Rupee*vs* Dollar ₹ per US \$ 23 28 29 3

tion for industrial workers remained flat at 6.70 per cent in March this year on lower food prices. It stood at 6.73 per cent in Feb-ruary, a labour ministry Press release said on Wednesday.

Hotel brand: Cygnett us budget hotel brand Jameson Inn in Kolkata which will be the entry point of the Ameri-can hospitality chain in India.

Design centre: Hafele, Design centre: Hatele, Germany-based leader in architectural hard-ware and interior solu-tions provider has launched its state-of-the-art design centre in Kolkata, Our focus is enthesity said Me

CURRENCY

CURRENCY*	(IN RUPEES)
US\$	63.65
EURO	87.89
UK POUND	107.12
YEN	0.62
SW FR	72.99
CANS	58.35
SING \$	51.75
MAL RIN	20.23
THAI BAHT	2.03

STOCKS CRASH ON EC ORDER TO BOOK MOI

MARKETS OVERCOME MID-SESSION JITTERS TOWARDS CLOSE

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

The Election Commission's order to the Gujarat admin-istration to book Bharatiya Janata Party's Prime Min-isterial candidate Mr Naren-dra Modi for violating the

dra Modi for violating the People's Representation Act pulled down the equity indices sharply today as panic-gripped investors went on a selling spree. The SAP Bombay Stock Exchange Sensitive Index crashed 395.50 points from its intra-day high of 22,680.46 and the CNX Niffy of the National Stock Exchange collarsed 12.35 points from National Stock Exchange collapsed 123.35 points from the day's high of 6,790.15. Once again the equity mar-kets displayed weakness to the fast unfolding political developments, say analysts. They also expect risk aver-sion to guide trading until 16 May Interestingly, investors

sion to guide trading until 16 May.
Interestingly, investors targeted politically sensitive Adami Group and IM.F stocks to book profit which analysts say was to stay safe and secure a fortunght before the outcome of Election 2014 is known. Mr Gautam Adami is perceived as close to the Gujarrat chief minister Mr Modi and DLF is alleged to have given huge unsecured loans to Mr Robert Vadra, son-in-law of the Congress president Mrs Sonia Gandhi.
Brokerages and investors,

Sonia Gandhi. Trokerages and investors, inclusive of foreign funds, are playing safe as the last two phases of polling are due. The markets, a majority of brokerages feel, are likely to be range-bound although hopes of a Modt-led National Democratic Alliance government comine to nower ernment coming to power still appear positive. The markets may also not see any significant movement because foreign funds have

The S&P Bombay Stock Exchange Sensitive Index crashed by 395.50 points from its intra-day high of 22,680.46 and the CNX Nifty of the National Stock Exchange collapsed by 123.35 points from the day's high of 6,780.15

All sector indices were in the red in the afternoon. The Realty has been the biggest loser with a five per cent drop. DLF traded about nine per cent down with an intra-day low of Rs 139 on both the BSE and the NSE amid panic selling

The 30-share BSE benchmark w down 0.22 per cent at 22,417.80 (-48.39) point at close



ed \$10 billion in the first four

2014.
The markets overcame mid-session jitters as indices The markets overcame mid-session jitters as indices cut down losses 20 minutes before the closing bell on Dalal Street. The 30-share BSE benchmark was down 0.22 per cent at 22,417.80 (-48,39) point. The 50-share Nifty was below 6,700-level for the first time since 7 April. It ended down 0.28 per cent or 18.85 points at 6,899.40. In Sensex 12 shares advanced

and 18 declined. In Nifty 19 were up, 29 down and two unchanged. All sector indices were in the red in the afternoon. The Realty has been the biggest loser with a five per cent drop. DLF traded about nine per cent down with an interper cent down with an intra-day low of Rs 129 on both the BSE and the NSE amid panic selling

selling On the BSE it closed at Rs 140.25, down 8.66 per cent and on the NSE at Rs 140.15, down 8.85 per cent down. The

Adaniflagship, Adani Enterprises shares declined by more than five per cent at 8397.30 on the BSE and Rs 397.30 on the NSE.
Adani Power crashed 8 per cent. Adani Enterprises closed 3.65 per cent down at Rs 417.85 or 3.65 per cent at Rs 417.85 or 3.65 per cent. at Rs 417.85 or 3.65 per cent down on the NSE. Other realty shares such as Unitech and HDIL also suffered selling pressure as these were down four per cent when chips were down.

EU ban on mangoes unfortunate: Ficci

Commenting on the ban imposed by the European Union (EU) on import of selectfruits such as mangoes and vegetables from India, Mr Sidharth Birla, president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce or the rederation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (Picci), said: "This is an unfortunate development. The way it has happened leaves open the question if this is the only measure or some more could be expect-ed".

He added: "We understand that this matter was under discussion for some time and it is therefore sur-prising that the EU side has prising that the EU side has taken such a decision unilaterally. This defies the spiri of cooperation that one would expect.

