minutes he could have done in April, and he looked sharp early on, weaving through the centre while for Liverpool, the sensational Sadio Mane raced down the left.

The attacks were scintillating but the defending was good too. Andy Robertson scrambled across to block Messi's finish from six yards and moments later it was Sergio

Roberto on the slide, preventing Mane from sprinting clear.

Messi wanted a penalty when the ball jumped up to Joel Matip and Naby Keita went off injured in the 25th minute, replaced by Jordan Henderson. A minute later came the goal. Arturo Vidal sprayed the ball left to Philippe Coutinho, who cushioned back for Jordi Alba. Alba chipped to cross but instead curved a perfectly weighted pass to the near post, where Suarez nipped in.

Liverpool came again. Mane scampered in behind then flicked the ball round Sergio Busquets. He should have scored too, Henderson's cross finding him free from eight yards but the shot flew over.

Barca took control just as Suarez began to lose it, irked by James Milner barging Messi into the sidobanks after the Argentinian had danced past

Robertson.

But Liverpool were re-energised at the start of the second half. Marc-Andre ter Stegen pushed away shots from Milner and Salah, and held a Milner drive.

Then Messi intervened, striking twice in seven minutes. His own run started the first, setting Sergi free to square to Suarez. Off balance, Suarez could only knee the ball against the crossbar but it came back for Messi, who chested and finished into an open net.

Two was tough on Liverpool but Messi was not done. The free-kick was central, 30 yards out. He whipped it over the wall and into the top corner.

Barca were delirious but Liverpool almost grabbed an away goal when a clearance on the line fell kindly for Salah, who hammered against the post. It could have been a lifeline. Liverpool are on the brink.

### FIGURATIVELY

- 8** Lionel Messi has scored eight direct free-kick goals from 56 attempts for Barcelona in all competitions this season. Cristiano Ronaldo is yet to score a direct free-kick from 24 attempts for Juventus.
- 4** Liverpool have now lost more matches in the Champions League this season (4 in 11 matches) than in all other competitions combined (3 in 38 matches).
- 3** Liverpool suffered their joint-heaviest Champions League defeat, also losing 0-3 to Real Madrid in October 2014.
- 600** Lionel Messi has scored his 600th goal for FC Barcelona in all competitions, exactly 14 years ago since his first goal against Albacete on 1st May 2005.
- 26** Lionel Messi now has 26 goals in 33 appearances against English clubs in the Champions League; no player has more against teams from a particular country in the competition's history (with Cristiano Ronaldo v German clubs).
- 3** Lionel Messi is only the second player to score against three different English clubs in the same Champions League season (Spurs, Man Utd and Liverpool), after Thomas Muller in 2013-14 (Arsenal, Man City and Man Utd).
- 32** Only Raúl (33) has scored against more different Champions League opponents than Lionel Messi (32), with this his first goal in three appearances against Liverpool.
- 36** Luis Suárez has scored his first Champions League goal of the season, with his 36th shot of the campaign.

 "We were the better team in the first half, but in the second half they pressured us and we couldn't get out of our half, but we got the goals and it is a good advantage." — Lionel Messi	 "I don't know if we can play much better. But one moment there's Messi with an easy goal and the second was unseizable." — Jurgen Klopp	 "We know how good he is. We're not going to hide away from it. He's the best player in the world, but I thought we done relatively well against him." — Andrew Robertson	 "I think he's the best player in the world and he's got that little bit extra as well that he's shown over the years." — Virgil Van Dijk	 "We have made a great match, a very good result. But the euphoria has not reached the dressing room. We know that there is a return match and we have to go to win and without speculating anything." — Jordi Alba	 "We know what Leo is, but he does not stop surprising us. He has pushed us to the brink [of the final] but we still have to play the second leg." — Ernesto Valverde
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### SINGLES

**STEFAN JORGES JAMES TO LEAVE BAYERN**

**MUNICH:** Former Bayern Munich captain Stefan Effenberg has said that Colombian star James Rodriguez should leave the club in order to pick up more game time. "James should recognise that the right path for him is to leave Bayern," wrote Effenberg in his column for the German news website T-online on Thursday. The 27-year-old Colombian joined Bayern from Real Madrid in 2017, on a two-year loan deal which expires at the end of this season. Bayern have the option to buy Rodriguez permanently for 42 million euros (\$47.1m), but the midfielder has not been a first-team regular under his new coach. "He has to play and enjoy his football, but he cannot do that if he is only allowed to play seven, 10, 12 or 15 minutes at a time," wrote Effenberg.

