

## 8 DECISION 2019



Akhilesh Yadav

**UTTAR PRADESH:**  
**14 out of 80 seats**  
**(2014: BJP 12, SP 1, Apna Dal 1)**

The most high-profile seat in this phase will see a two-way contest between former chief minister and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and BJP's candidate, Bhojpuri actor Dinesh Lal Yadav "Nirahua" in Azamgarh.



Dushyant Chautala

**HARYANA: 10 seats**  
**(2014: 7 BJP, 2 INLD, 1 Congress)**

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, INLD won two seats after the BJP's partner in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), supported the Chautalas. After bitter infighting in the family, Hesar MP Dushyant Chautala has formed the JJP. This year, he will try to retain his seat, and he is up against Congress's Bhavya Bishnoi and BJP's Brijendra Singh.

**WEST BENGAL: 8 out of 42 seats**  
**(2014: TMC 8)**

West Bengal's former Maoist belt,

popularly known as the Jangal Mahal area, will go to polls in the sixth phase. In Medinipur, state BJP president Dilip Ghosh is up against TMC's Manas Bhunia. Meanwhile, TMC's Dev, a Tollywood star, will take on former IPS officer Bharati Ghosh — once considered close to CM Mamata Banerjee but now fighting on a BJP ticket.



Digvijaya Singh

**MADHYA PRADESH: 8 out of 29 seats**  
**(2014: BJP 7, Congress 1)**

The battle for Bhopal is one of the most keenly awaited fights in the country, with Congress candidate and former chief minister Digvijaya Singh up against BJP's Pragya Singh Thakur. Meanwhile, former Union Minister and Congress in-charge of western Uttar Pradesh, Jyotiraditya Scindia is taking on his former aide and BJP candidate KP Yadav in Guna. Bhind, Morena and Gwalior, which saw caste violence last year, also go to poll in this phase.

