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Julian Assange arrested at Ecuadorian embassy in London

(News Track) Police say they arrested him after being "invited into the embassy by the Ambassador." WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was arrested by police on Thursday after they were invited into the Ecuadorian embassy in London where he has been holed up since 2012. Police said, "Julian

Assange, 47, has today, on Thursday April 11, been arrested by officers from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) at the Embassy of Ecuador." A police van is seen outside the Ecuadorian embassy after WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was arrested by British police in London on April

11, 2019. Timeline of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's Ecuador stay. Mr. Assange was arrested after being "invited into the embassy by the Ambassador, following the Ecuadorian government's withdrawal of asylum." He had been taken into custody and would appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court "as soon as is possible," police said. The 47-year-old faces allegations that he publicly released secret documents relating to the United States. Mr. Assange had sought asylum at the embassy after the Swedish authorities wanted to quiz him over allegations of sexual assault and rape.

assange, 47, has today, on Thursday April 11, been arrested by officers from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) at the Embassy of Ecuador." A police van is seen outside the Ecuadorian embassy after WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was arrested by British police in London on April



SC imposes fine of ₹20 lakh on West Bengal govt for 'virtual ban' on film 'Bhobishyoter Bhoot'

(News Track) The film revolves around a group of ghosts, including a politician, who assemble at a refugee camp and try to be relevant in contemporary times. The Supreme Court on Thursday imposed a fine of ₹20 lakh on the West Bengal government for imposing a "virtual" ban on public screening of satirical film "Bhobishyoter Bhoot" in the State. A Bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said the fine amount shall be given to the producers and cinema hall owners as compensation for violation of their right to freedom of speech and expression. The court was hearing a plea from the producers that alleged the movie was taken down from a majority of theatres at the behest of the authorities. On March 15, the top court directed the Mamata Banerjee government to ensure that no obstruction or restraint of any kind is imposed on the



screening of the movie. A communication was received by one of the producers of the movie from the Special Branch of the police saying that the contents of the film may hurt public senti-

ments, which may lead to political law and order issues. The film, directed by Anik Dutta, was released on February 15. Its story revolves around a group of ghosts, including a politician,

who assemble at a refugee camp and try to be relevant in contemporary times. The film was allegedly withdrawn from single-screen theatres and multiplexes a day after its release.

In Masula, polling staff delete 125 votes on EVMs

(Day Today) Seeking reelection, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu estimated that 30% of the EVMs were not functioning. Voting for 175 Assembly seats and 25 Parliamentary seats in Andhra Pradesh is being held simultaneously in a single-phase election on Thursday. It is essentially a three-cornered fight in the State — the ruling Telugu Desam Party seeking a re-election, Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy's YSR Congress emerging as a strong contender, and actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena the new entrant. There are also the national parties the BJP and Congress contesting sans any alliance with the regional parties. The polling staff has reportedly deleted at least 125 votes that were polled on the Electronic Voting Machine after they have learnt that they did not clear the votes casted during the mock poll drive in Machilipatnam assembly segment. On being learnt about the deletion of their votes, a few voters managed to turn up to the polling booth to poll again. Polling is peaceful in Naxal-hit Odisha-Andhra border. Outside vehicles are thoroughly frisked before entering the constituency. Since Odisha witnessed an IED blast in Wednesday night, EVMs were sent to the polling booths only on Thursday morning. Telugu Desam Party worker Chinta Bhaskar Reddy hacked to death near polling booth No. 197 at Veerapuram in Tadipatri constituency of Anantapur district. At Yanametta village in Sattenapalli Assembly constituency, YSRCP workers allegedly manhandled Assembly Speaker and TDP candidate Kodela Sivaprasada Rao. In the resulting altercation, Mr. Rao had his shirt torn and had minor bruises. His gunman also suffered small injuries. He later entered a polling booth and shut it from inside. Police forced it open and brought him out. He fainted but regained consciousness after some time. MLC Buddha Venkanna was taken into custody at Mallikarjunapeta in Vijayawada city as he staged a protest against the disruption of polling cause by faulty EVMs. Large-scale malfunctioning of EVMs reported across Visakhapatnam. Polling for parliamentary constituencies and Assembly segments in Visakhapatnam district began on a peaceful note, with no untoward incident reported from anywhere in the district till around 11 a.m. on Thursday. Brisk polling was seen at most places with voters forming long queues outside the polling stations right from 7 a.m. The common complaint was the malfunctioning of EVMs, resulting in delayed start of the poll process at some booths. Voting in Anantapur district got delayed at most of the places registering 10.62% by 9 a.m, violence raised it head at several places on Thursday. While Guntakal Jana Sena Party candidate Madhusudan Gupta was arrested for breaking an EVM at Gooty, in Singanamala (SC) constituency there were clashes between YSR Congress and TDP followers in Jangampalli village of Yellanur mandal. At Siddhapuram in Atmakur mandal of Raptadu constituency the TDP workers attacked YSRCP mandal convener Bala Pothanna leading to bleeding injuries. Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Gopal Krishna Dwivedi said the defective functioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was a small problem caused by faulty connections and it was being sorted out. He assured the voters that all those present in queues up to 6 p.m. would be allowed to cast their votes. Mr. Dwivedi stated in a press release that polling was going on peacefully and without any major glitch. He predicted that voting percentage could be far higher than the previous time going by the impressive turnout in the first three hours. Mr. Dwivedi himself had to wait for the replacement of a dysfunctional EVM at a polling booth at Tadepalli in Guntur district to cast his vote and stated that being machines, there would be minor issues with them. Expressing displeasure over the obstruction to voting across the State caused by defective Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu demanded that re-polling should be held at such locations. He estimated that 30% of the EVMs were not functioning and called upon the Election Commission of India (ECI) to swing into action immediately, saying that the people were worried. In a communication to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, Mr. Naidu stated three hours of polling time was wasted by faulty EVMs and there were complaints that votes cast for TDP were going to YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Workers of YSR Congress and TDP clashed in Yellanur during the polling. Police interfered to bring the situation under control, reports Ramesh Susarla. Voting began on a slow pace



in Narsipatnam, which is the constituency of Panchayat Raj Minister Ayyanna Patrudu. Many EVMs in Rolugunta, Narsipatnam town and Golugonda did not function in the first hour and many people returned without casting their votes. Two polling agents were taken into custody for allegedly offering money to voters at Vemavaram village in Ballikuruvam mandal in Prakasam district. In Kadapa district, YSRCP cadre ransack EVMs at 126th booth in a polling station in Jandlavaram village of Mydukur mandal. Police have dispersed the unruly mob, polling station has been temporarily locked. Narsaraopet Assembly constituency TDP candidate Aravinda Babu attacked by YSRCP activists; police resort to lathi-charge to quell the clashing workers of TDP and YSRCP. Chief Electoral Officer Gopal Krishna Dwivedi faced trouble in casting vote at a polling booth at Christianpet in Tadepalli in Guntur district due to a dysfunctional EVM, he ultimately cast vote after the defective machine was replaced. Over 100 EVMs malfunctioned as polling began in 3269 polling booths for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Prakasam district. Officials replaced the faulty ones and resumed polling. One of the youngest MLAs Pamula Pushpa Srivani cast her vote in Kurupam of Vizianagaram district. She is contesting again on YSRCP ticket. One of the youngest MLAs Pamula Pushpa Srivani cast her vote in Kurupam of Vizianagaram district. She is contesting again on YSRCP ticket. | Photo Credit: K. Srinivas. Women voters will play key role in Vizianagaram district. They outnumber men in the district. There are 9,19,654 women voters as against 8,98,331 men voters. Their active participation in election is significant in Vizianagaram district. TDP MP C.M. Ramesh objects to the gathering of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) agents outside the polling station at his native Potlathurthi village in Yerraguntla mandal of Kadapa district; A YSRCP agent then stopped the MP from going to cast his vote, leading to tension. Meanwhile, Chief Electoral Officer Gopal Krishna Dwivedi takes stock of the non-functioning of EVMs and VVPATs at several places; polling delayed by up to one hour at a large number of polling booths across the State. Police also quelled clashing TDP and YSRCP activists at Ramarayadupalem village in Yalamanchili mandal of Visakhapatnam district. Several booths in Kuppam Assembly constituency reported EVM glitches. Kuppam is Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's constituency in Chittoor district. At the 163rd booth in Kadapa city, it has been reported that the button representing the 'fan' symbol did not respond when pressed. Similarly, in the 106th booth in Mydukur, the cycle symbol was found unresponsive. Both the EVMs were changed immediately when the respective agents complained. HRD Minister Ganta Srinivas Rao arrives with his family at a polling station in a Visakhapatnam. HRD Minister Ganta Srinivas Rao arrives with his family at a polling station in a Visakhapatnam. Polling in some booths begins late Glimpses from a voting booth in Vijayawada.