**SEMENYA TO RUN IN DIAMOND LEAGUE**

**DOHA:** Olympic champion Caster Semanya, who lost her legal challenge against new IAAF gender rules, will race in the 800 metres in Friday's Doha Diamond League after making a late entry, organisers said on Thursday. Semanya, the double Olympic champion, will compete at the 2019 IAAF Diamond League 800 metres on Thursday morning, a day after her appeal against the IAAF's rule regulating testosterone levels for women athletes was rejected by the Court for Arbitration of Sport. Doha organisers said the South African runner had waited for the outcome of Wednesday's CAS hearing in Lausanne, Switzerland, before deciding whether to run in the meeting that opens the Diamond League season.

**ALEX HALES TO FEATURE FOR NOTTS**

**LONDON:** Controversial England batsman Alex Hales will be available for Nottinghamshire for the rest of the white-ball season. Hales was axed from all England squads, including the provisional 15-man party for this year's World Cup, after reportedly failing a second test for recreational drugs. But his English county Nottinghamshire believe it is in the interests of "all concerned" for the batsman to return to playing cricket, starting with Friday's game against Durham. "The recent events in relation to Alex Hales have been difficult for everyone involved with Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club," a statement from the club read on Wednesday. "Following his withdrawal from all England squads this week, we have met with Alex to express our concerns and to re-iterate that such actions cannot continue."

## Dhoni's contribution will be massive for India: Gavaskar



Mahendra Singh Dhoni bats during nets session. BCCI/Twitter

**PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI**

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar foresees Mahendra Singh Dhoni making a "massive" contribution in India's World Cup campaign and he feels it will not be limited to the talismanic player's much-admired instinctive reading of the game.

Dhoni has been in superb form in the ongoing Indian Premier League and has so far amassed 358 runs from 11 matches for the Chennai Super Kings. Gavaskar feels the stumper-batsman will be crucial to India posting defendable totals in the mega-event starting May 30 in the United Kingdom.

"I think it will be very important because we have a fabulous top-three. But in case the top-three don't make their usual contribution, then Dhoni's contribution down the order, whether it's at number four or five, will make a big difference in India posting a defendable total," Gavaskar said.

Gavaskar also spoke highly of Dhoni's wicket-keeping skills and how they aid skip-



## 'Huge hunger' - Finch tips Warner to dominate WC

**AFP ■ SYDNEY**

commercial radio on Wednesday. "When you have your dream taken away from you for 12 months, I can imagine there's something inside you that burns really strongly."

Finch said the ban, imposed after Warner masterminded the "sandpaper-gate" scandal in Cape Town last year, had given the 32-year-old a chance to refresh his game.

"He's a super player, we know how destructive he can be," he said. "I think having time off to spend with his family and get away from the game (was important)." Warner and former Australian captain Steve Smith will officially join the Australian squad for the first time at a training camp in Brisbane on Friday.

Finch did not expect any problems re-integrating them into the team, even though the former captain and deputy will have to defer to a new leadership team. He said he would consult the pair about on-field tactics. "I'll be using them as much as I can tactically because they've both captained a lot of cricket and are very good captains on the field," he said. "It would be really naive of me not to lean on them." Finch also revealed he feared for his own spot on the team after a recent barren run, although he believed he had now returned to form.

"In the back of your mind you're thinking, 'Gee, the World Cup isn't far away, as a captain I could be left out of the squad'," he said.

"Then you start putting unrealistic pressure on yourself to perform." Finch had an unsuccessful spell in the Test side last year, averaging 27.80 in five matches, and conceded that at 32 his career in the long-form game was over.