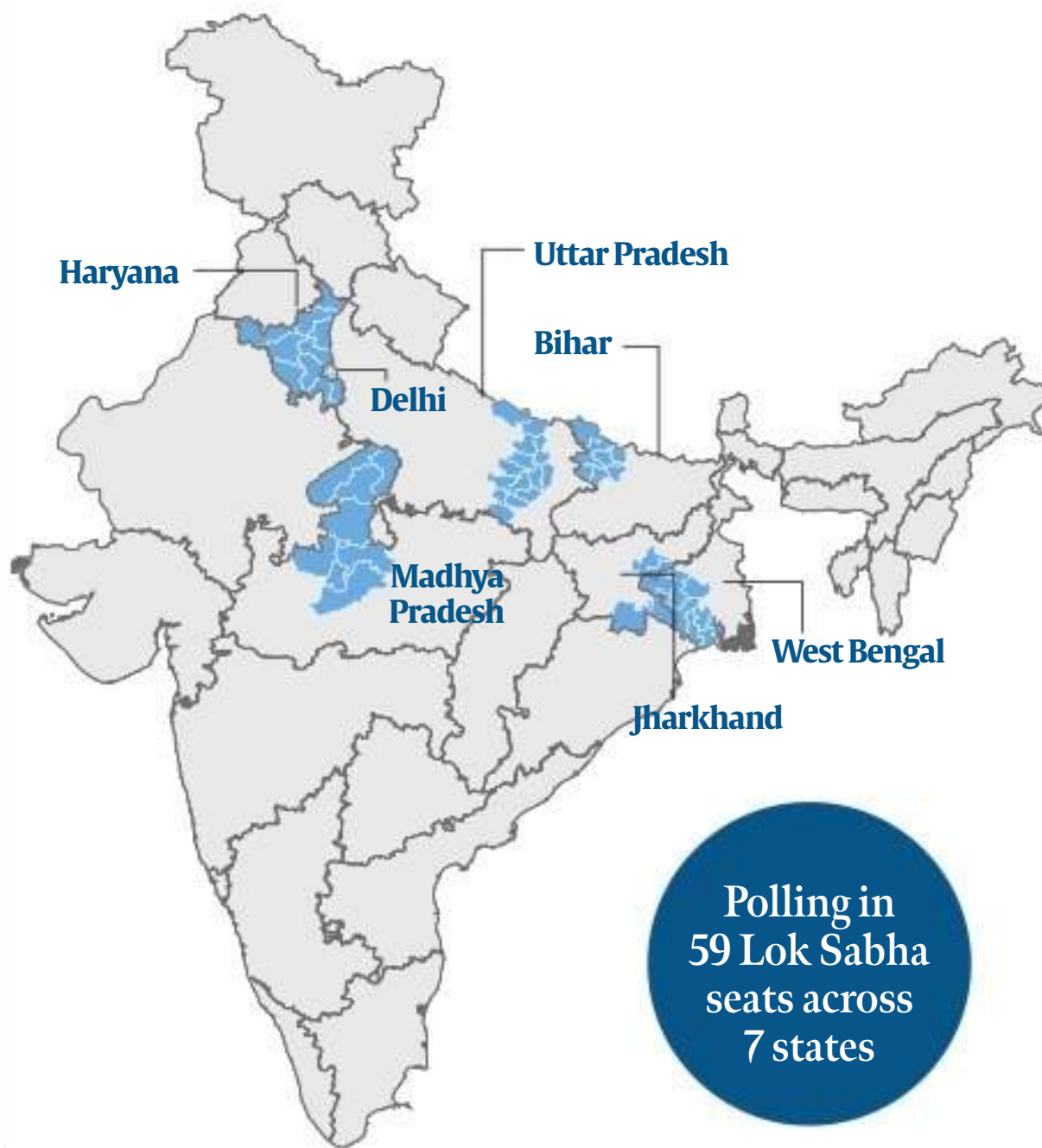


Radha Mohan Singh

**BIHAR: 8 out of 40 seats**  
**(2014: BJP 7, LJP 1)**

Union minister Radha Mohan Singh will have a tough fight in the East Champaran seat against RLSP's Aakash

## VOTING ON MAY 12 : PHASE 6



Yadav — son of Congress' Rajya Sabha MP Akhilesh Singh. However, the most keenly followed contest will be in Siwan — between former MP and strongman Mohammed Shahabuddin's wife Hina Shahab — contesting on an RJD ticket — and strongman Ajay Singh's wife Kavita Singh, who has been fielded by the JD(U).



Sheila Dikshit

**DELHI: 7 seats (2014: BJP 7)**

Among the key seats is the East Delhi seat, where AAP's Atishi will contest against former cricketer Gautam Gambhir, who is fighting on a BJP ticket, as well as Congress's Arvinder Lovely, who grew up in the area. The contest in North East Delhi will be significant too, with Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari going head-to-head with three-time CM and Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit and AAP's Dilip Pandey.

**JHARKHAND: 4 OUT OF 14 SEATS**  
**(2014: BJP 4)**

Cricketer-turned-politician Kirti Azad, formerly with the BJP, is now contesting the Dhanbad seat on a Congress ticket. Meanwhile, Singhbhum will see a contest between Congress candidate Geeta Koda — former Jharkhand CM Madhu Koda's wife — and BJP state president Laxman Gilua.



Polling officials with EVMs on the eve of elections, in Panchkula. Jasbir Malhi

## TURNOUT SO FAR

Phase I **69.50%** Phase II **69.44%** Phase III **68.40%**

Phase IV **65.51%** Phase V **63.50%**

## PHASE LEFT

Phase VII May 19

Polling over for **425** seats in first five phases

Polling left for **59** seats\*

\*Excluding Phase VI seats

## BALLOTIN



BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra

## Time magazine author pursuing Pak agenda: BJP

*New Delhi:* The BJP on Saturday slammed a *Time* magazine article, which called Prime Minister Narendra Modi "divider in chief", as an attempt to malign Modi's image, accusing its author of pursuing Pakistan's agenda. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra told a press conference that article's author was a Pakistani and that nothing better can be expected from Pakistan. He also took a swipe at Congress president Rahul Gandhi for retweeting the story. The piece, a sharp criticism of Modi's leadership, has been written by Aatish Taseer, son of Indian journalist Tavleen Singh and late Pakistani politician and businessman Salmaan Taseer. Patra said several foreign magazines had written stories critical of Modi in 2014 as well.