Sonia Gandhi files nomination from Rae Bareli

(Day Today) United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi filed her nomination from the Rae Bareli parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh on April 11. Ms. Gandhi embarked on a roadshow before filing her papers. She also offered puja at the Congress's central office in Rae Bareli before starting the roadshow. She was accompanied by her son and Congress president Rahul Gandhi, daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and son-in-law Robert Vadra. The seat, where voting will be held in the fifth-phase on May 6, will see a straight contest between the former Congress chief and Dinesh Pratap Singh, who recently joined the BJP after leaving the Congress. The Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party have not fielded any candidate in this Congress bastion. Ms. Gandhi won the seat in 2004, 2006 (bypolls), 2009 and 2014.



NCP will never back BJP in event of a fractured verdict, says Supriya Sule

(News Track) Ms. Sule remarked that it was unfortunate that candidates were not addressing critical issues facing the State and the country. There was no question of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) offering support to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the event of a fractured verdict in the upcoming general election, said NCP MP Supriya Sule on Thursday. Ms. Sule further stated that the NCP would continue its firm opposition to BJP and its divisive policies even after the Lok Sabha election, irrespective of its outcome. She was responding to questions as to whether the NCP would back the BJP in the event the latter fell short of an absolute majority as it had offered unsolicited support to BJP following the 2014 Maharashtra Assembly election. Ms. Sule, who is seeking a mandate from the crucial Baramati Lok Sabha constituency for the third time, further remarked that it was unfortunate that candidates were not addressing critical issues facing the State and the country during their respective poll campaigns. "It is indeed galling that leaders and candidates are not speaking about the drought stalking the State nor have anything to say on the soaring unemployment levels or the failure to secure higher prices for the farmers' agricultural produce," said Ms. Sule, speaking in Baramati. Taking veiled jibes at the BJP governments at the Centre and the State, she said that opposition leaders merely made speeches but never once bothered to visit the drought-afflicted parts of Baramati. "It is easy to make speeches, but very hard to set up lasting structures to provide drought-relief... During my tenure, I have attempted to raise groundwater levels in my area by carrying out sub-surface mapping and have tried to make Baramati tanker-free," Ms. Sule said, criticizing the alleged failure of water schemes implemented by the BJP-



Sena government in Maharashtra. Following the Lok Sabha election in 2014, the crumbling of the two polar alliances in Maharashtra, the BJP- Shiv Sena and the Congress-NCP, saw the four parties contesting separately in the Assembly election in October that year. In the results to the Assembly polls, the BJP had fallen short of an absolute majority and the Sena had vacillated in offering support to its ally. At the time, Sharad Pawar's NCP had stepped into the vacuum, offering to support the BJP, allegedly in the interests of a stable government in Maharashtra.

Editorial

Rafale rebuff



The Supreme Court's decision to consider the relevance of the documents published in the media on the Rafale deal is a firm and necessary rebuff to the Central government's attempts to prevent judicial examination of these papers and to de-legitimise all investigative journalism on the subject. The court's unanimous verdict, rendered in two concurring orders by a three-judge Bench, means that review petitions filed against earlier orders declining an investigation into the purchase of Rafale jets will now be taken up on merits and that the petitioners are free to rely on these documents, regardless of their provenance. These documents include those published by The Hindu. A dissenting note by members of the India Negotiating Team, and notes that disclose unease in the Defence Ministry over parallel negotiations at the PMO's instance undermining the official parleys are among them. It would have been a travesty had the government succeeded in blocking judicial scrutiny of these documents, as they disclose significant details about the decision-making process. The government's desperate attempts to prevent the court from relying on these papers included a claim of privilege under the Evidence Act, a threat of invoking the Official Secrets Act (OSA) and an accusation that the published documents were "stolen" ones. Later, it toned down the allegation by saying the original documents had not been stolen, and what were published were unauthorised photocopies. None of these claims impressed the court, which relied on the principle that how a piece of evidence is obtained is immaterial, as long as it is relevant to adjudicating an issue. The decision on the admissibility of the documents has significance beyond the Rafale issue; it revivifies the rights of a free press and underscores the principle that it is public interest, and not the content of a document alone, that will decide whether disclosure is needed or not in a given case. Referring to the publication of the Rafale documents in The Hindu, Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi observed that "the right of such publication would seem to be in consonance with the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech". Citing the U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Pentagon Papers, he noted that neither the OSA nor any other law vests any power in the executive to stop publication of documents marked "secret" or the placing of such documents before a court of law which may be called upon to adjudicate a legal issue. It is premature to conclude, based on this development, that the court's earlier decision to not order a criminal investigation into the purchase of 36 Rafale jets will be revisited. However, it will certainly help provide clarity on several aspects of the murky deal. Had the government agreed to a parliamentary probe early on, it would not be suffering the sort of setback it has now faced in the Supreme Court.

The language of these speeches is pretty simple

(Day Today) Music is very important for almost everyone as it helps people feel relaxed and rejuvenate their spirits. It helps in experiencing a range of emotions love, despair, happiness and sorrow, to name a few. Music has the ability to enhance and enrich a person's creativity. It is important as it serves various purposes; it helps people in getting away from all the confusion in life and focus towards life's goal. Thus, almost every person especially young students are inspired to learn music as an extracurricular activity. These days we can see several music schools being inaugurated to teach this form of art to all the music lovers as much as possible. Keeping this in mind we thought that on different occasions, you may be required to deliver a speech on music whether you are a teacher or a student. So here our sample music speech would help you in delivering an impressive speech. Use our short speech on music at school level occasion and long speech on music at grand functions or during the inauguration of an institute, etc. The language of these speeches is pretty simple; you can use these as a reference point and create your own impactful music speech. Thank you for coming. Today we are celebrating Silver Jubilee of our Music School. I still remember 25 years ago, we had rented a small place to impart music training to the first five students who were highly keen and passionate about learning. Today, we have branches at several places and happily a total of 5,000 students. The entire credit goes to the students who have constantly been an inspiration for all of us and the teachers who are equally passionate about training the students. Music is a form of art and cultural activity. It is a way of living for many people; they breathe and live music at every passing moment and needless to mention they can sacrifice anything for achieving the pinnacle of success. Rhythm, dynamics, pitch are some of the common



elements of music. Music has a great significance in Hindu culture and mythology. Lord Krishna, the 8th incarnation of lord Vishnu is popularly known as "Murliwala" (Flute possessor). Deity 'Naarad' always carries 'Taunpura' (a long-necked plucked instrument with string) and he would play it primarily to entice Lord Vishnu. Goddess Saraswati, the lord of education also holds Taunpura; the instrument is also a symbol of peace and harmony. Music is one of the most precious gifts of God bestowed on mankind, through which people enjoy their leisure time and can alleviate their burdens of life. According to Hindu belief, music has evolved from a single note (sound) i.e. "Om" and the seven octaves (suras), such as 'SA-RE-GA-MA-PA-DHA-NI' which is the root for all ragas or forms of music. Music in any form such as instrumental or vocal is enjoyed by everyone. It creates harmony amongst the living beings; even plants and animals understand and enjoy the beat, rhythm and harmony created by the musical sounds. Choice of music may vary from person to person; some like classical and