"My chances to play Test cricket again have probably slipped away," he said. "I'm still very grateful for the opportunity... I'm OK with that because I gave it everything I could."

**PRANNOY STUNS SUGIARTO IN NZ OPEN**

**AUCKLAND:** India's HS Prannoy stunned Tommy Sugiarto in straight games to sail into the men's singles quarterfinals even as his compatriot B Sai Praneeth crashed out in the second round of the New Zealand Open badminton tournament here on Thursday. Unseeded Prannoy shocked second seed Sugiarto 21-14, 21-12 in just 37 minutes to book his place in the last-eight round, where he will be up against fifth seed Kentaro Tsuneyama of Japan. This was world No 26 Prannoy's maiden meeting against world No 13 Sugiarto. Earlier in the day, Praneeth suffered a straight-game 12-21, 12-21 loss to the legendary Lin Dan of China. Seventh seed Lin Dan, thus, progressed to the quarterfinals where he will be up against top seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia. Indian men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and Sumesh B Reddy too lost in the second round, going down against seventh seeds Goh V Shem and Tan Wei Kiong of Malaysia 17-21, 19-21.

## WC will offer beautiful tracks for batsmen: Tendulkar

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday said the World Cup in the United Kingdom will offer beautiful batting tracks but he doesn't expect the ball to swing much in the hot conditions that will prevail there.

The World Cup, which will kick-start on May 30, will see all 10 participating nations face-off against each other.

"I am told it's going to be a hot summer. Even in the Champions Trophy the wickets were superb when the sun was out. In the heat the wickets get really flat. I am sure they will give beautiful tracks to bat on," Tendulkar said on the sidelines of the inauguration of the MIG Club pavilion named after him.

"I don't think there will be much difference in the conditions unless there is a heavy cloud cover. If there is a cloud cover, the ball might go around a bit. Even if that's the case I don't see that happening for a longer duration just the first over if at all," he added.

Several Indian players, including captain Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul, are performing well in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Asked if that will help them in the World Cup, Tendulkar said: "A good performance in any format is good news because it gives the player confidence. If you are confident in any format, that's important."

"The players have time to make some adjustments according to the conditions. All of them have played enough cricket to know what to do to improve," he added.



# SHUN WANDERING, PLAN METICULOUSLY AND GROW IN LIFE

Let's face it, some people are more open to distractions than others. Do you find yourself beginning work on a priority task only to be interrupted by a passing co-worker? It's possible that you are inviting distraction into your world like a magnet, writes **Team Viva**

**M**ost people start their days without a roadmap and end up aimlessly wandering around what's important, wasting time along the way. Sadly, those who choose to skip planning mistakenly believe they are saving time, a folly obvious to your boss, co-workers, and clients.

Popping in and out of your inbox creates a "start-stop-start" pattern of work activity. Your wasted time quickly adds up when you consider the time it takes to refocus after each stop. A dozen email trips each day can cost you one completed product each week.

Unless you are expecting an important task-related message, each day you should schedule the 3 specific time slots for checking email: mid-morning, after lunch, and mid-afternoon.

For that matter, the same goes for your voicemail, text messages and other smartphone-related activities. Reduce these harmful interruptions by sticking to a set schedule.

Honestly, 5 minutes is all you need to establish a short list of tasks, create a daily schedule, and prioritise your activities in the order of importance. By creating a plan each morning, you'll

have much more success in following through on what matters most.

Let's face it, some people are more open to distractions than others. Do you find yourself beginning work on a priority task only to be interrupted by a passing co-worker?

It's possible that you are inviting distraction into your world like a magnet.

The good news is you're not alone. This is a common form of procrastination, not following through on your priorities, and time being wasted.

This may be the most counter-intuitive advice you have ever received: by going slower, you can save time.

Instead of rushing to send a cryptic email that result in three or four back-and-forth exchanges before the other person understands your intent go slower and compose a clear and complete message that the other person understands the first time.

Instead of rushing out a report that triggers alarm bells across your business... go slower and "socialise" your conclusions before you release the report, giving others the opportunity to influence and understand your conclusions.

