

'For the first time, there's pro-incumbency wave in country': PM Modi in Varanasi

Agency
New Delhi April 26,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking to BJP workers before filing nomination papers from Varanasi, said there was an unprecedented pro-incumbency wave in the country and urged partymen to not be arrogant.

"Because of the hard work of workers, there is huge enthusiasm from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. First time there is a pro incumbency wave in the elections. Everywhere people are saying, 'abki baar...'" said PM Modi a day after his mega roadshow saw a huge turnout in Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency. Varanasi goes to polls on May 19, the last round of seven-phase elections. Taking a swipe at the

Congress, the PM advised workers to not be arrogant "because those who showed arrogance were reduced to 40 seats from 400 seats". The PM urged the workers to turn Varanasi elections into model exercise, forcing experts to make it a case study. In his tips for the workers, the PM asked them to make sure women came out in large numbers. "Make sure women voters are 5 percent more

than men." He also asked voters to target first-time voters, to welcome them with sweets. "Download Narendra Modi app and use it to woo first-time voters," he said. On a lighter note, he gave tips to workers on reducing poll expenses by visiting voters at their homes and partaking food, reading papers and watching TV — all free of cost.

No seat belongs to a particular politician, says Poonam Sinha

Agency
New Delhi April 26,

Poonam Sinha, wife of actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha, joined the Samajwadi Party (SP) last week and will be taking on Union minister Rajnath Singh of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Lucknow. In an interview to Hindustan Times, she talks about why she has taken the political plunge and the unusual dynamics in the Sinha household. Edited excerpts: What drew you to the Samajwadi Party? The first thing that attracted me is the legacy of good work done by our party leader, Akhilesh Yadav. He has proved himself politically and done a lot of work during his tenure [as Uttar Pradesh chief minister]. Whether it is his work for women or development work like new metros, gardens or water parks, the public remembers him as someone who has delivered. In your first election, you are contesting against one of the BJP's tallest leaders, Rajnath

Singh... Maybe, I will be an exception to the rule. No state belongs to a particular party nor does a seat belong to a politician. Let the people decide about the situation the country is facing. Look around, and all we hear is that people are looking for a change. I'm confident the good work of the Samajwadi Party will help me win. I have campaigned in parts of Uttar Pradesh and the feeling on the street is one of resonance with Akhilesh's work. People have come up to me and said, 'You don't have to worry, we will vote for you'. People say they will vote for him [Akhilesh] back to power because of all the development during his term. This has assured me a lot. How did it feel to have your husband, who is in the Congress, standing by you when you filed your nomination? He did not campaign for me but he stood by me when I was filing my nomination. I think it was

nice of him, in light of the big step I am taking. His standing next to me gave me a lot of confidence, which I needed at that moment. Many actors have joined politics this year, like Sunny Deol and Urmila Matondkar. How is your poll pitch different from theirs?

The thing to remember is I have been around my husband, who has been in politics for about 39 years. I was in the film industry, prior to other actors in the fray this time. I'm not new to politics; ours has been a political family all along. And hopefully, I will get the chance to do some good work.

NIA arrests two terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based JeM

Agency
New Delhi April 26,

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). A statement issued by the NIA said that the two terrorists — Tanveer alias Tanveer Ahmad Ganie and Bilal Mir alias Bilal Ahmad Mir were detained under the

Public Safety Act and put in the Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu. It said they were produced before a special court that remanded them to seven-day custody of the NIA yesterday. The agency said that the case against the duo pertained to a criminal conspiracy hatched by the top JeM leadership to strengthen the banned terror outfit's base in India by recruiting persons for carrying out acts of terrorism.

Tulihal Ar Saves Snake Bite Victim



IT News
Imphal April 26,

Tulihal Battalion of 9 sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) saved the life of snake bite victim on 25 April 2019.

On the morning of 25 April 2019, a 38 years old woman of Kawaikeithel village was bitten by a poisonous snake. The victim was evacuated to the Unit Hospital at Tulihal Army Camp where the victim was promptly attended by the

medical team under Regimental Medical Officer and was administered life saving treatment. The timely and swift action of medical team not only saved precious human life but also reinforced good faith among the locals.

Divya Kakran and Manju Kumari win bronze as women wrestlers begin campaign at Asian Wrestling Championships 2019

From a correspondent
New Delhi, April 26,

Asian Games bronze medalist Divya Kakran and Manju Kumari grabbed a bronze medal each as India's women wrestlers began their campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Xi'an, China on Thursday. Kakran (68kg), also a bronze medalist at the Commonwealth Games last year, lived up to the expectations as she delivered a bronze by pinning Battsetseg Soronzonbold of Mongolia to add to the silver she won at home in 2017. Kakran failed to make it to the final after going down to Feng Zhou of China 4-14 in the last-four clash. In the quarter-finals, she was on fire on the mat as she prevailed over Hong Thy Nguyen of Vietnam 10-0. This is Kakran's first competition since coming back from an ankle injury.