some may prefer western; some enjoy films songs and some may be confined to ghazals or Kawaallis. Each form of music has its own range of depth and the practitioners have to undergo rigid trainings and practices to master the art. People who are skilled in any form of music are called child of god. Music complements one's life and it has the capacity to energize people in their days of distress. Music is equally valuable in every religion; Ghazals and Kawwalis are the Muslim forms of Music, Pop, Jazz, etc are enjoyed in Western culture, Gurubani is sacred to Sikhs and Hindus practice different forms of Ragas such as Bhairav, Yaman, etc. Music teaches people to be compassionate and empathetic. Use our short speech on music at school level occasion and long speech on music at grand functions or during the inauguration of an institute, etc. The language of these speeches is pretty simple; you can use these as a reference point and create your own impactful music speech. Thank you for coming. Today we are celebrating Silver Jubilee of our Music School. I still remember 25 years ago, we had rented a small place to impart

music training to the first five students who were highly keen and passionate about learning. Today, we have branches at several places and happily a total of 5,000 students. The good thing is that music is now travelling across borders and people are accepting each others' culture and forms of music with great zeal. Even though the preference for music may vary from person to person; but the sense of fulfillment remains the same in everyone who practices it or enjoys it. Music is the way to God provided it is practiced with heart. Thus, everyone must cultivate love for music because it is one of the forms of art that soothes you in distress and energizes you in your happiness. You must also be cautious that your love for music doesn't cause any harm to others and yourself. You must not wear earphones while you are travelling or walking on the road because it is highly dangerous for everyone. So keep the convenience of others in your mind while indulging in your favourite activity, secondly stay safe, nurture your love for music and never let it die down.

After visiting a number of aerospace manufacturers

(News Treck), The first principles approach has been used by many great thinkers including inventor Johannes Gutenberg, military strategist John Boyd, and the ancient philosopher Aristotle, but no one embodies the philosophy of first principles thinking more effectively than entrepreneur Elon Musk. In 2002, Musk began his quest to send the first rocket to Mars—an idea that would eventually become the aerospace company SpaceX. He ran into a major challenge right off the bat. After visiting a number of aerospace manufacturers around the world, Musk discovered the cost of purchasing a rocket was astronomical—up to \$65 million. Given the high price, he began to rethink the problem. "I tend to approach things from a physics framework," Musk said in an interview. "Physics teaches you to reason from first principles rather than by analogy. So I said, okay, let's look at the first principles. What is a rocket made of? Aerospace-grade aluminum alloys, plus some titanium, copper, and carbon fiber. Then I asked, what is the value of those materials on the commodity market? It turned out that the materials cost of a rocket was around two percent of the typical price." Instead of buying a finished rocket for tens of millions, Musk decided to create his own company, purchase the raw materials for cheap, and build the rockets himself. SpaceX was born. Within a few years, SpaceX had cut the price of launching a rocket by nearly 10x while still making a profit. Musk used first principles thinking to break the situation down to the fundamentals, bypass the high prices of the aerospace industry, and create a more effective solution. First principles thinking is the act of boiling a process down to the fundamental parts that you know are true and building up from there. Let's discuss how you can utilize first principles thinking in your life and work. A first principle is a basic assumption that cannot be deduced any further. Over two thousand years ago, Aristotle defined a first principle as "the first basis from which a thing is known." First principles thinking is a fancy way of saying "think like a scientist." Scientists don't assume anything. They start with questions like, "What are we absolutely sure is true? What has been proven? In theory, first principles thinking requires you to dig deeper and deeper until you are left with only the foundational truths of a situation. Rene Descartes, the French philosopher and scientist, embraced this approach with a method now called Cartesian Doubt in which he would "systematically doubt everything he could possibly doubt until he was left with what he saw as purely indubitable truths." In practice, you don't have to simplify every problem down to the atomic level to get the benefits of first principles thinking. You just need to go one or two levels deeper than most people. Different solutions present themselves at different layers of abstraction. John Boyd, the famous fighter pilot and military strategist, created the following thought experiment which showcases how to use first principles thinking in a practical way. orboat: motor, the hull of a boat, and a pair of skis. What can you create from these individual parts? One option is to make a snowmobile by combining the handlebars and seat from the bike, the metal treads from the tank, and the motor and skis from the boat. This is the process of first principles thinking in a nutshell. It is a cycle of breaking a situation down into the core pieces and then putting them all back together in a more effective way. Deconstruct then reconstruct. The snowmobile example also highlights another hallmark of first principles thinking, which is the combination of ideas from seemingly unrelated fields. A tank and a bicycle appear to have nothing in common, but pieces of a tank and a bicycle can be combined to develop innovations like a snowmobile. Many of the most groundbreaking ideas in history have been a result of boiling things down to the first principles and then substituting a more effective solution for one of the key parts. For instance, Johannes Gutenberg combined the technology of a screw press—a device used for making wine—with movable type, paper, and ink to create the printing press. Movable type had been used for centuries, but Gutenberg was the first person to consider the constituent parts of the process and adapt technology from an entirely different field to make printing far more

efficient. The result was a world-changing innovation and the widespread distribution of information for the first time in history. First principles thinking helps you to cobble together information from different disciplines to create new ideas and innovations. You start by getting to the facts. Once you have a foundation of facts, you can make a plan to improve each little piece. This process naturally leads to exploring widely for better substitutes. First principles thinking can be easy to describe, but quite difficult to practice. One of the primary obstacles to first principles thinking is our tendency to optimize form rather than function. The story of the suitcase provides a perfect example. In ancient Rome, soldiers used leather messenger bags and satchels to carry food while riding across the countryside. At the same time, the Romans had many vehicles with wheels like chariots, carriages, and wagons. And yet, for thousands of years, nobody thought to combine the bag and the wheel. The first rolling suitcase wasn't invented until 1970 when Bernard Sadow was hauling his luggage through an airport and saw a worker rolling a heavy machine on a wheeled skid. Throughout the 1800s and 1900s, leather bags were specialized for particular uses—backpacks for school, rucksacks for hiking, suitcases for travel. Zippers were added to bags in 1938. Nylon backpacks were first sold in 1967. Despite these improvements, the form of the bag remained largely the same. Innovators spent all of their time making slight iterations on the same theme. What looks like innovation is often an iteration of previous forms rather than an improvement of the core function. While everyone else was focused on how to build a better bag (form), Sadow considered how to store and move things more efficiently (function).

The human tendency for imitation is a common roadblock to first principles thinking. When most people envision the future, they project the current form forward rather than projecting the function forward and abandoning the form. For instance, when criticizing technological progress some people ask, "Where are the flying cars?"

Here's the thing: We have flying cars. They're called airplanes. People who ask this question are so focused on form (a flying object that looks like a car) that they overlook the function (transportation by flight). This is what Elon Musk is referring to when he says that people often "live life by analogy." Be wary of the ideas you inherit. Old conventions and previous forms are often accepted without question and, once accepted, they set a boundary around creativity. This difference is one of the key distinctions between continuous improvement and first principles thinking. Continuous improvement tends to occur within the boundary set by the original vision. By comparison, first principles thinking requires you to abandon your allegiance to previous forms and put the function front and center. What are you trying to accomplish? What is the functional outcome you are looking to achieve? Optimize the function. Ignore the form. This is how you learn to think for yourself. The Power of First Principles Ironically, perhaps the best way to develop cutting-edge ideas is to start by breaking things down to the fundamentals. Even if you aren't trying to develop innovative ideas, understanding the first principles of your field is a smart use of your time. Without a firm grasp of the basics, there is little chance of mastering the details that make the difference at elite levels of competition. Every innovation, including the most groundbreaking ones, requires a long period of iteration and improvement. The company at the beginning of this article, SpaceX, ran many simulations, made thousands of adjustments, and required multiple trials before they figured out how to build an affordable and reusable rocket. First principles thinking does not remove the need for continuous improvement, but it does alter the direction of improvement. Without reasoning by first principles, you spend your time making small improvements to a bicycle rather than a snowmobile. First principles thinking sets you on a different trajectory. If you want to enhance an existing process or belief, continuous improvement is a great option. If you want to learn how to think for yourself, reasoning from first principles is one of the best ways to do it.

Little competition and enjoyed a steady stream

(Gns. News), John Henry Patterson was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1844. He spent his childhood doing chores on the family farm and working shifts at his father's sawmill. After attending college at Dartmouth, Patterson returned to Ohio and opened a small supply store for coal miners. It seemed like a good opportunity. The store faced little competition and enjoyed a steady stream of customers, but—for some reason—Patterson's shop still struggled to make money. Eventually, he learned why: his employees were stealing from him.