PTI

## Withdraw Rajiv's Bharat Ratna, says Himachal BJP chief

*Shimla:* Holding Rajiv Gandhi responsible for the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Himachal Pradesh BJP chief Satpal Singh Satti Saturday said the Bharat Ratna conferred on the late Prime Minister must be withdrawn to heal the wounds of the Sikh community. Issuing a statement here, Satti claimed that Rajiv Gandhi had justified the killings of Sikhs by allegedly saying that when a big tree falls, the earth shakes. "This statement of Rajiv Gandhi instigated Congress workers to kill Sikhs and no case was registered against the killers at his behest... if some honest police officers registered a few cases, the Congress ensured that the culprits were released," Satti said. "It was due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that senior Congress leader Sajjan Kumar got life sentence for killing Sikhs," the state BJP chief said.

PTI

## BJP-Cong workers clash, throw stones at rally in Ratlam

*Ratlam:* Workers of the BJP and Congress Saturday clashed in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district where cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu was scheduled to address a poll rally, police said. BJP workers had come with black flags to Alot, near here, to protest against Congress leader Sidhu, whose rally incidentally got cancelled in the last minute, an official said. Workers of the two parties clashed, pelted stones at each other, forcing police to resort to a mild cane charge, said the official. "Some people sustained minor injuries. We have rounded up 11 people, including BJP leader and Janpad president Kalu Singh Parihar, for violence. A case has been registered and further probe is underway," City Superintendent of Police (CSP) A Jain said.

PTI

## Modi: Why is award-wapsi gang silent on Alwar rape?

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, MAY 11

TARGETING THE Congress government in Rajasthan over the recent gangrape case in Alwar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the state government tried to suppress news of the incident until polling on the seat was over.

Addressing a rally in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur Lok Sabha constituency, Modi also hit out at the "award-wapsi gang" for not raising their voice about the incident.

The award-wapsi gang is a reference to the writers, filmmakers and artists who returned their awards in the initial years of the Modi government, claiming that the Sahitya Akademi and other such organisations were silent spectators during alleged attack on their freedom of expression.

Modi today said: "The whole country is seeing what the Congress is doing for women's safety. For the past three days, a news from Rajasthan's Alwar is slowly coming out. A Dalit daughter was gangraped there two weeks ago. But instead of nabbing the culprits, the Congress government and the police there got busy trying to hide the case. There were elections in Rajasthan and the Congress government there did not want the news to come out before the elections."

Instead of providing the victim justice, the Congress government worked on saving its votes, Modi alleged. "This is the reality of Congress's Nyay. They feared that the news might affect their votes and thus ignored the voice of the victim," he said.

Lashing out at the "award-wapsi gang" for their silence on the matter, he said: "Ye jo award wapsi ki gang thi, zara usko poochhna chahta hoon ki Alwar ke beti pe balatkar hua, aap kyu so gaye hai (I want to ask the award-wapsi gang, why are you sleeping after this gangrape?)"

Earlier in the day, he addressed a rally in Robertsganj Lok Sabha constituency. Mentioning the 1998 Operation Shakti, under which India successfully conducted nu-



PM Narendra Modi with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and ally Apna Dal (S) Robertsganj candidate Pakodi Lal Kol at a rally in Sonbhadra on Saturday. PTI

clear tests in Pokhran, Modi emphasising the importance of a powerful government and the combination of technology and political will power.

"What can be the result when ability of our scientists and courageous step of the government comes together... today's date (May 11) is an example of that. On this day 21 years ago [1998], India conducted atomic tests under Operation Shakti... This told us what stronger political will power can do for the security of the country. With the test, it was clear that India had the ability even before but the government before (Atal Bihari Vajpayee's) did not have the courage to take such a decision. Such success can be achieved only when national security is the highest priority," he said.

"Whenever there is 'Mahamilawati' government, it puts national security at risk.

Remember the Third Front government? The Samajwadi Party was part of that; what did it do to the country? Many people connected to our intelligence and security have written so much on this... They said that government destroyed intelligence system from inside. It's good that the Vajpayee government came after that and took steps to compensate for the loss and saved the country," he said.

He called it unfortunate that after the Vajpayee government, the country saw a "remote-controlled" government that wasted two precious decades and was marked by scams. Slamming the Opposition for asking his caste, he said, "Whoever thinks of himself as poor, I am of his caste. Poverty is my only caste. You have earned so much money in the name of casteism and by oppressing the poor. But that does not mean you keep making fun of my caste."

