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WE HIT TERRORISTS IN THEIR HOMES: PM MODI

The Prime Minister says his government doesn't send dossiers which was the practice under the Congress rule.

AGENCIES LATUR/SOLAPUR/DHARASHIV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted his government has adopted a bold new approach on national security and believes in hitting terrorists by entering their homes instead of sending dossiers on them which was the practice under the Congress rule.



The headlines in Naya Bharat are: Mission LOC, India punishes Pakistan through surgical strikes

Narendra Modi

tackling terror has seen a sea change to what was followed during the Congress regime. Unlike the practice during the Congress rule of sending dossiers to Pakistan after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the BJP-led government takes terrorists head on, Modi emphasised.

our friends in the media used to clap after any such dossier was sent," the PM said at an election rally in central Maharashtra's Latur. "Today, India doesn't send dossiers. 'Aaj Bharat ghar mein ghus ke marta hai' (Today, India enters homes of terrorists and hits them hard)," Modi said.

approach marks the rise of a 'New Bharat'. "The headlines in Naya Bharat are: Mission LOC, India punishes Pakistan through surgical strikes," Modi told the gathering. The BJP leader claimed the INDIA bloc has come up with a "formula" whereby the parties in the opposition alliance will get the PM's post for one year each if they come to power. "Some people want to make the PM in instalments. They have decided to have a PM each year," he said. Modi alleged the Congress destroyed India's economy during its rule. Targeting Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, he said, "When I speak of 'EK Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Best India), the Prince of Congress suffers from

Poor have more kids as they don't have wealth: Kharge

TDG NETWORK KALABURAGI (KARNATAKA)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "only talking about Muslims", and said the poor have more children because of their economic conditions.

Modi was frustrated after sensing that the opposition's I.N.D.I.A bloc was heading for a majority, and hence he was now talking about "Mangalsutra and Muslims", Kharge claimed at a rally in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district.

Campaigning for Shivkumar Dahariya, Congress' candidate from Janjgir-Champa Lok Sabha constituency, he also said the BJP was seeking to win more than 400 Lok Sabha seats not for the welfare of the poor but to take away their rights.

"We are heading for a majority, that is why he (Modi) now talks about 'Mangalsu-



We ruled for 55 years, but did we snatch anyone's 'mangalsutra' or misuse the ED, IT to put people behind bars?

Mallikarjun Kharge

SC questions timing of Kejriwal's arrest

ASHISH SINHA NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the timing of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest ahead of the general elections in the excise policy-linked money laundering case. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta told Additional Solicitor General S V Raju "life and liberty are exceedingly important. You can't deny that." "The last question is with regard to the timing of the arrest, which they have pointed out, the timing of the arrest, soon before the general elections," the bench said.



DETAILS P5

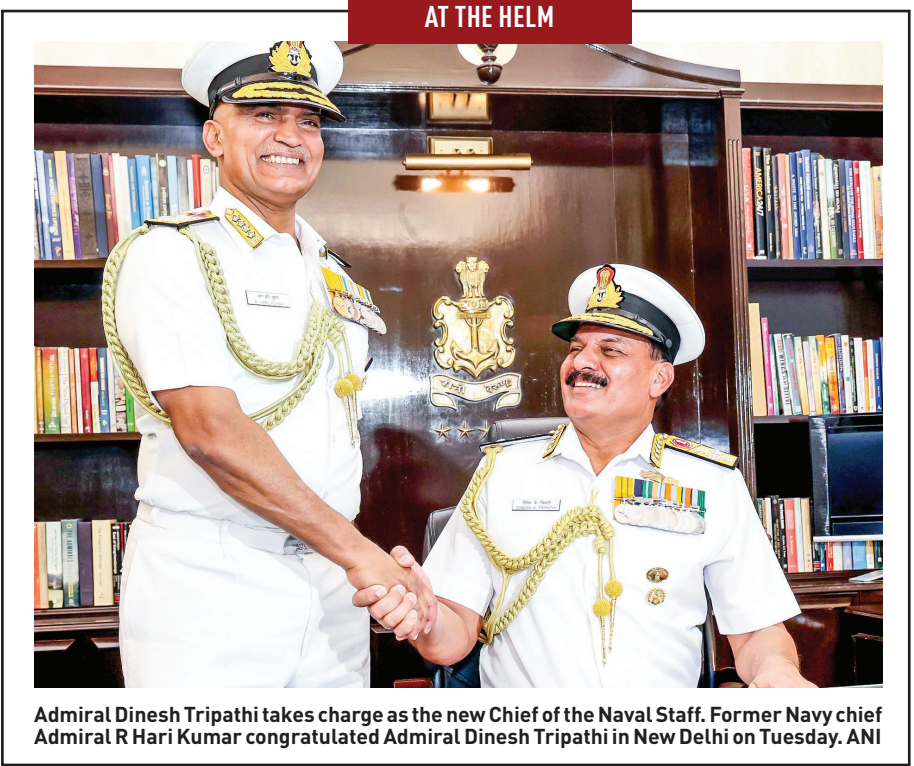
Manish Sisodia gets no relief

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday dismissed the bail petitions filed by former deputy chief minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the corruption and money laundering cases brought forth by the CBI and the ED concerning the alleged excise scam. Special judge for CBI and ED, Kavari Baweja, denied the relief, stating that the current stage was not conducive to granting bail. Following arguments from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), as well as the counsel representing Sisodia, the court reserved its order.



DETAILS P5



AT THE HELM



Admiral Dinesh Tripathi takes charge as the new Chief of the Naval Staff. Former Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar congratulated Admiral Dinesh Tripathi in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Anantnag-Rajouri poll: Date rescheduled to May 25

TDG NETWORK ANANTNAG (J&K)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday rescheduled the polling date in Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seat in Jammu and Kashmir from May 7 to May 25, 2024.

"The Election Commission of India had announced the schedule for the General Election to the Lok Sabha vide its Press Note dated March 16, 2024. Accordingly, the notification for the 3rd Phase was issued on April 12, 2024, and the Poll Day was scheduled on May

7, 2024," the press release by the poll body stated. The order further reads, "Various representations have been received from different political parties of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir for shifting the date of poll of election...."

DETAILS P4

13th century memorial stone with inscriptions found in Tamil Nadu

LATHA SRINIVASAN CHENNAI

A group of archaeologists from Yakkai Heritage Trust have discovered a 13th-century memorial stone with inscriptions in Vanavareddy in Kallakurichi district of Tamil Nadu. The inscriptions outside the Vanavareddy Kali Temple, reportedly date back to the fifteenth regnal year of Kulothunga III, the Chola emperor who ruled from 1178 to 1218 CE.

The inscriptions apparently mentions the building of a temple for the seven Pidaaris by Ponparappinaan, a title that was bestowed upon the kings of the Vanagovariyar dynasty.

Yakkai Heritage Trust Secretary Kumaravel Ramasamy told reporters that their team, during a fieldwork, uncovered a memorial stone with inscriptions from the Kaliyamm Temple and a fragmentary inscription from a nearby Aiyar temple. He added,

"These findings throw light on the establishment of a Saphthamadar Temple, honouring the Ezhupidari." Pidari is a Tamil Hindu deity and she is regarded to be one of the nine aspects of Shakti (Navashakti),

Inscriptions mentions building of a temple for seven Pidaaris by Ponparappinaan, a title that was bestowed upon kings

who are the consorts of the Trimurti in local tradition. In some traditions, she is depicted to be a snake-catcher, and a consort of Lord Shiva.

The 13th-century memorial stone which has been found is attributed historically to have been made during the Vanagovariyar dynasty. The Vanagovariyar dynasty was a medieval dynasty that ruled parts of Tamil Nadu, India, dur-

Cong slams govt as AstraZeneca admits Covid vaccine side effects

ANAND SINGH NEW DELHI

Congress on Tuesday launched an attack on the BJP government at the Centre after AstraZeneca, a British pharmaceutical giant admitted that its Covid-19 vaccine can result in a rare side effect known as Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS).

The Congress mounted an attack on the government asking the government if it did take donations from the company

WAR OVER VACCINE

"Did the BJP take crores of rupees in the form of electoral bonds from this vaccine maker?" -Randeep Surjewala



manufacturing the vaccine through electoral bond scheme and also if it will order a probe on it or not.

Slamming the government, Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, who is also

P4

'Very rare side effects': AstraZeneca

AGENCIES LONDON

UK-headquartered pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca (AZ) has admitted that in "very rare cases" its COVID vaccine can cause a blood clot related side effect but the causal link is unknown, according to court papers being quoted in the UK media. 'The Daily Telegraph'

reports that in a legal document submitted to the High Court in London in February for a group action being brought by 51 claimants, AZ admitted that the vaccine developed with the University of Oxford to protect against COVID-19 may cause Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) in "very rare cases". The AZ Vaxzevria vac-

cine, also manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII), was known in India as Covishield.

"It is admitted that the AZ vaccine can, in very rare cases, cause TTS. The causal mechanism is not known. Further, TTS can also occur in the absence of the AZ vaccine (or any vaccine). Causation in any individual case will be a

P4

INSIDE

OPINION POLLS: MORE MISSES THAN HITS

Opinion polls in India can be traced back to the mid-20th century. They believed to have had an impact on electoral outcomes and influenced political strategies and coalition dynamics.

An opinion poll, often simply referred to as a survey or a poll (although strictly a poll is an actual election), is a human research survey of public opinion from a particular sample. Opinion polls are usually designed to represent the opinions of a population by conducting a series of questions and then extrapolating generalities in ratio or within confidence intervals.



DETAILS P9

T20 World Cup: Sanju, Pant in squad

Rohit Sharma will lead the team: KL Rahul misses bus

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced India's 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which will be hosted in the West Indies and USA, starting on June 1.

Rohit Sharma will lead India in the showpiece tour-



nament, while Hardik Pandya will be his deputy. India have added two wicket-keepers, including Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson, to their squad. Star batter Virat Kohli, has also been added into the squad.

DETAILS P16



India have opted for four spinners — Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal — in the squad.



Ooty records hottest two days in 73 years

LATHA SRINIVASAN CHENNAI

This popular tourist destination in Tamil Nadu is known for its cold climate and thousands of people throng the hills of Udhamandalam or Ooty during the summer season. However, on April 28 and April 29, Ooty recorded its highest temperatures in the last 73 years.

According to S Balachandran of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai, this rise in temperature is



not specific to Ooty but to the whole country. "This temperature rise is not limited to Ooty, or even Tamil Nadu. Such an increase is being witnessed across the country. "The summer is very harsh this year. The

P4

GUNA’S JOURNEY TOWARDS PROGRESS IS RELENTLESS: SCINDIA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In the heart of Madhya Pradesh lies the constituency of Guna, a region deeply embedded in both history and politics. With the 2024 Lok Sabha elections looming, all eyes are on Jyotiraditya Scindia, the BJP candidate leading the charge. In a candid interview, Scindia delved into his vision for Guna's future, blending tradition with modernity, and emphasizing the transformative journey ahead.

Q: Mr. Scindia, could you shed some light on the historical and cultural significance of Guna?

A: Guna holds a special place in our country's tapestry, adorned with magnificent forts, temples, and a rich lineage of leaders. It's not just a constituency; it's a symbol of our heritage.

Q: How do you perceive the role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in shaping

India's trajectory on the global stage?

A: Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India is not just progressing economically but also emerging as a spiritual powerhouse. From Ayushman Bharat to PM-KISAN, his vision resonates deeply with the aspirations of every Indian.

Q: Addressing the issue of corruption, how do you plan to ensure transparency in the electoral process?

A: Corruption has no place in our democracy. I am committed to upholding integrity and fairness, ensuring that every voice is heard and every vote counts.

Q: Regarding your candidacy in Guna, how do you respond to allegations of familial favouritism?

A: The Scindia family has a long-standing relationship with Guna, rooted in service and dedication. Representation is not about family ties but about serving



the people with honesty and sincerity.

Q: You mentioned spirituality as a cornerstone of India's resurgence. Could you elaborate on its significance in governance?

A: Spirituality is intertwined with our national identity. From the inauguration of the Ram temple to the global admiration of Indian culture, spirituality shapes our values and inspires our actions.

Q: Looking ahead, what is your vision for Guna in terms of development and progress?

A: Guna's journey towards

progress is relentless. From infrastructure to education, we will continue to prioritize the needs of the people, ensuring that no one is left behind.

In conclusion, Jyotiraditya Scindia's vision for Guna epitomizes a blend of tradition, progress, and integrity. As the electoral journey unfolds, his commitment to serving the people remains unwavering, promising a brighter future for the constituency and the nation at large.

Q: Mr. Scindia, could you share your insights into the historical and cultural significance of Guna?

A: Guna is not just a constituency; it's a testament to our rich heritage, adorned with magnificent forts and temples that echo our glorious past.

Q: How do you perceive the impact of Prime Minister Modi's leadership on India's global stature?

A: Prime Minister Modi's

leadership has propelled India onto the global stage, not just economically but also spiritually, resonating with the aspirations of millions.

Q: Addressing allegations of corruption, how do you plan to ensure transparency in the electoral process?

A: Corruption has no place in democracy. I am committed to upholding integrity and fairness, ensuring that every vote counts.

Q: Regarding your candidacy in Guna, how do you respond to accusations of familial favouritism?

A: The Scindia family's legacy in Guna is one of service and dedication. Representation is about serving the people, not family ties.

Q: You mentioned spirituality as crucial in governance. Could you elaborate on its significance?

A: Spirituality is ingrained in our national identity, shaping our values and

inspiring our actions on the global stage.

Q: Looking ahead, what is your vision for Guna's development and progress?

A: Guna's journey towards progress is ongoing. We will prioritize infrastructure, education, and the needs of the people, ensuring no one is left behind. As the electoral journey unfolds, Jyotiraditya Scindia's candidacy in Guna emerges as a beacon of hope, blending tradition with modernity, and integrity with progress. With a steadfast commitment to serving the people and upholding transparency, Scindia's vision for Guna promises to propel the constituency towards a brighter future. As India marches ahead on the global stage under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Guna stands poised to embrace its rightful place in the nation's narrative of growth, development, and resurgence.

Uncertainty looms Rahul, Priyanka's election bids as Vadra re-enters fray

AJIT MENDOLA
NEW DELHI

The decision on the name of candidates from Rae Bareli and Amethi is still pending. Suspicion still looms over the names of siblings, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi contesting elections from Rae Bareli and Amethi.

If so is the case, it would mark the first instance of a non-Gandhi candidate contesting elections from both these seats. However, discussions have reignited regarding Priyanka's husband, Robert Vadra contesting elections.

There are indications that the siblings may opt out of contesting elections. If sources are to be believed, Priyanka Gandhi had shown interest in contesting elections from Rae Bareli, but her mother Sonia Gandhi and brother Rahul Gandhi are reluctant. They want Priyanka to handle

the campaign as a star campaigner. Subsequently, Priyanka's husband Robert Vadra's name came into discussion. Vadra has been keen on contesting elections from Amethi. Just last week, posters were also put up in Amethi in support of Vadra, but were later removed. Meanwhile, when a convoy arrived there, the message went out that Rahul is coming to contest the elections. Instead of revealing the candidates, the party has indicated that the decision will be made by the national president, Mallikarjun Kharge.

Initially, there were reports suggesting that the siblings would visit the Ram temple in Ayodhya before filing their nominations, but it seems that this plan has been abandoned. According to sources, a recent family discussion centered around the constituencies of Rae Bareli and Amethi.

‘Fake videos being sold in Mohabbat ki dukaan’

TDG NETWORK
DHARASHIV (MAHARASHTRA)

Launching a sharp attack on the Opposition for “spreading fake videos”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that due to the fear of losing elections, the Congress party is adopting Artificial Intelligence to create fake videos and it is being sold in their “Mohabbat ki dukaan”.

“They will keep abusing Modi. Putting false allegations, these days they are abusing Modi all day. Sometimes they say Modi will snatch away reservations, and end the Constitution. Why are they constantly lying? BJP has the maximum number of MLAs, MPs coming from SC, ST and OBC. Now they are creating fake videos. Using Artificial Intelligence fake videos are being sold in their ‘Mohabbat ki dukaan’. They are making fake videos



using Modi's speeches and voice. Congress is so scared of losing,” Prime Minister Modi said at an election rally in Dharashiv.

Prime Minister further said that he is putting efforts to change the lives of the people in the country.

“Modi works day and night to change your lives. Whereas, the INDI alliance is putting all efforts to change Modi. I want to change your lives but they want to change me,” he said.

He further mentioned that Congress has only one identity “betrayal” and it

has betrayed the “land of Marathwada” on several occasions.

“Can a weak government make a strong nation?.. Can a Congress govt take India to newer heights? Congress has only one identity - Betrayal”. It has betrayed Maharashtra. Congress was in power for 60 years. It could not provide water to the fields of farmers in the state,” he said.

Earlier today, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said that it is the BJP that has expertise in making fake videos and said that Prime Minister Modi should

avoid talking like this at least in elections.

“They (BJP) have the expertise to make videos and defame people through social media. Whatever work they do to ruin the image of people, we will never do it. We only want the country should remain one, and everyone should work together. There should be no hate speech. PM Modi always gives hate speech. PM Modi should not talk like this at least in elections. But they are doing it. That's why I appeal, at least have a little patience, don't talk like this with frustration,” he said. The development comes as Assam Police on Monday arrested Reetom Singh. This was the first arrest in connection with the doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah circulating on social media and allegedly being shared by Congress leaders.

ANAND SINGH
BHIND (MADHYA PRADESH)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that if the BJP comes back to power again at the Centre it will ‘tear apart’ and ‘throw away’ the Constitution that safeguards the rights of the underprivileged including the poor, Dalits, STs, and the OBCs. He also targeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah over issue of reservation.

While addressing a public meeting here, Rahul Gandhi said, “The poor, STs, OBCs got several rights because of the Constitution which also gave the people MGNREGA, land rights, reservation, and other things. If the BJP comes to power, it will throw away and tear apart this Constitution.” Hitting back at the BJP, he said, “The Prime Minister, BJP leaders have said it clearly, Amit Shah had said, their big leaders had said that if they win elections they'll change



the constitutions, dismiss it.” The Gandhi scion further said that the Constitution is the soul of the poor people of India, no one can touch it, there's no power in the world who can change it.

“These BJP people are seeing dreams,” he remarked. “Babasaheb, along with Congress and the people fought the British and made this constitution, the voice of the people, we built it.

We'll never let it erase, the farmers and the labourers will never let it happen.” he said. Rahul Gandhi further questioned the BJP, and said, “Now they are saying that they are not against reser-

Varun’s stance a chance for Cong to reinvent

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The Gandhi family might be divided on ideology, but the deep family bond has shown its presence and reflection time and again. With the Congress going through a rough patch it is about time that the Gandhi family lets bygones be bygones and look forward to embracing the BJP MP and illustrate a big heart. Varun Gandhi has never washed dirty linen in public and personified grace and dignity on several occasions.

The way he has politely turned down the offer to contest elections against sister Priyanka Gandhi from Rae Bareli, shows his magnanimity and generosity. Despite being aware that this decision will significantly impact his political future and goals and there is all possibility of the ruling BJP would lose trust in Varun



Gandhi, he stood firm by his decision.

It can be ascertained that, Priyanka Gandhi must have acknowledged Varun's Momentous determination and expressed gratitude as there is a steady stream of reports regarding their communication and dialogue. Priyanka Gandhi could have seized this opportunity and created a tremendous stir, giving UP election a spark by inviting Varun Gandhi to contest elections from Rae Bareli. This move could have brought Uttar Pradesh in lime light and Congress

would have got a face and a facelift.

The current trajectory of the general elections could have reinforced the Congress party. The Gandhi family should use its discretion and taken a decision, rather than following advises from the people who oppose Varun Gandhi. This is a moment of opportunity that they cannot afford to miss. Varun Gandhi has consistently maintained respectful relationships since entering politics, refraining from criticizing his family or the Congress party.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, as news circulated about Rahul Gandhi's defeat in Amethi, Varun Gandhi sensibly issued a supportive statement. However, when journalists questioned Rahul about Varun's statement, he responded casually. Despite this, Varun did not react. During the Bharat Jodo

Yatra, Rahul unexpectedly made unfavorable remarks about Varun in response to journalists' questions, which was unwarranted.

Considering their shared lineage through their grandmothers, Indira Gandhi, such discourse about the RSS was unnecessary. It appears that anti-Varun advisors influenced Rahul's statement. Affection within the family is undeniable; Rahul even interacted warmly with Varun and his family during the Kedarnath Yatra. However, the persistent lack of unity between the two families is surprising.

Given the party's struggles over the past decade, the Gandhi family needs allies focused on strengthening the party rather than their own interests.

Will request Centre to refer ‘obscene video’ case to CBI: Kumaraswamy

TDG NETWORK
SHIVAMOGGA (KARNATAKA)

Former Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Tuesday called for a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into alleged ‘obscene video’ case linked to JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna.

“If it is necessary. We only going to request honourable courts to direct the central government to refer this issue to CBI, let us see, enquiry may be conducted by the CBI,” HD Kumaraswamy told ANI in an exclusive interview.

The JD(S) leader also stated that just three days before the polls, certain opposition factions, notably some Congress leaders and a BJP leader, collaborated to tarnish Prajwal's image and that of the Deve Gowda family.

Kumaraswamy alleged that this was a desperate attempt by Congress after their campaign failed, and they misused



government power to circulate pen drives containing damaging content.

HD Kumaraswamy, while speaking to ANI, said “Three days before going to the polls, some sections of our opposition groups particularly some Congress leaders including one BJP leader, colluded. After the unsuccessful campaign and internal backstabbing, they knew that there was no success for them. So before going to the polls, they decided to circulate some pen drives about Prajwal Revanna, whether they are fake or genuine, I do not know”.

On Tuesday, the core committee of the

Janata Dal (Secular) recommended the suspension of Prajwal Revanna, who is facing an SIT probe in connection with an alleged obscene video case.

BRS leader and MP from Hasan, Prajwal Revanna is the grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda.

Addressing a joint press conference in Bengaluru, JD(S) core committee chairman GT Devegowda announced the decision to recommend Revanna's suspension to the party's national president.

Backing the Bhartiya Janata party, the JD(S) leader went on to attack Congress for questioning the BJP and PM.

“Why these congress friends are blaming the BJP? Why they are blaming Narendra Modi ji, what is the role of Narendra Modi ji in this issue or any BJP leaders?” Kumaraswamy asked.

Prajwal Revanna is the candidate of the BJP-JD(S) alliance in Hassan in Karnataka, which went to the polls on April 26 in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Problems in Assam resolved after Modi became PM, says CM Sarma

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday asserted that almost all the problems in Assam have been resolved since Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister. He also stated that more than 7,000 youths who had taken up arms had joined the mainstream after PM Modi came to power. Assam CM, while attending an election campaign

rally in Guwahati, said, “More than 7,000 youths who had taken up arms have joined the mainstream... PM Modi visited Assam... 27 months. Earlier, Dr Manmohan Singh rarely visited Assam... Almost all the problems of Assam have been resolved after Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister.” Himanta Biswa Sarma was attending an election campaign rally in support of BJP candidate for Guwa-

hati Lok Sabha constituency, Bijuli Kalita Medhi. Medhi will be contesting with Congress candidate Mira Borthakur Goswami in the Guwahati Parliamentary constituency. Polls will be held in the third on May 7 in Guwahati. Assam recorded a 78.25 per cent polling percentage in the first phase of polls in five parliamentary constituencies - Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Kaziranga and Sonitpur on April 19.

TDG NETWORK
BHOPAL

Weighing in on the controversy around an alleged fake video, purportedly showing Union Home Minister Amit Shah as claiming that the BJP stands against reservations; Chief Minister Mohan Yadav came down heavily on the Congress on Tuesday, saying it has a history of instilling ‘fear’ in people's minds for the sake of votes.

Speaking to ANI on board a chartered flight, on the sidelines of campaigning for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections,

on Tuesday, CM Yadav said, “The Congress has a history of instilling fear in people's minds through unfounded claims for the sake of votes. On the issue of reservation, too, the Congress is treading the same line. It was the Congress that brought amendments to our Constitution (countering the Opposition claim that the BJP-led NDA would ring in changes to the Constitution if elected for a third term). The BJP, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has worked to give reservation to the poor and the



backward sections. We even moved the Supreme Court in the interest of reservations and social justice.”

Echoing PM Modi's refrain, the Madhya Pradesh CM said Rahul was eyeing a flight from Wayanad, his cur-

rent Lok Sabha constituency from where he is seeking a fresh term, in the same way as he ‘ran away’ from Amethi (in Uttar Pradesh) after his defeat to Union Minister Smriti Irani in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

“Rahul Gandhi lost Amethi in 2019 and could be in for a similar flight from Wayanad (if he loses). He seems to be overcome by a sense of fear. This is all because of the popularity of PM Modi,” the BJP leader said.

He added that Prime Minister Modi was receiving

rousing support from people across the country, asserting that the prevailing mood of the nation could, in one word, be described as ‘Modimay’ (in favour of PM Modi).