In the mid-1800s, employee theft was a common problem. Receipts were kept in an open drawer and could easily be altered or discarded. There were no video cameras to review behavior and no software to track transactions. Unless you were willing to hover over your employees every minute of the day, or to manage all transactions yourself, it was difficult to prevent theft. As Patterson mulled over his predicament, he came across an advertisement for a new invention called Ritty's In-corrutable Cashier. Designed by fellow Dayton resident James Ritty, it was the first cash register. The machine automatically locked the cash and receipts inside after each transaction. Patterson bought two for fifty dollars each. Employee theft at his store vanished overnight. In the next six months, Patterson's business went from losing money to making \$5,000 in profit—the equivalent of more than \$100,000 today. Patterson was so impressed with the machine that he changed businesses. He bought the rights to Ritty's invention and opened the National Cash Register Company. Ten years later, National Cash Register had over one thousand employees and was on its way to becoming one of the most successful businesses in America. The brilliance of the cash register was that it automated ethical behavior by making stealing practically impossible. Rather than trying to change the motivations of his employees, Patterson used technology to make the preferred behavior automatic. There is an important lesson within this story that we can apply to all habits and behaviors. The best

way to break a bad habit is to make it impossible to do. And the best way to create a good habit is to automate it so you never have to think about it again. Typically, when people think about automating something, they imagine technology or a piece of software. And, certainly, this is a great way to automate a habit. You can save for retirement with an automatic deduction from your paycheck. You can curtail social media browsing with a website blocker. Technology can transform actions that were once hard, annoying, and complicated into behaviors that are easy, painless, and simple. It is the most reliable and effective way to guarantee the right behavior.

But there are also many ways to "automate" your future decisions that don't necessarily involve a piece of software. Overtime Actions That Lock In Good Habits One of the most practical ways to automate good habits is to look for onetime choices that require a little bit of effort up front but create increasing value over time. I'm fascinated by these single choices that can deliver returns again and again. Not long ago, I surveyed my readers on their favorite onetime actions that lead to better long-term habits. Nutrition: Use smaller plates to reduce caloric intake. Sleep: Remove your television from your bedroom. Productivity: Delete games and social media apps from your phone. Focus: Permanently set your phone in Do Not Disturb mode. Finance: Call your service providers (cable, electric, etc.) and ask for a lower rate. These onetime actions only require effort once and make it easier to get better sleep, eat healthy, be productive, save money, and generally live better. The Upside of Automation The mathematician and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead wrote, "Civilization advances by extending the number of operations we can perform without thinking about them." Today, technology and automation can handle an increasing number of daily tasks. Meal-delivery services can go grocery shopping for you. Healthcare services can automatically refill your prescriptions and ship them to you. IUDs can manage birth control on autopilot. Each habit that we



hand over to the authority of technology frees up time and energy to pour into the next stage of growth. When you automate as much of your life as you possibly can, you can spend your mental energy on the tasks machines cannot yet do. Automation is particularly useful for behaviors that happen too infrequently to become habitual. Things you have to do monthly or yearly—like rebalancing your investment portfolio—are never repeated frequently enough to become a habit, so they benefit in particular from technology "remembering" to do them for you. The constant tug of "just one more minute" can prevent me from doing anything of consequence. (I'm not the only one. The average person spends over two hours per day on social media. What could you do with an extra six hundred hours per year?) During the year I was writing Atomic Habits, I experimented with a new time management strategy. Binge watching becomes a habit because it takes more effort to stop looking at the screen than to continue doing so. Instead of pressing a button to advance to the next episode, Netflix or YouTube will autoplay it for you. All you have to do is keep your eyes open.

Technology often creates a level of convenience that enables you to act on your smallest whims and desires. There were no video cameras to review behavior and no software to track transactions. Unless you were willing to hover over your employees every minute of the day, or to manage all transactions yourself, it was difficult to prevent theft. As Patterson mulled over his predicament, he came across an advertisement for a new invention called Ritty's In-corrutable Cashier. Designed by fellow Dayton resident James Ritty, it was the first cash register. The machine automatically locked the cash and receipts inside after each transaction. Patterson bought two for fifty dollars each. Employee theft at his store vanished overnight. In the next six months, Patterson's business went from losing money to making \$5,000 in profit—the equivalent of more than \$100,000 today. Patterson was so impressed with the machine that he changed businesses. He bought the rights to Ritty's invention and opened the National Cash Register Company. At the mere suggestion of hunger, you can have food delivered to your door. At the slightest hint of boredom, you can get lost in the vast

expanse of social media. When the effort required to act on your desires becomes effectively zero, you can find yourself slipping into whatever impulse arises at the moment. The downside of automation is that we can find ourselves jumping from easy task to easy task without making time for more difficult, but ultimately more rewarding, work. Personally, I often find myself gravitating toward social media during any downtime. If I feel bored for just a fraction of a second, I reach for my phone. It's easy to write off these minor distractions as "just taking a break," but over time they can accumulate into a serious issue. The constant tug of "just one more minute" can prevent me from doing anything of consequence. (I'm not the only one. The average person spends over two hours per day on social media. What could you do with an extra six hundred hours per year?) During the year I was writing Atomic Habits, I experimented with a new time management strategy. Every Monday, my assistant would reset the passwords on all my social media accounts, which I logged me out on each device. All week I worked without distraction. On Friday, she would send me the new passwords. I

had the entire weekend to enjoy what social media had to offer until Monday morning when she would do it again. (If you don't have an assistant, team up with a friend or family member and reset each other's passwords each week.) Within the first week of locking myself out of social media, I realized that I didn't need to check it nearly as often as I had been, and I certainly didn't need it each day. It had simply been so easy that it had become the default. Once my bad habit became impossible, I discovered that I did actually have the motivation to work on more meaningful tasks. After I removed the mental candy from my environment, it became much easier to eat the healthy stuff. When working in your favor, automation can make your good habits inevitable and your bad habits impossible. It is the ultimate way to lock in future behavior rather than relying on willpower in the moment. Technology can transform actions that were once hard, annoying, and complicated into behaviors that are easy, painless, and simple. It is the most reliable and effective way to guarantee the right behavior. But there are also many ways to "automate" your future decisions that don't necessarily involve a piece of software. Overtime Actions That Lock In Good Habits One of the most practical ways to automate good habits is to look for onetime choices that require a little bit of effort up front but create increasing value over time. I'm fascinated by these single choices that can deliver returns again and again. Not long ago, I surveyed my readers on their favorite onetime actions that lead to better long-term habits. Nutrition: Use smaller plates to reduce caloric intake. Sleep: Remove your television from your bedroom. Productivity: Delete games and social media apps from your phone. Focus: Permanently set your phone in Do Not Disturb mode. Finance: Call your service providers (cable, electric, etc.) and ask for a lower rate. By utilizing strategic onetime decisions and technology, you can create an environment of inevitability—a space where good habits are not just an outcome you hope for, but an outcome that is virtually guaranteed.