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, MAY 11

ALLEGING THAT the Congress government in Rajasthan had put pressure on relatives of the Dalit victim in the Alwar gangrape case to "hide" the incident until polling was over in the constituency, BSP chief Mayawati on Saturday urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognizance of the matter.

"It is a matter for the Dalit community and women to be sad and concerned that in Rajasthan, under a Congress government, a Dalit woman was gang-raped by some influential people in front of her husband. But what is more sad and serious is that by threatening the victim's family, the Congress government did not let the issue come to light due to their political selfishness until voting took place (in Alwar). Even after that, our party and the Dalit community had to make several attempts and struggle hard for some action to be taken," Mayawati said in a statement.

Maintaining that her party does not believe the victim will get justice under the Congress government in the state, the BSP chief said it would be better if the Supreme Court takes cognizance of the issue on its own.

Calling it an issue of dignity of women across the country, Mayawati stated, "Lok Sabha elections are going on, and political leaders are using derogatory language against women. The Election Commission is not able to show the strictness it should."

She also claimed that "members of some parties" are forcing some women to make "fake allegations of rape" in what they claim are old cases. "This is disgusting. Even in such cases, my party wants the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognizance so that no politi-



Mayawati: Cong 'hid' the incident

## EXPLAINED

## Appeal an alert to supporters

BESIDES TAKING on the Congress, Mayawati's appeal to her voters to be alert from organisations running in the name of B R Ambedkar can be seen as her growing concern with the increasing influence of smaller Dalit organisations in Uttar Pradesh and other Hindi belt states. While politically the BSP is still the biggest representative of Dalits, she is well aware that outfits such as the Bhim Army are getting considerable support from Dalits, especially the Jatav community — incidentally both Mayawati and Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar come from this community, a sizeable section among Dalits.

cal party can think of doing such things."

The statement comes days after a rape case was registered against BSP candidate from Ghosi, Atul Rai. The case was filed on May 1 in Varanasi by a woman who alleged that Rai had been sexually harassing her since March last year. Rai is absconding.

Mayawati also targeted smaller Dalit organisations and parties running in the name of Babasaheb Ambedkar, alleging that these were set up at the behest of the Congress and BJP. "You should be aware of organisations and parties made on the directions of Opposition parties... these have nothing to do with the welfare of the common people," she said.

## SEAT WATCH DOMARIYAGANJ VOTING ON MAY 12

## Caste equations, Muslim vote key as BJP faces alliance challenge

## AVANEESH MISHRA

DOMARIYAGANJ, MAY 11

VICKEY YADAV (21), a resident of Domariyaganj tehsil, who is set to vote for the first time in a Lok Sabha election, has a complaint about voting on the basis of caste equations.

Vickey, an undergraduate student, wants to consider all options when voting for a candidate. But regardless of who he votes for, no one is going to believe that he voted for a party other than the Samajwadi Party (or this year the alliance) candidate, according to Vickey.

"In that case why shouldn't I vote for the candidate everyone will believe I actually voted for, instead of the candidate who I probably think is actually better. Even if I vote for the BJP or the Congress candidate and he wins, he would always think that I did not really vote for him," says Vickey.

He is not the only voter in Domariyaganj Lok Sabha seat who thinks on these lines, and like nearly every other election in the state, caste equations in Domariyaganj are expected to play a major role in the state.

In the Lok Sabha seat under Siddharthnagar district, incumbent BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, who is known as the "one-



BJP's Jagdambika Pal, BSP's Aftab Alam and Congress's Chandresh Upadhyay are in the fray. Express



day wonder of Uttar Pradesh politics", is pitted against alliance candidate Aftab Alam aka Guddu Bhalay contesting on a BSP ticket and Congress candidate Dr Chandresh Upadhyaya.

The seat has 18.66 lakh voters and Muslim voters form nearly 28 per cent of the electorate. This is followed by Dalit voters, close to 17 per cent. Brahmins and Yadavs are around 9 per cent each in the segment. Other OBCs and General castes are around 22 and 13 per cent, respectively.