“I am happy that the party vested in me the responsibility of taking our campaign pitch and promises to the people (during the election campaign). People across the length and breadth of the country are ‘Modimay’. Be it North, South, East, or West, everyone is supporting PM Modi's bid for a third term in office.



MAA, MATI, MANUSH REPLACED BY MULLAH, MADRASA & MAFIA: SHAH

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

Amid a searing heatwave in West Bengal, the BJP on Tuesday raised the political temperature in the state with its two big names – Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath – taking on Mamata Banerjee and her Trinamool Congress Government.

Addressing a public meeting at Memari in the East Bardhaman district, Shah alleged that Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee did not attend the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony in Ayodhya because they were afraid of losing the support



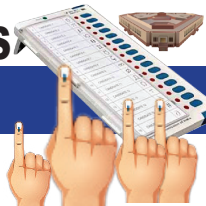
of “infiltrators” in West Bengal. “The TMC promised a government of Maa, Mati and Manush. But after coming to power, it has become a government of Mullah, Madrasa and Mafia,” he said, adding that the perpetrators of violence against women in Sandeshkhali would be brought to justice.

Shah said it is a matter of shame that “Mamata Baner-

jee, despite being a woman Chief Minister, tried to protect the culprits”. “For years, atrocities continued under her rule. To get some votes through appeasement, you are protecting the criminals of Sandeshkhali. The BJP will punish these culprits,” he asserted. He accused the Chief Minister of maintaining a stoic silence to carry on “vote bank politics”.

“This election is about deciding whether you want the nephew as Chief Minister of West Bengal or Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of

PEOPLE'S
MANDATE
2024



India, he said. “Do you want parivar raj (dynasty politics) in the country or Ram Rajya? Do you want to elect bhatija as the Chief Minister of Bengal? In this election, you have to elect Modi ji as the Prime Minister again so that free medical treatment worth Rs5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat Yojana can be made available to the people,” said Shah.

BJP spreading lies about submission of utilisation certificates for central projects: Mamata

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

Minutes after Union Home Minister Amit Shah ended his speech in Memari, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee struck back from her election rally in Hari-schandrapur in Malda Uttar Lok Sabha constituency, and accused BJP leaders of only “badmouthing and threatening Bengal”.

Banerjee accused Amit Shah of “peddling lies” on the State Government’s submission of utilisation certificates for Central projects and urged the BJP leadership to hold the mirror to themselves.

She alleged that as per CAG reports, 32 Central Government departments had not



She alleged that as per CAG reports, 32 Central Government departments had not submitted utilisation certificates for the Rs 52,000 crores spent by them.

submitted utilisation certificates for the Rs 52,000 crores spent by them.

“Amit Shah has claimed at a meeting in Memari that we have not sent utilisation certificates for Rs 2.2 crore spent by our Government. I challenge him to prove it. This is

nothing but falsehood. Since coming to power 13 years ago, we have given every single break-up of expenses in utilisation certificates. I cannot take responsibility for whatever had happened during the reign of CPI(M) before 2011,” she said.

Centre raises security for BJP candidates in Bengal

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

With reports of more and more BJP candidates being accosted on the campaign trail by belligerent Trinamool Congress supporters, the Union Home Ministry moved to grant additional security to the party’s candidates.

Abhijit Gangopadhyay, the Calcutta High Court judge who resigned from the judiciary and is the Bharatiya Janata Party’s candidate from the Tamluk Lok Sabha constituency, was given “Y” category security.

Rekha Patra, the face of the women’s protests in Sandeshkhali against the atrocities by Trinamool Congress leader Sheikh Shahjahan, who is the BJP candidate for the Basirhat constituency, was granted “X” category. After being named as the BJP’s candidate,

Abhijit Gangopadhyay, the Calcutta High Court judge who resigned from the judiciary and is the Bharatiya Janata Party’s candidate from the Tamluk Lok Sabha constituency, was given “Y” category security.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called Rekha Patra “Shakti Swaroopa” for raising her voice against the Trinamool leaders. Rekha Patra was given security on the day when she and her senior party leader Archana Majumdar were heckled and chased by Trinamool Congress supporters when they were campaigning in Khairidanga village under the Dhanyakuria block of Sandeshkhali. They were also shown black flags and Archana Majumdar was hit on her back with a staff.

Other candidates like Kartick Chandra Paul of Raigunj, Nirmal Kumar Saha of Baharampur and Pranat Tudu of Jhargram were also given security. Some mid-level BJP leaders like Abhijit Barman, Tapas Das, Ashok Kandari and Ashok Purkait were also given security. In Kolkata, young BJP leader Sajal Ghosh, who is contesting an Assembly bye-election from Baranagar, was also heckled by a group of Trinamool Congress supporters, as he went about his campaign.

Dalvir Goldy resigns from Punjab Cong ahead of Lok Sabha polls

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

In a significant development before the Lok Sabha elections, the Punjab Congress faces another blow as Dalvir Goldy, who contested from the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat, has tendered his resignation from the party. Expressing discontent with the Congress, Goldy’s departure has sparked speculation that he might join the BJP and could potentially be fielded as a candidate from Sangrur under their banner.

Goldy, a prominent figure in Sangrur politics and actively involved in the party’s election campaigns for the past three months, expressed dissatisfaction with the party’s decision to nominate Sukhpal Khaira. Despite efforts from party leaders, including President Raja Warring, to persuade him to support



Khaira, Goldy remained resolute in his decision to resign.

In a concise three-line resignation letter addressed to Punjab Congress Chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Goldy stated his resignation from the leadership of Punjab Congress, as well as from his position as Sangrur District Chief and primary party membership.

Taking to social media to announce his resignation,

Goldy conveyed the weight of his decision, expressing the difficulty of his choice known to his family, relatives, and close acquaintances.

This resignation comes amidst prior speculations regarding Goldy’s dissatisfaction with the party, despite attempts by candidate Sukhpal Khaira to convince him otherwise, further solidifying Goldy’s departure from the Punjab Congress.

Former Punjab Police ADGP Gurinder Singh Dhillon joins Congress

TARUNI GANDHI,
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress continues to gain strength in the region with the joining of esteemed personalities into the party fold ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

In a significant juncture today, former Additional Director General of Punjab Police, Gurinder Singh Dhillon, officially aligned with the Indian National Congress, in a ceremony graced by senior party dignitaries in Delhi. Accompanied by his spouse, Dhillon, who recently opted for voluntary retirement from the Punjab Police, embraced the Congress with fervor and dedication. The induction event, attended by senior Congress leaders including Devendra Yadav, the Punjab Congress in-charge, signifies a pivotal moment in Dhillon’s transition towards a new phase of public service.



Moreover, Punjab Congress also welcomed back Rajinder Singh Raja Birkalan into its ranks, alongside numerous other eminent political figures, during a press briefing at Punjab Congress Bhawan Chandigarh. The occasion witnessed the presence of PPCC Chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and CLP Leader Partap Singh Bajwa.

Expressing his gratitude and resolve, Dhillon remarked, “I have devoted nearly two decades of my life to serving my state as a law enforcement officer. Today, with the blessings

of Rahul Gandhiji, I embark on a new odyssey to contribute to our nation’s welfare through the Congress party.”

Dhillon recounted his encounters with Rahul Gandhi during occasions such as the Punjab leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the latter’s pilgrimage to the Golden Temple. These interactions deeply influenced Dhillon, inspiring him to align his endeavors with the Congress party’s vision for a prosperous India. Rajinder Singh Raja Birkalan conveyed his appreciation, stating, “I have always been an integral

part of the Congress family and have resonated with its ideology through time. I extend my gratitude to the party leadership for enlisting me in this endeavor against injustice and despotism, as we endeavor to oust AAP in Punjab and the BJP at the national level.”

Accompanying Rajinder Singh Raja Birkalan, Harmanpreet Singh (Dikki Jeji), Former Chairman of Market Committee Sangrur; Avtar Singh Sheron, Former President of District Kisan Cell Sangrur and President of Co-operative Society Sheron; Naresh Sharma Budhi Jeevi, President of Sangrur; Naveen Kumar Bunt, Former MC of Sunam; Sardar Balkar Singh, Retired Police Inspector; Baljeet Singh Dhindsa, Sarpanch of Taranji-khedha; Malkeet Singh Tohlawal, Former General Secretary of Kisan Cell Punjab; and Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal Birkalan also pledged their allegiance to the party on this day.

Congress a ‘sinking ship’....no power can save it: Rajnath

TDG NETWORK
KHANDWA (MADHYA PRADESH)

Congress is a “sinking ship” with a hole in the bottom, and no power in the world can stop it from sinking, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

He was addressing public meetings in Khandwa and Badwani district of Madhya Pradesh.

In a veiled dig at the Gandhi family, the Defence Minister said, “After independence, Mahatma Gandhi said as democracy has been established in the country, it is the time to dissolve Congress, but the leaders of Congress ignored Mahatma Gandhi’s request.”

“I think the people of this country have made up their mind to fulfil what Mahatma Gandhi said about Congress, and they (people) will definitely wipe out Congress from the country,” he said.

He also praised the BJP government for bringing “25 crore” people out of poverty



in the last 10 years.

“Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and Manmohan Singh, all of them committed to ending poverty, but all of them failed. But the Modi government was able to bring 25 crore people out of poverty,” he added. On the allegations levelled by Opposition of ‘Democracy under threat’ amid the developments in Surat and Indore, the Defence Minister pointed out

that the Congress candidate was elected unopposed 20 times in the past.

Earlier on Monday, Akshay Kanti Bam, the Congress candidate from Indore parliamentary seat withdrew his nomination.

Prior to this, Mukesh Dalal won the election “unopposed” a day after the nomination of the party’s Surat Lok Sabha candidate was rejected on Sunday over alleged discrep-

ancies in the signature of the proposers.

“The Surat Lok Sabha BJP candidate has been elected unopposed. The Congress candidate from Indore has resigned from Congress and is supporting the BJP. This is the affection of people towards the BJP. But Congress says the BJP is a threat to democracy. Congress candidates have been elected unopposed 20 times, then there was no threat to democracy?” Rajnath asserted.

Singh, during his address, compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Ahilyabai Holkar, who took the reigns of the Holkar dynasty after her husband’s demise and played an important role in the protection of cultural heritage in Malwa.

“Modi ji is also doing the same what Ahilyabai Holkar had done. He ensured the construction of Ujjain Mahakal Corridor, Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, and Ram Mandir in Ayodhya,” he added.

‘Congress tried to strangle Constitution, people have not forgotten Emergency’: UP CM

TARUNI GANDHI,
LUCKNOW (UTTAR PRADESH)

Countering the allegations made by Congress that the Bharatiya Janata Party will alter the Constitution after coming into power, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that it is BJP, which has always respected and believed in the “idea of Ambedkar’s constitution” and Congress in the past has repeatedly tried to strangle the Constitution.

“There cannot be a bigger lie than this. People are aware of the history of the Congress and INDI alliance. It is Congress that tried to strangle the Constitution after its implementation in 1950. Multiple times it tried to curtail the freedom of expression. It always cared about power. People have not forgotten the time of emergency, he said, adding “Even during UPA, they tried to give away reservations meant

“For BJP, our constitution is supreme. We are committed to the vision and ideals laid down by Baba Saheb Ambedkar,” he said.

for backward classes to minorities under the pretext of the report of Sachar and Ranganath committee,” Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told ANI.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the BJP has always respected the

constitution laid down by BR Ambedkar.

“For BJP, our constitution is supreme. We are committed to the vision and ideals laid down by Baba Saheb Ambedkar,” he said.

He further said that workers in the Congress party are

not even trusting their own leadership.

“You must be seeing that their people are continuously leaving the field. At some places, their state president is resigning and at some places their declared candidates are themselves withdrawing their candidature and joining the BJP and at some places, they are deliberately filling out the nomination papers incompletely,” CM Yogi said.

On Monday, showing a

copy of the Constitution, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that the BJP if returned to power will attempt to rewrite the Constitution and do away with the reservation, adding that the Congress party is striving to save the Constitution.

At a public meeting in Chhattisgarh’s Bilaspur, Rahul Gandhi said, “These elections are not ordinary elections. There is a fight between ideologies. On one side, there is the Congress

party, the INDIA bloc and on the other side, there is the BJP. And the people who knew politics...And there are crores of people in Hindustan who know that this election is about saving the Constitution.”

Earlier, former Union Minister and BJP MP Anant Kumar Hegde said that his party needs a total of 400 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls if any changes are to be made in the Constitution.

Hegde called for re-writing

of the Constitution stating that Congress earlier made changes to the Constitution to oppress the Hindu society and to undo that “act” his party needs a two-thirds majority in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha as well as in states.

The opposition leaders have been accusing the BJP of doing away with the reservation and attempting to rewrite the Constitution. The BJP has denied all the charges.

TDP-JANASENA ALLIANCE UNVEILS MANIFESTO

MADHU SHARMA
HYDERABAD

In a significant political development, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janasena Party have jointly launched their alliance manifesto, marking a collaborative effort to address the pressing needs and aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Led by TDP Chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Janasena Chief Pawan Kalyan, the manifesto launch reflects a united front aimed at bringing about positive change and restoring the state's former glory.

The manifesto, meticulously crafted with inputs from various stakeholders including the BJP, underscores a commitment to implement a comprehensive agenda for the welfare and development of the state. With a focus on continuity, the alliance reaffirms its commitment to the “Super 6” promises made earlier, ensuring consistency and accountability in governance.

Central to the alliance's vision is the empowerment of the youth, who have been disproportionately affected in recent years. Promises of generating 20 lakh jobs over the next five years, coupled with monthly unemployment allowances and financial support for education, underscore a concerted effort to instill confidence and provide opportunities for the youth.

Recognizing the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment, the manifesto promises monthly financial assistance to women, along with free bus services and subsidies for essential commodities like gas cylinders. These initiatives aim to uplift women economically and enhance their participation in society.

In line with efforts to address socio-economic disparities, the alliance pledges support for marginalized communities, including backward castes (BCs), minorities, Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Pension schemes, reservation policies, and targeted financial assistance demonstrate a commitment to inclusive growth and social justice.

Economic revitalization forms a crucial pillar of the alliance's agenda, with promises of support for small and medium-scale industries, infrastructure development, and investment promotion. Initiatives to streamline governance, remove bureaucratic hurdles, and promote entrepreneurship aim to stimulate economic growth and job creation.

Educational reforms, environmental sustainability measures, and infrastructure development are also highlighted in the manifesto, reflecting a holistic approach to governance. Efforts to enhance access to education, ensure environmental protection, and improve infrastructure aim to create a conducive environment for overall development and progress.



However, challenges remain, particularly in addressing the grievances of government employees and ensuring the effective implementation of welfare schemes. The alliance's pledge to review contentious issues such as the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and provide interim relief to employees demonstrates a commitment to addressing these concerns.

Overall, the TDP and Janasena alliance manifesto represents a comprehensive roadmap for the future of Andhra Pradesh, with a focus on inclusive growth, youth empowerment, and socio-economic development. As the state prepares for elections, the manifesto serves as a blueprint for transformative change and progress.

The JD(S) on Tuesday suspended its Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna from the party over allegations of sexual abuse as the political slugfest over the alleged involvement of the NDA Lok Sabha candidate in sleaze video scandal escalated with the BJP launching a fierce counter-attack against the Congress for delayed action in the case by the Karnataka government. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other top BJP leaders questioned the state government why it did not take action against Prajwal despite being aware of the case for weeks and months. The attack by the BJP came a day after the Congress took on the saffron party over the allegations against the leader of its ally the Janata Dal (Sec-

Prajwal Revanna suspended from JD(S) over sexual abuse allegations

AGENCIES
BENGALURU/HUBBALLI

The JD(S) on Tuesday suspended its Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna from the party over allegations of sexual abuse as the political slugfest over the alleged involvement of the NDA Lok Sabha candidate in sleaze video scandal escalated with the BJP launching a fierce counter-attack against the Congress for delayed action in the case by the Karnataka government. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other top BJP leaders questioned the state government why it did not take action against Prajwal despite being aware of the case for weeks and months. The attack by the BJP came a day after the Congress took on the saffron party over the allegations against the leader of its ally the Janata Dal (Sec-



ular) in Karnataka. Police on Sunday booked Prajwal Revanna and his father H D Revanna on charges of sexual harassment and criminal intimidation based on a complaint from a woman, who worked in their household. Prajwal is the grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda and nephew of former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy. Faced with the unrelenting attack from the Congress and other political parties, the JD (S) suspended Prajwal, minutes after the party core committee that met in Hubballi recommended his suspension to its national president Deve Gowda. “Videos of Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna allegedly harassing women are widely in circulation on social media and media and this has caused huge embarrassment to the party and its leadership,” the suspension order said. Noting that the Congress government in Karnataka has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the allegations, it said: “In this backdrop, as per JD(S) party constitution and rules regarding breach of discipline and punishment, Prajwal Revanna has been suspended with immediate effect.”

The suspension order, signed by party General Secretary K R Shivakumar, was released to the media following approval from the JD(S) national President.

Anantnag-Rajouri poll: Date rescheduled to May 25

TDG NETWORK
ANANTNAG (J & K)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday rescheduled the polling date in Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seat in Jammu and Kashmir from May 7 to May 25, 2024, after considering a report from the Union Territory administration and analysing ground situation.

“The Election Commission of India had announced the schedule for the General Election to the Lok Sabha vide its Press Note dated March 16, 2024. Accordingly, the notification for the 3rd Phase was issued on

April 12, 2024, and the Poll Day was scheduled on May 7, 2024,” the press release by the poll body stated.

The order further reads, “Various representations have been received from different political parties of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir for shifting the date of poll of election from 3-Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency (PC) of Jammu and Kashmir, due to various logistic, communication and natural barrier of connectivity turning out as hindrance in campaigning which in turn tantamount to lack of fair opportunities for the contesting candidates in the said Parliamentary Constituency which may affect poll process.”

“The Commission, after considering a report from UT administration as well as analyzing the ground situation prevailing in the said constituency, has decided under Section 56 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, to revise the date of the poll in the said Parliamentary Constituency in respect of ongoing General Election to Lok Sabha, 2024,” it said.

Meanwhile, sources said that the Commission has only revised the poll date for 3-Antantnag PC in UT of J-K. All statutory processes including nomination, scrutiny and withdrawal are already over with 20 contesting candidates. Except poll date, no changes in any part of the schedule.

In 2019, polling for the Lok Sabha was held for six seats in Jammu and Kashmir. However, following the abrogation of Article 370, which resulted in the split of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, there is no longer a separate Lok Sabha constituency for Ladakh.

In the 2019 elections, the BJP won three seats while the National Conference won the remaining three. The counting of votes and results will be declared on

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June 4.

The PDP and NC, despite being allies in the opposition alliance INDIA bloc, have decided to go solo in the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The general elections are being held in seven phases in a six-week marathon ending on June 27.

Polling for the first phase and the second phase was held on April 19 and April 26, respectively.

The first phase of polling was held on April 19 and the second phase on April 26. The next round of voting will be held on May 25.

The counting and results will be declared on June 4.

The Congress on Tuesday fielded actor-turned-politician Raj Babbar from the Gurugram Lok Sabha seat in Haryana and former Union minister Anand Sharma from Kangra in Himachal Pradesh.

Satpal Raizada, a former MLA from Himachal Pradesh's Una, has been fielded by the Congress from the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat in the state and will contest the general elections against BJP candidate and Union Minister Anurag

Cong fields Raj Babbar in Gurugram, Anand Sharma in Kangra

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

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Congress fielded Mumbai Congress leader Bhushan Patil from Mumbai North



Thakur. The Congress also fielded local Mumbai Congress leader Bhushan Patil from the Mumbai North constituency in Maharashtra, who will take on Union Minister Piyush Goyal from the key seat.

Poor have more kids...

CONTINUED FROM P1

tra' and Muslims. He says we will steal your wealth and give it to those who have more children. Poor people always have more children. Do only Muslims have them?” he asked.

He himself has five children but he was the only son of his parents, the Congress president said, adding that his mother, sister and uncle died when their house was set on fire.

Only his father and him were left, and “my father told me I am his only son and he wanted to see my children,” Kharge said.

“Poor people have (more) children as they do not have wealth. But why do you (Modi) only keep talking about Muslims? Muslims belong to this country,” he said, asking people not to

get misled as “we have to build the country by taking everyone together, not like them (BJP) by breaking it.” During an election rally in Rajasthan, PM Modi had said that if Congress came to power it would redistribute people's wealth to those who have more children and to the infiltrators. He had also cited former prime minister Manmohan Singh's remark that Muslims had the first claim on the country's resources.

On Modi's claim that Congress was planning to seize people's wealth including even women's mangalsutra, Kharge asked, “We ruled the country for 55 years, but did we snatch anyone's 'mangal-sutra' or misuse the ED (Enforcement Directorate), IT (Income Tax) to put people behind bars?” The prime minister was speaking lies

and misleading people, he alleged, claiming that Modi speaks about “Hindu-Muslim” (issues) even where Muslims have zero presence. “Nowadays he is saying Congress wants to do X-ray of gold in every house and lands and it will not leave even your `mangalsutra'. We have said we want to conduct a caste census to assess the conditions of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes so that their situation can be improved, but he made fun of it,” Kharge said.

If such a prime minister ruled for five more years, the country will be destroyed, the Congress president said. “He (Modi) says 'sabka sath, sabka vikas'. He takes support of everyone but never does their 'vikas' (development). He does their 'satya-nash' (destruction).”

We hit terrorists in their homes: PM

CONTINUED FROM P1

fever. Those who looted the country are in jail. Those who looted the country will have to pay back. And this is Modi's guarantee.”

The Congress thought about only one family, but Modi thinks about every family of Bharat, he said.

“In 2014 and 2019, you gave us a huge mandate. We utilised it not to snatch anything from anyone, but to provide benefits and ensure welfare. Ours is a government that truly gives strength to social justice,” Modi emphasised.

The PM said the Congress and problems were like “twin brothers”, and alleged that except poverty, the grand old party did not give anything to the country while it was in power. “The Congress and problems are like twin brothers. They never tried to end

Reservation cannot be taken away even if Babasaheb Ambedkar were to appear in person. But Congress wants to curtail the SC, ST reservation and give it to their vote bank

people's problems. Latur has been facing a water crisis, but did they try to address the issue? Congress kept the water schemes hanging and hurdles were created in the water grid scheme,” he noted.

On the issue of reservation, he pointed out that the provision of quota in jobs and education made in the Constitution for underprivileged

sections of society cannot be scrapped.

“Reservation cannot be taken away even if (chief Constitution framer) Babasaheb Ambedkar were to appear in person. But Congress wants to curtail the SC, ST reservation and give it to their vote bank,” he alleged.

Speaking at another rally in Dharashiv, the PM said political rivals who are unable to take on the BJP-led government are now misusing technology to circulate fake videos on social media.

“Now their condition is such that as their lies aren't working, they are using my face and with the help of artificial intelligence technology, selling fake videos in their ‘mohabbat ki dukaan’ (shop of love - a slogan given by Rahul Gandhi). This shop of lies must be shut down,” Modi said.

FIR registered against Salman Khurshid, Maria Alam Khan in UP

TDG NETWORK
FATEHGARH (UTTAR PRADESH)

An FIR has been lodged against Congress leader Salman Khurshid and Samajwadi Party leader Maria Alam Khan for allegedly seeking votes on “religious lines”.

Notably, Maria Alam Khan is the niece of Salman Khurshid. The case has been registered in Kayamganj Police Station in Fatehgarh district under sections 188 and 295(A) of the Indian Penal Code.

Farrukhabad SP Vikas Kumar said, “A video of Maria Alam Khan, an SP leader, is going viral on social media, where she is seen asking for votes on religious grounds.



This is a violation of the Model Code of Conduct. A written report was submitted at PS Kayamganj... The investigation will proceed accordingly.”

Farrukhabad DM Dr VK Singh said, “Yesterday, Salman Khurshid and SP leader Maria Alam Khan were addressing a public rally in Kayamganj, during which Maria Alam Khan asked the minority community to go for vote jihad.

Congress slams govt

CONTINUED FROM P1

party's Karnataka's unit incharge in a post on X said, “It is a bitter truth that after Covid, thousands and lakhs of cases of ‘heart attack’ and ‘brain stroke’ have come to light, where a healthy person died and the family kept wondering what happened, although there was no problem.

He also asked people to look around to find how there are dozens of such cases.

Firing salvos at the government, Surjewala said, “Will the Modi government, which got praise for its ‘free vaccine’ advertisements, answer now? Will the vaccine manufacturing company be investigated? Will there be a scientific analysis of its truth?”

“Did the BJP take crores of rupees in the form of “Electoral Bonds” from this vaccine manufacturing company?” Surjewala questioned.

Even Congress Andhra Pradesh incharge Manickam Tagore slammed the government over the Covishield vaccine row and said, “Given recent revelations about potential side effects of the CoviShield vaccine, with over 1.74 billion doses administered in India, it's imperative that the Union Health Secretary issues a detailed statement addressing concerns and outlining measures to ensure public safety.”