35.79 lakh people to cast their vote in AP today



(News Track) Buses kept ready at AU Engineering College grounds to transport men and material to polling stations, in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. 4,058 polling stations set up in three Lok Sabha and 15 Assembly constituencies in Visakhapatnam district. Around 35.79 lakh voters are expected to exercise their franchise at 4,058 polling stations for three Lok Sabha and 15 Assembly constituencies in the district on Thursday. According to the final electoral rolls, of the total voters, 35.78 lakh are men, 18.02 lakh women and 197 third gender. The polling will take place from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the district and from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Araku and Paderu Assembly segments in the Visakhapatnam Agency. As many as 34 nominees are in fray for Visakhapatnam, Anakapalle and Araku (ST) Lok Sabha constituencies and 176 candidates are contesting from the Assembly segments. As many as 614 polling stations in Araku and Paderu segments and 1,053 in the other areas in the district have been identified as 'problematic'. Tight security has been ensured at the areas identified as 'sensitive' and those vulnerable to left wing extremism, including the ones along the Andhra-Odisha border (AOB). Greyhounds, CRPF and Andhra Pradesh Special Police (APSP) have been deployed to ensure smooth polling. As many as 399 sectoral and an equal number of route officers, 4,553 polling officers and assistant polling officers each, 13,663 other polling officials and 2,130 micro-observers have also been appointed. For the Lok Sabha constituencies, 4,058 ballot units, control units and VVPATs have been readied while 4,329 ballot units and 4,058 VVPATs have been assigned to the Assembly constituencies. Reserve units are also kept on the standby mode. Expenditure monitoring committee has seized 78.13 crore and 62,164 litres of liquor have been confiscated by the nodal officials. The Media Certification and Monitoring Committee has booked 19 cases of violation of poll code, of which 13 have been disposed off. Meanwhile, Andhra University Engineering College grounds became a beehive of activity on the eve of the general elections on Wednesday as hundreds of poll personnel arrived there to collect the election material. A large number of buses were parked at there to shift the men and material to the respective polling stations. "It took nearly two days for us to make arrangements for distribution of the election material. We slept hardly for an hour on Tuesday night and resumed work by 4 a.m. on Wednesday," an employee said. The personnel assigned to nine Assembly constituencies of Visakhapatnam North, East, West and South, Gajuwaka, Bheemunipatnam, Anakapalle, Elamanchili and Pendurthi reported at the AUEC grounds. As many as 14,442 poll personnel will conduct the elections at 2,407 polling stations set up in the nine Assembly segments. After marking their attendance, the personnel collected the election material including EVMs and VVPATs and boarded special buses for their respective polling stations after lunch. Though all the buses were scheduled to leave by 1 p.m., those started the journey around 3 p.m. As many as 60 buses were engaged to ferry 2,000 personnel to 274 polling stations in Pendurthi Assembly constituency alone, Visakhapatnam RDO and Returning Officer Tej Bharat said. For every polling station, a micro-observer has been appointed to monitor the proceedings.

A newcomer versus robust incumbent in Ballari



(Day Today) It's a war of close associations: BJP's Devendrapa, a relative of Jarkiholi, against Ugrappa, Siddaramaiah's confidant. The Lok Sabha elections in Ballari Parliamentary constituency is crucial both for the Congress and the BJP as the outcome will show whether the Congress will re-establish its hold on a constituency that was once its bastion, or whether a resurgent BJP will dominate. The Congress' win in all the elections held between 1952 and 2000 in the constituency had made it a 'safe' seat for the party. This could explain why the then AICC president Sonia Gandhi contested from here in 1999 defeating BJP's Sushma Swaraj. But in the 2004 elections, the BJP, for the first time, wrested the seat from the Congress, with the power and influence of the Reddy brothers and mining barons — G. Karunakara Reddy, G. Janardhan Reddy, and G. Somashekara Reddy — and their close associate B. Sriramulu. The saffron party continued to dominate by retaining the seat for almost three consecutive terms. The constituency, after the delimitation process held in 2008, was reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST). However, in 2018 the Congress was able to regain its citadel. In the bypolls — which was held following the resignation of Mr. Sriramulu to contest in the Assembly polls — Congress put up a united front against the waning popularity of Reddy brothers. The peculiarity of the constituency is that the voters are politically divided. While earlier the electoral fight was between the Congress and Janata Dal, after 2004, the Janata Dal (S) position was taken over by the BJP. The former lost its base after former Chief Minister and veteran politician Ramakrishna Hegde was expelled from the party by JD(S) supreme and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda. The BJP went on to win a hat trick, while the JD(S) could not win in a single election. Though there are chronic issues plaguing the region, elections are not fought over them. In fact, as the 2018 byelections showed, even the "outsider" tag became irrelevant. In this election, the Congress, holding six of the total eight Assembly segments, is buoyant and hopes to repeat the 2018 byelection performance. They are projecting the achievements of the UPA government, especially the amendment to Article 371 (J) granting special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region and accusing the Narendra Modi government of failing to fulfil the promises made to the people during the 2014 elections. The party has renominated V.S. Ugrappa, a close confidant of coalition coordination committee chairman Siddaramaiah, as its candidate. The BJP has fielded Y. Devendrapa, who crossed over from the Congress recently. That the party has chosen a comparative newcomer instead of choosing from one among the Reddy brothers' group, clearly indicates that the Reddy brothers and Sriramulu's hold over Ballari has fizzled out. More importantly, Mr. Devendrapa is a close relative of Ramesh Jharkiholi, one of the leading members of the Congress rebel group. In its campaigning, the BJP is highlighting the achievements of the Modi government, the welfare programmes announced, and the safety and security of the country.

Polling ends in Naxal-hit areas

(News Track) EVMs are arranged at a polling station in Nizamabad constituency where 177 turmeric and red jowar farmers are contesting against Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter K. Kavitha. 12 EVMs will be used in each booth in Nizamabad, where 185 candidates, including more than 170 farmers, are contesting. Polling is under way in all the 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana on Thursday. As many as 443 candidates are in the fray but the key contest is between Telangana Rashtriya Samiti (TRS), Congress and the BJP. The Election Commission has identified 13 Assembly segments as Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected areas and polling has ended at 4 p.m. in these places. For the rest of the State, polling is scheduled to end at 5 p.m. Perhaps for the first time in the history of Indian elections, 12 EVMs are being used in each booth in Nizamabad, where 185 candidates, including more than 170 farmers, are contesting. In Nizamabad constituency, 177 farmers are contesting against Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter K. Kavitha. The farmers have deployed only one polling agent on their behalf. This, the farmers claim, is in itself a big achievement as they faced threats from ruling TRS and those who offered themselves as agents backed out in the last minute. The polling was slow as the voters took time to identify candidates of their choice on the EVMs. This led to long queues outside. Polling concludes in Sirpur, Asifabad, Chennur, Bellampally, Mancherla, Manthani, Bhupalpalle, Mulugu, Pinapaka, Yellandu, Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem and Aswaroepet assembly segments. These segments have been identified as Left Wing Extremist-hit constituencies. Polling picked up in several constituencies between 1 pm and 3 pm with Zaheerabad registering 63.39 per cent and Medak 62.5 per cent. Other constituencies such as Nalgonda (58.21%), Karimnagar (58.1%), Bhongir (57.41%), Adilabad (57.04%), Mahbubabad (55.24%), Khammam (54.8%), and Peddapalle (54.83%) too crossed the 50 per cent mark. But polling remained sluggish in Hyderabad (27.79%), Secunderabad (30.2%) and Malkajgiri (36.39%). Chevella, where the polling was initially low however picked up subsequently and crossed 40% by 3 pm. The polling station in Teeluru village of Marikal mandal in Narayanpet district is wearing a deserted look with hardly anyone exercising their franchise. Just a day before polling, 10 women labourers were buried alive when loose soil and boulders fell on them while they were taking rest after working at an agricultural field in the village. Polling at Kacharam in Kamareddy district has been stopped for one hour due to technical snag. Nalgonda parliamentary constituency is sizzling at 41.8 degrees Celsius. The constituency has polled 42.09% till 1 pm. Karimnagar parliamentary constituency reported 45.62 per cent polling and Peddapalli parliamentary constituency recorded 47 per cent polling till 1 PM. Medak registers highest 54 per cent polling while voting in Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Malkajgiri continues to be sluggish. At 1 pm, Hyderabad poll percentage is 20.59% and Secunderabad recorded 23.85%. The overall polling percentage reaches 38.30 by 1 pm. Nomula Mohan Reddy, a farmer candidate contesting from Nizamabad. Nomula Mohan Reddy, a farmer candidate contesting from Nizamabad. Nizamabad constituency has the maximum number of candidates contesting. Despite the scorching sun, 38.10% of votes have been polled till 1 pm. Voters, especially from rural areas, are finding it difficult to locate their choice of candidate among 185 names. Over 170 farmers are contesting the poll from this constituency to press for a Turmeric Board and better environment for farming. On the polling day, Nomula Mohan Reddy, a farmer-candidate, and his wife leisurely went to cast his vote and returned home for lunch. The couple live at Vannel (B) village in Balkonda mandal. He says he will return to his tomato fields later in the day. Reddy did not take up any campaign but expects to poll 50 to 60 votes. - Ram Mohan. Election officials call for explanation regarding Shobana Kamineni's issue. The State election authority, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, has sought an explanation from the booth level officer concerned on the deletion of the name of Shobana Kamineni of Apollo Group. Initial inquiries by the officials revealed that Ms. Kamineni had two EPIC num-