As Domariyaganj votes on May 12, the fight here seems to be largely between the Modi factor and the politics of the SP-BSP al-

liance. Locals appear confident that the Muslim-Dalit-Yadav voters will vote in favour of Aftab Alam.

"There is no reason that these three communities are not going to support Aftab Alam who is young, the SP-BSP alliance candidate, and a Muslim. As far as I know, most of the voters in these three communities are going to vote for Aftab," claims Chaukheda village resident Shaukeer Ahmad Shah, 36. His mother Amina Khatoun (56) agrees. Shaukeer claims there are 200 voters in his joint family.

Even as Jagdambika Pal is seeking his third term, several BJP members who did not

wish to be named claim that he was not the choice of a large chunk of BJP supporters and voters.

In 2014, when Jagdambika got a BJP ticket after winning the seat in 2009 on a Congress ticket, he faced major opposition from within the party. Many claim that Jagdambika may have won the seat in 2009 on his own, but in 2014 it was all because of the "Modi wave" and even in 2019, his only hope is the "Modi effect."

"Jagdambika Pal is MP for the past 10 years but I have never seen him. I don't see any development work here. No government scheme has reached us and only the non-deserving get benefits. I am a 73-year-old bar-

ber and I have 38 grandchildren. A few in my village got pucca houses under government scheme but I got nothing even after applying several times. Those who got government help already have pucca houses. My family of six sons, their wives and 38 grandchildren live under a single kuchha roof. They all talk about development. Where is mine?" says Bangawa Barai village resident Puddan.

Asked about Congress candidate and medical doctor Chandresh Upadhyay, Kanshiram Yadav, a villager, says that as the most educated among all the candidates, Upadhyay has a good image. Adding that a section of Brahmins may also support Chandresh, he says the Dalit, Yadav and Muslim votes are going to play the most important role here.

While Chandresh is contesting for the first time, Aftab contested Vidhan Sabha election in Pipraich seat of Gorakhpur in 2017 on a BSP ticket but lost.

## 2014 LS POLLS

BJP's Jagdambika Pal 31.96% votes  
BSP's Muhammad Muqem 20.88%  
SP's Mata Prasad Pandey 18.69%



# 9 DECISION 2019



## BALLOTIN



**Akhilesh Yadav in Gorakhpur on Saturday.** *Express*

## BJP govt built on foundation of lies, hatred: Akhilesh

**Lucknow:** Quoting the recent *Time* magazine article on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav Saturday said the BJP government was built on a foundation of “lies and hatred”. “The biggest newspaper has said that the BJP is a threat to democracy. And yesterday, the world’s biggest magazine has written that these people are dividing the country. The foundation of the BJP government is based on lies and hatred,” Akhilesh said at a rally in Gorakhpur’s Sahjanwa area. Taking a dig at Yogi Adityanath and the incumbent MP Praveen Nishad, who won the bypoll last year with support from the alliance and has now joined the BJP, Akhilesh said that it seemed that those who left the SP got some ‘prasad’ from the ‘math’. “The politician may have gone, but the people are still with us,” he told the rally. **ENS**

## BJP candidate hails Jinnah, Cong slams

**Bhopal:** Blaming the Congress and India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for Partition, Guman Singh Damor, BJP candidate for Ratlam-Jhabua, on Saturday said had Mohammed Ali Jinnah become the country’s first PM then India not have been divided. Blaming the oldest national party for the partition, the BJP leader told an election rally that the country could not have been divided in two had Jawaharlal Nehru not been insistent. “Mohammed Ali Jinnah was an advocate and a scholar. Had a decision to make him the PM been taken, there would have been no Partition,” he said, drawing criticism from the Congress. Dismissing the statement as hypocritical, Congress media in-charge Shobha Oza said many BJP leaders in the past have expressed their love for Pakistan with veteran LK Advani reaching Jinnah’s memorial in Pakistan to express his feelings. **ENS**

## Akshay Kumar a true Indian: Sena

**Mumbai:** After the Congress slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking actor Akshay Kumar on board a naval warship, the Shiv Sena on Saturday came out in the actor’s support, stating that it was childish on part of the Congress to bring up the issue and that Kumar was a true Indian who gave a large share of his earnings to families of martyrs. In an editorial in party mouthpiece *Saamana*, the Sena said that the row over the *INS Virat* being used 35 years ago as a “private taxi by then late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi” is being discussed widely. “The Congress has brought out a childish matter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar on a naval warship. But both these matters are completely different. Akshay Kumar is a true Indian. His Canadian citizenship is a technical issue,” stated the editorial. **ENS**

# More you hate me, more I will hug you: Rahul to Modi

**MILIND GHATWAI**  
BHOPAL, MAY 11

INSISTING THAT he does not hate the Prime Minister and is not affected by attacks on his family, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said that Narendra Modi cannot be defeated with hatred, so he would get the better of him with “*jhappis*” (hugs) because “only love can defeat him”.