“Transparency and accountability are paramount in maintaining trust in our vaccination efforts,” he said tagging the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Indian Youth Congress chief Srinivas BV slammed the government and in a post on X said, “In a UK court, the company that made the Covishield vaccine admitted that the vaccine made by them can cause a rare side effect TTS, which causes blood clots and increases the chances of heart attack and brain hemorrhage.”

Taking a swipe at the BJP government, he asked, “Where is the Thank You Modi ji banner now? Why are the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) and Health Ministry silent? Is this the reason why deaths due to heart attack at young age occur? Was this the reason why BJP took electoral bonds worth Rs 50 crore from Serum Institute?”

He also said that “this is not a matter of politics but of people's lives”.

“The Prime Minister who shamelessly takes credit for the vaccine will have to answer. Because more than half of India's population has been administered AstraZeneca's Covishield,” the IYC leader added.

This vaccine was extensively administered throughout India during the Covid-19 pandemic.

‘Very rare side effects’: AstraZeneca

CONTINUED FROM P1

matter for expert evidence,” the newspaper quotes the legal document as stating.

Lawyers acting on behalf of the claimants say they, or their loved ones, who received the AZ vaccine suffered TTS – a rare syndrome characterised by the concurrence of thrombosis or blood clotting and thrombocytopenia or insufficiency of platelets.

The consequences of TTS are potentially life-threatening including strokes, brain damage, heart attacks, pulmonary embolism and amputation. Of the 51 claimants in the group action being represented by the law firm Leigh Day for damages under Section 2 of the UK's Consumer Protection Act 1987 against AstraZeneca UK Ltd in respect

of injuries sustained as a result of the vaccine, 12 are acting on behalf of a loved one who died.

“All of those within the group have death certificates or medical evidence confirming that the vaccine caused the deaths and injuries suffered,” said Sarah Moore, partner at Leigh Day.

“It has taken AstraZeneca a year to formally admit that their vaccine has caused this harm, when this was a fact widely accepted by the clinical community since the end of 2021. In that context, regrettably it seems that AZ, the government and their lawyers are more keen to play strategic games and run up legal fees than to engage seriously with the devastating impact that the vaccine has had upon our clients' lives,” she said.

13th century memorial stone

CONTINUED FROM P1

ing the 10th to 13th centuries CE. The dynasty was founded by Kadava Vanakandan, who was a chieftain under the Chola dynasty. The Vanagovaraiyars established their rule in the region around Vellore and extended it to other parts of Tamil Nadu like including the present-day Salem, Perambalur, Kallakurichi, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, and several parts

which tourist will come here? We are worried about this development and we hope all stakeholders join hands to protect the environment.”

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the previous highest April temperature recorded in Udhagamandalam was 28.5 degrees Celsius on April 29, 1986. In January, Udhagamandalam recorded 1 degree Celsius in the first week of January, the lowest in many decades. The rising temperatures in

of the Cuddalore district. “Their reign marked an era of flourishing religious diversity, as evidenced by the patronage extended to Buddhism, Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and folk deities,” added Ramasamy.

The Ooty hills have become a matter of concern for those living there and those visiting on holiday.

The IMD has also issued a yellow alert for heat-wave conditions till May 3. “Heat wave conditions are likely to prevail at isolated pockets over north interior Tamil Nadu,” the IMD said on Monday, adding, “Due to humid air and high temperatures, hot and discomfort weather is very likely to prevail in isolated pockets over the rest of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.”

DEVENDRA YADAV IS INTERIM CHIEF OF CONGRESS IN DELHI

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Just two days after Arvinder Singh Lovely resigned from the post of party's city unit ahead of the crucial Lok Sabha elections, Congress announced on Tuesday that Devendra Yadav has been appointed to serve as the interim president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee.

Lovely stepped down from his position as the head of the Delhi Congress, expressing disapproval of the party's decision to form a coalition with AAP for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the national capital. His resignation came just 48 hours prior to this development.

Currently serving as the Congress's Punjab in-charge, Devender Yadav previously held the position of MLA, representing the Badli constituency in Delhi.

Singh also highlighted that the Delhi Congress unit opposed the alliance with AAP,



Singh also highlighted that the Delhi Congress unit opposed the alliance with AAP, but the party high command disregarded their plea.

but the party high command disregarded their plea. While speaking to the ITV Network, Yadav said, "There are challenges in Delhi like that of coordination, and the elections just ahead in which we have to perform well. So today I met number of our party leaders and workers and I have full hope that in the

coming days Congress will strengthen."

When asked about the reasons mentioned by Lovely in his resignation letter about the grand old party's alliance with AAP in the national capital, Yadav, who is also the incharge of party's Punjab unit said, "This alliance was not a decision of one person. It was a collective

confidence that the alliance with give a spirited fight on all the seven seats."

The development comes two days after Lovely resigned from the post of city unit chief ahead of the crucial general elections.

In his letter Lovely said that all unanimous decisions taken by the senior Delhi Congress leaders have been unilaterally vetoed by the AICC general secretary (Delhi In-charge).

"Since my appointment as DPCC President, the AICC General Secretary (Delhi In-charge) has not allowed me to make any senior appointments in the DPCC. My request for the appointment of a veteran leader as Media head of DPCC was blatantly rejected. To date, the AICC General Secretary (Delhi In-charge) has not allowed the DPCC to appoint all Block presidents in the city.

Further, he said that despite Aam Aadmi Party accusing the Congress over corruption, the party allied with them.

PIL in Delhi HC seeks directions to Centre to constitute Legal Education Commission

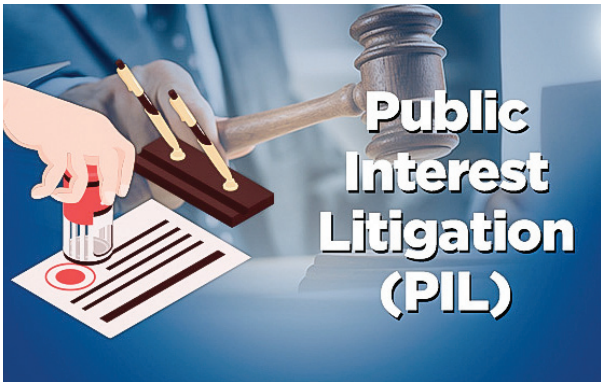
TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been moved in Delhi High Court seeking direction to the central government to constitute a Legal Education Commission on Tuesday.

The PIL has sought to constitute an LEC similar to the Medical Education Commission comprising retired judges, law professors and lawyers to ascertain the feasibility of four-year Bachelor of Law course like BTech.

The plea moved by Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, a practising lawyer and BJP leader stated that the court may also direct the Bar Council of India to constitute an expert committee of Retired Judge(s), jurist and educationists to examine the coherence of five years' Bachelor of Law Course with new education policy 2020.

"Direct the Expert Committee to prepare a report on the essentiality of a BA, BBA, or BCom before BLaw, which is also a graduation course," stated the plea.



The plea further stated that the new education policy 2020 promotes four-year graduation courses but BCI has neither reviewed the five-year BA-LLB nor started the four-year B-Law to date. BTech through IIT takes 4 years of non-superfluous education and that too in a specified field of engineering whereas BA-LLB or BBA-LLB through the NLU and various other affiliated colleges consumes 5 years of a student's precious life while providing knowledge of Arts/Commerce, an unrelated and superfluous stream. Hence, the existing five-year course is manifestly arbitrary and irrational. The lengthy and exorbitant

course is disincentivizing students from pursuing law. The extraordinary and poor students are rather pursuing engineering, civil services or other courses. BA and LLB or BBA and LLB are both graduation courses and thus there is no need for both in a student's career. Annual fees of a five-year course are comparatively greater than that of a four-year course, the plea said.

Earlier, there was a three-year B-Law course after the 12th Standard. Former Law Minister late Ram Jethmalani started practising law at the age of 17 years and legend of the Bar late Fali Nariman at the age of 21 years, plea added.

Court seeks response of GNCTD on PIL to fill position of DCPCR officials

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Government of NCT Delhi (GNCTD) and others on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) to expeditiously fill the vacant position of Chairperson and Members in Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), within a fixed time period.

The bench of Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora showed displeasure with the Delhi Government again over the delay in said appointments and said 'where there is a will there is a way'. Court fixed July 16, 2024 for detail hearing in the matter.

The petitioner, National Child Development Council a self-governing child welfare organization through plea stated that DCPCR, is functioning without a chairperson since 02.07.2023 and keeping the post vacant for so long is clearly a violation



of clause 8(2) of the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules.

The petitioner organization through Advocate Robin Raju also submitted a representation to the GNCTD requesting to fill the post of chairperson of DCPCR by highlighting the current moribund state of a body (that used to be proactive) without the chairperson.

Plea further stated that the functioning of DCPCR has been severely affected since the tenure of former Chairman Anurag Kundu came

to an end on July 2, 2023. DCPCR has been functioning without a chairperson for more than 8 months now. Also, the website of DCPCR shows that the body is functioning without even a member at present.

There have been media reports on the sorry state of affairs ever since the tenure of the chairperson came to an end. There is a report published by Times of India on November 30, 2023, regarding inability of DCPCR body to pay office rent and clear dues to the tune of Rs. 3 Crores at that time.

Delhi Police nabs three persons for IPL match betting

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Three people were arrested on charges of betting for the IPL match between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, officials said on Monday.

"Special Task Force, a team of Delhi Police apprehended three persons, namely Pradeep Sharma alias Bobby (33), Mohit Arora (35) and Mukesh Sharma (44)," the Police said in an official statement.

One laptop, six mobile phones, one LED TV, one router and Rs 20500 have been recovered from the possession of the accused, the police added.

According to the police, a case was registered under the Gambling Act at Krishna Nagar Police Station.

IPL betting is illegal under provisions of the Prevention of Gambling Act and the Telegraph Act.

In the match, Delhi Capitals (DC) posted their highest total in the Indian Premier League (IPL) as they went on to score 257/4 against Mumbai Indians (MI) at Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Saturday.

SC questions timing Of Kejriwal's arrest

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the timing of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest ahead of the general elections in the excise policy-linked money laundering case.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta told Additional Solicitor General S V Raju "life and liberty are exceedingly important. You can't deny that." "The last question is with regard to the timing of the arrest, which they have pointed out, the timing of the arrest, soon before the general elections," the bench said.

The top court also asked about the long time gap between initiation of adjudica-



tion proceedings in the case and the action of arrest, saying the section 8 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) provides a maximum limit of 365 days. The bench said, "Mr. Raju, we have some questions, which we would like you to answer, when you make your submissions. First is without there being any adjudicatory proceedings, can the ED initiate a criminal

proceedings in view of several judgements of this court on PMLA." The bench also said in this case there are no proceedings of attachments so far and if there are any such proceedings, then the ED will have to show how petitioner (Kejriwal) is connected to it.

The hearing in the matter will continue On Friday.

The ED arrested Kejriwal on March 21, after the Delhi High Court refused to grant him protection from coercive action by the federal anti-money laundering agency. The chief minister is currently lodged in the Tihar jail here under judicial custody.

The top court issued a notice to the ED on April 15 and sought its response to Kejriwal's plea.

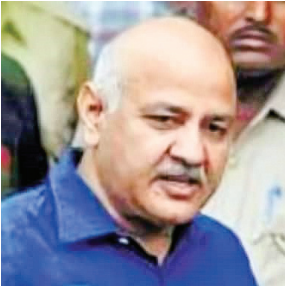
No relief to Manish Sisodia as court dismisses bail pleas

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday dismissed the bail petitions filed by former deputy chief minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the corruption and money laundering cases brought forth by the CBI and the ED concerning the alleged excise scam.

Special judge for CBI and ED, Kaveri Baweja, denied the relief, stating that the current stage was not conducive to granting bail.

Following arguments from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), as well as the counsel rep-



resenting Sisodia, the court reserved its order.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have accused Sisodia of involvement in irregularities during the modification of the Delhi Excise Policy, alleging undue favors to license holders, waiver or reduction of license fees, and

extension of licenses without proper authorization.

The agencies further allege that the beneficiaries diverted illicit gains to the accused officials and falsified entries in their financial records to avoid detection. Sisodia was apprehended by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on February 26, 2023, in connection with the "scam," while the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested the former deputy chief minister on March 9, 2023, in a money laundering case linked to the CBI FIR. Sisodia tendered his resignation from the Delhi cabinet on February 28, 2023.



Bansuri Swaraj filing her nomination for Lok Sabha elections in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Court grants protection to transgender person aspiring to contest in Lok Sabha polls

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has granted police protection to a transgender person, who is aspiring to contest the Lok Sabha election from the South Delhi constituency.

He approached the court seeking police protection and a direction for the protection of his fundamental rights as he is going to contest the election in the upcoming Lok Sabha Election; 2024 as a candidate from South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency.

Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta on Monday granted police protection to Rajan Singh. The direction has been given to DCP (South) after hearing the petition filed by Rajan Singh, who was attacked on April 12. "It may be observed that Article 14 of the Constitution of India ensures equal protection of laws in all spheres of State activity including

Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta on Monday granted police protection to Rajan Singh. The direction has been given to DCP (South) after bearing the petition filed by Rajan Singh, who was attacked on April 12.

participation in the election process," Justice Mendiratta said in the order passed on April 29.

"Any discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity impairs the equality before the law and violates Article 14 of the Constitution of India," Justice Mendiratta added.

The duty lies on the State to safeguard and enforce the rights of the transgenders guaranteed under the Constitution," he clarified.

The bench disposed of the petition after taking the statement of Additional Standing Counsel (ASC) for

the State on record with directions to DCP (South) to provide necessary security to the petitioner for filling up the nomination form from the South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency.

The High Court directed that the SHO concerned shall also share his mobile number with the petitioner for the aforesaid purpose.

It was submitted that the petitioner is a member of the transgender community and intends to file his nomination for the Lok Sabha Election, 2024 from South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency, supported by Rashtriya Bahujan Congress Party.

Religious, inflammatory content on walls found, police registers case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have launched an investigation following the defacement of public property with inflammatory posters in the South Avenue area, said officials.

A case has been registered at the South Avenue Police Station under the Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Public Property Act.

According to the police, on April 27, some posters with religious and inflammatory content were seen by the patrolling police officer.

The incident came to light when patrolling officers observed religious and inflammatory posters pasted on the walls of the MP Flats located on South Avenue.

The discovery was made at around 11.30 am on April 27, prompting the officers to file a report and register a case.

The Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2007, aims to prevent the defacement of public and



private property in Delhi. It prohibits the defacement of property through writing, drawing, painting, and affixing posters, placards, etc., without prior authorization. Violators of the act can face fines or imprisonment or both. The act also provides for the removal of such defacement by the concerned authorities. It's part of efforts to maintain the aesthetic appeal of public spaces and curb unauthorized advertising or graffiti.

GLOBAL GOLD DEMAND STAYS STRONG, SUPPORTS RECORD-HIGH PRICES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Global gold demand was up 3 per cent year-on-year at 1,238 tonne in the first quarter of 2024, marking the strongest first quarter since 2016, according to World Gold Council's Gold Demand Trends report.

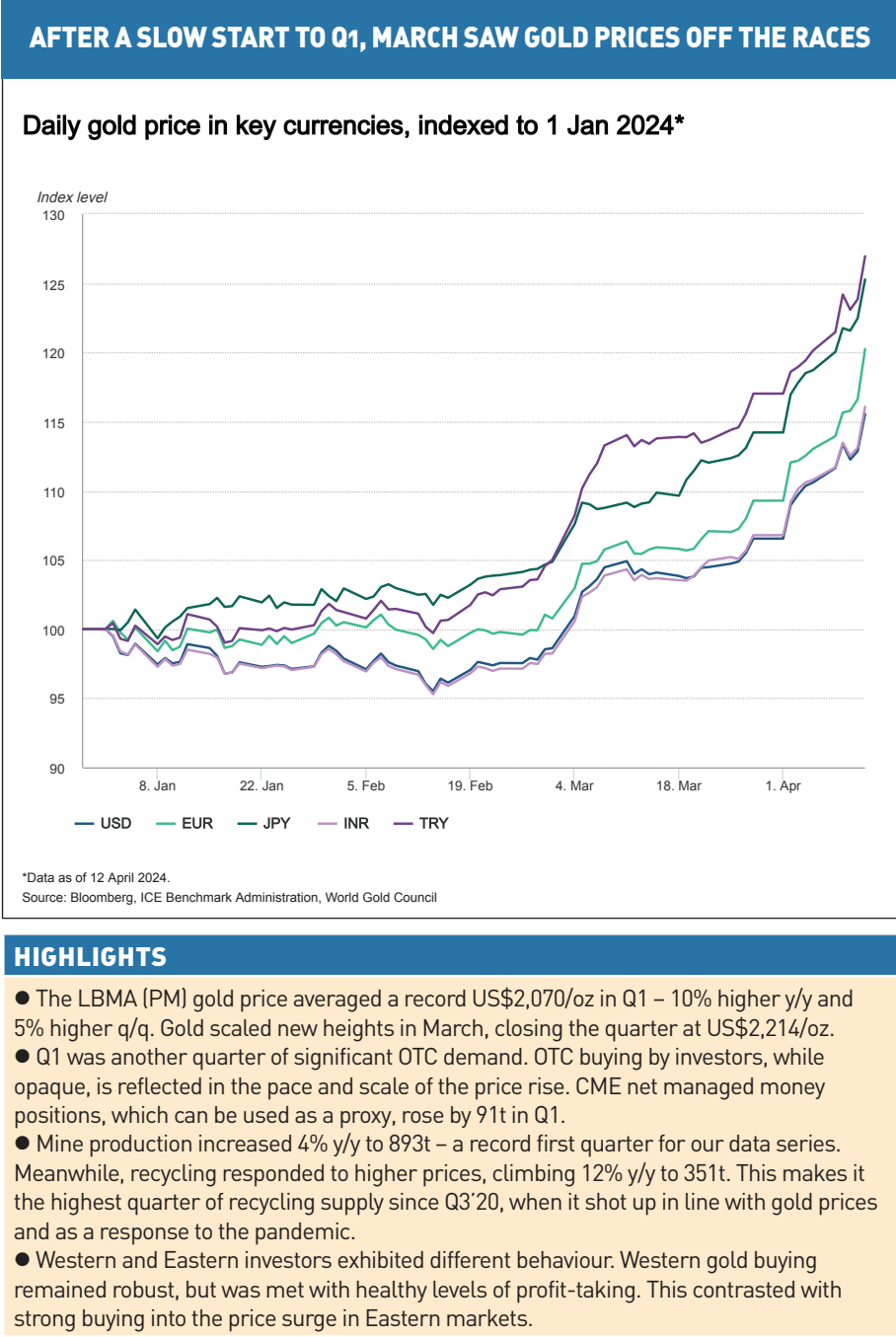
The demand for the yellow metal, excluding over-the-counter sales, fell 5 per cent to 1,102 tonne as compared to the same period of 2023.

Healthy investment, persistent buying by central banks, and higher demand from Asian buyers helped drive the gold price to a record quarterly average of USD 2,070 per ounce, 10 per cent higher year-on-year and 5 per cent higher quarter-on-quarter.

Central banks continued to buy gold apace, adding 290 tonne to official global holdings during the quarter. Turning to investment demand, bar and coin investment increased 3 per cent year-on-year, remaining steady at the same levels from the fourth quarter of 2023 at 312 tonne.

Global jewellery demand remained resilient, despite record-high prices, only falling 2 per cent year-on-year. Demand in Asia countered decreases in both Europe and North America. In addition, demand for gold in technology recovered 10 per cent year-on-year driven by the AI boom in the electronics sector.

On the supply side, mine production increased 4 per cent year-on-year to 893 tonne, a record first quarter. Recycling also reached the

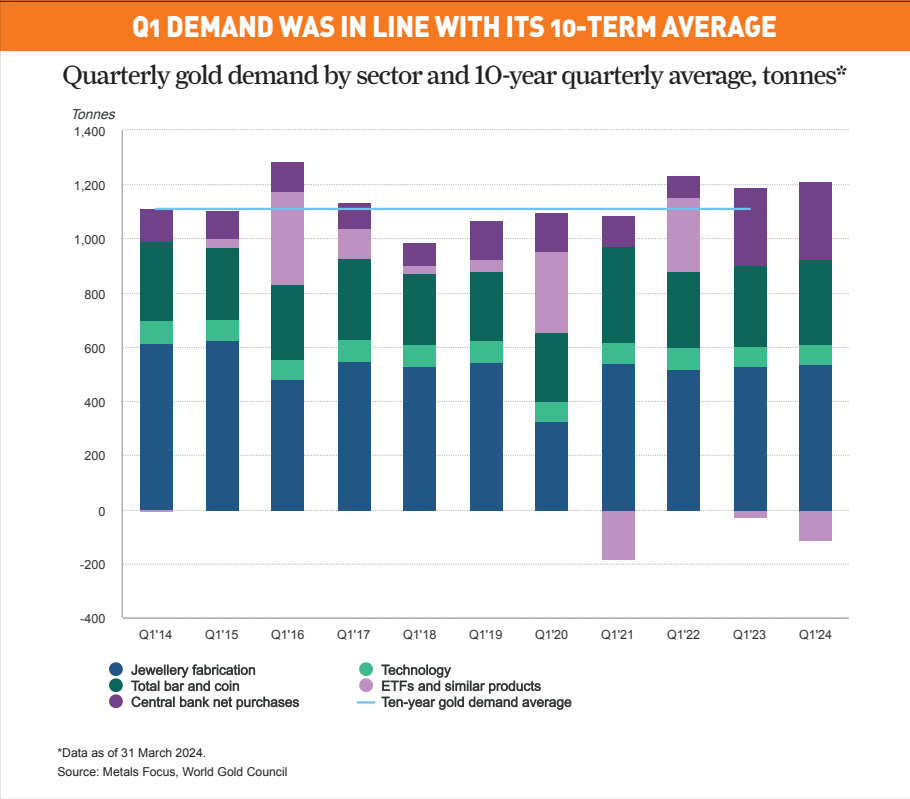


highest level since the third quarter of 2020, jumping 12 per cent year-on-year to 351 tonne, as some investors saw the high price as an opportunity to take profits.

“Since March, the gold price has climbed to all-time highs, despite tra-

JEWELLERY CONSUMPTION			
Tonnes	Q1'23	Q1'24	Year-on-year % change
World total	488.9	479.0	-2
India	91.9	95.5	4
China, P.R.: Mainland	195.6	184.2	-6

Source: Metals Focus, World Gold Council



ditional headwinds of a strong US dollar and interest rates that are proving to be ‘higher for longer’,”

Louise Street, Senior Markets Analyst at the World Gold Council.

“Number of factors are

behind the recent surge including heightened geopolitical risk and ongoing macroeconomic uncer-

tainty driving safe-haven demand for gold. In addition, the continued and resolute demand from central banks, strong OTC investment and increased net buying in the derivatives market, have all contributed to the higher price of gold.”

Historically, gold, as an asset, is considered to be a haven as it typically manages to retain or appreciate its underlying value in times of turbulence.

Further, interestingly, the gold market is witnessing shifting behavior trends from Eastern and Western investors, Street said.

Typically, investors in Eastern markets are more responsive to the price, waiting for a dip to buy, whereas Western investors have historically been attracted to a rising price, tending to buy into the rally.

“In Q1, we saw those roles reversed with investment demand in markets such as China and India growing considerably as the gold price surged.” Demand for gold in India for first quarter of 2024 was at 136.6 tonnes, up by 8 per cent as compared to overall first-quarter demand for 2023 at 126.3 tonnes.

Looking ahead, 2024 is likely to produce a much stronger return for gold than the World Gold Council anticipated at the beginning of the year, said Street.

“Should the price level off in the coming months, some price-sensitive buyers may re-enter the market and investors will continue to look to gold for a safe haven asset as they seek clarity around rate cuts and election results.”