bers in the polling station no. 49 of the Nampally assembly constituency since 2017. Election officials noticed this as part of the summary revision of electoral rolls. Though one of the entries was supposed to be deleted as part of the de-duplication process, both the entries had been deleted, according to sources. Senior officials have accordingly sought an explanation from the official concerned so that necessary remedial action could be initiated. Performance of equipment satisfactory: CEO The performance of the election equipment — the ballot units, control unit and voter verifiable paper audit trail machines — has been satisfactory across the State. Unlike the previous Assembly elections when there was more than 7% failure of the VVPAT machines, the rate this time around was 2.21% during the mock poll conducted early this morning. The replacement rate of ballot units was 1.51% and that of the control units was 1.71%, according to Chief Electoral Officer Rajat Kumar. "Overall, the performance of the machines has been satisfactory," he said. The election authorities are utilising over 77,365 BUS, 41,051 CUs and 43,894 VVPAT machines across the 17 Lok Sabha constituencies. Hyderabad had voter uploads video from polling booth. A voter in Hyderabad has landed in trouble after he uploaded a video of him voting onto Facebook. The EVM and VVPAT can be seen in the video clip that he shared. 12 NOON. Slow polling in first two hours. Polling was rather slow in the first two hours since voting started in the 17 Lok Sabha constituencies across Telangana. The polling percentage did not cross 15 during the first two hours in any constituency contrary to expectations that people would come to vote early in view of the scorching summer heat. Mahabubnagar registered maximum 15 per cent polling followed by Mahabubabad (14.5), Peddapalli (14), Zaheerabad (13.82) and Bhongir (13). While Hyderabad registered 6.34% voting in the first two hours, it was just 4.52% in Secunderabad. Nizamabad where voting started an hour behind schedule registered 3.6% polling in the first hour. The slow pace of polling was attributed to the complaints of non-functioning of the EVMs at several places even as Chief Electoral Officer Rajat Kumar asserted that the complaints were being attended to at the earliest. The polling is by-and-large peaceful across the State barring reports that farmers in some villages, particularly in Nizamabad, boycotted the election. Name missing from voters' list: Shobana Kamineni. Former Confederation of Indian Industry president Shobana Kamineni was caught unaware as her name was found to have been removed from the voters' list in Hyderabad. She is the daughter of Prathap C. Reddy, chairman, Apollo Hospitals Groups. "This is the worst day for me as an Indian citizen," a visibly agitated Ms. Kamineni said in a video. "I was travelling abroad, but I came back because I wanted to exercise my franchise and I am told at the booth that my vote is deleted," she said. She added that she had voted in the Assembly elections in December 2018 from the same booth. 3 voters hospitalised after a honeybee stings them. Polling stopped as EVM in Dantla village of Dantapally mandal breaks down. Three voters suffer honeybee sting in Chinnu Yellapur village of Mahabubad district. Victims shifted to Narsampet area hospital. Voters of Bastidudem village in Venkatapuram mandal of Mulug district boycott polls protesting delay in redressal of land issues in the village. Voting has been delayed at the polling station in the remote C. Kothagudem vil-

lage of Charla mandal in the predominantly tribal-populated Bhadradi Kothagudem district after villagers threatened to boycott the polls en masse in protest for their pending grievances. The polling began following the intervention of the local revenue officials who persuaded them to participate in voting by assuring to resolve their grievances after elections. "Had a mini scare...but finally found our names...we voted...did u??" wrote Arjuna Award-winning badminton player Jwala Gutta on Twitter. Jwala Gutta with her family during the 2018 Telangana assembly elections, the Hyderabad-resident had found her name missing on the voters list. "Surprised to see my name disappear from the voting list after checking online," she had shared on Twitter. Ms. Gutta wondered how the elections could be termed "fair" when names were disappearing for the voters list. Many fellow Hyderabadis retweeted and replied their experience with missing names. Polling started on a dull note in various parts of Karimnagar and Peddapalli Parliamentary constituencies of the integrated Karimnagar district on Thursday. There was thin attendance of voters at all the polling stations in the district in the early hours of polling. Though the authorities have claimed that they have distributed voter slips to the voters, majority of voters had abstained from voting reportedly due to non-distribution of voting slips. Some voters have arrived at the polling station to check their names, but in vain. The polling was delayed for some hours in some towns following technical snags in the Ms. The engineers rushed to the spot and rectifying the problems.

Karimnagar MP B. Vinod Kumar along with his family members exercised his franchise at the Government Urdu Medium High School in Karimnagar town. BJP contestant Bandi Sanjay Kumar cast his vote at a polling station in Chaitanyapuri colony in the town. Villagers of Bandampalli in Peddapalli mandal have boycotted the polling opposing the merger of their village with the Peddapalli municipal town. Even after pleading the voters to cast their votes, they remained indoors and refused to cast their votes. The officials informed the same to the higher authorities about the villagers boycotting the polls. Polling process was going on smoothly in the naxalite affected villages of Manthani Assembly segment abutting the bordering Chhattisgarh state. Voters oppose merger of polling booths. Villagers of Bandampalli boycotted polling to register their opposition to the merger of their village with Peddapalli municipal town in Peddapalli district. Similarly, villagers of Ayyurpalli boycotted polls to mark their protest against the merger of their village with Vemulawada town in Rajanna Sircilla district. Stations in Government High School at Jakrapally were turned away at one of the booths as the EVMs did not function. At the moment, the voters are waiting outside for election authorities to rectify the non-functional. The issue was not isolated to the centers in Nizamabad and in Yellareddy and Peddapalli. Stations in Zaheerabad Parliamentary constituencies were reportedly non-functional for 30 minutes, before the technical staff sorted out the problem.

Russia moves to expand government control of Internet



(Day Today) Demonstrators attend the Free Internet rally in Moscow on March 10, 2019 in response to a bill making its way through parliament calling for all Internet traffic to be routed through servers in Russia — making VPNs (virtual private networks) ineffective. Demonstrators attend the Free Internet rally in Moscow on March 10, 2019 in response to a bill making its way through parliament calling for all Internet traffic to be routed through servers in Russia — making VPNs (virtual private networks) ineffective. [Photo Credit: AP. Opponents argue it would allow the state to control the flow of information and enforce blocks on messaging applications which refuse to hand over data. The lower house of the Russian parliament has passed a second reading of a bill that would expand government authority over the Internet but whose opponents fear heralds widespread censorship. The bill, which passed 322-15, would install equipment to route Russian internet traffic through servers in the country. That would increase the powers of state agencies and make it harder for users to circumvent any government restrictions. The proposed move sparked protests of several thousand people in Moscow in March. Opponents argue it would allow the state to control the flow of information and enforce blocks on messaging applications which refuse to hand over data. Advocates say the bill is intended to address concerns that Russia could be cut off if the United States engages in a cybersecurity offensive.

Police file case against Kathir Anand, other DMK party members following cash seizure

(News Track) The Katpadi police filed cases against DMK's Vellore candidate Kathir Anand and party members Poonjolai Srinivasan and Damodaran, in connection with the seizure of 11.48 crore from a cement godown in Nadumottur village in Katpadi region by Income Tax officials. Police officials said that a case has been filed under section 125 (A) of Representation of Peoples Act 1951 and sections 171 (B) (2), 171 (E) of the Indian Penal Code and for filing false affidavits and attempting to bribe the voters. According to a complaint filed by the election department official, the DMK candidate Mr. Anand had filed an affidavit with the Election Commission declaring that he and his wife Sangeetha Kathir had 7.43 lakh. However, the cash seized from premises belonging to Mr. Anand was in excess of that amount. Subsequently, 11.48 crore was seized by IT officials from DMK party members owing allegiance to DMK treasurer Durai Murugan and Mr. Anand, it was reported. The IT department has submitted a report to the election department on the amount seized and incidents that preceded the raids on March 29 and April 1. The amount seized was claimed by one Poonjolai Srinivasan that it belonged to him and was meant for distribution to the voters. The huge haul of cash, all in small denominations, was found in packed covers and numbered ward-wise, indicative that they were meant for distribution to voters. DMK treasurer and Mr. Anand's father Durai Murugan issued a statement claiming the cash did not belong to them. Official sources said the cash was kept inside the engineering college that is owned by Mr. Anand and it was moved on the night of March 29, when party members and advocates were engaged.