“I don’t hate Modi. Let him hate me and attack my family. Hatred cannot be eliminated with hatred. I cannot defeat him with hatred. Only love can defeat him. The more you hate me, the more I will hug you,” Rahul said at Shujalpur in Shajapur district, addressing the first of three rallies in Madhya Pradesh.

He said the PM attacks his father, grandmother, great-grandfather and speaks “with hatred and anger. But I give him a bear hug with love. You are the PM, the whole country is behind you, get rid of hatred. It will only benefit you.”

Referring to his speech in the Lok Sabha and the PM’s response, Rahul said at another rally at Amzera in Dhar that government officials told him “you got the better of Narendra Modi today, he could not answer you”. He said that “truth has a way of coming to the fore”.

At Khargone, Rahul took jibes at Modi over the perception that he sleeps only three hours a day. “He kept awake for 21 hours but could not answer my questions on Rafale deal in Parliament,” he said, adding that Modi



**Congress president Rahul Gandhi with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath at a rally in Dhar district on Saturday.** *PTI*

has so much time to think but cannot answer questions on corruption. Despite staying awake for so long, Rahul said, Modi has no time for farmers, youths, traders and women even if they get frustrated and die, but he has the time to bail out big industrialists. Modi had no time to transfer Rs 15 lakh to bank accounts of people, a promise he made before 2014 elections, Rahul added.

“You stay awake for 22 hours, please de-

bate with me (on corruption). The venue can be Race Course Road, Parliament House or even Gujarat, but not Anil Ambani’s residence. Let’s talk freely. Modiji you won’t be able to show your face,” Rahul said. “The Congress party, farmers, women and youths have punctured Narendra Modi’s balloon.”

He said the PM did not keep his “Rs 15 lakh promise” but it gave the Congress the idea of the NYAY scheme.

## Sidhu continues attack on PM after EC notice

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
INDORE, MAY 11

CRICKETER-TURNED-POLITICIAN Navjot Singh Sidhu Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was like that new bride who puts on a pretence rather than actually working in her marital household.

The jibe comes a day after the Election Commission issued a notice to Sidhu, a minister in the Congress government in Punjab, for making a derogatory statement about PM Modi and in the process violating the model code of conduct.

“Modi is like a new bride who prepares less rotis but clangs her bangles more to show the neighbourhood that she is neck deep in work. I’m asking the PM the umpteenth time to list one achievement of his in his five-year tenure,” Sidhu said here.

Showing the latest edition of *Time* magazine, which has Modi on the cover with the headline ‘Divider in Chief’, Sidhu said the PM was not just that but also “liar in chief” and “Ambani and Adani’s manager in chief”.

He said Modi’s campaign was harping on nationalism as it had nothing to show by way of governance.

He also attacked Modi for his statement during a poll rally in Punjab that a “historic mistake” on the part of the then Congress government ensured that Kartarpur Sahib, the final resting place of Guru Nanak, was included in Pakistan rather than India. “What does this statement have to do with the country’s development, GST and the troubles of poor and farmers?” Sidhu asked.

Sidhu, however, did not comment on Congress leader Sam Pitroda’s “*hua to hua*” (whatever happened happened) statement on the 1984 Sikh riots.

The Election Commission had on Friday issued a fresh show cause notice to Sidhu. The poll panel had received a complaint from the BJP that Sidhu, during a rally in Madhya Pradesh on April 29, had reportedly accused the prime minister of “making money in the Rafale jet deal”.