Instead of rushing to furnish your apartment, buy a new house or plan a vacation... Go slower and figure out

**REALLY LOOK AT  
HOW YOU SPEND  
YOUR TIME, AND  
WHAT  
PROPORTION OF  
WHAT YOU DO IS  
HELPING YOUR  
TOWARDS YOUR  
GOALS IN LIFE.  
YOU MAY BE  
SURPRISED AT  
THE RESULTS**

what will really make you happy over the long run.

It takes far less time to do something right the first time, than to suffer through countless rushed efforts.

Treat time as the most precious of all gifts, because it is. These should all come with a warning—and most were horrified!

It's impossible to not spend time on social media and email nowadays, most people use it in one way or another—but it's important not to let it take over.

Spending a set time 2 or three times a day works best—usually first thing in the morning, at lunchtime, and last thing at night. It's also worth remembering that everyone can wait—and a few hours won't hurt.

Your goals are what you will look back on and feel a sense of pride in if you have achieved them, but feel deflated if not. Therefore, it makes sense that anything that takes you directly away from your goals is wasting your time.

Things such as hobbies that you don't really enjoy anymore, groups that you are a member of that have a lot of time commitment but don't relate to your goals, friends who make you feel low when you are with them.

Really look at how you spend your time, and what proportion of what you

do is helping you towards your goals in life. You may be surprised at the results.

With those things that you really should drop, get out of them confidently and learn to say—but if you can manage things better then you will have more time to get to where you want to be in life, and ultimately this will make you happier.

Flicking through the endless channels available and not really watching much of anything—or simply the habit of watching TV every night and not doing something else that would make you happier. One very easy way to do this is to invest in TV systems that allow you to record. You can record programmes and series and watch them when you want to and not be dictated to by the schedule.

Another big bonus is that you can fast forward through the breaks, and you can watch more of what you want to watch at a time that suits you.

The other option is of course to simply limit how much TV you allow yourself each day, and see how much more you get done.

Switching between a laptop to work on a spreadsheet, your phone to check an email, and a tablet to pull up a presentation is a recipe for disaster. Each time you move between devices, you like-

ly succumb to a distraction or two, and then have to refocus yourself. As often as possible, try to collect everything you'll need on one device during a prep period before you get started, so you can work from one device as you go.

Any time you spend on less important activities is a step backward, especially when time-sensitive priority tasks and goals are concerned.

Structuring your task time works because it provides an appealing set of instructions in your mind about when to start and when to stop.

Lack of planning not only wastes time, but can really stress you out.

Keys are the most common thing that are lost in people's homes – taking forever to find, and usually when you need to be out of the door and on your way somewhere.

Whether it is your wallet, an important letter, cheque book or a price of jewellery – it's so frustrating and stressful when it can't be found.

This can't be said enough when you are organizing yourself and your home. If you and all your family members are aware of where to put things, and then create new habits that ensure that they are put back each and every time they are used, then you WILL eliminate this time waster once and for all.

Trend Blazer

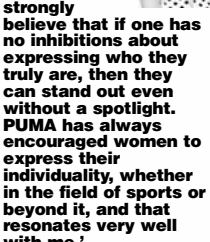
Ayushmann and Bhumi back again



Actor **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** and **BHUMI PEDNEKAR** are back with their third film *Bala*, directed by Amar Kaushik. Both of them can't wait to start their next journey together.

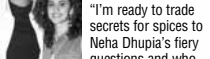
Ayushmann says, "Bhumi and I have a great chemistry together. Being a hit *Jodi* definitely adds to the pressure of delivering good work and I'm extremely confident of *Bala's* script will connect with the audience across the world. She is an exceptionally talented actress and it is always fun to work with her. Bhumi adds, "I'm super excited to collaborate with him again. *Bala* again takes on societal stereotypes in a hilarious manner. Ayushmann is a powerhouse actor. I can't wait to start the film."

'When associating with a brand, it is important to be with the one that compliments my personality and lifestyle. I strongly believe that if one has no inhibitions about expressing who they truly are, then they can stand out even without a spotlight. PUMA has always encouraged women to express their individuality, whether in the field of sports or beyond it, and that resonates very well with me.'