Release of PM Modi biopic deferred till further orders from EC

(Day Today) A view of the logo of Election Commission of India at ECI headquarters in New Delhi. Any such film that subverses purpose of any political entity or individual should not be displayed in the electronic media, says Election Commission. The release of a biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been deferred till further orders from the Election Commission, which on April 10 issued a directive prohibiting display of any biopic material that subverses "the purposes of any political entity or individual connected to it." The Election Commission of India today issued an order prohibiting display in electronic media including cinematograph of any biopic material in the nature of biography/hagiography sub-serving the purposes of any political entity or any individual entity connected to it," said a statement. The ECI said that if in any movie, certified by the appropriate authority [censor board], there was such a violation, or a complaint was made in this regard, a committee set up by the Commission would examine it and suggest appropriate action. The committee will be headed by a retired Supreme Court judge or former Chief Justice of a High Court. Read the Election Commission's order under Article 324 that prohibits display/exhibit any biopic/publicity material when Model Code of Conduct is in force, barring that certain political contents related to either a candidate, political party or the achievement of the party in power (BJP), which were not in conformity with the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), were being displayed in the electronic media or intended to be displayed to the public with the purpose of furthering electoral gains, the Com-



mission in its order said it had so far received complaint against NTR Laxmi, PM Narendra Modi and Udyama Simham. It has been alleged that these films either diminish or advance the electoral prospect of a candidate or a political party in the garb of creative freedom. The release of a biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been deferred till further orders from the Election Commission, which on April 10 issued a directive prohibiting display of any biopic material that sub-serves "the purposes of any political entity or individual connected to it." "The Election Commission of India today issued an order prohibiting display in electronic media including cinematograph of any biopic material in the nature of biography/hagiography sub-serving the purposes of any political entity or any individual entity connected to it," said a statement. The Commission has not yet

confirmed if the complaints against Mr. Modi's biopic and the other two movies have been referred to the committee for examination. Exercising its powers under Article 324 of the Constitution, The ECI said that if in any movie, certified by the appropriate authority [censor board], there was such a violation, or a complaint was made in this regard, a committee set up by the Commission would examine it and suggest appropriate action. The Commission has not yet confirmed if the complaints against Mr. Modi's biopic and the other two movies have been referred to the committee for examination. Exercising its powers under Article 324 of the Constitution, the EC has directed that any biopic material sub-serving the purposes of any political entity or any individual entity connected to it, which is intended to, or which has potential to disturb the level playing field

during the elections, should not be displayed during the MCC period. "Any poster or publicity material concerning any such certified content, which either depicts a candidate (including prospective) for the furtherance (or purported to furtherance) of electoral prospect, directly or indirectly, shall not be put to display in electronic media in the area where MCC is in operation," said the seven-page order. In a separate letter to the producers of PM Narendra Modi, the Commission said in view of the admitted facts and material available on record, the film being a biopic on a political leader and prospective candidate to the Lok Sabha polls cannot be exhibited in view of the EC's order. "Therefore, in view of the above, you are hereby directed not to exhibit the film titled 'PM Narendra Modi' till further orders in terms of the aforesaid Order," said the Commission.

Highest polling of 68% recorded in Nagaland at 3 pm



Infiltrators are termites, will throw them out: Amit Shah

(Day Today) Referring to illegal migrants from Bangladesh as "termites", BJP president Amit Shah on April 11 said his party will throw them out after coming to power at the Centre for a second term. Addressing a rally in Raiganj, he alleged that the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal was only interested in appeasing minorities. "The illegal immigrants are like termites. They are eating the grain that should go to the poor, they are taking our jobs. The T of TMC stands for Tushtikaran, (appeasement), M for Mafia and C for Chitfunds," Mr. Shah said. After coming to power again, the BJP would find these termites and throw them out, he asserted, adding that citizenship would, however, be granted to every Hindu and Buddhist refugee. Maintaining that the count-down to "corrupt" Trinamool government's downfall will begin on May 23, when the BJP bags 23 Lok Sabha seats from Bengal, Mr. Shah appealed to the voters to give the saffron party an opportunity to serve them.



Pakistan takes media, diplomats on tour of Balakot

(News Track) This image made from footage tweeted by Pakistan's military spokesman purports to show a group of foreign journalists observing a crater in Balakot. Pakistan has escorted a group of foreign journalists and diplomats to the site of an Indian air strike to show that, contrary to New Delhi's claims, no infrastructure was damaged, the military spokesman said. The visiting group, which Major General Asif Ghafoor said was mostly based in New Delhi, was shown observing a crater in Balakot in video published via Twitter late on April 10, on the eve of the first phase of Lok Sabha elections. The group saw the "ground realities" of the strike site, Maj. Gen. Ghafoor said in a caption accompanying the tweet. Pakistan has denied from the start that there was any damage or casualties, with Prime Minister Imran Khan framing it as an election ploy. But independent reporting by multiple local and international outlets who have visited the site found no evidence of a major terrorist training camp — or of any infrastructure damage at all. An AFP reporter who visited just hours after the strike was carried out saw damage only to trees and one mud hut. Local residents have said no one was killed. The Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab said that open-source satellite imagery indicated "only impacts in the wooded area, with no damage being visible to the surrounding structures". The strike was in retaliation to a suicide bombing in Pulwama on February 14



that was claimed by Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based militant outfit. The visiting group, which Major General Asif Ghafoor said was mostly based in New Delhi, was shown observing a crater in Balakot in video published via Twitter late on April 10, on the eve of the first phase of Lok Sabha elections. The group saw the "ground realities" of the strike site, Maj. Gen. Ghafoor said in a caption accompanying the tweet. Pakistan has denied from the start that there was any damage or casualties, with Prime Minister Imran Khan framing it as an election ploy. But independent reporting by multiple local and international outlets who have visited the site found

no evidence of a major terrorist training camp — or of any infrastructure damage at all. It was followed by Pakistani air strikes which hit open space in Indian territory and ignited a dogfight in the skies over Kashmir. Pakistan said it shot down two Indian war planes, with one falling on the Indian side. But independent reporting by multiple local and international outlets who have visited the site found no evidence of a major terrorist training camp — or of any infrastructure damage at all. It captured the pilot of the other, releasing him days later in a bid to defuse tensions. India says just one of its planes was shot down, and claimed that the second plane was a Pakistani F-16 shot

down by the Indian Air Force. The visiting group, which Major General Asif Ghafoor said was mostly based in New Delhi, was shown observing a crater in Balakot in video published via Twitter late on April 10, on the eve of the first phase of Lok Sabha elections. The group saw the "ground realities" of the strike site, Maj. Gen. Ghafoor said in a caption accompanying the tweet. Pakistan has denied from the start that there was any damage or casualties, with Prime Minister Imran Khan framing it as an election ploy. Pakistan has denied that claim also, and Foreign Policy has reported that the U.S. had done a count of all Pakistan's F-16s, with none missing.