# Day after panel calls for his arrest, BJP candidate says charges baseless

**SWEETY KUMARI**  
FALTA (WEST BENGAL), MAY 11

A DAY after the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) asked the police to arrest BJP candidate from Diamond Harbour constituency, Nilanjan Roy, in a case of alleged molestation of a minor, the BJP leader on Saturday called it “baseless” and accused the Trinamool Congress (TMC) of framing him.

A local resident who had drafted the police complaint for the victim, meanwhile, maintained that Roy had harassed and misbehaved with her during a campaign tour of the village — Beliadanga, in the interiors of West Bengal’s South 24 Parganas district.

But some local residents claimed that he is politically active, and that his father is known to be close to the TMC.

Officers tasked with the probe said they are verifying the allegations before the accused is arrested. A police source said any immediate action may trigger clashes.

Pointing out that the case is two weeks old, Diamond Harbour’s Superintendent of Police Srihari Pandey said, “The FIR has been filed; we have recorded the victim’s statement. Medical examination of the girl has been conducted, and investigation is proceeding.”

On a visit to Beliadanga, *The Sunday Express* found the victim and her family members were not in the village.

Calling it a “fake and baseless allegation”, Roy told *The Sunday Express*, “It is extremely disappointing to see people stooping to this level. The TMC has done this to malign my image before the election.”

Asked whether he had met the victim, Roy said, “I campaign in so many areas every day and meet thousands of people. It is impossible to recall offhand.”

The man who drafted the complaint letter alleged that the victim was being threatened by the BJP after sharing a post on triple talaq on Facebook. “When BJP candidate Nilanjan Roy came here for campaigning, she decided to meet and inform him (about the alleged threats). During the public meeting, she was harassed; he (Roy) misbehaved with her. I was waiting outside. She came out and told me everything. I told my father about it



**Nilanjan Roy is facing a case of alleged molestation of a minor. He has accused TMC of bid to frame him.**

and also discussed with a few other villagers. They suggested we lodge a complaint,” he said.

Asked why the girl or her family did not file the complaint, he said, “Her father is not educated, and we did not want the girl to get involved in any further harassment.”

Meanwhile, Santosh Kumar, Shiv Sena candidate from the constituency who had brought the incident to WBCPCR’s notice, said, “I received the information and complaint letter from my people. Since no action was taken despite a complaint, I decided to approach WBCPCR. I have not met the family yet. That’s for the police to investigate.”

A dissident Congressman who joined BJP recently, Roy is pitted against Diamond Harbour’s sitting MP and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s nephew Abhishek Banerjee. Sena’s Kumar was earlier in BJP and left the party after Roy was named candidate.

District Congress leader Sujit Patwari said, “I know Nilanjan. It’s shocking; unprecedented that a candidate has been alleged of harassing a minor... I can never support anyone when it comes to sexual harassment allegations; whether it’s false or true is secondary.”

Diamond Harbour goes to the polls on May 19.

According to police sources, a dispute had emerged on April 20 between the complainant’s father and some local BJP supporters over comments ostensibly made online by his minor daughter on triple talaq. On April 26, the father-daughter duo reportedly went to meet Nilanjan Roy when he came to Sri Anukul Thakur Temple at Shibaniapur, near the village, in an effort to resolve the issue, when the alleged incident is said to have occurred.

A case was subsequently registered at Falta police station under IPC Section 354 (assault or criminal force with intent to outrage modesty of woman) and under POCSO Act.



**Mamata Banerjee with TMC’s Basirhat candidate Nusrat Jahan on Saturday.** *PTI*

# Mamata wants EC to check all BJP leaders’ cars for cash

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, MAY 11

CLAIMING THAT BJP candidates were being arrested with cash in their vehicles, West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee on Saturday asked the Election Commission to check all vehicles of BJP leaders.

Addressing a public meeting at Hasnabad in North 24 Parganas district, Mamata said, “People of Hasnabad and adjoining areas,

please be careful about outsiders. They are RSS people who offer you money for your vote. Keep a watch on the border. The BJP will try all sorts of things to get votes, including offering money. They even travel in Z and Y category security and carry funds in their vehicles. I will request the Election Commission... please check my car, my helicopter. But also check all (Union) ministers’ cars and helicopters. They cannot be exempted. They are bringing in money in various ways.”