—Sara Ali Khan

Actors **VICKY KAUSHAL** is excited to be part of a chat show with his friend **TAAPSEE PANNU**, and she is ready to trade some secrets.



"I'm ready to trade secrets for spices to Neha Dhupia's fiery questions and who better to be on the show than Taapsee," Vicky said. To this, Taapsee said, "There are a very few people in the industry who I actually can call friends in true meaning of the word and Vicky is one of them. We met during *Mannzarjayan* and became really good friends. We are very much in touch even now. I hope and pray things don't change between us with time because it will be sad to lose a good friend like him."

JLo, Malaika invest in yoga

American singer-actress **JENNIFER LOPEZ**, Indian baseball star Alex Rodriguez, Indian celebrity **Malaika Arora** and Zumba Fitness LLC have come together to invest in an Indian yoga and wellness start-up called SARVA.

"I have personally benefited from my regular practice of yoga and believe that it has made a difference to my life both physically and mindfully. The enthusiasm that Sarvesh brings to SARVA is promising and infectious. I believe in its vision and view it as a great common ground for a brilliant investment opportunity along with co-creating and serving a global community," Lopez said.



Actor **JIM SARBH** talks to **SAIMI SATTAR** a dime a dozen, from music to theatre and films, and about the layers of interpretation that inform each discipline

There is this air around actor Jim Sarbh which whispers — busy, intense, selfless and somewhat intimidating. I have been watching him for a while as he sits in the front row of an event inspired by the Met Gala — *Fashion Today, Ideas and Inspiration* — put together by YFLO (Young FICCI Ladies Organisation), along with the likes of actor Diana Penty and designers Rimzim Dada and Arpita Mehta.

He is swamped by female attention. Dressed in a black ensemble, colourfully printed with white cranes and pink flowers and even in the sea of women dressed to the nines, Jim is hard to miss. And when you talk to him, it is almost impossible not to notice those large, expressive and intense eyes curtained by thick, long eyelashes. He gets up frequently as women just hover around him, wanting selfies or wishing to talk to him. He is reveling in the adulation. Later, as we are taking the lift to head to Oko on the 28th floor of the Lalit for his lunch, he does mention that he actually does not mind it when it comes to women for a reason. "The men are more aggressive and they push around."

The interview, when it does happen, is spiced into two parts, the first being squeezed in between one interview and the session which he attends and the second just after he has ordered lunch — a Thai green curry with vegetables. He would have preferred to, but as the server informs him that his taste would be lost, he decides to go with what is listed on the menu.

As I sit down for the first round, Jim is singing a song in a low, bass voice. I wait for him to stop and then interrupt. It is not surprising, since if you go to his Instagram feed, each of his posts is accompanied by a song, not many of which can be classified as popular culture whether it is Habib Koteib's *Sin djen djen* or *Hot hot heat* by Bandages.

During the interview, Jim is not easy to pin down. For every question that you ask, you should be ready for a counter question. Even when he answers, there are binaries. So when I ask him about the complexity of his latest outing as Adil Khanna, in the much-acclaimed *Made in Heaven*, he immediately pipes up to ask, "Is it?" and when I reply, "You won't say so," he does agree but adds a rider. "They are all complex characters, at least the main ones." Again when I ask him about his reference points, he wants to know what that means. He says, "I was just thinking about the way it was written. It was interesting because while reading I could understand or thought I could understand or maybe I could understand what I thought was the most interesting journey for the guy to go through. He is truly in love with both and he does not know what to do. Of course there is the stuff that you can immediately get on because it's in the script — he's used to getting what he wants. He's the only son in a rich family who lives in a giant bungalow in Delhi and that already gives you enough to work with."

While executing the character, he says he learnt his lines and then tried different things and ways in which he could say them. "Sometimes the way to tell somebody 'I love you' is not to hold their hand or kiss them but just to say, 'Listen, everything will be fine,' ending the sentence loudly." He further explains his behaviour, "He carries the baggage of being Tara's boss, so he keeps floating through the world thinking that it's still going on in a weird way and maybe it works also, who knows? If the season progresses, I would personally like him to realise that this woman is his equal in more ways than he could have thought of before." Throughout, his voice is rising and falling, the tenor and tone changing in a manner as if he is in front of an audience on a stage at the theatre.