INDIA NEWS SURVEY	
SURVEY ON COVID VACCINES	DATE: 30 TH APRIL 2024
MALE: 96%	FEMALE: 4%
Q-1 The company making Covishield vaccine has accepted the side effects, what will you do now?	
A- Will take doctor's advice	48%
B- Will get checked for side effects	15%
C- will be more cautious	21%
D- Will take legal action	7%
E-Can't say	9%
Grand Total	100%
Q-2 Has the Covid vaccine shown any side effects on you or your loved ones?	
A-yes	20%
B-no	79%
C-Can't say	1%
Grand Total	100%
Q-3 What do you suspect most as side effects of the Covid vaccine?	
A- Blood clotting	10%
B-decline in platelets	13%
C- Brain Stock	8%
D- Cardiac arrest	10%
E-Can't say	59%
Grand Total	100%
Q-4 Which vaccine did you get to protect against Covid?	
A- Covishield	59%
B- Covaxin	32%
C- Sputnik v	1%
D Moderna	1%
E-Vaccine not administered	2%
F-can't say	5%
Grand Total	100%
Q-5 What is your opinion regarding the Covid vaccination campaign?	
A- Millions of people's lives were saved	35%
B- Vaccination campaign was right	44%
C- There was haste in vaccination	11%
D- Vaccination without proper trial	8%
E-Can't say	2%
Grand Total	100%

INDIA NEWS SURVEY	
SURVEY ON FAKE VIDEO	DATE: 30 TH APRIL 2024
MALE: 90%	FEMALE: 10%
Q-1 A fake video of Home Minister Amit Shah was made viral amid elections, your opinion	
A- Shameful act	23%
B-Criminal conspiracy	9%
C- Attempt to tarnish the image	34%
D- Political propaganda	14%
E-Can't say	20%
Grand Total	100%
Q-2 Who do you hold responsible for propaganda against the opposition party using AI technology?	
A-BJP	16%
B-Congress	37%
C- Regional parties	27%
D-Can't say	20%
Grand Total	100%
Q-3 Should there be a complete ban on fake video factories of politicians in elections?	
A-yes	95%
B-no	4%
C-Can't say	1%
Grand Total	100%
Q-4 What is the big challenge for the Election Commission in 2024?	
A- False statements of leaders	53%
B- Fake videos of leaders	15%
C- Misuse of AI	28%
D-Can't say	4%
Grand Total	100%



NEWSClick: COURT TAKES COGNIZANCE OF CHARGESHEET AGAINST FOUNDER

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Patiala House Court in the national capital on Tuesday took cognizance on a charge sheet filed against NewsClick founder and Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha under the anti-terror law UAPA.

The case revolves around allegations that the news portal received funds to disseminate pro-China propaganda. Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur deemed the evidence against the accused sufficient and directed the prosecution to furnish a copy of the charge sheet to Purkayastha. May 31 has been slated for arguments on framing charges in the case.

In January, the court permitted NewsClick HR Head Amit Chakravarty to become an approver in the case. Chakravarty, who was arrested, was pardoned by the



Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur deemed the evidence against the accused sufficient and directed the prosecution to furnish a copy of the charge sheet to Purkayastha. May 31 has been slated for arguments on framing charges in the case.

judge upon his application, citing material information he was willing to disclose to the Delhi Police, the investigating authority.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police arrested Chakravarty and Purkayastha on October 3 last year, and they are presently in judicial custody.

MP: Bomb threat at Bhopal airport, police launches probe

TDG NETWORK
BHOPAL

Police on Monday said that the authorities at the Raja Bhoj International Airport in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh received a bomb threat email from an anonymous sender.

Following the threat call, a case has been registered against an unknown person at Gandhi Nagar police station based on the complaint of the airport's Chief Security Officer, Vishal Kumar Sharma.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP, Zone 4) Sundar Singh Kanesh told ANI over the phone, "The Airport Authority has lodged a complaint stating they received a bomb threat email threatening to explode the airport. The email mentioned a bomb has been placed on a plane, posing a threat of an explosion at the airport."

Acting on the complaint, the police registered a case and initiated an investigation. Further action will be taken based on the facts and findings, he added.



Meanwhile, Dabolim airport in Goa also received a bomb threat via email on Monday, prompting heightened security measures. However, flight operations remained unaffected.

Meanwhile, Dabolim airport in Goa also received a bomb threat via email on Monday, prompting heightened security measures. However, flight operations remained unaffected.

"We received an email. We have alerted our security

agencies and airlines. We are taking the necessary action on this. As of now, there is no panic. (Flight) operations are normal. We are doing general additional security checks," Dabolim Airport Director SVT Dhanamjaya Rao said.

Devotees flock to Golden Temple on occasion of Guru Arjan Dev's Gurpurab

TDG NETWORK
AMRITSAR

Devotees flocked in large numbers to the revered Harmandir Sahib (Golden temple) in Amritsar on Tuesday on the auspicious occasion of the Gurpurab of Guru Arjan Dev.

Starting early this morning, devotees immersed themselves in the serene waters of the holy sarovar, listening to the melodious hymns of Gurbani. After paying their respects at the sanctum sanctorum, devotees expressed their reverence for Guru Arjan Dev by bowing in humility.

Many devotees shared their sentiments, emphasizing the importance of following the path laid down by Arjan Dev.

Rajwinder Singh, who traveled from Gurdaspur in Punjab to offer his prayers, said, "Today is the Gurupurab of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji, I wish everyone a very happy Gurupurab. Guru Arjun Dev was the first martyr of Sikhs and he has sacrificed a lot for the Sikhs. A lot of people yesterday, as well as today came here to offer prayers on the occasion of



Gurupurab". The foundation stone for Sikhism, based upon equality and "seva" was laid down by Guru Nanak but later solidified by his three successors. To put it on a firm foundation, Guru Arjan set out to build Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in the exact location where his father had built the clay tank of "Amrit" and also established the town Amritsar around it.

Tolerance and equality are at the heart of the Sikh religion. It was in the same spirit of "I am neither Hindu nor Muslim" that Guru Arjan invited Mian Mir, a Muslim saint from Lahore,

to formally lay the foundation stone of the Harmandir Sahib. It was intended to be the tallest structure at the time by the Sikh Sangats, according to Khalsa Vox. Arjan Dev was born in Goindwal Sahib on April 15, 1563. He was the youngest of three children; his older brothers were Prithi Chand and Mahadev. Even as Mahadev was never interested in worldly vices, his oldest brother, Prithi Chand, considered himself a strong contender for the 'Guru Gaddi' and rebelled after their father nominated Guru Arjan as the fifth Guru on September 16th, 1581, when he was only 18 years old.

The FIR alleges that a substantial amount of funds received by the news portal originated from China with the intention to disrupt India's sovereignty and sow disaffection against the country. Purkayastha is also accused of conspiring with the People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS) to undermine the electoral process during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

On October 3, raids were conducted at 88 locations in Delhi and seven in other states against the suspects named in the FIR and those identified through data analysis.

The police seized approximately 300 electronic gadgets from NewsClick offices and the residences of the journalists who were interrogated. Following the raids, the Special Cell questioned 46 individuals, including nine female journalists.

Life threat to Padma Shri awardee Jitender Singh Shunty from separatists

RAHUL GAHLAWAT
NEW DELHI

Padma Shri awardee and former BJP MLA Jitender Singh Shunty lodged a complaint with the Delhi Police on Monday after he received a death threat allegedly from a Khalistani extremist.

After receiving the threat, former Delhi BJP MLA sent letters to the Shahdara Police Commissioner and the SHO of Vivek Vihar Police Station seeking security.

Shunty runs an organization called Shaheed-Ae-Azam Bhagat Singh Foundation and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Seva Dal, which undertakes various social activities including operating a mortuary van and managing crematoriums. Under this organization, the last rites of many unidentified bodies are performed with proper rituals. It was in recognition of this service that he was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021.

The same threat was also given to his son Jyot Jeet Singh, spokesperson of Delhi BJP unit and he openly expresses his views against Khalistani terrorism from time to time.

"Yesterday, at 12.59 pm, I received a WhatsApp call during which a Khalistan supporter based in Punjabi said: 'You and your son speak a lot against Khalistan. Now your last time has arrived'. The person spoke for about 35 to 40 seconds before disconnecting the phone," Shunty said.

He joined the BJP in 2008 and won the Delhi assembly elections from Shahdara in 2013.

"Recently, his video of holding a placard against Khalistan at Delhi's Connaught Place went viral across the globe," he added.



Haryana: Two Bishnoi gang shooters arrested from Nuh after exchange of fire

TDG NETWORK
NUH

Two shooters of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang were arrested from Haryana's Nuh after a brief exchange of fire, police said on Tuesday.

According to officers, the shooters were arrested from Palla village under Nuh Sadar police station limits.

One of the shooters was shot in the leg and is currently undergoing treatment at a community health centre (CHC) in Nuh, they added.

The police informed further that the shooter was wanted in connection with a criminal case in Rohtak.

A joint team of the Gurugram Special Task Force (STF), Nuh Police and Counter Intelligence of the Delhi Police Special Cell were involved in the exchange of fire, according to officials.

Further investigation is underway, they informed.

This is a developing story and more updates will follow. Lawrence Bishnoi, born 12 February 1993, is an Indian gangster. He has two dozen criminal cases against him including ones for murder and extortion.

Udhampur: Anti-terror forces deploy unmanned aerial vehicle to track terrorists

TDG NETWORK
UDHAMPUR

In a relentless effort to track down terrorists, who have taken refuge in the Dudu Basangarh forests, the search operation by security forces is underway for the third consecutive day in J-K's Udhampur.

Security forces are using an unmanned aerial vehicle to track down the terrorists, who are hiding, taking cover of thick vegetation.

ADGP Jammu Anand Jain, accompanied by senior officers from the CRPF and Indian Army also arrived at the scene to oversee and monitor the search operation firsthand.

The focus remains on tracing two groups of terrorists, comprising a total of six to seven individuals, as reported by the Jammu & Kashmir Police.

Meanwhile, Deputy In-



Security forces are using an unmanned aerial vehicle to track down the terrorists, who are hiding, taking cover of thick vegetation.

spector General of Police (DIG), Udhampur-Reasi range, Rayees Mohd Bhat, on Monday said that the security forces have strengthened their intelligence and the search operation for terrorists is underway.

"The operation is underway. Our search parties are searching in deep jungles. We have

pushed in drone surveillance. Tracking of the freshly infiltrated group is underway. We have strengthened our intel," he said. On Sunday, Village Defence Guard Mohammad Shareef was killed in a gunfight with the terrorists. He was a resident of Lower Ponar, Basantgarh in Udhampur.

Port Blair's Veer Savarkar International Airport begins night operations

TDG NETWORK
PORT BLAIR

The Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has started night operations following a significant upgradation and advancements.

On April 18, a private airline was the first to land using the ILS at VSI Airport.

The aviation infrastructure at INS Utkrosh in Port Blair has undergone significant advancements, with upgrades that allow the airport to handle both day and night operations. The modernization effort, under Project MAFI (Modernisation of Airfield Infrastructure), was conceived at Naval Headquarters in New Delhi and executed under the supervision of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).

A key feature of the modernization is the installation of a new Airfield Lighting System (AFLS) and Cat II Approach Lighting System (ALS).

These advancements are



complemented by a Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and the Glide Path (GP) of the Instrument Landing System (ILS), installed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

This set of equipment allows aircraft to land in low visibility and night-time conditions, improving safety and efficiency.

Further enhancements include the commissioning of a Tactical Air Navigation System (TACAN) and a Precision Approach Radar (PAR). These installations provide a significant boost in safety for military flights,

6th barge of LSAM 16 series built by private firm launched in Thane

TDG NETWORK
THANE

The sixth barge of the LSAM 16 (Yard 130) series, built by a private firm, was launched in Maharashtra's Thane on Monday, the officials said.

The barge will help the Navy in facilitating transportation of articles, ammunition to ships, the officials added.

"The launch of 'Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile Barge, LSAM 20 (Yard 130)', 6th Barge of 11 x ACTCM Barge Project, built by MSME Shipyard, Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane for Indian Navy, was undertaken on April 29 at Suryadipta Project Pvt. Ltd. (launch site of SPPL), the Ministry of Defence said in an official statement.

The launching Ceremony was presided over by Madhusudan Bhui, INAS, GM NAD (Karanja).

Jharkhand govt suspends classes due to sweltering heat

TDG NETWORK
RANCHI

Amid heat wave-like conditions prevailing across Jharkhand, classes up to grade 8 in all government and private schools in the state will be suspended starting from Tuesday, according to an official notification.

As per the officials, classes up to grade 8 will remain suspended until further notice.

An order by the secretary of the school education and literacy department, Uma Shankar Singh, said, "Classes from kindergarten to grade 8 are suspended in all categories of schools, including government, private, aided, and unaided, until further notice". This decision aims to protect students from the adverse effects of extreme weather conditions.

"This order will be effective from April 30. However, it does not apply to teachers and non-teaching staff of government, non-government aided, and unaided schools," the notification reads.



"This order will be effective from April 30. However, it does not apply to teachers and non-teaching staff of government, non-government aided, and unaided schools," the notification reads.

A separate order will be issued regarding summer vacation for teachers and non-teaching staff, who are required to attend school daily during scheduled hours, it added.

While classes 9 to 12 will

continue, they will operate from 7 am to 11.30 am, excluding prayer meetings, sports, and other activities.

The Met department has issued a heatwave alert for 13 districts in Jharkhand for April 30 and May 1.

Godrej family agrees to split: Listed firms with Adi, unlisted assets to Jamshyd

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The founding family of the 127-year-old Godrej Group has agreed to split the conglomerate. Adi Godrej and his brother Nadir will retain Godrej Industries, which has five listed firms, while cousins Jamshyd and Smita will acquire unlisted Godrej & Boyce and its affiliates, as well as a land bank, including prime property in Mumbai.

The group's statement described the split as an "ownership realignment" that will "help maximize strategic direction, focus, and agility" and accelerate long-term value creation for shareholders and stakeholders. Godrej Enterprises Group, comprising Godrej & Boyce and its affiliates with a presence across multiple industries, will be controlled by Jamshyd Godrej as chairperson and managing director. His sister Smita's daughter Nyrika Holkar will be the executive director.

Raaj Bhasha or Maatri Bhasha?

Hindi is slowly singing its way to be the ‘unofficial’ national language.

OPINION

HIMANSHU DHULIYA



Every language has two sides . The ‘sunny’ side and the ‘shadow’ side ; *‘Dhoop-Chhaan’* . The language of ‘Governance’ and the language of ‘daily use’ . The language of ‘utility’ and the language of ‘creativity’. The language of ‘power’ and the language of ‘love’. The language of ‘control’ and the language of ‘freedom’. The language of the ‘literate’ and the language of the ‘illiterate’. Both have their roles in a State and Society. One is the ‘Sun’ the other ‘Moon’- *‘Raaj Bhasha and Maatri Bhasha’*. Both are involved in the progress and development of language but it is seen and observed that *‘Maatri Bhasha’* contributes in larger measure.

14 September is observed as ‘Hindi Day’ and a fortnight from that date is declared as *‘Hindi Pakhwara’* (Hindi Fortnight). During the fortnight all Government offices and institutions conduct programmes in Hindi. To monitor the progress of Hindi a parliamentary official language committee is constituted which monitors the progress of Hindi.

There is much lament among large number of

people regarding non implementation of Hindi as the official Language of the State and insufficient progress being made in growth and development of the language. A report on education titled AISHE 2018 (all India survey of higher education) states that though for post graduation courses in India about 15.12 lakhs students enrol in various universities and colleges, only 0.6 percent students opt for language courses.

However on ground there is much growth and progress of Hindi. In accordance with the 2011 census Hindi speakers increased from 41.04% to 43.63 about 53 crore people spoke Hindi in 2011,though unofficially this figure would be higher. The single most factor for increase is the Hindi cinema and Hindi cinema songs, TV serials, OTT etc. In a statement on Hindi Cinema the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh stated “ *films have made unprecedented contribution to the development of Hindi language in the country*” (UP Government official portal). In an article titled *‘Is Hindi becoming more popular in South’* published in ‘Mint’ on 12 June 2019 by Sneha Alexander it is stated “ *A major channel for the spread of Hindi is culture and specifically Bollywood is the critical vehicle for the spread of Hindi. For instance as far back as 1937, linguist S N Sridhar had suggested that cinema was the most effective and pervasive tool in spreading Hindi across India*”.

In 1952 the then minister of information and broadcasting Shri B V Keskar banned

the broadcast of Hindi cinema songs on *‘Vividh Bharti’/ ‘All India Radio’* stating that the songs were spoiling the Indian youth and that that were western in culture, he wanted promotion of Indian classical music. Taking this ban as an opportunity the ‘Radio Ceylon’ started the famous *‘Binaca Geet mala’* on every Wednesday in which popular Hindi film songs were played. The programme became so popular within months of its launch that they were flooded with thousands of letters from its listeners recommending songs for broadcast. The letters were from India and subcontinent and also from abroad, East Africa and other countries. Ammen Sayani the legendary conductor of this programme has said that it became impossible for them to handle such large number of mail and therefore they had to change the rules and it was decided to pick songs based on the sales of the records received from the reputed sales outlets in India and on the basis of the recommendations of the radio clubs. The listeners were not necessarily Hindi speaking people but they were lovers of the music. they identified with the songs ‘emotionally’ their *‘surs’* matched. I have personally interacted with a few singers in restaurants in South Indian cities and congratulated them and realized that they could not speak Hindi but ‘sang’ Hindi!

In recognition to the immense value and emotion attached to ‘Mother Language’ the United Nations observes 21 February as ‘International Mother Language day to promote awareness of ‘linguistic’ and ‘cultural’ diversity and to promote ‘multilingualism’. *‘Maatri Bhasha’* is the language of culture and creativity. All great works of literature by Indian and

other poets and writers are in mother tongue. Regarding propagation and proliferation of a language it is evident that anything which is imposed is repelled by the people. People adopt a language if they identify with it and it appeals to their emotions . Jawaharlal Nehru in 1937 in a letter to ‘Hindi Sahitya Sammelan’ Madras states “ *this we have to remember that languages are not evolved or do not progress by compulsion. A literature blooms like a flower ; if force is applied, it withers.*” In the recent years ‘*Rekhta*’ a festival of Urdu language and literature has started in Delhi, they have a vibrant website too and it is observed that a large number of people and young people are attracted

There is much lament among large number of people regarding non-implementation of Hindi as the official Language of the State and insufficient progress being made in growth and development of the language.

to it, they seem to identify with it emotionally.

‘Maatri Bhasha’ with its easy, simple, unpretentious, unimposing attributes is more acceptable. Words exchanged with a Taxi driver from a distant state and language, watching cinema, interacting with friends, informal office discussions, chat and voice calls on mobile, debates and arguments in a moving local train, haggling with a vegetable vendor; it is in these places that language forms roots and flourishes and grows. Development and growth of language could also be ascertained by the number of prose and verse being done in that language. Firaq Gorakhpuri states in his essay on ‘Importance of Prose’- “ *India was conquered by English Prose . Earlier it had been conquered by the Turkish, Persian*

and Arabic prose’. He further states in the preface to his collection of Hindi poems titled *‘Dharti Karwat Legi’* that “ *sansar bhar ki ucbb se ucbb Kavita ki bhasha aur shab-dawali prayab anpadh jan sadharan ki bhasha se bi bani hai*” (world over the language of the greatest poetry has often been in the language and vocabulary of the illiterate, common and ordinary”.

And indeed great literature in India was written in the language of the illiterate. Goswami Tulsidas regarded among the greatest poets despite being a Sanskrit scholar wrote in Awadhi – Ramcharitmanas, facing the opposition and criticism by the established Pundits who were critical of him not writing in Sanskrit. It is believed

that when he completed his epic poem on ‘Shri Ram’ he placed it as a gesture of reverence and to seek blessings of *‘Lord Shiv’* in Kashi Vishvanath temple at Varanasi. The next day the following words were ascribed on the manuscript: *‘Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram’* (Truth, Devine and Beautiful). *‘Ramcharitmanas’* continues to captivate its readers and audience world wide, it’s popularity is perennially on the rise. The indentured Indian labourers during the colonial time would carry this book among their limited possessions when being shipped to Mauritius, South Africa and West Indies; this was their emotional and spiritual anchor. Tulsidas also gave to Indian society the prayer book *‘Hanuman Chalisa’* which invokes the glory of ‘Lord Hanuman’. It

is recited daily by millions of Indians. It was so popular that even M S Shubhalakshami of Tamil Nadu, the famous Carnatic singer and Bharat Ratna had sung it. The simplicity of the ‘Hanuman Chalisa’ and the inherent ‘music’ in it is perhaps key to its immense strength and popularity.

Sant Kabir Das sang in the language of the unlettered: *‘Potbi Padb Padb Jug Mua Pandit Bhaya na koi Dbai Akhar Prem Ka Padhe so Pandit Hoi’*

(we have devoted life time reading scriptures but could not attain scholarship

Whereas ‘two and half letters of Love’ would have made us Pundits !)

These *‘two and half letters’* of love are indeed the language of *‘Maatri Bhasha’* the emotions and feelings of the common Man and society. Once Hindi cinema songs popularized the language and continue to do so but with the revolution in IT there is ‘mobile phone’ in the hand of the majority where they carry their world – entertainment, communication, finance, friends and enemies. They sing their own songs, comment incessantly, watch OTT, serials and films. They also have their *‘You Tube’* channel and make ‘Reels’ and have experienced this unique voice and freedom. All this helps in the progress of the language. Such dramatic changes are often not registered in surveys but on ground the progress is tremendous which helps in uniting people, it helps people to acquire other cultures and strengthen their emotional bond.

It is famously said “ *let me make the songs of the Nation and I care not who makes its Laws*”.

Therefore we should be satisfied with the progress of Hindi as it is slowly singing its way to be the ‘unofficial’ National language.

PERSPECTIVE FIGHTING A GOOD BATTLE

WILL RAHUL GANDHI CONTEST FROM UTTAR PRADESH?

At the time of writing the Congress Party had not yet announced its candidates for Amethi and Rae Bareli. The two constituencies are in the news, since they are considered the Gandhi family bastions, though currently it is BJP’s Smriti Irani who is the sitting MP from Amethi. She has since challenged Rahul Gandhi to contest from Amethi and wrest his stronghold back from her. The Congress Election Committee as well as the party workers are keen to see Rahul take up this challenge & contest from Amethi while they want Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to contest her debut election from Rae Bareli. Of the two, the latter is a safer bet since the constituency is still with the Congress, with Sonia Gandhi as the sitting MP. However, Congress sources claim that in all probability Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will not be contesting the Lok Sabha. The reason cited is not sibling rivalry as much as the fact that Rahul is not keen to have all three members of his family in the parliament at the same time as that would endorse the charge of ‘parivar-vaad’ that the BJP is levelling against the Congress.



However will Rahul take the plunge from Amethi - or even Rae Bareli? The party’s ally in the state, Akhilesh Yadav is all for both Rahul and Priyanka taking the plunge for as he told the media, each seat is important and its crucial for the workers to see the leaders lead from the front. This is one reason why Akhilesh himself is contesting from Kanunauj. Moreover, if party workers are right, then the ground in Amethi is ready for a takeover. There is an anti incumbency against Smriti they claim and Rahul should take up her challenge and win back his constituency. But what after that, ask the naysayers. Will Rahul give up Amethi or Waynard, for the state of Kerala has been the Congress party’s strongest backbone in the Modi Era ? The wise men and women, who are pushing for Rahul to contest from Amethi have an answer to this as well, for they point out that should Rahul win both the constituencies of Amethi and Waynard, then he could give up Waynard in favour of Priyanka and she could contest the bypolls from there.

Currently, all this is in the realm of speculation for no one knows the answer except the Gandhi family. However we are told that the announcement would be made on 1st May (three days before the nomination date ends). Jairam Ramesh, the all powerful general secretary incharge of communications has told the media that the CEC and the party workers have asked Rahul and Priyanka to contest the polls. Can the siblings ignore this request by the rest of the party? Because Rahul always states that he would do whatever the Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge desires.

Kharge too is telling the media to wait for the announcement of the candidates as there will be a ‘surprise’ there. Could Kharge himself be contesting from Rae Bareli, which is not just a Gandhi family bastion but also a seat where Congress Presidents contest from (though these are only Gandhi family members who became Congress Presidents for neither Sitaram Kesri nor Narasimha Rao have contested from here). Another speculation doing the rounds is that since Rae Bareli is a family bastion from where not only have Feroze Gandhi, Indira and Sonia Gandhi contested but so have family members and close friends such as Sheila Kaul, Arun Nehru and Satish Sharma. Given this criteria, the name of one of Sheila Kaul’s grandsons, Ashish Kaul is also doing the rounds.

Then of course there are the naysayers who point out that currently the narrative is one of Rahul vs Modi. Why should he downgrade himself to a Rahul Vs Smriti optics which is what will happen if he contests from Amethi. And if he bypasses Amethi and contests from Rae Bareli, well then, that would give Smriti Irani bragging rights (not that she needs it) to claim that Rahul was scared to take up her challenge. Of course there are other compulsions at play than just Smriti Irani’s ego. In these elections, Rahul has emerged as the pan India campaigner and whether they like it or not he is now the tallest leader in the INDIA block. It is also the Congress that is driving the opposition’s narrative against the BJP.

In the end, it’s not an easy call to make because there are pros and cons on both sides. On balance, Akhilesh Yadav’s advice seems to be the most pragmatic - to give a good fight the leader has to lead from the front. Will Rahul Gandhi pick up the mantle in Uttar Pradesh?

PRIYA SAHGAL

OPINION

DR. RAMNITA SAINI SHARDA



The drive back home from work took an unexpected turn when the familiar strains of a vintage Hindi melody, a beloved hit from 1965, filled the car. My usually cheerful friend fell silent, her demeanor shifting into one of contemplation. Her gaze fixed on me, she began to recount a recent incident from her workplace. It seemed she had incurred her boss’s ire for humming this very song during office hours, an innocuous habit she had maintained for years without repercussion. However, this time, the issue was not the act of humming itself but rather the content of the song, deemed objectionable

by her boss.