"This was my first international outing since the ankle injury. Though I would have liked to win the gold medal, I will take lessons from here and will keep on working hard for the upcoming tournaments," said the 21-year-old grappler. In 59kg, Manju was too powerful for Vietnam's Thi Huong Dao whom she convincingly beat 11-2 in the bronze medal play-off. Manju had earlier tasted a 6-15 defeat at the hands of Battsetseg Altantsetseg of Mongolia 6-15 in the semi-finals and got a chance to play the bronze medal

contest. In the quarter-finals, she had emerged a 5-3 winner over Kazakhstan's Madina Bakbergenova 5-3. "I am really happy to win a medal at my first Asian Championships. I hope I can carry on from here and keep on achieving my goals," said Manju after her medal. However, Seema succumbed to a 5-11 defeat to Kazakhstan's Valentina Ivanovna Islamova Brik in the bronze medal play-off in 50kg and had to finish her campaign without a medal. Having lost to eventual champion Yuki Irie of Japan in the qualifying round, she got a chance to fight in the repechage bout after Irie made the final. Seema made no mistake in outgrappling Meng Hsuan Hsieh of Chinese Taipei 10-2 to advance to the bronze medal contest. In 55kg, Lalita failed to repeat her heroics from the 2015 Asian Championships when she had won the bronze. The 2014 Commonwealth Games silver medallist bowed out in the quarter-finals with a 1-4 loss to Mongolia's Dulgoun Bolomaa.

India, China begin to prepare for 2nd informal summit

Agency
New Delhi April 26,

With nearly a month to go for the results of the general election, India and China have quietly begun preparing for the second informal summit between their top leadership that is expected to build on the gains of the first such meeting in Wuhan and bridge differences on key issues. New Delhi initially suggested dates in November for the meeting, set to be held in India, but later agreed on dates in October after Beijing said the timing of the summit should be advanced so that the momentum created by the Wuhan meeting isn't dissipated, people familiar with the developments on both sides said. A full plate of issues, including contentious matters such as the disputed border, especially in Arunachal Pradesh; India's opposition to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI); and China's position on Pakistan-based terrorists, will be on the agenda for the summit, which an Indian official said would be "qualitatively different" from the Wuhan meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in April 2018. "The Wuhan summit was held against the backdrop of the military standoff at Doklam and was aimed at a reset in ties. There was strategic guidance from the leaders that things were better at the top and this message was sent down and resulted in better understanding in all arms of the government," said the Indian official, who didn't



want to be identified. "It restored some of the trust that had been lost and there has been better management of each other's sensitivities. In the second summit, we expect to move beyond the ghost of Doklam and truly build on the Wuhan spirit," the official added, noting how both sides were making a conscious effort not to play up differences, including issues such as India's decision to skip China's second Belt and Road Forum and Beijing's hold on efforts to designate Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar at the UN's 1267 Sanctions Committee. People familiar with the thinking in official quarters in Beijing said China is looking to take up issues under four broad areas at the summit. The first area is contentious matters such as the border dispute, BRI and the Dalai Lama. The second is trade and investment as Beijing continues

to be concerned about India's trade deficit (which stood at \$51.72 billion in 2017, and which China wants to address) and issues such as market access. The third is enhancing people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges. And the fourth is India's position on matters that are of concern to China, such as the Indo-Pacific, the Quad and the South China Sea, the people said. The people added that while there is better rapport between the top leadership of the two countries, there is a feeling in Beijing that this hasn't percolated down to all levels of the government and the people. It was because of this that Beijing had suggested the creation of the high level mechanism on cultural and people-to-people exchanges, which held its first meeting in Delhi last December. The Indian official noted that China's lifting of the block on

Masood Azhar's listing as a global terrorist could help improve people-to-people contacts. People familiar with the thinking in New Delhi also noted that circumstances on the world stage — such as the US ending exemptions to sanctions on Iranian oil imports and Washington's position on trade issues — had placed India and China on the same side. A venue for the second summit is yet to be finalised, though people familiar with the developments said the choice could be one that reflects India's long civilisational history and also provides locations where the two leaders should spend time in private to discuss issues. Despite the current understanding on dates in October, some quarters in Beijing are hoping the timing will be further advanced.

CAT stays suspension of officer who checked PM's helicopter in Odisha

Agency
New Delhi April 26,

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) at Bengaluru on Thursday stayed the order of the Election Commission

suspending IAS officer Mohammed Mohsin for checking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's helicopter in Odisha during an election campaign. The officer from Karnataka

cadre, deployed in Odisha as a general observer, was suspended on April 17 for checking Modi's helicopter in Odisha's Sambalpur in violation of norms for dealing with SPG protectees and sent back to the state.