"This move would have a bearing on the farmers and exporters from India as well as impact trade and consumers in the UK and other



countries in the EU."
Mr Birla said the ecosystem for exports in India is geared to meet the quality and safety requirements of countries across the world "Our farmers, packers and exporters supply agri-com-modities to different counmodutes to different coun-tries. There may have been a few isolated cases in the past, but the way to deal with such a situation is through discussion.

"We would have arrived

at a constructive solut at a constructive solution.
What we have got now is a
punitive solution that does
not bode well for the larger
economic relations between
the two sides," he said.

NRIS CAN'T REGISTER AS FPIS: SEBI

AN FPIN. SEBI

Mambad, 30 April: Stock market regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of milis (Seb) has said in an ortification that a non-resident Indian (NRI) will not be allowed to seek registration as a foreign portfolio investor (FPI).

However, a fund that has NRIs as investors will not be prevented from obtaining registration as an FPI.

FPIs would encompass all foreign investors (FIIs), their subaccounts and qualified foreign investors (QFI) under a new regime that comes into force on 1 June.

Existing overseas investor classes such as FIIs, sub-accounts and QFIs will have to convert to the new regime eventually "An SRI cannot seek registration as FPI," according on information available on information available on information available on

'An Nici cannot seek reg-istration as FPI," according to information available on

VIDEOCON TELE TO INVEST ₹1.240 CRORE

New Delhi, 30 April: Video-con Telecom today said it will invest Rs 1,240 crore main-ly in network expansion and infrastructure in four

and infrastructure in four service circles.

"We will be investing over 1,20 crore in our existing four circles in FY 2014-15 primarily on network expansion, IT infrastructure, service platforms, and other technological advancements, "Videocon Telecom director and CEO Arvind Bali said in a statement. It is targeting consolidated revenue of Rs 2,500 crore in FY 2014-15, it added.

Videocon Telecom has permit for telecom services in sevenout of 22 circles but currently operates in four

currently operates in four
-Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh,
Haryana and Punjab.

Core sector growth slows to 2.5% in Mar

The country's core sector growth slowed to 2.5 per cent in Marchfromsevenper cent in the same month a year ago as output of crude oil, natural gas and fer-tiliser declined.

tiliser declinéd.

The eight core industries – fertilisers, cement, steel, electricity, crude oil, coal, petroleum refinery products and natural gas – have a combined weight of about 38 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production.

for the financial year 2013-14, core sector growth slowed to 2.6 per cent from 6.5 per cent in 2012-13, accord-ing to data released by the ing to data released by the ministry of commerce and industry. In March, crude oil, nat-ural gas and fertiliser out-put fell 1.6 per cent, 9.3 per cent and 6.1 per cent, respec-tionly

cent and 6.1 per cent, respec-tively.

The rate of growth in the production of coal, petro-leum refinery products and steel slowed to 0.7 per cent, 2.8 per cent and 5.4 per cent in in the month of March as against 1.7 per cent, 242

in in the month of March as against 1.7 per cent, 24.3 per cent and 11.5 per cent in the same month a year ear-lier, respectively. Cement output was unchanged in March, Only electricity generation increased to 5.4 per cent from 3.5 per cent in March 2013.

2013.
In January and February, the eight sectors grew by 1.6 per cent and 4.5 per cent, respectively the official data released today said.

Airtel may raise tariff rates

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Bharti Airtel today said it will continue to cut dis-counted minutes and may raise tariffs to meet rising

ts. "I think we will contin-"I think we will continue to see an opportunity to raise voice realisation through continued cut back of discounted minutes... We will deter to touch headline tariff but at some point there may be some oppor-tunity to raise headline tar-iffs," Bharti Airtel manag-ing director and CEO (India ing director and CEO (India & South Asia) Gopal Vittal said.

The current levels of

voice pricing are absolute-ly unsustainable with input costs going up, he added. "With the rising cost of diesel, network cost, the cost of spectrum, the cost

of fibre, the cost of actualof fibre, the cost of actual-ly rolling out networks, I think there is no question but to reduce discounted minutes," Mr Vittal said. Airtel has recently increased mobile services

rates of both Internet and voice calls under certain

voice calls under certain schemes. It has been consistently cutting down freshes for the last few quarters in order to increase voice realisation and improve profitability of the company, the voice realisation per minute has improved to 37.97 paiss as compared to 35 paiss four quarters ago. Asked about the senior level exits from the company, he said do per cent of the vacancies created by these people have been filled internally.