## DHARMENDRA IN GURDASPUR

# ‘Wouldn’t have let Sunny contest had I known Balram’s son was in fray’

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
AMRITSAR, MAY 11

VETERAN ACTOR Dharmendra on Saturday said that he wouldn’t have agreed to let actor Sunny Deol contest from Gurdaspur had he known that Sunil Jakhar was the Congress candidate from the constituency.

The BJP has fielded Deol, 59, from Gurdaspur, where Jakhar is seeking re-election. “I learnt about it only after reaching Gurdaspur that Sunny is contesting against Sunil, son of Balram Jakhar, with whom I had great relations,” the veteran actor said.

Dharmendra said Sunil Jakhar is like his son.

Dharmendra said he had refused to contest against Balram Jakhar, a former Lok Sabha Speaker, from Churu in Rajasthan in 2004 Lok Sabha polls. Dharmendra had eventually contested from Bikaner on a BJP ticket, and had won.

“It is destiny that has brought us to Gurdaspur. After reaching here, I asked whether Balram Jakhar’s son is contesting against Sunny. I was told that he is the same

person. Maybe I would have said no if I knew earlier that Sunil was contesting from here. But we are in the field now and nothing can be changed,” the actor told the media in Gurdaspur.

Stating that he didn’t even know the difference between an MLA and an MP, Dharmendra said, “Balram Jakhar gave me the first basic lessons in politics.” The actor said he had campaigned for Jakhar senior in Rajasthan. “Now we are in Gurdaspur and we will fight the battle assigned to us. I will ensure to keep all the promises made during the campaign,” he added.

When pointed out that Sunil Jakhar has invited Deol for a debate with him on local issues, Dharmendra said, “Sunny cannot debate. Sunil has experience (of politics) and his father was also a politician. We are from the film industry. We have not come here to hold debates. We have come here to listen to the problems of people.”

Dharmendra, whose wife Hema Malini is the sitting BJP MP from Mathura in Uttar Pradesh and is seeking re-election, said his is not a family of politicians. “We are not politicians. There is politics in the film indus-



**Actor Dharmendra at the Amritsar airport on Friday.** *Rana Simranjit Singh*

try too for positions of number one and number two. But I never did politics even there, because we are not cunning people. We are emotional people.”

“I had told Sunny that politics is a very difficult thing but he told me he had already said ‘yes’ to contesting the election. I don’t know who made him say yes, but now that

he has said yes, we will not run away from the battlefield,” he said.

Dharmendra said he got emotional to see people supporting Deol on his first roadshow, which he held after filling nomination papers for the Gurdaspur seat. “I was watching the roadshow from Mumbai and there was a big crowd. I got emotional. I know people love us but I was surprised by seeing so much love,” he said.

He said he had come here to do “heart-to-heart talk” with people: “I do not give speeches, I just talk to them. What is in a speech? I am not a politician.”

Dharmendra also said that before his name was finalised for Bikaner in 2004, he was asked by the BJP to contest from Patiala seat, but he had refused. “Ancestors of (Punjab CM) Captain Amarinder Singh were first to surrender the erstwhile princely state to Sardar Patel. I have great respect for his family. His wife (Preneet Kaur) is like my sister,” he said.

The BJP then asked him to contest from Sangrur, Punjab, but the Opposition candidate requested him to not enter the fray, the veteran actor said. He said he was then asked to contest against Balram Jakhar from Churu,

which he again refused. “Only after that Bikaner was selected for me,” he said.

Amarinder, who was campaigning in Bhoo, took potshots at Sunny and said that the BJP must have “put pressure” on the actor to contest from Gurdaspur. “I had read in the newspapers that he owed several crores to banks. They (BJP) must have put pressure, telling him that he should contest from Gurdaspur or they will get an income tax raid conducted on him, which the BJP usually does (against political opponents),” the Punjab CM said.

He told the people, “You may get your pictures clicked with the actor. Then I expect you to bid him goodbye.”

Describing Jakhar as farsighted, he asked the crowd to ensure his victory. “Sunil has spent his entire life serving people and only such people work for the public. You will one day see him as the CM of Punjab,” Amarinder said.

Earlier, addressing another public meeting, Jakhar also took a dig at Deol, and said while he may be adept at singing and dancing and pulling handpumps out of the ground — as was shown in a film — the actor does not know anything about Gurdaspur, or the problems of its people.