However, it is the digital format that Jim has been acting of late. *After Made in Heaven*, he will be seen in *Teen Aur Adha*. So does he feel that it is fuelling creativity? "I think all formats reward it, why only digital? I can just say that my attempts at creativity have been fairly well-rewarded," he says drawing every word slowly and pausing in between each while framing the sentence.

Jim has just ordered and while he is talking, he notices someone at the table busy texting her boss. He demands complete attention by recording and sending a message on WhatsApp saying, "Jim wants her complete attention. And dient is king," as the entire table guffaws at his chutzpah.

But going back to *Teen Aur Adha*, he says that he had read the short script for his section, just before he did *Neerja*. "I am tired of hearing that I play negative characters. If this released before *Neerja*, who knows what would have happened?" he asks.

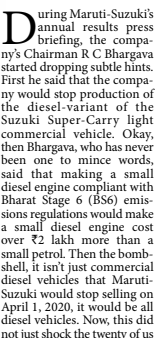
This film 'wonders what would happen if the walls of a house had consciousness and then follows the trajectory of three different stories in the same room over the course of three long takes. "The first one is of a boy going to school and coming back to see his grandfather. The second one is a man walking through the same house where he meets a sex worker and the conversation between them. And the third one is about an older man who leaves to play badminton, realises that he has forgotten his racket at home and returns to pick it only to see his wife dancing. And he didn't know she danced or liked to as she would do it only at the time that he played badminton. And the last of the house being renovated. I don't want to give away too much," he pauses and adds, "I've already given everything away." Jim stars in the second part of the film, which can have different interpretations, including that there are three different people or three parallel universes existing at the same time or even that they are the same person at different stages of his life.

Besides, *Teen Aur Adha*, he will be seen in *Message* which is a part of a web series called *Flip* on Eros Now. "I wish more people see me in these films as it is a very different never-seen-before me. When people see you in only one particular avatar they believe that is all you can do. I don't feel limited like that as an actor and I wish more people believed it with me," he says.

Jim bites into the crackers that have been placed before him and goes on to elaborate upon the way entertainment is changing. He says, "Digital media is changing entertainment and naturally so. Theatre changed with the advent of cinema. Black and white changed with sync sound and colour. Consequently all forms of media should go through a natural evolution of change. With digital platforms, we can experiment with different forms of storytelling." He gives the example of 'cold open' (a scene preceding the opening titles), which is "a wonderful new thing that has come into visual storytelling because of series. It can be anything that does not have a direct impact on the story that is to unfold but gives you a sense of the world or tells you something that will happen in the film. And there are more things that the medium offers. Writers can focus on the script. I am very interested to see innovative story-telling. You already have your own adventure film, *Black Mirror: Bandersnatch*, where you can choose your own adventure just like the *Goosebumps*

The death of diesel

Has the country's largest carmaker overplayed its hand by announcing that they will stop sales of all diesel cars by April 1, 2020?



KUSHAN MITRA

During Maruti-Suzuki's annual results press briefing, the company's Chairman R C Bhargava started dropping subtle hints. First he said that the company would stop production of the diesel-variant of the Suzuki Super-Carry light commercial vehicle. Okay, then Bhargava, who has never been one to mince words, said that making a small diesel engine compliant with Bharat Stage 6 (BS6) emissions regulations would make a small diesel engine cost over ₹2 lakh more than a small petrol. Then the bombshell, it isn't just commercial diesel vehicles that Maruti-Suzuki would stop selling on April 1, 2020, it would be all diesel vehicles. Now, this did not just shock the twenty of us journalists assembled in the room, this announcement spooked investors too as Maruti's share price suddenly plummeted. Diesel car sales account for a quarter of all Maruti vehicle sales (23 per cent to be precise) — certain products like the Vitara Brezza and S-Cross are only sold with diesel engines currently. There is talk that Maruti will install the K15 petrol engine in several models such as the two mentioned previously, all with the 'Smart Hybrid' system, but can that really be the reason?