As she elaborated on the events leading up to her reprimand, the pieces of the puzzle fell into place. A passionate advocate for gender equality, she had vehemently opposed a campaign with anti-feminist undertones, much to her boss’s chagrin. Her defiance, coupled with her buoyant demeanor and inadvertent humming of “Kanton Se Kheench Ke Yeh Anchal,” seemed to bruise her boss’s ego, leading to disciplinary action.

This incident set me thinking about the power of this particular Bollywood number as it was recently used in Rocky and Rani ki Prem Kahani (2023) to give expression to breaking free from the patriarchal shackles of a dominating matriarch and a typical male chauvinist. The song has an interesting history, right from its genesis to its roaring success and almost eternal emotional appeal. In the film Guide (

which is based on R K Narayan’s famous novel) Rosie, the female protagonist who is an extremely talented dancer, is bogged down, bored and depressed because her husband Marco , a serious archaeologist has no interest in her life and despite the fact that he has given her everything that ‘a woman needs’ ; honour, social status, and money, Rosie is unhappy because he has taken two things away from her: dance and music, the two things that are very dear to her. So after separating from her husband she puts on her dancing anklets and breaks into a dance and song of ecstasy. Anita Padhye in her Marathi book Ten Classics (translated by Soniya Khare) writes that the film was produced by Devanand but he had given the responsibility of producing the film in two languages to his brother Goldie who narrated this situation to Shailendra the song writer, he immediately came up with first two lines of the song, “ Aaj phir jeene ki Tamanna hai, Aaj phir Marne ka irada hai...” and then he stopped there. Then for five long days he did not show up, disturbed by his absence Goldie went to his house and enquired ,” What’s the matter Shailendra Ji? We are los-

ing precious time. I want to start the film at the earliest,” to that Shailendra replied,” Goldie no matter how much I think I cannot come up with the next lines after the Mukhda.”

To that Goldie replied, “Then you go about in the other way. If someone asks you why is there a wish to live as well as die, the answer to the question asked in the Mukhda will be the difference between life and death”. On hearing this Shailendra completed the song with in two minutes which had left in writer’s block for five long days, he replied” kanton se kheench ke te Anchal, Tod ke bandhan bandhi payal... koi Na roke dil ki udan ko, dil woh chla...”

This situation of life and death metaphorically finds ground in many films and many film makers did not think of any other song in the similar situation and it became a trope for an act of defiance and subversion against an authoritative, often patriarchal and oppressive circumstance. The song was used in many Bollywood films later. However, as Shivendra Kumar Singh and Girijesh Kumar reveal in their book “Raag giri” Devanand who was not only the lead actor but also the producer wasn’t very

happy with the composition of this song and was rather disappointed with S D Burman for not ‘doing enough’, never wanted to keep the song in the movie, he was convinced by the film director Vijay Anand to shoot the song which if still won’t appeal, can be dropped later. Once the shooting started, Devanand noticed that the song became popular with entire crew and everyone single person on the sets was humming the song, Devanand decided to keep the song, and rest is history.

Over the years, filmmakers have incorporated this iconic song into their narratives to evoke different emotions and contexts. From romantic sequences to moments of empowerment, “Aaj Phir Jeene Ki Tamanna” has been reinterpreted to suit diverse cinematic narratives and themes. The song found its way into various genres, including dramas, comedies, and even action films, showcasing its versatility and timeless appeal. Each rendition of the song in different films adds a unique flavor, yet the essence of longing for a better tomorrow remains constant. Multi starrer 1983 movie Qyamat directed by Raj. N Sippy strategically uses this song multiple times in the film. In 2023 Ajay Devgan movie

Bhola, the song is Inter- textualised expressing the intense desire of the father to meet his daughter. Not only has the song been echoing in the corridors of Bollywood across the decades but has found ground even in a soft heart of an economist, RBI governor Sh. Shaktikanta Dass while expressing his hope against the fluctuating Post COVID economy quoted the song saying,” we are marching ahead with hope in consonance with Lata Mangeshkar’s famous song aaj phir jeene ki Tamanna hai...”

As Bollywood mirrors societal norms and aspirations, the enduring popularity of “Aaj Phir Jeene Ki Tamanna” speaks volumes about the collective ethos of Indian society. In times of adversity and oppression, the song serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us of the indomitable human spirit and the perennial quest for a better tomorrow. The song’s legacy serves as a testament to the enduring power of music to transcend barriers and ignite change. Long live the subversive spirit, long live the hope encapsulated in the timeless refrain: “Aaj Phir Jeene Ki Tamanna Hai.” *Dr. Ramnita Saini Sharda, is a poet, translator, and Prof of English at HMV Jalandhar*

OPINION POLLS: MORE MISSES THAN HITS

Opinion polls in India can be traced back to the mid-20th century. They believed to have had an impact on electoral outcomes and and influenced political strategies and coalition dynamics.

TDG NETWORK

An opinion poll, often simply referred to as a survey or a poll (although strictly a poll is an actual election), is a human research survey of public opinion from a particular sample. Opinion polls are usually designed to represent the opinions of a population by conducting a series of questions and then extrapolating generalities in ratio or within confidence intervals. A person who conducts polls is referred to as a pollster.

Opinion polling in India has traversed a nuanced path, deeply intertwined with the country's political, social, and cultural fabric. Delving deeper into its evolution reveals a tapestry rich with complexities, controversies, and transformative moments.

Though such are fascinating and provides thrill among voters and candidates even before the actual result is out, the famous opinion polls in the country were also mired in the controversy. A section of political analysts believe that these polls are not accurate.

The accuracy of the opinion polls for the Lok Sabha elections in the past has been a hit-and-miss affair. As the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) correctly puts it, the opinion polls and seat predictions have been "a mixed bag of successes as well as failures"

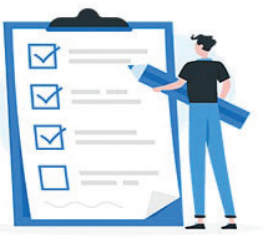
Over time, a number of theories and mechanisms have been offered to explain erroneous polling results. Some of these reflect errors on the part of the pollsters; many of them are statistical in nature. Others blame the respondents for not giving candid answers these can be more controversial.

Opinion polling in India has a relatively short yet fascinating history, marked by significant developments and challenges. The journey of opinion polls in India traces back to the mid-20th century, gaining prominence particularly in the realm of politics. This article delves into the evolution of opinion polls in India, exploring their origins, milestones, controversies, and impact on Indian democracy.


HERE'S A COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY COVERING THE HISTORY OF OPINION POLLS IN INDIA

Early Stages and Political Significance (1950s-1970s): The inception of opinion polling in India can be attributed to the efforts of pioneering individuals and organizations in the mid-20th century. The 1951 general elections marked the first attempt at systematic poll-


Advantages of public opinion polls




Online public opinion polls are easier to respond



Public opinion poll serves an essential aspect of democracy



Public opinion polls are faster and more accurate



Online opinion polls have a wider reach

ing, with organizations like the Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) conducting rudimentary surveys to gauge voter preferences. However, it was in the 1970s that opinion polling gained traction, coinciding with the rise of coalition politics and the emergence of regional parties. Political leaders and parties began utilizing opinion polls as strategic tools to assess electoral prospects, shape campaign strategies, and understand voter sentiment.

The nascent phase of opinion polling in India was marked by experimentation and limited infrastructure. In the aftermath of independence, scholars, journalists, and political observers began exploring ways to gauge public opinion on matters ranging from governance to societal issues. While rudimentary surveys were conducted by organizations like IMRB, their methodologies lacked the sophistication and rigor seen in later years. However, these early endeavors laid the groundwork for the emergence of a more robust polling industry.

The Political Awakening (1970s-1980s): The 1970s heralded a period of political tumult and ideological fervor in India. As the country grappled with the aftermath of the Emergency and the resurgence of democratic politics, opinion polling gained prominence as a tool for understanding voter behavior and political preferences. Organizations like CSDS spearheaded efforts to conduct large-scale surveys, providing invaluable insights into the changing dynamics of Indian politics. The landmark elections of this era, including the 1977 and 1980 polls, served as

testing grounds for the efficacy of opinion polls in predicting electoral outcomes.

The Rise of Electioneering and Media Influence (1980s-onwards): The 1980s witnessed a paradigm shift in Indian politics, characterized by the ascendancy of coalition politics and the advent of televised election coverage. Opinion polls became integral components of political campaigns, with parties leveraging survey results to craft strategic narratives and mobilize voter support. Media outlets, sensing the commercial and journalistic value of polling data, entered into partnerships with polling agencies to conduct pre-election and exit polls. However, the growing nexus

with polling agencies to conduct pre-election and exit polls. The landmark elections of 1984, 1989, and 1991, characterized by political realignments and coalition formations, underscored the growing importance of opinion polls in shaping electoral narratives and political discourse.

Controversies and Ethical Dilemmas: Despite their growing influence, opinion polls in India have been marred by controversies and ethical dilemmas. Critics have raised concerns about the reliability of polling methodologies, sample representativeness, and the impact of media bias on survey outcomes. The publication of exit poll results

how they have voted just after they leave the polling station on poll day. But an opinion poll is a voter behaviour survey conducted in order to find out the opinion of the people, including those who may or may not vote, before voting takes place.

Questions on Accuracy: It is noted that the pre-election opinion polls in the 1998 Lok Sabha polls were largely accurate. However, predictions in the 1999 polls were marginally overestimated the performance of National Democratic Alliance. The BJP first rose to power at the Centre in 1996 and it retained the power in the 1998 and 1999 general elections.

In the 2004 general elections, the actual results sent



between media conglomerates and political interests raised concerns about the impartiality and integrity of opinion polls.

In 1980s, a significant expansion and professionalization of the opinion polling industry in India was seen. Established market research firms such as ORG-MARG, AC Nielsen, and Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) played pivotal roles in conducting surveys and providing insights into public opinion. Opinion polls became a standard feature of Indian elections, with media outlets collaborating

before the conclusion of voting phases has sparked debates about its potential to influence voter behavior and compromise the integrity of the electoral process. The Election Commission of India has periodically issued guidelines and regulations to govern the conduct and dissemination of opinion polls, aiming to strike a balance between freedom of expression and electoral integrity.

The proliferation of opinion polls in India was accompanied by a litany of controversies and ethical dilemmas. Questions were raised about the reliability of polling methodologies, sample representativeness, and the influence of media bias on survey outcomes. The publication of exit poll results before the conclusion of voting phases sparked debates about its potential to sway voter behavior and undermine the sanctity of the electoral process. These controversies prompted regulatory interventions by the Election Commission and calls for greater transparency and accountability in the conduct of opinion polls.

Exit Polls vs Opinion Polls: Exit polls and opinion polls are two different things. Exit polls are conducted by researchers who ask voters

a shock wave in the corridors of political experts. The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance was completely underestimated by the opinion and exit polls. According to the CSDS report, all the opinion polls in 2004 had predicted that the NDA would be able to retain power at the Centre. Though the result was very different. Congress ousted the BJP to form the government at Centre.

In 2009 Lok Sabha elections, the opinion polls once again failed to predict the victory of the Congress-led UPA. The UPA had increased its tally from 222 seats in 2004 to 262 seats in 2009.

In the 2014 general elections, the BJP-led NDA was estimated to win around 257-340 seats. The NDA's actual tally was at over 336 seats. According to reports, some of the opinion and exit polls had then correctly predicted the "lowest-ever" tally for the Congress. Congress emerged victorious on 44 seats in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. The UPA, in total, had won 59 seats.

In the last Lok Sabha polls held in 2019, pollsters had anticipated around 285 seats for the NDA but NDA marked a landslide victory

Opinion polling in India has traversed a nuanced path, deeply intertwined with the country's political, social, and cultural fabric. Delving deeper into its evolution reveals a tapestry rich with complexities, controversies, and transformative moments.

by winning 353 seats, with the BJP alone securing 303 seats. The Congress had won 52 seats and its UPA 91 seats. **Impact on Indian Democracy:** Opinion polls have emerged as integral components of Indian democracy, fostering transparency, accountability, and political competition. By providing insights into voter preferences and electoral trends, opinion polls empower citizens to make informed choices and hold elected representatives accountable. They also serve as instruments for political parties to assess their performance, recalibrate strategies, and adapt to changing socio-political dynamics. However, the proliferation of opinion polls has raised concerns about their potential to trivialize elections, reduce complex issues to simplistic narratives, and perpetuate a culture of horse-race politics.

Despite the controversies surrounding them, opinion polls have left an indelible imprint on Indian democracy. They have democratized the process of political analysis, providing ordinary citizens with access to real-time data and insights into electoral trends. Opinion polls have also fostered greater accountability among political parties, compelling them to engage more directly with voter concerns and aspirations. However, their impact extends beyond electoral politics, influencing public discourse on issues ranging from governance to social justice.

Future Directions and Challenges: As India continues its democratic journey, opinion polling is poised to play an increasingly prominent

role in shaping political discourse and governance. The advent of digital technologies and big data analytics offers new opportunities for polling agencies to enhance data collection methods, improve sample representativeness, and generate real-time insights. However, the proliferation of fake news, echo chambers, and social media manipulation poses formidable challenges to the credibility and relevance of opinion polls. Addressing these challenges will require concerted efforts from stakeholders, including polling agencies, media organizations, regulatory bodies, and civil society.

As India strides into the 21st century, opinion polling faces both unprecedented opportunities and formidable challenges. The advent of digital technologies and social media platforms has revolutionized data collection methods and expanded the reach of polling agencies. However, the proliferation of fake news, echo chambers, and algorithmic biases poses existential threats to the credibility and relevance of opinion polls. Addressing these challenges will require a multi-dimensional approach, encompassing technological innovation, regulatory oversight, and ethical standards.

Regulation: Some jurisdictions over the world restrict the publication of the results of opinion polls, especially during the period around an election, in order to prevent the possibly erroneous results from affecting voters' decisions. Out of the 20 countries examined, 3 prohibit the publication during the entire period of campaign predictions.

INTERESTING FACTS

Here are some interesting facts about opinion polls in India

First Opinion Polls in 1951: The first systematic attempt at conducting opinion polls in India dates back to the 1951 general elections. While these early polls lacked the sophistication of modern methodologies, they laid the foundation for the development of opinion polling in the country.

Exit Polls Introduced in 1980: The concept of exit polls, where voters are surveyed after casting their ballots to predict election results, was introduced in India during the 1980 general elections. Since then, exit polls have become a standard feature of Indian elections, providing real-time insights into voter behavior and electoral trends.

Opinion Polls Influence Political Strategies: Opinion polls have a significant impact on political strategies and campaign tactics in India. Political parties closely monitor poll results to gauge public sentiment, identify swing constituencies, and tailor their messaging to appeal to specific voter demographics.

Election Commission Regulations: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued guidelines and regulations to govern the conduct and dissemination of opinion polls during elections. These regulations include restrictions on the publication of exit poll results before the conclusion of all phases of voting to prevent undue influence on voters.

Accuracy of Opinion Polls: While opinion polls in India have generally been accurate in predicting electoral outcomes, there have been instances of major discrepancies between poll projections and actual results. Factors such as undecided voters, last-minute swings, and the complexity of multi-phase elections can contribute to inaccuracies in

polling predictions. **Impact on Stock Markets:** Opinion polls in India are closely watched by investors and financial markets, as they can influence market sentiment and investment decisions. Pre-election polls that indicate a clear winner or a change in government often lead to fluctuations in stock prices and market indices.

Social Media and Online Polling: With the proliferation of social media and digital platforms, online polling has gained prominence in India. Polling agencies conduct surveys through social media channels, mobile apps, and online platforms to capture insights from a diverse range of participants, especially among the youth demographic.

State-Level Opinion Polls: In addition to national-level polls, there is a growing trend of conducting opinion polls at the state level in India. State-level polls provide valuable insights into regional political dynamics, local issues, and the performance of regional parties, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of Indian politics.

Popularity of Political Talk Shows: Political talk shows featuring discussions on opinion poll results, election analysis, and political commentary are widely popular in India. These shows often invite pollsters, political analysts, and party spokespersons to interpret poll findings and debate their implications for upcoming elections.

Role in Public Discourse: Opinion polls in India play a crucial role in shaping public discourse, fostering informed debate, and holding political leaders and parties accountable. They provide a platform for citizens to voice their opinions, participate in democratic processes, and contribute to the functioning of Indian democracy.

What's an Opinion Poll?



A human research survey of public opinion

SUPREME COURT RESERVED JUDGEMENT: CAN ACCUSED BE ASKED TO SHARE GOOGLE PIN WITH INVESTIGATION OFFICER AS BAIL CONDITION?

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Frank Vitus v. Narcotics Control Bureau and Ors., observed that asking the accused to share his Google PIN to enable access to his live location to the investigation officer could not be a condition for the grant of bail. The bench comprising of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan in the case was hearing the matter which involves the question as to whether sharing of Google PIN with the Investigating Officer as part of bail conditions violates a person's right to privacy. In the present case, Su-

preme Court was hearing an appeal against certain conditions set by the Delhi High Court in its judgment granted an interim bail to Frank Vitus, a Nigerian national accused in a drugs case. The High Court in 2022 ordered the accused man and a co-accused to place a pin on Google Maps to ensure that their whereabouts were visible to the case's Investigation Officer. The court in the case observed and seek an explanation from Google India, without adding it as a party, to get information on the working of Google PIN in the context of conditions put in certain bail



orders that the accused must share the live mobile location with the investigating officer throughout the period of bail. The High Court also

that they would not leave India and would appear before the trial court. The court asked Google LLC to explain the workings of Google PIN, after relieving Google India from explaining the workings of Google PIN. Further, the court remarked that the affidavit filed by Google LLC was superfluous, after perusing the affidavit filed by Google LLC. The bench headed by Justice Oka stated that two things we want to say - this as a bail condition is hit by Article 21, and Google affidavit is superfluous. The counsel, Additional Solicitor General Vikram-jeet Banerjee appearing for the Narcotics Control

Bureau, NCB informed the court that such condition is used to share the live location of the accused. The bench of Justice Oka was unconvinced by the ASG's submission. Justice Oka stated that, it cannot be a bail condition. We agree that there are two instances where this Court has done it, but it cannot be a condition for bail. The court in the case observed and has examined two issues i.e., Firstly, whether a condition that the accused must share the Google PIN location with the investigating officer be imposed, and Secondly, whether bail to a foreign accused can be conditioned

on obtaining an assurance from the concerned Embassy that they will not leave India. The court reserved the order on April 29, 2024 on both of the aforesaid issues. The court stated that the rest of the issues were kept open to be next decided on July 26, 2024. The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has clarified that the notice issued to Google LLC was for the limited purpose of getting to know the working of the Google PIN. Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on July 26, 2024.

Delhi High Court Restrained Ashneer Grover From Making Third Party Rights In Shares Given By BharatPe Co-Founder Bhavik Koladiya

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Bhavik Koladiya v. Ashneer Grover And Anr. observed and has restrained BharatPe's Former Managing Director Ashneer Grover from making any third-party rights or interest in the 16,110 shares which are transferred to him by fintech company's co-founder Bhavik Koladiya. The bench headed by Justice Prateek Jalan in the case observed and has passed the order on the interim application filed by Koladiya in his suit against Grover. The court in the case restrained Grover from mak-

ing any third-party rights in the suit shares which are pending for disposal of the suit. Further, the bench of Justice Prateek Jalan clarified that the observation made in the interim order is recorded only for disposal of the interim application and it is not intended to prejudice the parties at the trial. In the present case, the suit filed by Koladiya seeks to restrain Grover from creating any third-party rights in respect of the shares in BharatPe. However, Grover gave a statement that he will not make any third-party interest in the shares in question.

The fintech company was found by Koladiya in the year 2017 along with another co-founder Shashvat Nakrani. Thus, Grover joined the company in 2018 as the third co-founder. Therefore, when the Grover joined the company, he got 32% equity, Nakrani held 25.5% whereas Koladiya still remained the largest shareholder in the company with a 42.5% stake. It has been stated in the report that six months later in December 2018 just before Sequoia came on board as an investor, Koladiya's name went missing from the founders' list 'owing to discomfort which being on the

part of large institutional investors to have a person with a jail term in the US.' The Division bench in the case observed and has ordered an expeditious trial of the suit filed by BharatPe's co-founder Shashvat Nakrani wherein it seeks to restrain Grover from alienating, transferring, or creating any third-party rights in the 'unpaid shares' bought from him. The single judge had refused to restrain Grover from creating any third-party rights in the unpaid shares, as the same is rejected Nakrani's interim application in the suit.

UTTARAKHAND AUTHORITY SUSPENDS LICENSES OF 14 PATANJALI AND DIVYA PHARMACY PRODUCTS, AFTER SUPREME COURT RAP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Indian Medical Association v. Union Of India observed and has suspended the manufacturing licenses of 14 products of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd and its sister concern Divya Pharmacy on April 15, 2024 wherein the court stated that Uttarakhand State Licensing Authority in an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court on Monday i.e., April 29. The authority stated that invoking the power under Rule 159(1) of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules 1954, the licenses of these products were suspended with 'immediate effect.' The said order came after the Supreme Court pulled up the State Authority on April 10 for its inaction against Patanjali and Divya Pharmacy for their illegal advertisements of these products. The Authority stated that a criminal complaint has been filed against Patanjali

Ayurved, its Managing Director Acharya Balkrishna, its co-founder Baba Ramdev and Divya Pharmacy before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Haridwar under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act 1954. Therefore, the court stated that the products whose licenses have been suspended are Swasari Gold, Swasari Vati, Bronchom, Swasari Pravahi, Swasari Avaleh, Mukta Vati Extra Power, Lipidom, Bp Grit, Madhugrit, Madhunashini Vati Extra Power, Livamrit Advance, Livogrit, Eyegrit Gold and Patanjali Driшти Eye Drops. Further, the said authority also tendered an 'unconditional and unqualified apology' to the Supreme Court for any 'inadvertent and unintentional' non-compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court. The SLA has issued the following instructions to all Ayurvedic or Unani medicine factories in Uttarakhand:

- Every Ayurvedic or Unani medicine factory shall strictly comply with the Drug and Magic Remedies Act, 1954,
- No pharmaceutical factory will use claims like Approved or Certified by the Ministry of AYUSH on the label of its product,
- Advertisements should comply with provisions as stated under Consumer Protection Act, 2019, Cable Television Networks Act, 1995, Emblems and Names Act, 1950,
- Every pharmaceutical factory shall ensure complete compliance with Rules 161, 161A and 161B of the Drug and Cosmetic Act, 1954 for labelling of their products.
- Every Ayurvedic or Unani medicine company should go through the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, Cable Television Networks Act, 1995, Emblems and Names Act, 1950 and Drug and Magic Remedies Act, 1954 and the advertisements should be broadcasted only after con-

ducting the recruitment test under the provisions which are mentioned in the Act. In the present case, the said development has taken place in the case filed by the Indian Medical Association seeking action against the misleading medical advertisements published by Patanjali Ayurved. The Supreme Court initiated contempt proceedings against Patanjali Ayurved, Balkrishna and Ramdev for publishing objectionable advertisements violating an undertaking given to the Court and they have also filed affidavits of apology before the Court. The bench comprising of Justice Hima Kohli and Ah-sannuddin Amanullah will consider the matter tomorrow. On the last hearing date, the bench expressed that its scrutiny was not just limited to Patanjali but to all FMCG companies which are taking the 'public for a ride' by advertising false health claims about their products.

SUPREME COURT EXTENDED STAY ON TRIAL OF BJP LEADER K ANNAMALAI OVER ALLEGED REMARKS AGAINST CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY NGO TILL SEPT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case K Annamalai v. V Piyush observed and has expressed till September the stay on trial against Tamil Nadu Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP leader K Annamalai over his alleged remarks against a Christian missionary non-profit. The bench comprising of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta in the case was considering Annamalai's special leave petition against a February 8 Madras High Court order refusing to quash the trial court proceedings in the hate speech case. The court in the case observed and has issued the notice to the complainant (V Piyush) on Annamalai's plea on February 26, when the

said court also granted temporary relief of stay on the trial proceedings. The bench headed by Justice Khanna Justice Khanna stated that, in view of a request by the counsel for respondent-complainant, the matter was adjourned today till week commencing September 9. Till that time, the interim order shall continue. **FACTS OF THE CASE:** In YouTube interview, Annamalai allegedly stated that a Christian missionary non-governmental organisation, NGO was responsible for seeking a ban on firecrackers, a statement that drew significant attention and controversy. Therefore, following the circulation of video clips from the interview on social

media, a complaint was filed by V Piyush, an environmentalist, wherein he expressed concerns that the remarks could incite hatred between communities. The Piyush invoked Section 156(3) and Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC before a judicial magistrate in Salem. However, the judicial magistrate, on finding a prima facie case under Section 153A and Section 505(1)(b) of the Indian Penal Code, IPC issued summons to Annamalai. It has been contended by Annamalai before the court that his speeches were expressions of anguish and not intended to promote communal discord. Annamalai also highlighted the timing of the com-

plaint, filed approximately 400 days after the interview, during which no untoward incidents occurred based on his speech. The Madras High Court in the case observed and has dismissed the petition, wherein it emphasized the psychological impact of Annamalai's statements, which were deemed to have communal undertones. Thus, the court underscored the significance of his position as a prominent leader, stating that his words carried weight and could have a psychological impact on the targeted group. Further, the court noted that the intent to create hatred towards a particular religion was evident in his statements, leading to a prima facie conclusion against him.