SMES GROWTH IN IT SERVICES STRESSED

New Delhi, 30 April: Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will play a leading role in implementation of SMAC (social, mobile, analytics and cloud) technologies in and cloud) technologies in India, not only to grow rev-enues by increased mar-keting to new customers, but also bringing operational efficiency, said Mr R Chan-drashekhar, former secre-tury Department of Telecom and president of NASS-COM

Inaugurating a national seminar on TI World Forum Presents SMAC: for Business Transformation' organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Associated Chambers). urgent steps to push growth
of the SME sector in IT ser-

Mantra for women to succeed in corporate world

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

male employees who want to take time off to be with their newborns. Ms Girotra, India Head, Moelis Investment Bank, orough professional rk. To achieve this, s

'Value addition will increase exports' STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Welcoming the decision to dispense with the minimum value addition for re-export of food, medicines and medof food, medicines and medical equipment to Iran, which have been imported against payment in freely convertible currency, Mr M. Rafeeque Ahmed, president, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (Fieo), said besides meeting the demand of the bilateral trade, the move will help in increasing exports in a big way in 2014-15.

India's exports to Iran

India's exports to Iran have already touched \$4.56 billion which is a 60 per cent growth as against the over-all export growth of four per

ent. India has more than dou bled its exports to Iran dur-ing the last two years. This was following the benefit

was following the benefit from the rupee payment mechanism, the Fieo pres-ident said. Exports to Iran were a mere \$2.4 billion in 2011-12 and it has crossed \$5 billion in 2012-14.

mere \$2.4 billion in 2011-12 and it has crossed \$5 billion in 2013-14.
Apart from food products, the country is exporting other goods such as pharmaceuticals, machinery, transport equipment, organic & inorganic chemicals, man-made yarns & fabrics, steel.
However, the trade body chief said issues regarding remittance for opening of offices in Iran and its recurring expenses, performance guarantee for bidding for projects in Iran and commission to agents for furthering the business needs to be addressed so that India can build on the opportunities.

ALSTOM INDIA STOCK SHOT UP BY 11.87% TO SETTLE AT ₹456.60 ON BSE

Alstom considers GE's euro 12.35b offer

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Alstom is considering a proposal for acquisition of its energy activities by GE. "The board of directors of "The board of directors of Alstom announced today that it has received a bind-ing offer from General Elec-tric (GE) to acquire its ener-gy activities. The proposed price is a fixed price rep-resenting an equity value

price is a fixed price rep-resenting an equity value of euro 12.35 billion," Alstom said in a statement. Should this offer be approved and completed, Alstom would refocus on its transport activities, for which it is a global

uansport business and give it the means of an ambitious development, pay down debt and return cash to its share-holders transport business and

The board of directors of Alstom, acknowledging unanimously the strategic and industrial merits of this offer and having noted the publicly announced undertakings by GE, has decided to set up a committee of indeby GE, has decided to set up a committee of inde-pendent directors, led by Mr Jean-Martin Folz, to review before the end of May the proposed trans-action, taking into con-sideration all stakehold-ors interprets Should the ers interests. Should the board conclude positive-ly, the information and

MERGER AND ACQUISITION

Should this offer be approved and complet ed, Alstom would refocus on its transport activities, for which it is a global leader

■ The board of directors of Alstom, has decided to set up a committee of independent directors, led by Mr Jean-Martin Folz, to review before the end of May the p (lee

Completion of the transaction would be subject to merger control and other regulatory clearances in accordance with the AFEP-Med of code

consultation of Alstom employees' representa-tive bodies will be con-ducted before entering into a definitive agreement, the Alstom state ment said. Completion of the transaction would be sub-ject to merger control

and other regulatory clearances in accord with the AFEP-Medef code. The final approval of the transaction will b

ALSTOM

submitted to the share-

submitted to the share-holders.

In the context of this binding offer, Alstom may not solicit offers from third parties for the acquisition of all or part of its energy business. It has, however, reserved the right to respond to unsolicited offers for its entire energy business and engage in discus-sions with bidders demonstrating a serious demonstrating a serious interest that could lead to a superior offer for Alstom.

Shares of Alstom India surged almost 12 per cent today after its parent French firm said it is considering an offer of more than 12 billion euros from US-based General Electric for its power business and has reviewed a declaration of interest from Siemens, PTI adds from Mumbai.

PTI adds from Mumbai.
Alstom India's stock shot up by 11.87 per cent to settle at Rs 456.60 on the BSK. During the day, the scrip gained as much as 17.82 per cent to Rs 480.90. On the National

490.90. Ön the National Stock Exchange, the stock zoomed 10.25 per cent to close at Rs 449.50. While over 15 lakh shares were traded on the NSE, 4.22 lakh Alstom India shares changed hands on the BSE. Shares of Alstom T&D India rose 28, per cent to Rs 274.75 on the BSE.

CHIDAMBARAM TO ATTEND ADB MEET

New Detht, 30 April: The Union finance minister P Chi-dambaram is leaving for Kazakhstan on 2 May to attend the annual meeting of the Asian Development

of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The minister would be accompanied by finance secretary Arvind Mayaran and other finance ministry officials.

Mr. Chidam baram, according to sources, is likely to return on 5 May. ADB is holding its 47th annual meeting in Astana in Kazakhstan.

India is a member-country of the ADB, which pro-

India is a member-coun-try of the ADB, which pro-vides soft loans to tackle poverty as well as technical assistance and grants for a range of development activ-ities.