Cynically, one possibility is that Maruti is withdrawing from the diesel car market because it has no products to sell. While Maruti-Suzuki had continued with the old Fiat 1.3 DDIS engine for over a decade, it was getting long in the tooth and all Maruti small cars were severely underpowered compared to the competition. The engine produced between 74-88 horsepower depending on the cars it was fitted on, between 10-30 horsepower less than the competition. Maruti did ironically start offering up a new 1.5-litre diesel engine, called the DDIS 225 after its torque output, and this one has a power output of 98 horsepower. This new diesel engine has been fitted on the Ciaz and Eriga already and is likely to be fitted on the S-Cross and Vitara Brezza as well. But it is not BS6 compatible and while Maruti-Suzuki has tried to make it BS6 compliant for a lower cost, it has not succeeded according to some in the know.

Is Maruti-Suzuki, therefore, doing some market research to figure out whether the public at large are willing to pay a two lakh rupee premium? Or do its decision-makers feel that at this premium, diesel cars will become unaffordable for the public at large and other than some commercial (taxi) and high-mileage applications, the average buyer will steer away from diesels from just a pure cost point of view? After all, diesel car sales peaked when the price difference between diesel and petrol was almost ₹20 litre, and now from over ₹4 per cent of the market, diesels account for just 23 per cent of the market.

Several buyers, particularly in the national capital region where the Supreme Court has banned diesels over ten years old from operating, have switched wholeheartedly to petrol, so much so that even for luxury car marques like Mercedes-Benz and BMW, petrol car sales have quadrupled in the past year in some markets like Delhi. We are not even going into their performance portfolio. This is why all luxury brands are now launching petrol variants of all their major vehicles.

There is also the maths when it comes to usage. A two-lakh rupee capital premium works at current fuel prices and assuming the fact that a diesel vehicle on average delivers 20 per cent more mileage per litre in intra-urban conditions — I'm using a Hyundai Creta as a baseline here, since I'm currently driving a Diesel SX Manual variant, which in BS4 spec costs ₹13.6 lakh ex-showroom Delhi. A similar petrol costs ₹12.26 lakh, a difference of ₹1.3 lakh. The diesel delivers around 13.5-14 km per litre (on average, urban traffic and air-con on); the petrol gives just around 11 km per litre. The math now, on average of 10,000 km driven per year at current fuel prices of ₹66.7 per litre of diesel and ₹73.1 for petrol (in Delhi) with me just doing simple division and multiplication, gives me saving of ₹19,000 annually give or take a bit. So over six years you should break even. But now when you consider that in Delhi after ten years your diesel car is a heap of scrap metal and a petrol car still has five years of legitimate life, the math gets very different. And on top of that, if a BS6 car costs a lakh more, something most manufacturers agree on, the maths change dramatically for such low-mileage applications.

So when the price differential is over two lakhs and the accelerated depreciation of a diesel vehicle are factored in, you need to be driving around 25,000 plus km a year at current fuel prices for your diesel purchase to make sense over a five year period. And frankly, Maruti-Suzuki has a point here, very few people will do that. And if the ten-year diesel scrapage offers spreads nationwide, even fewer.

This is not about altruistic reasons of pollution and mileage. This is about operating economics, plain and simple. Diesels are not going to be cheap anymore and thus no one will really want to buy them.



Joe, Sophie get married in Vegas

Singer Joe Jonas and *Game Of Thrones* star Sophie Turner exchanged wedding vows at an impromptu ceremony. Fans first caught wind of the long-time couple's nuptials when American DJ-record producer Diplo began posting live footage from the ceremony. In several moments posted on Diplo's Instagram stories, Turner can be seen walking down the aisle in a white bridal ensemble and veil. It appeared as if an Elvis Presley impersonator officiated the ceremony as country music duo Dan + Shay performed their hit song *Speechless*. Joe reunited with brothers Nick Jonas and Kevin Jonas for a performance of their latest single *Sucker*. Turner was joined by her sisters-in-law Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Danielle Jonas in the Sin City. The couple announced their engagement in October 2017 after more than a year together.