Advocate Vipin Nair Elected as President Of Supreme Court Advocates-On-Record Association

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Advocate Mr Vipin Nair emerged victorious in the elections conducted for

the position of President of, Executive Committee of Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association, SCAORA. Advocate Mr Vipin Nair

defeated his close-call rival Mr Devvrat by a margin of 88 votes. The position of Vice President was bagged by Advocate Mr Amit Sharma with

480 voted who defeated Advocate Diksha by 152 votes. Advocate Mr Nikhil Jain was elected as the Secretary by 485 votes.

SUPREME COURT AGREES TO CONSIDER HIS PLEA AGAINST ED ARREST IN WEEK STARTING ROM MAY 06, HEMANT SOREN SEEKS INTERIM BAIL

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Hemant Soren v. Directorate of Enforcement and Anr., observed and has issued notice on a petition filed by former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren wherein it challenged challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate, ED. The bench comprising of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta posted the matter in the week commencing from May 6 wherein it is stated that in the meantime, it shall be open to the Jharkhand High Court to pronounce the judgment which the court reserved on February 28, 2024. The court noted that Soren has filed the Special Leave Petition wherein citing the delay by the High Court in pronouncing the verdict on his petition filed challenging ED arrest. The bench asked the coun-

sel, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal appearing for Soren, what he was seeking. 'I want interim bail.' Adding to it, Sibal replied that there was nothing showing the involvement of Soren's even if the counter-affidavit of the Enforcement Directorate, ED was accepted entirely. It has been stated, 'Accept anything that is said in the complaint, Accept anything that is said in the counter. The offence is under section 467, section 471, section 420 of the Indian Penal Code, IPC. I am not involved anywhere.' The bench in the case decided to call for the ED's response. The court was considering as to when to list the matter next, of which the Sibal made a suggestion. The bench of Justice Khanna did not appreciate the interruption. Acknowledging the mistake of him, Sibal stated, 'I appreciate...your Lordships are also pressurized'.

The bench of Justice Khanna while hearing the same, quickly countered, 'There is no question of pressurized'. Therefore, the judge's remark was followed by an explanation from Sibal - 'pressurized by the work that you do my Lords'. 'Give us some discretion atleast'. The bench of Justice Khanna J finally said before posting the matter in week commencing May 6. In the present case, Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, ED on January 31, in connection with an alleged land scam in Jharkhand. Soren is being accused of being the primary beneficiary of the fraudulently acquired land. Therefore, the arrest was followed Soren's resignation as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand and he has been in custody since then. Further, Soren approached the Supreme Court on February 2, but the Court refused to entertain his plea and asked him to approach the High Court instead.

Soren moved the Jharkhand High Court, which heard him on the issue of ED arrest and reserved verdict on February 28. The counsel, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal had mentioned the case before Justice Khanna wherein it seeks urgent listing saying that the delay was resulting in Soren's incarceration during crucial election time. **Background of the Case:** Hemant Soren, the former chief minister of Jharkhand, is being investigated for money laundering charges in relation to the illegal mining case, as well as an alleged land scam in Ranchi, the state's capital. The Enforcement Directorate, ED is investigating both cases and contends that approximately 8.5 acres of property in question constitutes proceeds of crime. Thus, it has charged Soren with unauthorised possession and usage.

Supreme Court Recalls Earlier Direction Allowing Termination Of Minor Rape Survivor's Pregnancy After Parents Raised Health Concerns

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case A (Mother of X) vs. State Of Maharashtra observed and has recalled its earlier directions wherein it permitted the termination of the pregnancy of a minor rape survivor. The court in the case observed and has reserved its order after the parents of the girl raised health-related concerns for the minor. The bench comprising of CJI DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra after having a discussion in chambers with the parents



of the minor, stated that the reversal was needed as the 'interest of the child is paramount'. Additional Solicitor General of India Aishwarya Bhati assisted the court for a resolution. In the present case, the minor's parents attended the session through video conferencing and expressed

their will to take their daughter back home and deliver the baby. The court stated that it may be recalled that the Court on April 22 allowed the petition for an urgent termination of the minor's pregnancy which had crossed 28 weeks then. Therefore, while exercising its powers to do complete

justice under Article 142 of the Constitution of India. The Court in the case then directed the Dean of Sion Hospital, Maharashtra to undertake the medical termination of the 28 weeks pregnancy. Therefore, the present matter was listed again before the Court based on the report of the medical team which indicated that the girl's mother was not in a position to decide if the pregnancy should be terminated or the baby should be given for adoption. The said matter was taken up in chambers at 2 PM and the judges interacted with the family through video conferencing.

CHINA’S COMMUNIST PARTY ADMITS ECONOMIC RISKS

AGNECIES
BEIJING

China’s ruling Communist Party, headed by President Xi Jinping, in a rare admission on Tuesday spoke of the grim economic outlook in the world’s second-largest economy due to insufficient demand and an uncertain external environment and called for coordinating domestic, social and economic policies to obtain tangible results.

It was also announced that the much-delayed key Plenum of the party to discuss measures for course correction -- the 3rd plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee -- will be

held here in July.

The Plenum was originally due to be held in October-November last year and its delay sparked speculation that it was postponed due to the uncertain economic situation in the world’s second-largest economy sparking local and global concerns.

Xi 70, who is into his unprecedented third term, heading the party, the military and the Presidency, is grappling with an economic slowdown accentuated by the COVID-19 pandemic and deepening property market crisis.

In a candid admission of the economic crisis, the meeting of the 24-member Political Bureau of the party, headed by Xi, spoke of the difficult situation at home



and abroad for Chinese enterprises.

It “cautioned against challenges, such as insufficient demand, high operation pressure facing enterprises, and an external environment that is more complicated, grimmer and more uncertain,” state-run Xinhua news agency reported. “The complexity, severity and uncertainty of the external environment have spiked,” it said, adding that domestic social and economic policy must be coordinated, with a focus on tangible results.

“Many businesses are under greater operating pressure ... We will support private enterprises to tap into overseas markets while

dialling up efforts to attract and leverage foreign investment,” it said.

The Plenum is to be attended by the 376 full and alternate members of the new Central Committee.

Facing the economic slowdown and a huge property crisis, China early this year fixed its GDP target for this year “around five per cent.” Significantly for the Chinese economy, credit ratings agency Fitch cut its outlook for China this month citing increasing risks to the country’s finances as it faces economic challenges.

Also Fitch Ratings has lowered its outlook for China’s state-owned banks from stable to negative a week after it cut its projection for the country’s sover-

eign credit rating, reflecting pessimism in the world’s second largest economy and concerns over Beijing’s capacity to support its biggest lenders.

The Politburo meeting, however, said in its statement that China’s economy still has a solid foundation, plenty of advantages, strong resilience and huge potential, the meeting said, calling for efforts to strengthen confidence in economic work.

The current and future periods are critical for building a strong country. China’s reform must continue in the face of complex international and domestic situations, a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial changes, and

the new anticipation of the people, it said.

Deepening reform is essential to upholding and improving the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and modernising China’s governance system and capacity, the meeting said.

The whole Party must put reform in a more prominent position and deepen reform in all respects with a focus on promoting Chinese modernisation, it said.

The country should actively expand trade in intermediate goods, service trade, digital trade, and cross-border e-commerce exports, support private enterprises in expanding overseas markets and intensify efforts to attract and use foreign investment, it added.

Pakistan grapples with inflation amid economic crisis

IMF approves \$1.1B loan tranche for Pakistan

AGNECIES
WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund has approved an immediate disbursement of USD 1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package and said the country needs to take tough measures to bring its economy back on track.

“Given the significant challenges ahead, Pakistan should capitalize on this hard-won stability,” said officials

A decision in this regard was taken by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board as it completed the second and final review of Pakistan’s economic reform programme supported by the IMF’s Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).

With this development, the disbursements under the SBA reached around USD 3 billion.

IMF’s Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Sayeh said, “Given the significant challenges ahead, Pakistan should capitalize on this hard-won stability, persevering — beyond the current arrangement — with sound macroeconomic policies and structural reforms to create stronger, inclusive, and sustainable growth.” Continued external support will also be critical, she said.

Achieving strong, long-term inclusive growth and creating jobs require accelerating structural reforms and continued protection of the most vulnerable through an adequately-financed Benazir Income Support Program, the IMF official said. Priorities include advancing the reform of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and ensuring that all SOEs fall under the new policy framework, strengthening governance and anti-corruption institutions, and continuing to build climate resilience, she added.

Highest inflation in history, wage disparities widening

AGNECIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is currently facing its highest inflation rate in nearly fifty years. In recent months, inflation has soared to as much as 38 per cent, marking the highest rate in South Asia. Food inflation has surged to 48 per cent, reaching its peak since 2016, it is reported.

The government’s decision to devalue the currency by over 50 per cent within a year and eliminate subsidies as part of the latest instalment of the International Monetary Fund bailout package has exacerbated the nation’s cost-of-living crisis.

In a country where economic challenges often overshadow the daily lives of its citizens, the concept of fair wages has emerged as a ray of hope. Like many developing nations, Pakistan is confronted with the daunting task of addressing poverty, inequality, and social disparities exacerbated by the aforementioned inflation, as reported by Dawn.

At the crux of these challenges lies the question of how much workers are compensated for their labour. Private sector corporations must engage in discussions about the significance of fair wages and living incomes, and why Pakistan must prioritise this vital aspect of economic justice.

A fair wage is not simply a number on a paycheck. It symbolises the dignity and worth of human labour. It ensures that individuals can afford basic necessities such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education for themselves and their families. In Pakistan, where a significant portion of the population struggles to make ends meet, fair wages can make a monumental difference.

Consider a scenario where a worker earns a wage that scarcely covers rent, let alone other essential expenses, after enduring long hours of toil. This is the harsh reality for many in Pakistan’s workforce. Without fair wages, workers are ensnared in a cycle of poverty, unable to break free and improve their lives.

Over 200 journalists targeted amid media crackdown: Report

AGNECIES
ISLAMABAD

Media freedom in Pakistan faced significant challenges over the past year, with more than 200 journalists and bloggers reportedly targeted through legal notices, according to a report by the Freedom Network released ahead of World Press Freedom Day, it is reported.

Titled ‘Erosion of Free Speech: The Silencing of Citizens, Political Parties and Media’, the annual report covers the period from May 2023 to April 2024, highlighting increased state-driven intimidation and predatory actions by non-state actors.

The report underscored a concerning trend of reduced tolerance for online dissent, coupled with attacks and harassment against journalists and bloggers, including the tragic murder of four journalists. These incidents not only eroded the boundaries of free speech but also heightened risks for media freedom in Pakistan, as reported.

Over 70 legal notices were served to media practitioners. “Many came consequent to a ‘joint investigation team’ of various government departments tasked with identifying persons allegedly running a smear campaign against some judges; although, the chief justice later said he was not a complainant, and that the judiciary was being used to target free expression aimed at others.”

Four journalists lost their lives during the review period, with documented cases of violations against media personnel totaling 104, including murders, assaults, injuries, kidnappings, threats, and legal proceedings.

“Acute political polarisation and governance and economic instability saw three governments in the one year between May 2023 and April 2024... Through their actions all three ruling dispensations seemed to have evolved an alarming consensus among its most powerful political and state figures to lower their threshold of tolerance to freedom of expression, particularly online dissent,” the report underlined.

‘Indian aim for ‘superpower’ contrasts Pak’s financial struggles’

AGNECIES
ISLAMABAD

In his inaugural address on the floor of the National Assembly (NA) following the 2024 elections, JUI-F chief and Pakistani Opposition Leader, Maulana Fazlur Rehman drew a sharp contrast with India, asserting, “India is dreaming of becoming a superpower, while we are begging to avoid bankruptcy. Who is responsible for this?” ARY News reported.

He attributed the nation’s predicament to unseen forces orchestrating decisions from behind the scenes, reducing elected officials to mere puppets. “There are powers behind the walls controlling us, and they make decisions while we are just puppets,” he claimed.

Questioning the legitimacy of the current parliament, Rehman accused its members of forsaking principles and “selling democracy,” as reported by ARY News.

Expressing dismay over the state of representation in Pakistan, he pondered whether the parliament genuinely reflects the will of the people. “Governments are formed in palaces and bureaucrats decided who would be the Prime Minister,” he alleged.

“How long will we continue to compromise? How long will we seek help from external forces for being elected as a lawmaker,” Maulana Fazl questioned. He condemned electoral rigging in both the 2018 and 2024 elections, denouncing the ascension of purportedly counterfeit representatives to power. Rehman lamented the perceived powerlessness of lawmakers to enact legislation independently, citing concerns regarding accountability in a nation plagued by insecurity. “How can our conscience be clear when sitting in this assembly, as both the losers and winners are not satisfied,” he questioned.

Accusing the current assemblies of being “sold off,” Rehman lamented the presence of individuals lacking allegiance to Pakistan’s founding principles in positions of authority.

Uber suspends operations, subsidiary ‘Careem’ to continue

AGNECIES
ISLAMABAD

American multinational transportation company, Uber has announced to suspend its operations in Pakistan and said that its subsidiary brand Careem will continue to operate in the country, Geo News reported on Tuesday.

“We’ve made the decision to cease operating the Uber app in Pakistan. Our subsidiary brand Careem will continue to operate, with the Careem app offering ride-hailing services across Pakistan,” Uber’s spokesperson said in a statement.

The decision comes after Uber in 2022 announced to scale back its operations in Pakistan and limit it to Lahore, which the company has continued till now.

“We’ve made the decision to cease operating the Uber app in Karachi, Multan, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Islamabad,” the company had said back then, Geo News reported.

It is to be noted that Uber acquired its then Middle East rival Careem for USD 3.1 billion in March 2019.

Under the deal, Careem became a wholly owned subsidiary of Uber but continues to operate independently with its branding, services and separate app.

Meanwhile, drivers associated with Uber have the option to sign up for Careem Rides and continue to operate their independent transportation businesses, Geo News reported.

The decision, according to the company, was in line with Uber’s global growth strategy, focuses on markets where we have opportunities for sustainable growth.

“We work closely with Careem Rides teams to minimise the impact on drivers that use the Uber app,” Uber spokesperson had said. As of now, Careem operates in 10 cities across Pakistan: Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Gujranwala, Sialkot and Quetta.

Israel strikes Hamas rocket launchers, tunnel shafts

AGNECIES
TEL AVIV

Israeli fighter jets struck operational tunnel shafts, an anti-tank missile launch post and Hamas terror infrastructure in northern and central Gaza, the Israel Defence Forces said on Tuesday morning.

One of the sites hit was the location where a missile aimed at Sderot had been fired on Monday, the IDF said.

That missile was intercepted by aerial defences. Shortly afterwards, fighter jets struck operational tunnel shafts, an anti-tank missile launch post and terror infrastructure in the area of northern Gaza from which the launch was identified.

Throughout the past day, fighter jets also struck several Hamas targets in central Gaza, including a terrorist squad and a weapons storage facility, in the area where Israeli ground troops are operating.

Rockets were also fired at Israeli soldiers in central Gaza on Monday. No injuries were reported. Troops identified numerous terrorists at the location from which the launches were fired, and fighter jets struck and eliminated the terrorists.

During operational activity in central Gaza, two terrorists were identified advancing toward the troops in the area. An Israeli aircraft struck and eliminated the terrorists. In an additional strike, a terrorist was identified observing the troops from a military structure in the area. Fighter jets struck the structure, eliminating the terrorist.

Along the Lebanese border overnight, two anti-tank missiles fired from Lebanon landed in open areas near Moshav Dovev in the Upper Galilee. No injuries or damage were reported. The IDF struck the sources of fire.

Also, fighter jets struck Hezbollah terrorist infrastructure in the areas of Kfarkela and Khiam in southern Lebanon.

6 killed in mosque attack in Afghanistan’s Herat province

AGNECIES
KABUL

Six people have been killed after a gunman stormed a mosque in western Afghanistan, Al Jazeera reported, citing a government spokesperson.

Ministry of Interior Affairs spokesman Abdul Mateen Qani said, “An unknown armed person shot at civilian worshippers in a mosque” at about 9 pm (16:30 GMT) on Monday in Andisheh town of Guzara district in Herat province.

“Six civilians were killed and one civilian was injured,” he wrote on X, early on Tuesday morning, reported Al Jazeera.

The mosque belonged to Afghanistan’s minority Shia community, according to TOLO News.

Moreover, a Imam, was also killed in the attack, local media reported. Following the attack, the Iranian embassy in Kabul condemned the attack.

No group has claimed the attack yet, however, the regional chapter of ISIL (ISIS) is the largest security threat in Afghanistan and has frequently targeted Shia communities, reported Al Jazeera. Meanwhile, the Taliban government has pledged to protect religious and ethnic minorities since they returned to power in August 2021, but rights monitors said that they have done little to make good on that promise. The most notorious attack linked to ISIL since the Taliban takeover was in 2022 when at least 53 people, including 46 girls and young women, were slain in the suicide bombing at an education centre in a Shia neighbourhood of Kabul. For which, the Taliban officials blamed ISIL for the attack.

However, Kabul’s new rulers have claimed that they have eliminated ISIL from Afghanistan and are highly sensitive to suggestions the group has found safe haven in the country since the withdrawal of foreign forces, reported Al Jazeera.



Mount Ruang volcano erupts in Indonesia again, prompts closure of international airport.
PHOTO: AGNECIES

Mount Ruang erupts in Indonesia, closes airport

AGNECIES
JAKARTA

Volcano Mount Ruang erupted in Indonesia on Tuesday, seeking authorities to order evacuation for their safety, it is reported. Indonesia’s geological agency raised the alert level on Sulawesi Island to its highest level, as the eruption blew clouds of ash, lava and rocks as high as two kilometers into the sky.

As the volcano erupted, the authorities ordered to closure of the nearby international airport. The officials at Sam Ratu-langi International Airport, located about 95 kilometers southeast of the volcano in the provincial capital of Manado, shut down operations citing reduced visibility and the dangers volcanic ash poses to plane engines. Indonesia’s geological agency further urged the residents living within a six-kilometer radius of Mount Ruang to evacuate, it is reported.

BEACH CIRCUS



Cirque du Soleil performer Mitch Wynter, known as the Trickster, (left) is joined by contortionist Sender Enkhtur (centre) and diabolo performer Wei-Liang Lin at Santa Monica Beach, Santa Monica, US. PHOTO: AGENCIES

3 police officers dead in shooting incident in US

AGENCIES
CHARLOTTE

Three law enforcement officers lost their lives in a devastating shooting incident at a residence in Charlotte, North Carolina. Among the fallen were a deputy US Marshal and two local task force officers, confirmed by a source familiar with the matter speaking to press.

Though police had not publicly confirmed the fatalities, a news conference has been scheduled at 5:40 pm (ET) to shed light on the event. The incident unfolded at a residence on Galway Drive in Charlotte, where multiple officers were shot Monday afternoon, as per authorities.

“The residence on Galway Drive is now clear, and the area is safe. Residents no longer need to shelter in place,” Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police said in a Monday afternoon X post. One suspect was found dead, and two other people were found in the home and are being held by police for questioning, according to the post.

“Numerous law enforce-

The incident took place at the 5000 block of Galway Drive, police said, and a SWAT team was on scene

ment officers struck by gunfire in active situation,” the department had said earlier on X.

The incident took place at the 5000 block of Galway Drive, police said, and a SWAT team was on scene. Police said the “threat is isolated” to that area and asked neighborhood residents to shelter-in-place.

“The US Marshals Fugitive Task Force which is comprised of several agencies in the Charlotte area was attempting to serve a warrant” when shots were fired, according to another X post from the police department.

“Multiple law enforcement officers have been struck by the gunfire and are being transported to the hospital,” police previously said.

Hush money trial: Judge fines Trump \$9,000, raises jail threat

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Donald Trump was held in contempt of court Tuesday and fined \$9,000 for repeatedly violating a gag order that barred him from making public statements about witnesses, jurors and some others connected to his New York hush money case. And if he does it again, the judge warned, he could be jailed.

Prosecutors had alleged 10 violations, but New York Judge Juan M. Merchan found there were nine. Trump stared down at the table in front of him as the judge read the ruling, frowning slightly.

The ruling was a stinging rebuke of the Republican former president’s insistence that he was exercising his free speech rights and a reminder that he’s a criminal defendant subject to the harsh realities of trial procedure. The judge’s subtle threat to jail a former president signaled that Trump’s already precarious legal standing could further spiral depending on his behavior during the trial.

Tarun Ghulati prioritises security, housing crisis in London mayor polls

AGENCIES
LONDON

In the upcoming mayoral elections in London scheduled for May 2, a compelling showdown is on the horizon as Indian-origin candidate Tarun Ghulati steps up to challenge the incumbent Pakistani-origin mayor, Sadiq Khan.

This electoral face-off symbolises a unique contest between two individuals hailing from former British colonies, each vying for the city’s top leadership position.

Ghulati, an investment banker and businessman, has vowed to strengthen the law and order system, solve traffic congestion problems, and bring in more investments in the city.

Calling both incumbent London Mayor Sadiq Khan and his Conservative rival ‘incompetent’, he said that instead of politicians, it should be people-centric governance for a city, which contributes an elephant share of the country’s economy.

Elaborating his vision for the city, Ghulati, who calls himself the “most experienced” candidate in the polls, said he will bring in experts



with knowledge of specific domains in the policymaking process.

“I have got a shadow cabinet ready, get the ground running. There will be experts in city planning, experts in transportation, community development, and engagement...advisors from different communities. So they know the nuances, and based on their advice, you engage with everyone,” Ghulati said in an exclusive interview to ANI.

Ghulati said that he wears his Indian roots as a badge of honour and believes in the idea of ‘Vausudhaiva Kutumbakam’.

“Being a person of Indian-origin, I wear that as a badge of honour. It is a matter of

pride for me. I am a proud Hindu. But I believe in the concept of ‘Vausudhaiva Kutumbakam,’” he said.

The Indian-origin businessman and investment banker spent the first 35 years of his life in India.

“I was born in India, grew up in India, and spent the first 35 years there. That is my jannabhoomi. My father was a civil servant. I have studied across many places and hold 4 post-graduation degrees, including an MBA from Delhi,” Ghulati said.

He also said that he will work with full might on making the possible Free Trade Agreement with India a “success”.

“We are about to sign an FTA in the near term with India. So I will be a key person making sure that it’s a success and trade flow increase,” he said.

Notably, India and the UK are negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Talks for FTA between India and the UK started in 2022.

Recalling his business endeavour, Ghulati said he started his journey by selling tomato ketchups and running Xerox business.

UK: BOY KILLED, SEVERAL OTHERS STABBED BY SWORD-WIELDING MAN

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

A 13-year-old boy was killed and several other people were stabbed by a sword-wielding man in London on Tuesday, The New York Times reported citing authorities.

The child, a 13-year-old boy, died after being taken to a hospital, Stuart Bell, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Police, said in a news conference.

The stabbing spree left four others injured, Bell said, including two police officers. All four remain hospitalized, he said.

The mass stabbing incident took place in northeast London while the morning commute was beginning on Tuesday, The New York

Times reported.

The attacker has been identified as a 36-year-old man who was later arrested at the incident site.

Just before 7 a.m., the police received reports of a vehicle being driven into a house and multiple people being stabbed in Hainault, a neighborhood in northeast London, The New York Times reported citing the Metropolitan Police.

Video of the incident circulating on social media showed a man wearing a yellow sweatshirt wielding a large sword in the middle of several houses in the neighborhood.

The suspect, who has not been named, went on to attack more members of the public and two police officers, the police said.



A man carrying a sword went on a stabbing spree in London. Photo: X

The London Ambulance Service reported that five people were taken to a hospital, however 13-year-old boy succumbed to injuries, The New York Times reported.

Ade Adelekan, the deputy assistant commissioner for the Metropolitan Police, said

there was no ongoing threat to the community and that the incident did not appear to be terror-related.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said in a statement that he was devastated by the news and that additional patrols would be added to the area.

Global students in Canada to work only 24 hours a week

AGENCIES
OTTAWA

International students, including those from India, in Canada, will be able to work off-campus for only up to 24 hours per week starting in September, according to a new rule that will come into effect from Tuesday.

“The temporary policy allowing students to work more than 20 hours per week off campus will come to an end on April 30, 2024, and it will not be extended,” Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, said in a press release issued on Monday.

“This fall, we intend to change the number of hours students may work off campus per week to 24 hours,” he said as the Canadian government clamps down on a surge in international student enrolments across the country.

The Liberal Party-led government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau temporarily waived the 20-hour cap on work hours for international students during the COVID-19 pandemic in a bid to

ease labour shortages facing the country. That waiver expires on Tuesday, CTV News reported.

Canada is one of the most sought-after destinations for Indian students. According to a 2022 report of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), there were 3,19,130 Indian students in Canada. In both colleges and universities based in Canada, Indians hold the majority of seats among international students.