(Gns. News) The first phase of the general election began on April 11 with voters exercising their franchise in 91 of the 543 constituencies spread across 20 States and Union Territories - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Assembly elections are also being held today in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim. A voter turnout of 41 per cent has been recorded in Odisha till 1 pm where polling is being held in four Lok Sabha seats and 28 assembly constituencies, Chief Electoral Officer Surendra Kumar has said. The CEO said that technical glitches were noticed in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in several booths, but sectoral officers replaced the defective machines within 30 to 40 minutes. In a booth located atop a hill in an inaccessible area of Nuapada district, the poll personnel took quick steps to replace a defective EVM, he said. 41.27% electorate cast their vote in Uttarakhand till 1 pm. A voter turnout of 41.27% has been recorded in Uttarakhand till 1 pm where polling is being held in all its five Lok Sabha seats in the first of the seven-phase general elections. Chief Electoral Officer Saujanya said Tehri recorded 40.60% polling, Pauri 38.51%, Almora 36.70%, Nainital 48.0% and Haridwar 48.67%. An average 29.8% votes have been polled for election to the lone Mizoram Lok Sabha seat and bypoll to the Aizawl West-I Assembly seat till 1 pm, an election official said. The fate of six candidates for the Lok Sabha seat would be decided by an electorate of 7,78,777. Three nominees are in the fray in the Assembly bypoll. The State witnessed the average turnout of 29.8% in the first six hours of polling. State chief electoral officer (CEO) Ashish Kundra said. The four Lok Sabha constituen-

cies of Bihar registered 24.57% voter turnout till noon, Joint Chief Electoral Officer Pravin Kumar Gupta told PTL. Incidents of poll boycott were reported from some places in Jamui and Nawada constituencies while the police recovered three bombs, including a cane bomb. The CEO office said 25% turnout was recorded in Nawada Assembly bypoll. Voting at a polling station of Nawada Lok Sabha seat was withheld for some time following the arrest of a polling officer who was found in a drunken state, official sources said. Polling resumed at the booth after he was arrested, the sources said. According to reports received from the districts, people boycotted voting at some booths in Jamui and Nawada Lok Sabha constituencies citing non-availability of water and lack of road connectivity in their areas. A cane bomb was found from a polling station in Aurangabad Lok Sabha constituency just before voting began. Two bombs were found beneath Nevta bridge on Imamganj-Raniganj main road falling under Imamganj assembly constituency. The bombs were later defused. Saharanpur is still leading with 41.60%, while Meerut has picked up pace and is at 40.60%, marginally behind Bijnor at 40.80%. Kairana and Muzaffarnagar are at 39.80% and 37.60%, while Baghpat is 38% and GB Nagar 38.60%. Ghaziabad is below the average vote percentage at 33.20. Namo food packets have nothing to do with political party: police. Police have reacted to a photograph doing rounds on social media of policemen distributing food packets with Namo printed on them. Gautam Budh Nagar SSP Vaibhav Krishna dismissed this as a misinformation campaign, and that the food was from Namo Food Shop and not any political party. "There is some misinformation being spread that some policemen have been distributed food from a political party. This is absolutely wrong. At local level, some food packets were

procured from Namo Food Shop and not from any political party. Some people are spreading wrong and politically motivated rumours. And there is no official order to procure food from any particular food outlet," he said in a statement. Sikkim witnesses 15% polling in first three hours. Around 15 per cent votes were cast in the first three hours of polling in Sikkim in simultaneous elections to a 32-member Legislative Assembly and to pick its only Lok Sabha member. The State is witnessing a three-way fight between Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), led by P.S. Goley, a former SDF Minister; and the Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP) of former Indian football captain Bhaichung Bhutia. Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur race ahead in U.P. with 26.4% and 25.6% turnout till 11 am. The turnout in other seats: Bijnor 25.1%, Baghpat 25%, GB Nagar 24.2%, Kairana 24%, Ghaziabad 22.4% and Meerut 21.80%. Polling in Uttarakhand's five Lok Sabha seats saw 23.78% voter turnout by 11 am with people queuing up since early morning to exercise their franchise, an official said. The fate of 52 candidates will be decided by over 78 lakh voters of the State, where all the five seats — Tehri, Pauri, Haridwar, Almora and Nainital — are being held by the BJP. The saffron party is locked in straight contests with the Congress on all seats. Polling began at 7 am and 23.78% voter turnout was recorded by 11 am, Chief Electoral Officer Saujanya said. In the Cooch Behar and Alipurduar seats of West Bengal 38% has been recorded till 11 am. Polling began at 7 am in the two constituencies, where a total of 34,51,883 electorate will decide the fate of 18 candidates. Around 50% of polling stations in the two Lok Sabha constituencies are under the watch of paramilitary personnel, besides an adequate number of state forces, to ensure a free and fair

elections. Around 25 per cent voting was recorded in the first three hours of polling for the West Tripura parliamentary constituency. Police spokesman Subrata Chakraborty said that in 10 places, some persons tried to prevent voters from voting but were thwarted. "No major incident was reported from anywhere," he told IANS. The main contest is between BJP's Pratima Bhoumik, CPI(M)'s Sankar Prasad Datta, and Subal Bhowmik, who quit the BJP's Vice-President's post and became the Congress aspirant last month. Men and women in large numbers queued up in front of polling stations well before voting started at 7 a.m. across the state. Polling will end at 4 p.m., Chief Electoral Officer Frederick Roy Kharkongor said. In the two constituencies of Shillong and Tura, a total of 19,14,795 electors with 52 per cent of them women, are expected to exercise their franchise to elect two new Lok Sabha members. It's a three-way contest in the State with Congress, BJP and a regional parties bloc fighting the elections together. 14% turnout in J&K till 9 a.m. The twin Lok Sabha seats of Baramulla and Jammu registered 14.12% turnout till 9 a.m. Voting started on a slow note in Baramulla district where 5.80% votes were polled in the first three hours, Bandipora saw 5.97% and Kupwara recorded the highest — 7.98% in the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat. Kashmiri migrants, who are living in various part of the country, also voted for the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat. "10.24% polling of migrants was recorded," said the State Election Commission. Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone, who hails from Handwara in the Baramulla parliamentary constituency, appealed to the voters to come out for voting. "This election will herald change. From changelessness to change," he said. Compared to Baramulla, the Jammu Lok Sabha seat recorded brisk polling.

Enron-Dabhol power project: SC closes case of alleged corruption

(Day Today) The Supreme Court on Thursday closed an appeal by the Centre for Indian Trade Union in 1997 alleging corruption and paybacks involving politicians and bureaucrats in the setting up of Enron-promoted Dabhol power plant in the State. Two decades after the case was filed in the apex court, a Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, in a judgment, laid to rest the special leave petition, saying the serious accusations leveled against politicians and bureaucrats need to be taken to its logical conclusion. The Maharashtra government had in February urged the court to end the proceedings which has been pending for the past several years. The Madhav Godbole high-powered committee, which was formed to review the 2,184 MW, \$3 billion Dabhol power project, had recommended the constitution of a judicial commission into the allegations of corruption. The Committee had said that the deal showed there was an utter failure of governance which was relevant in almost every step of the



decision-making process relating to the Dabhol project. The Committee was critical of former

Maharashtra Chief Minister Sharad Pawar, the BJP-led Union government which had a brief

tenure of 13 days in 1996, and the Shiv Sena-BJP combine which came to power in Maharashtra.

After laser light pointed at Rahul Gandhi in Amethi, Congress writes to Home Minister

(Day Today) On the road: Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on a roadshow in Amethi on Wednesday. "...A (green) laser was pointed at his head, intermittently on at least seven separate occasions in a short period; including twice at his temple on the right side of the head" The Congress on Thursday wrote to Home Minister Rajnath Singh about a possible breach in Congress president Rahul Gandhi's security in Uttar Pradesh when he visited Amethi to file his nomination on Wednesday. In their letter to Mr. Singh, senior leaders Ahmed Patel, Jairam Ramesh and Randeep Surjewala have asked the Centre to "probe and neutralise the threat, if any". They have pointed out a green laser was pointing at Mr. Gandhi, at least, seven times when he was speaking to the media after filing his nominations. "...A (green) laser was pointed at his head, intermittently on at least seven separate occasions in a short period; including twice at his temple on the right side of the head." The party also sent a video clip of his media interaction to Mr. Singh along with the joint letter. "A perusal of the video by various persons including former security personnel leads to a prima facie conclusion that this laser could emanate from a potential weapon such as a sniper gun," the letter said. "All of us are deeply shocked and distressed at the possibility of the Congress president being targeted by a potential assassin." They have pointed out a green laser was pointing at Mr. Gandhi, at least, seven times when he was speaking to the media after filing his nominations. "...A (green) laser was pointed at his head. The letter also reminded the assassination of former Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi. "We urge you to immediately take note of this grave and unacceptable security threat as also the security lapse in the security of the Congress president... This is also an alarming lapse on part of the UP administration which is responsible for the peripheral security," the letter read.