Miller said students who come to Canada must be here to study. As such, allowing students to work up to 24 hours per week will ensure they focus primarily on their studies, while having the option to work, if necessary.

“Working off campus helps international students gain work experience and offset some of their expenses. As international students arrive in Canada, we want them to be prepared for life here and have the support they need to succeed. However, first and foremost, people coming to Canada as students must be here to study, not work.

California’s population grew in 2023, halting 3 years of decline

AGENCIES
SACRAMENTO

The nation’s most populous state is growing again.

California gained population last year for the first time since 2019, according to a new estimate released Tuesday by Gov. Gavin Newsom’s administration.

The net increase of just over 67,000 residents in 2023 — a 0.17% increase — stopped a three-year trend of population decline, which included the state’s first-ever year-over-year loss during the pivotal census year of 2020 that later led to California losing a congressional seat. The state estimates California now has more than 39.1 million residents.



Visitors take part in the annual Donation Day Parade in Grass

The Newsom administration had blamed the decline on a combination of increased mortality rates during the coronavirus pandemic, a declining birth rate and a slowdown in legal international immigration caused by the pandemic and stricter immigration rules during

President Donald Trump’s administration.

But critics pointed to a surge of people leaving California for other states, interpreting it as residents fed up with higher taxes, a larger homeless population and a shortage of housing while Democrats have been in power.

Columbia University suspends protestors

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Columbia University has taken action to suspend student protestors who remained at the on-campus encampment past the administration’s 2 pm ET deadline, CNN reported.

According to the New York-based university, these students will face consequences such as ineligibility to complete the semester or graduate, as well as restrictions from university housing and academic facilities.

“Once disciplinary action is initiated, adjudication is handled by several different units within the university based on the nature of the offense,” Vice President of Public Affairs Ben Chang said during a briefing Monday evening.

The Office of University Life and the university’s senate, representing students and faculty, oversee this process, as reported by CNN.

“Decisions made by the Office of University Life can be appealed to the dean of the student’s school,” said Chang, adding, “Decisions made by the senate can be appealed to a panel of deans and, ultimately, the university’s president.”

Protestors occupy building at Columbia University

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Pro-Palestinian activists occupied a building at Columbia University early on Tuesday, escalating a battle with administrators who have begun suspending students for refusing to dismantle tents set up on the New York campus.

Protesters entered Hamilton Hall — the site of student protests dating back to the 1960s — and suspended a banner reading “Hind’s Hall” from an upper floor. Others outside blocked the doors with outdoor tables and linked arms to form a barricade in front. “This building is liberated in honour of Hind, a six-year-old Palestinian child murdered in Gaza by the Israeli occupation forces funded by Columbia University,” a protester shouted from inside, with those outside repeating each phrase.

Israel has denied targeting civilians in its war on Hamas militants in Gaza, accusing the militants of hiding among them.

Minutes after the protesters gained access to the building, New York City police officers arrived outside the school gates in unmarked cars, the Columbia Spectator newspaper reported.

French university loses funding

AGENCIES
PARIS

The Paris region authority sparked controversy Tuesday by temporarily suspending funding for Sciences Po, one of the country’s most prestigious universities, after it was rocked by tense pro-Palestinian demonstrations. “I have decided to suspend all regional funding for Sciences Po until calm and security have been restored at the school,” Valerie Pécresse, the right-wing head of the greater Paris Ile-de-France region, said on social media on Monday. She took aim at “a minority of radicalised people calling for anti-Semitic hatred” and accused hard-left politicians of seeking to exploit the tensions. Regional support for the Paris-based university includes 1 million euros earmarked for 2024, a member of Pécresse’s team told AFP.

On Tuesday, the university’s acting administrator, Jean Basseres, said he regretted the decision. “The Ile-de-France region is an essential partner of Sciences Po, and I wish to maintain dialogue on the position expressed by Mrs Pécresse”, he told French daily Le Monde in an interview published Tuesday.

EU probes FB, Instagram over election disinformation

AGENCIES
BRUSSELS

The EU on Tuesday launched an investigation into Meta’s Facebook and Instagram over concerns the platforms are failing to counter disinformation ahead of EU elections in June.

The probe is under the EU’s new Digital Services Act, a landmark law that cracks down on illegal content on-

line and forces the world’s biggest tech companies to do more to protect users online.

The European Commission said it suspected Meta’s moderation of adverts was “insufficient” and that an increase in paid spots in those conditions could harm “electoral processes and fundamental rights, including consumer protection rights”.

EU leaders are especially worried about Russian at-

tempts to manipulate public opinion and undermine European democracy.

The probe seeks “to make sure that effective actions are taken in particular to prevent that Instagram’s and Facebook’s vulnerabilities are exploited by foreign interference,” EU internal rights, including consumer protection rights”.

“We suspect that Meta’s moderation is insufficient,

that it lacks transparency of advertisements and content moderation procedures,” commission executive vice president Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

Facebook and Instagram are among 23 “very large” online platforms that must comply with the DSA or risk fines up running up to six percent of a platform’s global turnover, or even a ban for egregious cases.

UK to deport nearly 6,000 migrants to Rwanda

AGENCIES
PARIS

The United Kingdom expects to deport nearly 6,000 migrants to Rwanda this year, a senior minister said Tuesday, April 30, after the government published new details on the controversial plan.

The figures come days after the plan aimed at deterring migrant arrivals on small boats from northern Eu-

rope became law following months of parliamentary wrangling. Rwanda has “in principle” agreed to accept 5,700 migrants already in the UK, the Home Office revealed late Monday. Of those, 2,143 “can be located for detention” before being flown there, according to the Home Office.

Law enforcement agencies will find the remainder, Health Secretary Victoria

Atkins said Tuesday when asked about the 5,700 earmarked for deportation. “The expectation is that we remove that group of people (...) by the end of the year,” she told Sky News television. “If somebody doesn’t report as they should do (...) They will be found.”

Migrants who arrived in the UK between January 2022 and June last year are liable to have their asylum claims

deemed inadmissible and be removed to Rwanda, the Home Office said.

More than 57,000 people arrived on small boats after trying to cross the Channel during this 18-month period, according to official statistics. The figure underlines the scale of the challenge trying to stem irregular arrivals and the limits of the government’s contentious plan to send some of them to Rwanda.

SUNNY, BOBBY GET EMOTIONAL AS THEY SPEAK THEIR HEARTS OUT



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

An upcoming episode of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' shows the Deols keeping true to their tradition of being honest and raw whenever they publicly talk about their lives.

On Tuesday, Netflix dropped a promo of the episode, featuring the famous actor siblings Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol.

In the clip, Sunny got emotional while talking about 2023, the year in which the Deol family witnessed huge success.

Dharmendra charmed audiences with his presence in Karan Johar's successful film 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahaani' while triumph of 'Gadar 2' and the overwhelming response to 'Animal' mark a rejuvenation in the careers of Sunny

and Bobby. "1960s se hum log lime-light me hain, lekin kai sal hogaye, aise hi koshish kar rahe the (We have been in the limelight since the 60s but we have been trying for years) things were not working out." Speaking of the good times, Sunny said, "My son got married, then Gadar (2) was released, before that even dad's film got released (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani) and we couldn't believe how we got so blessed."

Bobby also got teary-eyed during the conversation. Also, the episode seems to be high on bromance as in the clip Bobby could be seen calling Sunny "superman."

"Even in real life, if someone is strong like Superman, its bhaiya." He also mentioned in the clip that "Deols are romantic."

NEETU KAPOOR, RIDDHIMA KAPOOR REMEMBER RISHI KAPOOR ON 4TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Legendary actor Rishi Kapoor passed away four years back but he continues to live among his fans through his work and his "Khullam Khulla" life stories.

On his fourth death anniversary today, his family members and friends from the industry took to social media to share pictures from the precious moments spent with him.

Rishi Kapoor's wife Neetu Kapoor shared an adorable picture with him and captioned it as, "4 years (flower emoji) for us life can never be the same without you (red heart emoji)."

Rishi Kapoor's daughter Riddhima dropped a picture from her childhood days. In the adorable image, the

young Rishi Kapoor could be seen striking a pose with little Riddhima.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. #forever #missyousomuch," she captioned the post.

Rishi Kapoor's son-in-law and Riddhima's husband Bharat Sahni shared a family picture featuring himself with Krishna Kapoor, Rishi, Ranbir, Neetu and Riddhima.

"Thank you for all the memories. We miss you," he wrote.

Filmmaker Rakesh Roshan took a stroll down memory lane and dropped a monochrome picture with Rishi Kapoor, who's fondly called Chintu.

"Chintu you are always with us," Rakesh Roshan wrote on Instagram.

ZAKIR KHAN HAS THIS TO SAY ABOUT 'CHACHA VIDHAYAK HAI HUMARE' SEASON 3

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

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PICTURE PERFECT

Bollywood actor Jaideep Ahlawat, actresses Sonali Bendre, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Suchitra Pillai, Geetika Vidya Ohlyan and others pose for a picture during the special screening of the upcoming second season of the OTT series 'The Broken News', in Mumbai. (ANI)



RISHAB SHETTY STARTS SHOOTING 'KANTARA 2' ON MASSIVE SET IN KUNDAPURA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Hombale Films is undoubtedly the biggest production house in Indian cinema. While the leading production house has boomed the Indian cinema with their blockbusters like KGF Chapter 2, Kantara: A Legend, and Prabhas-Prashanth Neel's 'Salaar Part 1: Cease-fire', their next biggest project, 'Kantara: Chapter 1', is hugely awaited by the fans and the audiences.

With every update rolling out from the film, the excitement among the masses is building. In a recent exciting update, it has been revealed that the full-fledged schedule of the film is set to kick-start this week with a 20-day schedule. In the schedule, the team will film the important portions



in forests, and they will be shot against the beautiful coastal setting of Kundapura, matching it to the film's

narrative. A massive set of 200x200 feet has been built, and 600 carpenters from Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, along with stunt masters, have been hired to build Kundapura. Besides this, the finalized actors are going through rigorous training sessions before the sets.

"Humare gaon ka jo ek kahaani aur folklore leke aana chahiye bade screen pe - yeh ek dream tha. When I was in my second year of college toh uss samay yeh kahani tha dimaag mein - mann mein. When I became a filmmaker, ek screenplay jaisa construct kiya. Shoot karne se pehle humara plan tha ki prequel ja raha hai. So, baad mein, jo logo ne, darshako ne itna bada support diya hai. Humare gaon mein bada set lagaya hai abhi.

'Mufasa: The Lion King' to 'roar' in theatres on December 20, trailer out

TDG NETWORK
LOS ANGELES

The trailer for Disney's upcoming film 'Mufasa: The Lion King' has been unveiled.

'Mufasa: The Lion King', a prequel to the 2019 photorealistic remake of 'The Lion King', is directed by 'Moonlight' fame filmmaker Barry Jenkins. The film will explore the titular lion's origin story, depicting his childhood with his brother Taka aka Scar, who becomes the main antagonist in 'The Lion King', as per Variety. Aaron Pierre and Kelvin Harrison Jr. have come on board to voice the younger versions of Mufasa and Scar, respectively. James Earl Jones voiced Mufasa in both the 1994 original film and 2019 remake. Jeremy Irons voiced Scar in 1994, while Chiwetel Ejiofor took over in 2019.



The trailer started with a stunning backdrop, offering a peek into the vibrant lives of the animals, and then introduced Mufasa, the lion who altered the destiny of many.

Many members of the 2019 voice cast are returning, including John Kani as Rafiki, Seth Rogen as Pumbaa, Billy Eichner as Timon, Donald Glover as Simba and Beyonce Knowles-Carter as Nala. Beyonce's daughter, Blue Ivy Carter, will play Kiara,

the daughter of King Samba and Queen Nala.

The 2019 film was directed by Jon Favreau from a screenplay by Jeff Nathanson, who is returning to write "Mufasa."

The film is all set to be released in theatres on December 20.

RYAN GOSLING, EMILY BLUNT SHARE AWKWARD ROMANCE IN 'THE FALL GUY'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Director David Leitch returns with another thrilling blockbuster, showcasing the world of stunts and action-romance starring our favourite Barbenheimer stars Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt. The former stuntman who made his directorial debut with Keanu Reeves in John Wick, aims to portray the life and high-risk work of stunt doubles who add all the action to a movie. David refers to The Fall Guy as "a love letter to the unsung heroes of the film industry".

Based on the hit 1980's TV series, The Fall Guy is about Jody Moreno (Emily Blunt) who makes her directorial debut with leg-



end and her ex Colt Seavers (Ryan Gosling), who will go to any lengths to win her back. Universal Pictures (distributed by Warner Bros. Discovery) is all set to release The Fall Guy in theatres on May 3rd 2024.

Talking about the on-screen chemistry between Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt, producer Kelly McCormick, shared, "One of my favorite things about their relationship is that it's very messy. It is almost like

an independent film romance where you see all the stumbling going on. They allowed this awkward and uncomfortable relationship to feel real and relatable to people, precisely because love is messy.

BRAIN PICKING



Your strength lies not just in what you achieve but in how you rise after every setback.



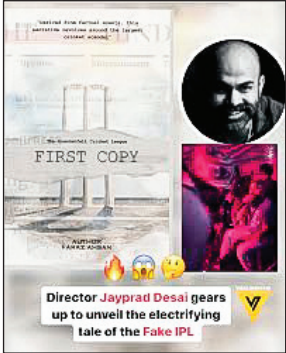
-SAMANTHA RUTH PRABHU
(Indian actress)

DIRECTOR JAYPRAD DESAI'S NEXT ON THE FAKE IPL SCAM

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Renowned director Jayprad Desai, celebrated for his recent hits "Kaun Pravin Tambe" on Disney+ Hotstar and "Mukhbir" on Zee5, is gearing up for his next cinematic venture. Titled "Phir Aayi Haseen Dilluba" and produced by Anand L. Rai, the film has already sparked immense anticipation as one of Netflix's most eagerly awaited releases for 2024.

Industry insiders have revealed that Desai's upcoming project delves into the captivating tale of the Fake IPL, deemed as one of the most audacious scams in cricketing history. Inspired by Faraz Ahsan's acclaimed book "First Copy," the narrative unfolds against the backdrop of Gujarat, where the Fake IPL unfolded, drawing the attention of Russian gamblers. Collaborating on the screenplay are the talented duo Hussain Dalal and Abbas Dalal, known for their stellar work in films such as "2 States," "Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani," "Farzi," "Taaza Khabar," and the highly anticipated "Brahmastra." With production set to commence shortly, the film aims for an early 2025 release, promising audiences an immersive cinematic experience that explores the intrigue and suspense surrounding the notorious Fake IPL scandal.



perience that explores the intrigue and suspense surrounding the notorious Fake IPL scandal.

In 2022, a group of con men pulled off an elaborate fake IPL scam in Gujarat. The charade playing out in a remote farm at Molipur village of Mehsana district reached the "knockout quarterfinal stage before the organisers of the "Indian premier cricket league" were caught out by the cops. Some labourers and unemployed youth from Molipur village in Gujarat set up an entire fake IPL tournament and live-streamed it on YouTube for two weeks. That's how they managed to almost dupe some Russian gamblers of thousands of pounds. In fact, they set up a Telegram channel dedicated to the games and took bets from Russian gamblers located in Tver, Voronezh, and Moscow.

BABIL REVEALS HOW HOMI ADAJANIA MADE HIS FATHER LAUGH DURING HIS FINAL DAYS



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

A day after his late father Irrfan Khan's death anniversary, actor Babil Khan remembered that 'very few people' made his baba laugh during his final days. One of them is filmmaker Homi Adajania.

Taking to Instagram, Babil shared a series of photos featuring Irrfan and Homi.

https://www.instagram.com/p/C6XlOhcixs-/?

Sharing the pictures, he wrote, "True friendship is the great equaliser of pride, no formidable demon of superiority can survive the piercing love of a true friendship. I remember that there were very few people in the end that made baba laugh like Homi and I guess that is the greatest gift of all, laughter."

As soon as the post was shared, fans chimed in the comment section.

Homi Adajania commented, "Remembering

the love."

One of the users wrote, "He was a true legend."

Another user posted, "Legends never dies."

"He seems like the best friend we all need truly loyal & kind," another users comment read.

Ahead of Irrfan's fourth death anniversary on April 29, Babil talked about the lessons his late father and legendary actor taught him.

"You taught me to be a warrior, but engage with love and kindness. You taught me of hope and you taught me to fight for the people," he wrote.

"You do not have fans, you have a family, and I promise you baba I will fight for our people and our family till you call upon me. I will not give up. I love you so much," Babil added.

The young actor also shared some candid pictures of Irrfan, who died four years ago.

MARIÈTA: A CONTEMPORARY DINING AND AGAVE FORWARD COCKTAIL BAR

Marièta, inspired by Latin American culture, opens its doors at Two Horizon Center promising an exquisite culinary & cocktails experience.



TDG NETWORK

Marièta invites you to embark on a global culinary journey intertwined with the vibrant energy of Latin America, complemented by its agave-spirited bar. The food celebrates the culinary diversity of the world with globally inspired dishes offering a tapestry of flavours. Passion lies behind all that is created in the kitchen, serving as the foundation of its menu. With an innovative approach to mixology focused on the eclectic agave plant, Marièta sets itself apart as the first-of-its-kind in the city, offering an array of tequila and mezcal cocktails. The atmosphere pulses with foot-tapping beats and the infectious vibe of tropical and Latin house music leaving you yearning to return for more.

The plush, sage green interiors, adorned with a striking mural personifying Marièta herself, serve as the focal point of the space, drawing guests into an immersive dining experience. A fluted bar, evocative artworks depicting Marièta's life story, warm lighting, and a semi-private dining space further enhance the ambiance, emulating the

warmth of Latin hospitality. With a 100+ seating capacity including both indoor and al fresco dining, Marièta provides ample space for patrons to indulge in its vibrant atmosphere. Every detail has been carefully selected to captivate customers in an environment of unparalleled sophistication, effortlessly blending opulence with comfort.

Marièta's versatile cuisine complemented perfectly by a bar that specialises in tequila and mezcal cocktails, transporting guests to the sun-soaked landscapes of Latin America. Dive into the signature Marièta's Picante, a house special, which is a refreshing take on the spicy classic, or the Second Date, a cheeky tequila blanco concoction with a tropical twist. Enjoy the flavourful Mezcalita, a potent tribute to Mexico's vibrant culture, or savour the Hand of God, inspired by Diego Maradona's historic football moment, delivering a citrusy kick that will leave the taste buds cheering for more.

Marièta's signature cocktails that also pay tribute to the Latino way of life include the Pisco Por Favor, a reimagined Pisco Sour based in white chocolate, and the Paradiso, a rum-based

cocktail that draws inspiration from the vibrant hues and flavours of the Amazon rainforest.

The food at Marièta celebrates the culinary diversity of the world, seamlessly blending flavours from diverse continents and cultures. From small plates like Spiced Mexican Doughnuts, Mushroom, and Cream Cheese Kataifi, and Harissa Grilled Chicken Wings to Italian classics including Smoked Chicken and Ricotta Pizza, Truffle Mac n Cheese, and Young Tomato Prawn Spaghetti, Marièta promises a wide range of cuisine. For a wholesome brunch experience, indulge in the All Day Brunch specials featuring Huevos Rancheros, Jammy Eggs with Laban, Mushroom and Cheese Croissant, and more. The menu also caters to taco enthusiasts, with a taco bar featuring Pulled Chicken, Crispy Fish, Crunchy Tofu followed by desserts like Tiramisu Clásico and Picante Chocolate promising a sweet finale to the culinary journey at Marièta. Marièta goes beyond its diverse culinary offerings to cater to comfort food cravings, presenting a tempting array of sushi options like Avocado and Spicy Cream Cheese Uramaki and

Tuna and Truffle Uramaki, alongside Asian bowls such as Spicy Krapow and Lamb Bulgogi.

Marièta stands as a testament to its founders' expertise and success in the F&B industry, having established esteemed brands like Dear Donna, Bohca, and Dirty Jungle. Chaitanya Mathur, the Co-Founder of Marièta, encapsulates the essence of their vision, stating, "At Marièta, we aim to create a premium dining experience for our customers that is high-energy and vibrant in its flavours across food and beverage. Our dishes are crafted with care and creativity, featuring flavours from every corner of the world, while our cocktails are tequila-forward, adding a taste of Latin American flair to the mix. As the evening unfolds, our music transitions from relaxed tropical tunes to a high-tempo fusion of Latin and Afro house, creating a lively atmosphere that carries into the night."

Infused with the infectious energy of Latin America, Marièta pulses with life. As the sun sets, so do the lights, while the energy and music rise, drawing people in and leaving them coming back for more.



HIMACHAL'S CULINARY HERITAGE AT THE ARAVALI KITCHEN

SANJANA

Situated amid the picturesque folds of the Aravali Mountains, the Courtyard by Marriott Aravali Resort recently hosted an enchanting evening that promised more than just a meal — it offered a deep dive into the heart of Himachali cuisine through its Himachali Dham Special Dinner. As we walked into The Aravali Kitchen, the elegant setting immediately suggested that this was not just any dinner, but a cultural journey.

The event, running from April 25th to 30th, was meticulously designed to celebrate the rich, culinary traditions of Himachal Pradesh. Under the guidance of



Paneer Ka Madra, Safed Chane Ka Madra, and the particularly unique Mukundbadi Ka Madra. Each dish was an explosion of authentic flavours, rich in spices and cooked to perfection, rep-

resenting various communities within Himachal. The Palak Paneer Ka Madra was creamy and comforting, with spinach and paneer perfectly absorbing the aromatic spices. Chuhare Ka Khatta followed, offering a tangy counterpoint to the creamy richness of the Madras. This dish, made from dried dates, was a perfect blend of sweet and sour and was a refreshing palate cleanser before the next course.

The meal concluded on a sweet note with Moong Dal Ka Halwa and Meethi Bath. The halwa was delightfully dense yet flaky, with a subtle sweetness that was not overpowering, while the Meethi Bath offered a unique taste texture, both of which encapsulated the essence of Himachali desserts.

Beyond the food, the ambience of The Aravali Kitchen added layers of immersion to the dining experience, with its subtle decor and soft lighting complementing the thematic essence of the dinner. For those fortunate enough to attend this limited culinary event or want to visit after reading our experience, go for it as it is not just a meal but a memorable journey through the tastes and traditions of Himachal Pradesh.

It's an experience that we would recommend to anyone seeking to understand the true spirit of this remarkable region.



Executive Chef Dinesh Rana, the menu was a vibrant tapestry of flavours, each dish telling its own story of the region's heritage.

The dinner began with a delectable array of Madras — Palak

resenting various communities within Himachal. The Palak Paneer Ka Madra was creamy and comforting, with spinach and paneer perfectly absorbing the aromatic spices. Chuhare Ka



BEHROUZ'S MAJESTIC FOOD REVIEW

TDG NETWORK

Entering the realm of the royals, I recently had the pleasure of indulging in a truly majestic dawlat, showcasing an array of exquisite murgh delicacies from Behrouz. This culinary journey was nothing short of regal, offering a symphony of flavors and aromas that tantalized the senses and left an indelible mark on the palate.

At the heart of the feast stood the pièce de résistance: the royal biryani fit for kings and queens



verse culinary landscape of North India, leaving a lasting impression with their depth of flavor and complexity.

To accompany these culinary delights, diners were presented with a choice of bread: laccha parathas or kulchas, both freshly prepared and infused with the warmth of the tandoor. Whether torn and dipped into the fragrant curries or used to scoop up bites of biryani, these breads served as the perfect vessel for savoring every last morsel of the royal feast.

In conclusion, the dawlat of murgh delicacies from the Behrouz was a culinary experience fit for royalty. From the regal biryani to the tantalizing curries and accompaniments, every dish showcased the rich heritage and impeccable craftsmanship of the royal culinary tradition. It was a feast that transcended mere sustenance, elevating the act of dining to an art form and leaving a lasting impression that will be cherished for years to come.



ness of the biryani with finesse.

But the true stars of the evening were the delectable kebabs and the two flavorful North Indian murgh curries. Each bite of the succulent kebabs, grilled to perfection and bursting with smoky goodness, was a testament to the culinary mastery of the royal chefs. Meanwhile, the murgh curries, brimming with robust spices and tender chicken, offered a tantalizing journey through the di-



alike. Served in generous portions to satiate the appetites of four discerning palates, this biryani was a masterpiece of culinary finesse. Each forkful revealed tender chicken pieces delicately nestled amidst long-grain basmati rice, infused with an

aromatic blend of spices that transported the taste buds to distant lands of opulence and splendor.

No royal banquet would be complete without its shahi accompaniments, and this dawlat did not disappoint. The gulab jamuns, with their syr-

upy sweetness and melt-in-your-mouth texture, provided a decadent finale to the meal, leaving a lingering sense of satisfaction. Paired alongside the refreshing mint raita, they offered a harmonious balance of flavors that complemented the rich-



Top 5 Coaching Institutes for Your CUET Coaching

TDG NETWORK

In today's competitive education environment, where entrance exams open doors to academic opportunities, the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) has become a crucial assessment tool. CUET is a standardized test used to evaluate a student's readiness for undergraduate programs in various central universities in India. As CUET's importance grows, students aiming for admission in esteemed institutions recognize the need for effective coaching. Choosing the right coaching institute becomes essential for suc-

cess. In this context, we present the Top 5 Coaching Institutes for CUET, known for their dedication to academic excellence and strong support for students preparing for the CUET exam. These institutes play a vital role in helping students succeed in this competitive field by providing the necessary knowledge and skills for the CUET examination.

1. Aakash: Aakash Institute has carved a niche for itself in the competitive exam coaching arena, and CUET is no exception. Known for its comprehensive programs, Aakash boasts experienced faculty members, rigorous study



materials, and a commitment to individualized attention. Regular mock tests and insightful performance analyses add an extra layer of preparation, making Aakash a reliable choice for CUET aspirants.

2. Career Launcher: Career Launcher, a stalwart in the education sector, offers specialized coaching for CUET aspirants. With adaptive teaching methodologies and interactive classroom sessions, the institute ensures a thorough understanding of the CUET

syllabus. Personalized mentoring, Mock Tests, CUET Test Series and advanced study materials contribute to their success story, making Career Launcher a trusted option for those aspiring to ace CUET. They also provide online coaching and Boards + CUET preparation. All their programs are designed and taught by mentors from top IITs, IIMs, and DU. The programs are tailor-made to suit the requirements of all the students.

3. Exam Guru: Exam Guru stands out with its dedicated coaching programs tailored for CUET. Emphasizing conceptual

clarity and strategic planning, the institute prepares students through regular practice and simulated tests. The focus on customized preparation for central universities' entrance exams makes Exam Guru a valuable resource for CUET aspirants.

4. Unimonks: Unimonks, a rising star in the coaching landscape, distinguishes itself with innovative teaching methods and technology-driven learning solutions. Holistic development is the key focus, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of CUET topics. Faculty members, often industry

experts, bring a practical approach to exam preparation, ensuring students are ready for the challenges they might encounter in CUET.

5. Imtihaan Guru: Imtihaan Guru specializes in coaching programs for various competitive exams, including CUET. With a result-oriented approach and experienced faculty, the institute has propelled many CUET aspirants to success. Imtihaan Guru's commitment to continuous improvement and staying updated with the latest exam patterns ensures that students are well-equipped for the challenges posed by

CUET.

As the CUET landscape evolves, so do the coaching methodologies. When selecting a coaching institute, consider factors such as faculty expertise, study materials, and past results. Each of these top 5 coaching institutes brings unique strengths to the table.

The right choice depends on your learning style, goals, and the environment that resonates best with you.

Take the time to explore these institutes, attend demo classes, and make an informed decision to embark on your journey towards CUET success.

How learning platforms can help students get desired results in CUET?

AMITENDRA KUMAR

The landscape of higher education in India is undergoing a significant transformation with the emergence of EdTech platforms. These tech-driven learning tools are becoming instrumental in the success of educational institutions across the country. Besides reshaping the landscape of educational institutions, the impact of EdTech tools also extends significantly to students preparing for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET). Being India's second-largest and fiercely competitive exam, CUET offers an exclusive chance for educational institutions to partner with EdTech platforms. This collaboration, in harmony with the New Education Policy (NEP-2020), can pave the way for a more effective and fair education system.

During the pandemic-induced lockdown, educational institutions and coaching centres took proactive measures by adopting EdTech platforms to assist students in pursuing higher education. This initiative has proven to be a catalyst for success for numerous students who participated in CUET. By leveraging the potential of technology and personalised learning journeys, these platforms have assumed an essential role in not only helping students achieve remarkable scores but also comprehending the intricacies of the competitive exam.

After demonstrating their effectiveness following the completion of the second CUET exam this year, EdTech platforms have now emerged as the preferred

solutions for students preparing to take on this fiercely competitive and India's second-largest all-India level examination. Let's consider the case of Abhishek Agarwal, who found himself struggling with time management during the CUET mock exams. Through Career Launcher's EdTech platform, he gained access to a series of full-length mock tests that accurately simulated the CUET exam pattern and time constraints. By consistently practising with these mock tests, Ab-



hishek not only honed his time management skills but also gained insights from the detailed performance analytics provided by the platform.

Likewise, Anisha Sharma, a diligent student aspiring to secure admission into one of India's prestigious central universities, gained access to meticulously crafted video lectures, e-books, and practice papers through Career Launcher's EdTech tools that were tailored specifically to the CUET syllabus. This customized study material allowed her to concentrate on the essential topics and concepts, helping her score exceptionally well in the ex-

amination.

While some students may see the entrance exam as a hurdle, it is an opportunity for coaching institutions like Career Launcher, Unacademy, IMS Learning Resources, Unimonks, and T.I.M.E. to leverage EdTech platforms. As CUET creates fresh opportunities for EdTech players and offline coaching centres, coaching centres are increasingly looking forward to tapping into a larger student base. Some EdTech platforms have even seen a rise in stu-

dent enrolment after introducing new courses specific to CEUT preparations. Pertinent to mention here that EdTech platforms and CUET have found common ground in the implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP-2020). Let's have a look at how using EdTech platforms coaching centres can help students get the desired results:

Comprehensive CUET-focused Study Material: EdTech platforms offer specialized study material tailored to the CUET syllabus. These platforms offer video lectures, e-books, practice papers, and topic-wise quizzes aligned

with specific subjects and topics covered in CUET. This targeted content ensures that students focus on relevant areas to perform well in the examination.

Personalized Learning Paths: EdTech platforms employ adaptive learning algorithms to understand each learner's strengths and weaknesses. Based on their performance in practice tests and assessments, the platforms provide personalized learning paths, recommending specific topics that require more attention. This personalized approach optimizes students' preparation and boosts their confidence.

Mock Tests and Performance Analytics: EdTech platforms offer full-length mock tests designed to simulate the CUET exam pattern and difficulty level. By taking these mock tests, students can get real exam experience and improve their time management skills. The platforms also provide detailed performance analytics, allowing learners to identify areas of improvement and refine their strategies accordingly.

Expert Faculty and Doubt Resolution: EdTech platforms boast experienced faculty are well-versed with the CUET exam pattern and requirements. Students can interact with these experts through live classes, webinars, or doubt-solving forums to get their questions answered and gain valuable insights and tips for the exam.

Flexibility and Convenience: EdTech platforms enable students to prepare for CUET at their own pace and convenience. With 24/7 access to study materials and video lectures, students can

plan their study schedules according to their preferences, eliminating the need for rigid classroom-based coaching.

Cost-Effectiveness: EdTech platforms often offer cost-effective study packages, making CUET preparation more affordable and accessible to students from various backgrounds. This democratization of education ensures that students from all socio-economic strata can benefit from high-quality study resources.

Continuous Learning and Revision: EdTech platforms promote continuous learning by providing regular updates on CUET-related news and changes in the examination pattern. Additionally, students can revise key concepts through recorded lectures and practice questions to reinforce their understanding.

All-India Comparison: As CUET serves as a single window for central university admissions across India, EdTech platforms enable students to compete on a national level. The platforms may provide comparative performance data to help students gauge their standing against others aspiring for the same universities.

Conclusion
With CUET being recognized as a centralized admission test for central universities, EdTech platforms have emerged as key enablers of success for institutions preparing students for CUET. These new and innovative platforms will go a long way in enhancing the potential of students to secure admissions into their desired colleges or courses.

The author is the Product Head of Under Graduate Programmes at Career Launcher.

HR CULTURE: SHAPING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH INCLUSION



RANJINI CHAKRABORTY

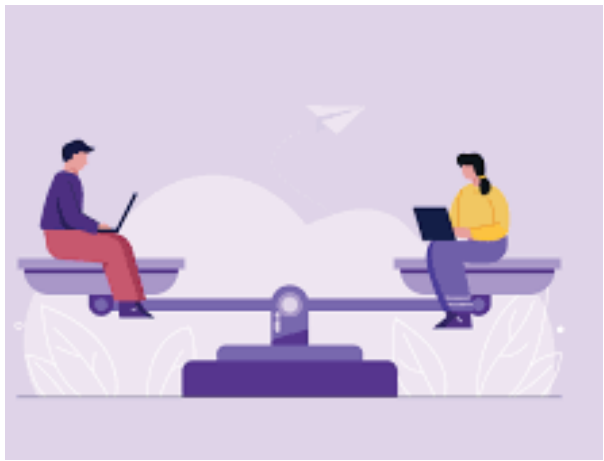
We grow up with multiple biases that we internalize so strongly, that sometimes we may even overlook while subtly and unconsciously acting on it. We may have seen our managers preferring a candidate with similar interests or backgrounds, known as the 'affinity bias'. Or someone being promoted purely on the pretext of age. Someone elder in age might be fitter to deliver a job or a man may be better at a technical role – this is an age/gender bias. Let's not miss the 'halo effect' that sometimes comes into play while promoting employees irrespective of their performance, sometimes on how they look, maybe their influence or maybe them belonging to a prestigious institution.

How can we get rid of these?

Training Model: Effective UB training empowers employees to act upon their awareness of bias. A well-designed UB training model facilitates the acknowledgment of biases, fosters empathy, promotes interaction among diverse groups. This encourages ongoing learning, not only for employees at workplace but also in forming their educated, interpersonal relationships. According to Harvard Business Review,

the most effective unconscious bias (UB) training extends beyond merely raising awareness of bias and its consequences. It educates participants on managing biases, altering behavior, and monitoring progress.

Modernizing Recruitment Process: This signifies that organizations must explore talent strategies that



align with their diversity and inclusion objectives, a departure from traditional recruitment methods. Mathison's 2021 Diversity Hiring Study revealed that 62% of underrepresented job seekers perceive bias in the hiring process. Therefore, there needs to be a more holistic approach to diversity requiring mutual cultivation across the organization. Recruiters should invite feedback from job seekers to enhance inclusivity in the hiring process. Further, there needs to be a mechanism in place to invite feedback post interview, regardless of the hiring decision.

What can HR leaders do?

Undoubtedly, HR leaders bear a major responsibility of keeping a close check on keeping any unconscious

bias at bay. It largely befalls them to inculcate a safe and an inclusive work culture. So even though it's a challenge for everyone at the workplace to inculcate an inclusive approach, it's imperative that HR leaders constantly keep a check on their own biases.

In nutshell, we cannot achieve a safe workplace till we acknowledge that

there's scope for improvement – in ourselves first more than anyone. As leaders, the values we practice, profoundly influences the organizational culture. Thus, it's imperative for companies & businesses to incorporate DE&I into leaders' KPIs. Leaders should exemplify the culture they wish their team members to emulate, with DE&I becoming an integral part of the business strategy rather than a mere social imperative. And for that, leaders need to be absolutely in tandem with what they're practicing and what they're preaching, for it befalls on us, to lead by example.

This article is written By : Ms Ranjini Chakraborty, Head of People, Giesecke and Devrient.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY IN PLAY SCHOOLS: MAKING LEARNING FUN FOR CHILDREN BY MR. AJAY GUPTA

TDG NETWORK

"Changes are an inevitable part of life". In line with this, the National Education Policy (NEP) of India 2020, approved by the Union Cabinet, brings a number of changes to the educational system. It aims to transform the educational landscape in India to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century. Especially when it comes to children with disabilities, the policy emphasises the need for inclusive education and accessibility in schools to help them learn and grow.

However, since traditional times, children with disabilities have been sent to "special schools" and kept out of the mainstream educational system. They have also often been taken away from their family

and put in long-term residential schools where they receive an education away from the community. This is where accessibility in the educational field emerged as a significant aspect. Accessibility, particularly in playschool, ensures that all the children, including those with special needs, can fully participate in all the learning activities. So, let's delve into its significance and why playschool needs it.

Accessibility: Need of the Hour

Giving all kids equal access and opportunities, irrespective of any physical, sensory, cognitive, or other impairments, is the essence of accessibility in education. A neurotypical child's curiosity, inventiveness, and problem-solving abilities can be encouraged in an accessible setting. At this point, cre-



ating an inclusive environment where every child feels valued and accepted is crucial. In fact, making preschool accessible to special needs kids will foster in other youngsters a sense of

empathy and deference. Furthermore, children with special needs benefit greatly from socialising with peers who are typically growing up in an inclusive setting. It encourages

social interaction and aids in dispelling myths. As a result, when all children can fully participate in activities, the overall learning outcomes improve.

How to embrace accessibility

and have fun while learning

Understand the need: While India is home to over 1.4 billion residents, over 2.2% of this population endures some form of severe mental or physical disability, including children, as per Statista. Thus, in order to implement accessibility play, schools must ensure that all classrooms and other facilities are built with ramps, wide doors, elevators, restrooms, and seating that is appropriate for all users. Furthermore, open communication is also the key to understanding the specific needs of each child with a disability. By creating an inclusive environment, playschools can ensure that all children have equal opportunities to learn and thrive.

Regular training: To guarantee that all students, regardless of ability, have an equal

opportunity to learn and participate in activities, regular training sessions on inclusive practices and accommodations for teachers and staff can be helpful. By presenting the same information in a variety of ways, educators stand a better chance of sparking intellectual interest, making learning more engaging and enjoyable for students.

Flexible curriculum: Providing accessibility tools like text-to-speech, screen readers, and alternative text for images allows students to customise their learning experience. This fosters inclusivity and allows all children to fully engage in learning activities. Thus, schools should design flexible curricula that can be adapted to meet the needs of children with diverse abilities. For instance, schools are creat-

ing themed play areas where children can explore and learn through imaginative activities related to numbers, letters, or nature.

Accessible education: Paving the way for the future!

Without a doubt, ensuring accessibility at play schools is critical to allowing all children to participate in and benefit from the learning experience. Thus, prioritising accessibility in early childhood education for special needs children promotes inclusive learning settings. In addition, children with special needs can benefit from specialised support, adaptive technologies, and inclusive classrooms when parents, educators, and others work together to ensure their academic and social success.

The author is the Founder and CEO.

INDIA SQUAD FOR T20 WORLD CUP ANNOUNCED

Pant and Samson included, KL Rahul misses out; Rohit Sharma will lead the team in the showpiece tournament, while Hardik Pandya will be his deputy

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced India's 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which will be hosted in the West Indies and USA, starting on June 1.

Rohit Sharma will lead India in the showpiece tournament, while Hardik Pandya will be his deputy.

India have added two wicket-keepers, including Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson, to their squad. Star batter Virat Kohli, who has been slamming runs in the ongoing IPL 2024 has also been added into the squad.

Pant is set to make a comeback to team India, around 16 months after meeting with a car crash on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in Uttarakhand in 2022. India have opted for four spinners



Among the notable inclusion is Yuzvendra Chahal, who was named in the team for a T20 World Cup for the very first time.

Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal to their squad. Among the notable inclusion is Yuzvendra Chahal, who was named in the team for a T20 World Cup for the very first time.

KKR OPENER PHIL SALT BREAKS GANGULY'S 14-YEAR-OLD RECORD AT EDEN GARDENS

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders opening batter Philip Salt broke former franchise skipper Sourav Ganguly's 14-year-old record after his blitz powered Knights to a 7-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in the ongoing Indian Premier League 2024.

The 27-year-old English opener once again took the opposition bowlers by storm with his rapid 68-run knock.

His art of power hitting took his overall tally to 344 runs in six innings in the ongoing season which helped him surpass Ganguly's record of scoring most runs at the Eden Gardens in a single season of the IPL.

Salt now holds the record of scoring most runs in a single season at Eden Gardens with 344 runs.

Before him in 2010, the experienced left-handed batter struck 331 runs in seven innings at the Eden Gardens



and held the record for 14 years.

KKR's star all-rounder Andre Russell in 2019 came close to Ganguly's record when he struck 311 runs in 7 innings.

Salt's heroic effort with the bat ensured that the chase turned out to be a comfortable one for KKR as they hardly broke a sweat and clinched a 7-wicket win.

Salt once again starred with the bat for the hosts. He took on DC bowlers in the power-play and laid the foundation for a successful chase for KKR. He struck 68 off 33 deliveries at a whopping strike rate of 206.06. His splendid knock was laced with seven fours and five maximums.

Virat Kohli's coach shares insights on T20 World Cup squad selection

SUNIL YASH KALRA
NEW DELHI

After the announcement of the Indian team for the T20 World Cup, many questions emerged, including whether it is right for Team India to exclude KL Rahul and Rinku Singh. Is it the right decision to keep Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, the same type of bowlers in the squad?

Virat Kohli's coach Rajkumar Sharma and former Indian player Atul Wassan expressed their opinion on the T20 World Cup squad in a conversation with Sunil Yash Kalra, founder, 'Indian Sports Fans' on CRICIT

PREDICTA powered by IxBAT, a live TV show on India News, discussing the correctness of the team selected for the T20 World Cup 2024.

Rajkumar Sharma expressed happiness on the selection of the Indian team for the T20 World Cup 2024. Said "The team is very balanced, there is a mix of experienced and young players in this squad. T20 World Cup is a big platform, here instead of choosing players who have performed well in some of the IPL matches, the selectors have gone after experienced players. I am happy about that. It is good

that Chahal has been included in the team. The team has two aggressive bowlers in the form of Kuldeep and Chahal who can bowl brilliantly in the middle overs and Jadeja provides balance to the team."

Virat Kohli's guru's befitting reply to his critics said "No one cares about such false news that Virat Kohli should not go to the World Cup. Virat is a very big player. Virat is very popular among everyone's favorite fans. The team captain and selectors know how important it is to have Virat in the team. Atul Wassan ex-

pressed concern over Rinku Singh's ouster. Not surprised by KL Rahul's exit from the team "The biggest news is that Rinku Singh has not been kept in the team. The player who was prepared as a finisher in T20 and did well for Team India in the last 2-3 series, you removed him at the last moment. This is exactly the way Ambati Rayudu was prepared before the 2019 ODI World Cup but he was dropped from the team at the last moment."

(Sunil Yash Kalra is a women's cricket historian and founder of Indian Sports Fan.)

Madrid Open: Rafael Nadal battles past Pedro Cachin in marathon clash to reach 4th round

TDG NETWORK
MADRID

Rafael Nadal continued his terrific form on the clay at the Madrid Open as he battled past Pedro Cachin 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-3 to reach the fourth round on Monday.

In front of an enthusiastic home crowd at Manolo Santana Stadium, the Spaniard - a record five-time champion in Madrid - showed glimpses of his vintage best against



Cachin, at times sprinting around his backhand to dictate with his inside-out

forehand. Cachin, who won his sole tour-level championship on clay in Gstaad last year, put a lot of pressure on the 37-year-old, but the lefty delivered a monster third set.

Nadal appeared physically powerful and used extra whip and force off the forehand wing in the final after surrendering the second set. This helped him secure a hard-fought victory after three hours and four min-

utes of play. "Some moments were good, some moments not good, but I found a way to go through. In the third set, even with some mistakes, I was able to be a little more unpredictable and that probably changed the match," Nadal said as quoted by ATP. "I am enjoying. Let's see how I wake up tomorrow. I don't know. Day by day I am enjoying playing at home, it means everything to me.

on June 09, 2024 at the same venue. India will then play USA and Canada on June 12 and 15 respectively.

India are placed in Group A of the tournament alongside arch-rivals Pakistan, Ireland, Canada and co-hosts USA. Their campaign begins on 5 June against Ireland at the newly-constructed Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York before they take on Pakistan in one of the most awaited matches of the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Squad: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Hardik Pandya (Vice Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj.

Reserves: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan.

Archer returns as England names T20 WC squad

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

In a huge boost to the English attack, right-arm seamer Jofra Archer has been included in England's squad for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, marking his return to international cricket after a lengthy absence due to injury.

Archer is one of cricket's most exciting bowlers whose career has been derailed by injuries. The 29-year-old has barely featured for England in any format since 2021, mainly because of ongoing issues with his right elbow for which he has undergone two operations. A back injury ruled him out of most of 2022.

His last appearance for England dates back to May 2023, and since then, he has been on the road to recovery from an elbow injury that forced him out



for nearly 12 months.

The path back hasn't been easy for Archer - since 2021, he has encountered multiple obstacles, including stress fractures, persistent elbow problems and even surgery due to a freak fish tank accident.

Before the mega event, the Three Lions will play a T20I series against Pakistan and the players will be leaving for that and will not be a part of the playoffs of the ongoing 17th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"Selected players, currently playing in the Indian Premier League, will return in time for the series against Pakistan, which gets underway at Headingley on Wednesday 22 May 2024," the ECB said in a statement.

This means that the services of English players - Jos Buttler, Phil Salt and Moeen Ali will not be available for their respective IPL teams - Rajasthan Royals, Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings.

Earlier, a statement released by England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) stated that the England Test captain Ben Stokes's primary focus is to get fully fit to bowl not only for the summer of Test cricket, which includes two three-match Test series against West Indies and Sri Lanka respectively but for all cricket in the future.

AIFF felicitates heroes of 1974 AFC Youth Champions squad

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey on Tuesday felicitated the players of the 1974 India Youth National Team in Kolkata, who were the joint champions of the AFC Youth Championship 50 years ago.

In a packed media conference in the city, the AIFF President presented mementoes to six members of the 1974 squad: captain Shabbir Ali, CC Jacob, Dilip Palit, Shishir Guha Dastidar, Ranjit Das (Gobinda), and SP Kumar. The coach of the winning squad, Arun Ghosh, could not be present owing to health reasons. His son-in-law received the memento on behalf of Ghosh. IFA President Ajit Banerjee, Chairperson Subrata Dutta, and secretary Anirban Dutta were present. Speaking on the occasion, the AIFF President recalled the achievements of the 1974 squad, which won the AFC Youth Champi-

Chaubey said, "When I began my footballing journey, I had heard that the 1970s were a golden period in Indian football.

onship jointly with Iran in Bangkok, Thailand, after a thrilling 2-2 draw that was extended to extra time. Chaubey said, "When I began my footballing journey, I had heard that the 1970s were a golden period in Indian football. I would like to convey my gratitude to Shabbir Da for reminding me of April 30, 1974, so that we could celebrate the 50th anniversary of this famous victory." He said, "For 48 years after India's independence, we never focused on utilising the FIFA friendly windows, the FIFA World Cup, or even collaborating with the world of football.

Robert Lewandowski treble fires Barcelona to win against Valencia

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Robert Lewandowski hit a second-half hat-trick to power Barcelona to an entertaining 4-2 win over 10-man Valencia on Monday in La Liga. The champions' victory denies leaders Real Madrid the chance to take the crown by simply beating Cadiz next Saturday. Los Blancos are 11 points clear of Barcelona with five matches remaining. Fermin Lopez sent the hosts ahead before Valencia striker Hugo Duro levelled and Pepelu netted from the spot to turn the game round. Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili was sent off late in the first half for handball and Lewandowski equalised soon after the break before adding another two late on. It rained all day in drought-ridden Barcelona and the threat of a soaking left the Olympic Stadium half empty, with an attendance of 30,000. The small crowd might also have been a response to last weekend's Clasico defeat, which laid out the red carpet for Real Madrid to whisk away Barcelona's title, as well as the detested Monday night slot. La Liga rescheduled the



game at only a week's notice, meaning many could no longer attend.

Those who were present enjoyed a surprisingly entertaining clash, with Barca coach Xavi Hernandez triumphant in his first match after deciding to stay in charge next season. "I think the team did well... we lacked calmness, tranquility, but I'm satisfied with the team's attitude," Xavi told DAZN. Visitors Valencia, eighth and striving for European football next season, carved out the best early chances. Hugo Duro's flick from close range was saved by Marc-Andre ter Stegen. On-loan Real Madrid winger Peter Federico dragged a shot wide

when barrelling through on goal. Barcelona took the lead when Lopez headed home from Raphinha's whipped cross. Valencia were quickly level after a grievous error by Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who ran out of his box to try and intercept a long ball. He got there first but botched his attempted dink over Duro's head and the striker controlled the ball and held off Ronald Araujo to roll home. It soon got worse for Barcelona, with Araujo -- crucially sent off in the Champions League quarter-final defeat by Paris Saint-Germain -- foolishly giving away a penalty by felling Federico. Valencia midfielder Pepelu fired the penalty

down the middle to put Los Che ahead. The game turned Barcelona's way shortly before the break when Valencia's goalkeeper erred. Mamardashvili miscontrolled the ball on the edge of his box, giving it away to teenager Lamine Yamal. As the youngster tried to round the goalkeeper, the Georgian touched the ball with his arm outside the area and, after a VAR review, was dismissed. Replacement Jaume Domenech saved Raphinha's free-kick, but could not keep out Barcelona's equaliser, early in the second half. Lewandowski headed home from a corner to start Barcelona's comeback. The game lurched from end-to-end, with Domenech saving brilliantly from Araujo's header and Barca substitute Pedri making a last-ditch challenge to stop Diego Lopez from striking. Eventually, Lewandowski nodded Barcelona back in front from close range when Araujo's header from a corner dropped into his path. The Polish international wrapped up his treble in stoppage time with a well-placed free-kick, his 16th league goal of the season.